



Summer 2021

Dear Friends of LCS,

What do you picture when you think of INDEPENDENCE? July is a month we dedicate to celebrating INDEPENDENCE. Traditionally, we recognize and celebrate our nation's freedom and INDEPENDENCE, but we seldom think of individual INDEPENDENCE. I wanted to take the time to reflect and celebrate that June 22<sup>nd</sup> marked the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Olmstead Decision, the most important civil rights decision for people with disabilities. This started out because two courageous women from Georgia, Lois Curtis and Elaine Wilson, were not going to settle for the way things always were; they were going to stand up for the right to their INDEPENDENCE. Lois and Elaine were fighting to receive the services that they needed in the community rather than in an institutional setting. The Supreme Court decision was a ruling that required states to ensure that persons with disabilities receive services in the most integrated setting. This ruling has helped so many to gain INDEPENDENCE. Across the country, thousands of people living with disabilities have benefited from this landmark decision. As a result, they have been able to live independent lives according to their own wishes, and they can be contributing members of their communities. These are all things that once were denied and often taken for granted by many of us. LCS has always centered its services around community integration by helping individuals become as independent as possible and helping people see their full potential. Please take the time to read our newsletter to see for yourself the steps people are taking to reach their goals and personally celebrate the INDEPENDENCE in their lives.

*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.*

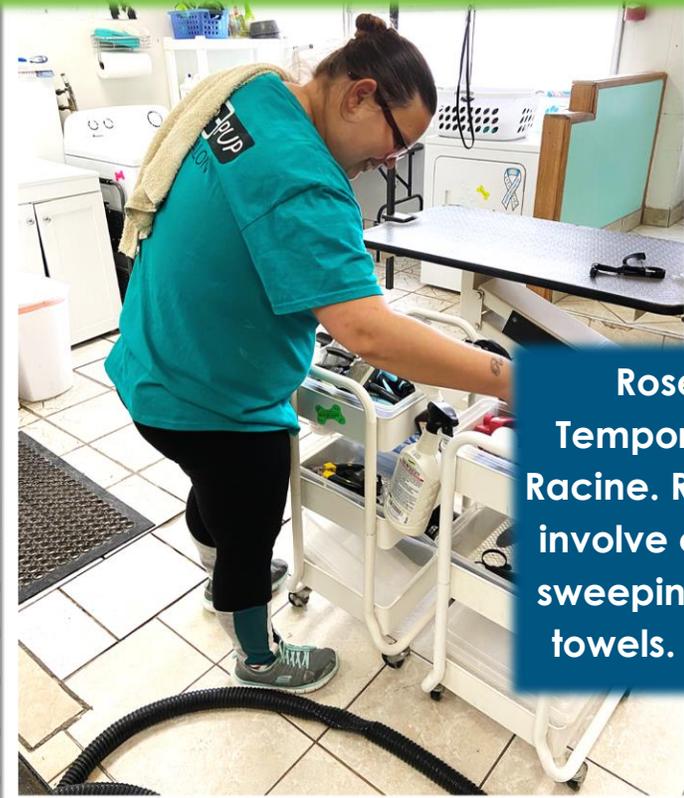
-Alison Hoffman, Executive Director

"POTENTIAL IS LIMITLESS"

# LCS Success Stories!

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

Kadeem (featured on the right) was hired as a Retail Helper at a Kwik Trip in Kenosha on July 11, 2021. Kadeem enjoys his work, which involves collecting the garbage inside the facility and taking it out to the dumpster, as well as stocking and facing the merchandise to make it look presentable. Kadeem's supervisor and co-workers have stated that he works hard to complete all his assigned tasks, and they are happy he is part of the team!



Rose (featured on the left) recently started a Temporary Work Experience at Clover Pup Salon in Racine. Rose is working as a Shop Clerk, and her tasks involve cleaning and sanitizing cages, washing tubs, sweeping, sanitizing brushes and combs, and folding towels. Rose is doing a great job – Keep it up, Rose!

## Volunteering Opportunities and Learning Experiences Help Participants to Develop Their Job and Life Skills!

As we get further into 2021, we continue to take on more volunteering opportunities and learning experiences out in the community. We are also continuing to slowly welcome participants back to LCS who have not been here since the pandemic began. We are hopeful that the rest of the year will bring about many more volunteering opportunities, learning experiences, and employment opportunities for the participants.



In the picture above, Josh is sweeping the floor at Lincoln School Apartments in Racine, and in the picture below, Maverick is cleaning the glass on a display cabinet at Bethany Apartments in Racine.



In the picture above, Josh, Maverick, and Lillian (from left to right), are packing hamburger patties for the Shalom Center located in Kenosha.



## LCS Helps Teens and Young Adults to Gain Work Experience Through the Summer Youth Internship Program!

The LCS Summer Youth Internship Program gives youths in Kenosha and Racine communities the opportunity to experience employment and gain the necessary skills to be successful in the workplace. This eight-week program is in partnership with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). The programs offered for 2021 are Park Maintenance and Housekeeping through the Village of Pleasant Prairie and RecPlex.



In the picture featured above, Raven is painting picnic tables for the Village of Pleasant Prairie, and in the picture below, Juliana is washing the windows on a Village of Pleasant Prairie truck. Raven and Juliana are both in the Park Maintenance Program.



Payton, featured in the picture above, is dumping a small trash bin full of waste into a larger yellow bin. She is in the Housekeeping Program at the RecPlex where she performs various tasks every day to keep the RecPlex clean.





## Important Dates to Remember for 2021!

### Upcoming Holidays/Dates LCS is Closed...

Labor Day – **September 6, 2021**

Staff Volunteer Day – **September 17, 2021**

Thanksgiving – **November 25, 2021** and **November 26, 2021**

Christmas – **December 24, 2021** and **December 27, 2021**

New Year's – **December 31, 2021** and **January 3, 2022**



## HAVE YOU SEEN OUR WEBSITE?

LCS HAS A FRESH, UPDATED WEBSITE DESIGN,  
AND YOU CAN NOW MAKE A DONATION TO LCS  
BY CLICKING THE DONATE BUTTON ON THE  
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TO MAKE A DONATION, HEAD HERE:

[LCSRACINE.ORG](https://lcsr Racine.org)



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**Director of Human Resources**, Carol Ratliff  
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