



The Enabling News is a quarterly newsletter written and produced by the staff at Access II ILC for our staff members, consumers, and the communities we serve. For future content submissions, ideas, or questions please contact:

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ENABLING NEWS

Access II

Independent Living Center

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Volume 81

ACCESS II ILC AND LOCAL BUSINESSES TEAM UP TO PROVIDE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SIGNIFICANTLY DISABLED.



Pictured above from left to right: Mayseen Fishel, Aaron Konopasek, Robbie Davis, Lilian Davis, Robert Johnson, Justin Reeter Brenna Reeter, C.J. Myrick, Karla Garner

Are you in need of equipment?

Please call our office at 660-663-2423 to find out more about our durable medical equipment (DME) loan program.



Have equipment to donate?

We accept donations of gently used equipment. We do not accept hospital beds or broken equipment. If you have equipment to donate please contact Ayrton at 660-663-2423 ext. 230

For the last year and half the McDonald's restaurant in Chillicothe, and Access II Independent Living Center located in Gallatin, MO have built a successful employment partnership which has been a win-win situation for both parties.

"All of the workers we've had have been great" said C.J. Myrick, first assistant manager. "They have been great work wise, personality wise, and it's been fun to see them come out of their shells. Each person has their own unique personality."

Since the partnership began in August of 2017, McDonald's has employed four of Access II's significantly disabled job seekers, who in the past have been very hard to place in community employment.

"It's great to have an employer like McDonald's in our community who values the importance of an inclusive workplace" said Jessica Adkins, Access II Marketing Director. "We are seeing so many benefits from this partnership, our jobseekers are gaining a sense of pride and accomplishment and it increases their self-esteem. It also benefits the employer because they are getting a loyal worker who really enjoys being there. It also benefits society as a whole because they are paying into the tax system."



Pictured above from left to right: Aaron Konopasek, Karla Garner, C.J. Myrick

Much of the success of this partnership can be credited to Access II employment specialist Karla Garner who has worked alongside McDonald's management to assure that things run smoothly for everyone involved.

**WE'RE
HIRING!**



JOIN OUR TEAM

ACCESS II IS CURRENTLY
ACCEPTING
APPLICATIONS FOR:

Contract RN

In-Home Aide

Please submit resumes to
jadkins@accessii.org

or call 660-663-2423 ext.
231 for more information
on how to apply

"In this particular employment program, each client has a personal job coach that accompanies them while they are on the jobsite" said Garner. "The job coaches are there to assure that everything gets done correctly and our clients have assistance if needed. It is designed to assist the person to be successful which has been a valuable asset to employers."

Store manager Aaron Konopasek said he was glad that he took a chance on the partnership.

"Knowing that Access II job coaches are hands on and working alongside them rather than sitting in the lobby has made their training go so smoothly and has taken a lot of worry off of our staff," said Konopasek.

Although the employment partnership wasn't something they were sure about at first they are encouraging other local businesses to get on board now that they have seen continued benefit for their restaurant and in the lives of their employees.

"Honestly I was hesitant at first, but I am so glad we took that step" said Myrick. "It was good to get out there and go for it, we have been nothing but impressed and blessed by this program and encourage other businesses to go for it too."

McDonald's isn't the only business Access II has built a partnership with, the Youth Center in Chillicothe has also had success with the employment program.

They have hired one of Access II's clients to help prepare and serve lunch to their students.



*Pictured above: Mayseen Fishel,
McDonald's Lobby attendant*



Access II offers a variety of employment services including:

Soft Skills
Resume Writing
Interview Prep
Job search assistance

Through Vocational Rehabilitation

(ES) Employment services
(SE) Supported Employment

Through DMH

Employment Services
Job Coaching

"The kids really love to be around Melissa," said Maizey Knifong, Director of the Youth Center. "Melissa loves interacting with the kids, and it's been a very positive relationship not only for the kids, but also for her. The job coaches she has are great. They know our kids by name and they really are an asset to our team."



Pictured above from left to right: Karla Garner, Melissa Bailey, Justin Reeter

Access II is currently seeking additional businesses in Chillicothe, Gallatin and surrounding areas who would like to become a partner in their employment programs.

Access II Independent Living Center is a non-for-profit agency that provides services to people with disabilities in 8 counties in Northeast Missouri including; Caldwell, Carroll, Daviess, Grundy, Harrison, Livingston, Mercer, and Ray. In addition, community information and educational services are provided to the general public.

ACCESS II AWARDS NORTH DAVIESS R-III FUNDING FOR ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

March is National Nutrition Month



No matter who you are, nutrition matters. Nutrition habits play a vital role in how you look feel and interact in your day-to-day life.

How can you celebrate?

Research
Recipes

Read Labels

Make a plan-

Keep Healthy
Snacks

Eat early on

Access II has a food pantry for our consumers in need.

Please call the office if you need food.

