

Champaign Co Board of Developmental Disabilities

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

October is a great time to bring awareness to the community about employment of persons with disabilities.

According to the July 2021 nTIDE jobs report¹, those with disabilities only have around 30% labor force participation rate. Comparatively, those without disabilities show over 70% labor force participation.

Employing people with disabilities is beneficial to both the individuals and the employers. Having a job:

- provides opportunities for socialization
- allows people to be less dependent on social security income
- gives a sense of purpose.

Employers will find that hiring those with disabilities

- reduces employee turnover
- increases overall productivity
- provides tax incentives for the business.

We encourage anyone with disability employment questions to contact the Champaign Co Board office at 937-653-5217. Whether you are a person with disabilities curious about employment or a business interested in hiring persons with disabilities, we can help you!



Understanding Early Intervention and PLAY Project

Early Intervention and PLAY Project are two free services offered at Champaign Co Board of DD. But what are they and how do they help?

Early Intervention (EI) is for children ages birth to 3 years. The EI program provides certified therapists to work with children who are suspected of having a developmental impairment. Therapists also work with parents to help them understand and work with their child's issues.

PLAY Project is for children ages birth to 6 years and is essentially an EI program specialized for children suspected of having autism.

Here are some important things to remember about EI and PLAY Project:

- Your child does *not* need a diagnosis to be evaluated for the programs.
- Your child does *not* need a doctor's referral for these programs. Anyone can call us to refer a child for evaluation.
- Approximately 1 in 3 children who receive EI services before the age of 3 do not require special education services later in life.²

If you want to learn more about EI and PLAY Project, contact Jennifer Bradford (Early Intervention Director) at (937) 653-5217.

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¹ nTIDE reports can be found at kesslerfoundation.org

² Statistic found at www.wecarechildren.org

ADVOCATE SPOTLIGHT: BIANCA TROPEANO

Getting a Boost from Furry Friends

During the pandemic, lockdowns and isolation adversely affected many people. Activities were cancelled and routines were changed. Bianca Tropeano is one such person who noticed a dramatic change in her life. "How did Covid affect my life during the past year? Covid really put my plans on hold."

Bianca is competitively employed by the Champaign Co Board of DD. And just like many others, she was unable to go to her job for quite a long time.

But Bianca found a way to keep her spirits up and stay busy with new plans. She found activity and fun with her pets. "Covid didn't really stopped me having fun because I hang out at home with my cat, Lily, and a dog we are fostering named Cy," said Bianca. She certainly was lucky to have those furry friends around.

The stories of Lily and Cy began when Bianca attended a cat show in Dayton, OH. She saw Lily and spent half her Christmas money to buy the cuddly kitten. Later, Bianca's family was asked to foster an Alaskan Malamute named Cy. He kept running away from his old home and was eventually sent to the pound. Bianca's family saved him by taking him in as a foster pet.

According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention), There are several healthy benefits to having pets. The CDC's website says, "Studies have shown that the bond between people and their pets can increase fitness, lower stress, and bring happiness to their owners."

Bianca did not have to conduct a scientific study to notice the same affects. She says, "I hang out with my cat and give her cuddles and love if she shows me that she needs it . When I don't give her my all, I feel heartless and sad. And when I do give her my all I feel much better. I hang out with [my foster] dog. His name is Cy. My cat and my dog help me to not feel sad, and [they] make me not to feel [like] I'm not doing enough."

After experiencing pandemic isolation, Bianca is the first to admit how important her furry friends are. "Animals [are] anyone's best friends... and [animals] give anyone a piece of mind. So that's how animals help me through emotional and support through difficult times."

The Champaign Co Board of Developmental Disabilities thanks Bianca Tropeano for sharing her experience. We hope that many more people can find comfort and purpose in their homes with their own pets.



PROVIDER SPOTLIGHT: CREATIVE FOUNDATIONS

Creativity, Independence, and Community



On paper, Creative Foundations is a residential support and adult day services agency. The organization supports over 260 individuals with disabilities through several locations in 5 Ohio counties, including Champaign County (319 N main St, Urbana).

But it is plain to see that this place means so much more to everyone involved. At Creative Foundations you will find people with all types of abilities making art that they eventually sell to the public. They sell beautiful fiber creations and home décor from their studio and also at local fairs. The best part is that the person who creates the art, receives 100% commission on the pieces they sell.

Where you will find them this Fall

- Sept 11 booth at Art and Crafts in the Square (Urbana)
- Sept 25 booth and parade float at Chili Cookoff (Urbana)
- Oct 3 booth at Historical Society Oktoberfest (Urbana)
 - Oct 9 booth at Donate Life (North Lewisburg)
- Dec 11 booth at Xmas in the Village (Mechanicsburg)
 - Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm at their studio



Make a purchase, place a custom order, donate art supplies, or ask questions.

Call or stop by Creative Foundations

319 N Main St, Urbana

937-869-2433



champaign county board of
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HIGHLIGHTS

**National DSP Appreciation
Week is September 12-18!**

Thank you! 

Say "Thank You!" or do something nice for a DSP you know.

*Scan
here*



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Did you know that Champaign County currently has
over 45 people with developmental disabilities
working competitively in the community?

Get updates, news, tips, and more
from CCBDD



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