

2019 Quarterly Newsletter



LCS' mission is to provide training and community engagement for youth and adults of varying abilities to enhance their self-esteem and quality of life.

"POTENTIAL IS LIMITLESS"

Dear Friends of LCS,

On June 22, 1999, the Supreme Court ruled in *OLMSTEAD V. L.C.* that unjustified segregation of people with disabilities is a form of unlawful discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA was the result of years of efforts by disability rights advocates to increase awareness of the inequalities and biases that the disability community so often experiences. The intent of ADA was to change public perceptions of disability and demand the full rights of citizenship for individuals with disabilities. Since 1990, the law has improved access to businesses, public spaces, transportation, communication, employment, and has protected people with disabilities from discrimination. The Olmstead decision required states to ensure that people with disabilities can receive services in the most integrated settings appropriate to their needs, thereby, opening the doors to community inclusion and integration for even more people with disabilities.

LCS, by virtue of our mission, is dedicated to promoting active community engagement for all LCS Participants. This is important because when people equally come together for a common reason whether for employment, recreation, education or for other reasons ... relationships naturally develop, barriers and misperceptions magically disappear, and people recognize and celebrate each other's contributions to their community. The Olmstead decision was an important milestone for individuals with disabilities, and LCS is proud to support the decision made 20 years ago through the services that it offers.

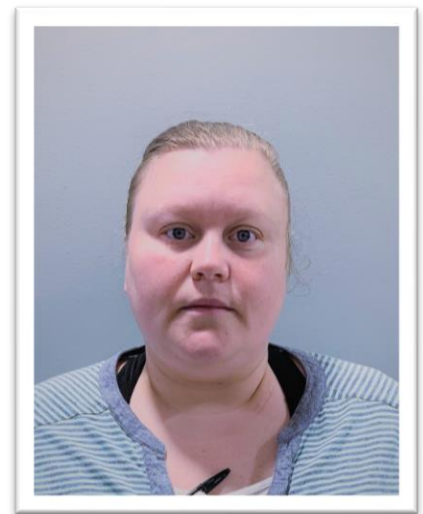
-Mary Beth Popchock, Executive Director

Welcome to the LCS Team!



Brenna Freeman started as a Connect Community Coach at LCS on May 13, 2019. She is the mother of two girls and one boy, and she loves to garden, read, and cook. What she enjoys most about her new position is helping people realize their true potential by allowing them all the independence they desire.

Tammy Smiley started as a Connect Community Coach on June 18, 2019. She is married and a mother of three boys, two twin girls, and two step-children. She loves being outdoors and BBQing with her family. She has worked in this field for 18 years, and she feels privileged to have worked with all of her clients throughout the years because she enjoys helping to make their quality of life better.



LCS Success Stories!

All stories were made possible through LCS' partnership with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.



After a successful 12-week Temporary Work Experience (TWE), Wilson (pictured below) was hired by Cold Stone Creamery. They are thrilled with how well the TWE went and how much Wilson has added to the store. The manager, Vickey, loves Wilson, and he gets along great with his co-workers. Wilson enjoys his new job and looks forward to having more independence.

Richie (pictured above) was hired at Razor Sharp Fitness on June 11, 2019 after completing an internship with the company. Richie loves his role and the staff at Razor Sharp, and he feels proud of the work he does there. You can find him at the facility cleaning the equipment, keeping the tracks clean, vacuuming, and providing great customer service to guests.



Elizabeth (pictured on the left) was hired at Nothing Bundt Cakes after completing her Temporary Work Experience (TWE) with them on May 6, 2019. Her job involves doing the utility work (washing dishes, cleaning, etc.), and she enjoys the work she does there.



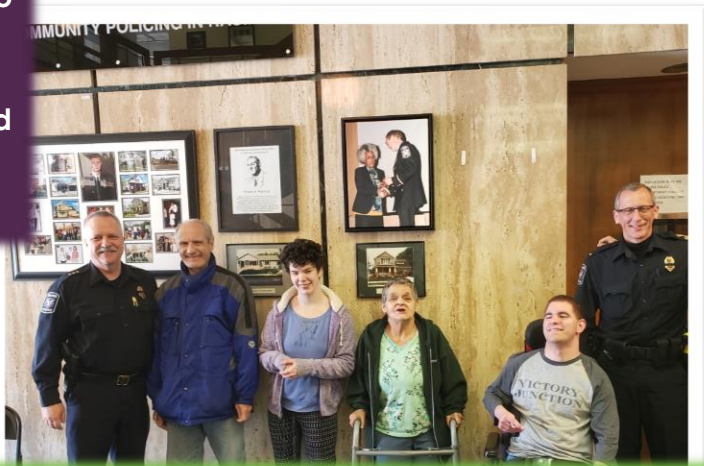
Peyton (pictured below) was hired as a Lobby Attendant at Culver's on April 30, 2019. She enjoys interacting with guests and enjoys maintaining a clean restaurant. This is Peyton's first work experience, and Peyton is eager to go to work on her scheduled days.