The North Daviess R-III School District was recently selected for a grant provided by Access II Independent Living Center to purchase accessible playground equipment for students with disabilities.



Pictured above from left to right: Vera Nelson, Kelly Hightree, Daniel Street of North Daviess R-II and Heather Swymeler and Jessica Adkins of Access II.

Access II awarded the school with a check for \$1,366.00. The money comes from the newly established Accessible Playground Fund. The goal of Access II's Accessible Playground Fund is to foster inclusiveness for children with disabilities. North Daviess R-III will be purchasing a wheelchair accessible fun-hoop, and a tether-ball pole which will be installed this summer.

The items will be installed in the school's current playground. Access II's Accessible Playground Fund is designed to enhance the playground that already exists by adding in pieces that are inclusive to children of all abilities. Inclusive play equipment will allow students with disabilities more opportunity to play with their peers who are not disabled.

Gallatin RV School District was also selected for funding from the Accessible Playground Fund in the amount of \$11,000. They have requested that their check presentation be held in April. Access II staff will remain in contact with the schools throughout the planning and installation process.

Polar Plunge Stats:

AIR TEMP 33°

WATER TEMP 32°

PLUNGERS 53

ACCESS II MONEY
RAISED
\$955



*Pictured above: Sam
Brewer and Ayrton Wilson*

Money Raised for
Special Olympics
Athletes:
\$14,946 and
counting!

THE "GREATEST SNACKS ON EARTH" BRAVE THE DEEP FREEZE



Pictured above from left to right: Heather Swymeler, Jessica Adkins, Ayrton Wilson, Sam Brewer, and Amber Wells.

Access II staff braved freezing cold air and water temperatures Saturday, February 23rd in an effort to raise money for Special Olympics during the Polar Plunge. Five of Access II's bravest staff members dressed up as circus food and deemed themselves "The Greatest Snacks on Earth."

Access II walked away from the event with first place in the "Costume Contest" and first place in "Team Fundraiser" with \$955 dollars raised as a group. However, this year Access II did not take home the golden plungers, but rather gave them to a Special Olympics athlete who joined our team. The plungers are now proudly on display in his home.

The Polar Plunge took place at Lake Viking and raised over \$14,946 for the local Special Olympics. Access II staff plan to plunge again next year.

NEW SIGN SAYS HELLO TO HIGHWAY DRIVERS

Did you know
Access II is a
demonstration site
for Missouri Assistive
Technology?

If you need to try
out a piece of
equipment before
buying it please
give us a call at
660-663-2423 to
see if we can assist
you with a 6 week
device loan.

For a catalog of
devices, please
visit
[https://at.mo.gov/
device-loan/etc-](https://at.mo.gov/device-loan/etc-)



Pictured above: View of the new sign from the Access II office

If you happen to drive by the Access II office in Gallatin, be sure to look for our newly established metal sign. The sign was installed in January and is now set to greet drivers who commute on 6 Hwy, in and out of Gallatin.

The double sided sign is part of our marketing plan, and now makes it much easier for the community to identify our office. Not only is the sign a landmark which makes us easier to spot, the sign is a constant reminder of our presence in the community, and our hope is that it will generate more interest in our services.



Pictured above: Worrell Construction installing the metal sign posts.

Gallatin License Office is Closed

The Gallatin License office that once resided in the Access II ILC building has been closed. It closed Nov 30th 2018 due to financial strains caused by lack of revenue.

Drivers needing assistance must now go to the Bethany, Kingston, or Cameron Locations.

Some transactions can also be completed online.

HOLIDAYS AT ACCESS II



Pictured above top row from left to right: Jen Grider, Amber Wells, Kala Garner, Staci Hamilton, Heather Swymeler, Deena McCallon

Bottom Row left to right: Jessica Adkins, Ashley Chambers, Ayrton Wilson, Sam Brewer, Kaytee Smith



Pictured above: Access II staff have fun celebrating Halloween

STAFF

Executive Director

Heather Swymeler

Financial Director

Amber Wells

Marketing & Development

Director

Jessica Adkins

ILS/Employment Specialist

Karla Garner

LPN

Sam Brewer

ILS/CDS Case Manager

Jen Grider

Billing Specialist

Staci Hamilton

In-Home Scheduling Coordinator

Deena McCallon

Financial Assistant

Ashley Chambers

Administrative Assistant

Ayron Wilson

Board

President

Stacey Maxwell

Vice-President

Lisa Bowles

Treasurer

David Lainhart

Secretary

Leslie Stanley

Members

Karen Bryant
Brandy Gannan
Annie Gibson
Tim Tadlock
Rob Zirfas

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OFFICE CLOSINGS:

- April 4- Crock Pot Cooking Class
- April 19 - Good Friday- Office Closed
- May 15 - Second Grade Learning Day
- May 27- Memorial Day - Office Closed
- June 1- Access II Fishing Tournament
- July 4- Independence Day- Office Closed

Please contact our office for more information about events and office closings.

Contact Us

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