

CATCHING UP



Congratulations to *Planet Fitness - Champaign, IL* and *Rockwell Automation, Inc.* for becoming a Disability-Aware LEAP Certified Employers! Partners for Employment exists to empower, engage, inspire and challenge the community in the growth of job opportunities for persons with a developmental disability.

Club Manager Ethan Rubarts (left) and his staff at Planet Fitness have been trained and support the mission of Partners for Employment. Human Resources Manager Marty Miner (right) and the supervisory staff at Rockwell Automation exemplify the mission of Partners for Employment.

Thank you both for supporting community employment for people with disabilities!

If you work somewhere or know of a business that would like to foster a supportive, inclusive work environment, please contact Jamie Stevens at 217-360-0033 or ijijestevens@gmail.com.

SOCIAL EVENTS

- ✿ Dinner at Oishi
Thursday, February 4
6:00pm-8:00pm
- ✿ E-Fest Indoor Electric Remote Control Festival
Saturday, February 6
6:00pm-8:00pm
- ✿ Speak Out & Family Meeting
Thursday, February 11
7:00pm-8:30pm
- ✿ Lunch Club at McAlister's Deli
Wednesday, February 17
11:30am-1:00pm
- ✿ Public Swim
Wednesday, February 24
6:30pm-8:30pm

For more information on social opportunities,
contact Annie Bruno at
217-722-4535 or
annie.communitychoices@gmail.com

Partners for Employment, a collaboration between Community Choices and Developmental Services Center, is pleased to announce a series of family meetings. These meetings are open to individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities residing in Champaign County, families, friends, and anyone who is interested in supporting the Employment First Initiative.

Meet & Greet: 6:30pm-7:00pm

Meeting: 7:00-8:30pm

Location: Hayes Center (Champaign-Urbana Special Rec)

1311 W. Church Street, Champaign

The next meeting will be held on February 23rd – Senator Bennett will come in to talk about the ABLE Act and answer any questions. **To RSVP, please contact Hannah Sheets – phone (217)-621-1090 or email: Hannah.communitychoices@gmail.com**

Family Meeting & Speak Out

Thursday, February 11

7:00pm-8:30pm

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church
2200 Philo Road in Urbana

The Family Meeting will have a presentation and discussion with the MTD.

Speak Out will be learning about the history of Valentine's Day and will be making cards.

Meet Our Interns!

Kaitlyn Breitenfeldt is currently studying Psychology and is our Life Skills intern this semester. She will be working with us this semester in teaching two different life skills classes, as well as working to develop PSW support and materials.

Elizabeth Miner is our SPED trainee this semester; she is a graduate student studying Special Education. She will be helping us to enrich our current life skills curriculum to make it more adaptable. She will be creating teachers notes, activities and worksheets to complete and supplement existing curriculum.

Hannah Jarman and **Luke Zocher** are our PR interns. They are both Communication majors and will be working with us to prepare for our art show and market the event.

Cooking Co-Op Club

The first Community Choices Co-op Club is up and running! Co-op clubs are small groups of members that pursue a shared interest together. Clubs can create their own activities or join something that's already happening in the community. CC does not staff co-op club events, but works with members during the formation and beginning stages of the club.

Community Choices wants to recognize Ryan Denniston, Jaz Davis, BJ Mendenhall and Jeremy Seckman for creating a cooking club together! They meet twice a month at BJ's house to cook and share a dinner together. To get the club started, the guys met together twice to plan a cooking schedule, collect new and favorite recipes, and plan how to communicate. They made all the decisions, with CC staff providing support as the club gets going.



An extra shout out goes to Ryan Denniston, the organizer for the Cooking Club! Based on the evening's recipe, Ryan assigns ingredients for each member to bring. He also calls and texts the other club members the week before each cooking night to remind the guys when to meet and what each of them needs to bring.

The club met twice to cook in January and has plans to continue cooking together through the Spring! It takes work and commitment to plan activities with a group - even when its fun and with people you like to hang out with! Way to make it happen, guys!

Contact Community Choices!

44 E Main, Suite 419
Champaign, IL 61820

(217) 621-1090

www.communitychoicesinc.org