Dan (pictured above) was hired as a Lobby Attendant at McDonald's on May 21, 2019. Dan helps to clean the facility lobby and children's play area. Dan also helps customers by offering to take their trays and give them extra napkins or straws for their drinks. Dan likes to talk with the customers about their visit and wish them a nice day.

LCS Community Services Gives Back to the Community Where We Enjoy Sharing Our Time and Talents!

Shalom food pantry has been a great organization to collaborate with. Explore participants provide personal shopper services on Fridays by helping customers shop for groceries, bag the groceries, and assist them to their car. Pictured below from left to Right: JR, Kadeem, Cassie, and Katrina.



In honor of National Police Week (May 10th – 16th), we made Police Officer Survival Kits, which we brought to several local police stations throughout the week as a thank you for their hard work. Pictured above from left to right: Officer Schultz, Jerry, Danielle, Nellie, Caleb, and Officer Pavilionis at the Racine Police Department.



Brenna and a participant (Pictured on the left) are planting in the 6th Street Cop House. Cynthia and Lauren (pictured on the right) are helping out at the Mother's Day fundraiser at Ascension on May 9, 2019. The jumbo cupcakes from Larsen Bakery were a big hit, and they sold out in record time!

LCS Does Their Part to Make Our Earth a Better Place!



The picture below features Alysha posing with her Adopt-A-Beach clean-up gear, which includes an orange safety vest, a trash bag, and gloves.

LCS Explore teamed up with the Alliance for the Great Lakes to sponsor an Adopt-A-Beach clean-up event, which occurred on Thursday, June 13, 2019 at North Beach Park in Racine. In the picture above, Explore participants are scouting the dunes for trash left behind to pick up.



On March 20, 2019, a group of LCS participants went to Madison for Disability Advocacy Day. In Madison, we discussed issues that individuals with disabilities face with legislators. In the picture above from left to right, we have Matt, Robert, Albert, Angie, Brittany (staff), and Mercedes.




Participants Share Their Stories About LCS!

D.J. started his LCS experience in December of 2018. He enjoys the volunteer trips he gets to be a part of around the community. When referring to a volunteer site in Downtown Racine, D.J. said, “I learned to wait patiently for a slower lady, helping her with her walker.” Another place he volunteers at is the Salvation Army, which taught him a lot about seeing things from other people’s perspectives and completing tasks. “Moe taught me to see life how other people see it and to do the tasks that are set before me.” D.J.’s favorite place to volunteer is the Eco Justice Center.

-DAVID JOHN COURTNEY

Saul also started his LCS experience in December of 2018. LCS has provided him with many opportunities to make some wonderful friendships. Saul says, “he really likes to be a volunteer at different places in the community.” The variety of people and places have helped his life skills and given him confidence to try new things.

-SAUL COURTNEY



From March 11, 2019 to May 31, 2019, Mary worked at the Downtown Racine YMCA as a Guest Service Clerk where she did clerical and housekeeping tasks. “I am thankful for Sam Pena at Lakeside Curative, Jenny Marx at the Racine Friendship Clubhouse, and Stephen Glover/Terri Johnson at DVR. It was a great experience, and I enjoyed my work.”

-MARY ELIZABETH ELLIS

LCS Employee Spotlight!

Congratulations to Mary Goltz on obtaining a Work Incentives Practitioner Certificate from Cornell University! This certificate will allow LCS to provide benefits counseling services to DVR (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation) participants to assist individuals who receive Social Security disability and other public benefits, in navigating benefit, entitlement, and economic assistance programs. Mary will be able to address questions or concerns participants may have related to work and earnings. This assistance may include providing information on eligibility criteria, work incentive programs, or different benefit options. Mary's primary goal will be to support a person with a disability in understanding the relationship between their employment goals and their benefits.





Executive Team

Executive Director, Mary Beth Popchock
Director of Community Services, Alison Hoffman
Director of Human Resources, Paula Albright
Director of Operations, Michael Snodgrass
Marketing and Administrative Coordinator, Alison Howen

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