There have been a lot of changes, additions, and updates going on here in Club 22 and we are happy to share another newsletter production with you. Several new participants have joined our group and we are excited to share with you our theme that we feel encompasses our ever-changing program abilities, and aspirations:

“Reaching For The Stars.”

A third Club 22 room was opened up to help meet our changing needs. It quickly became apparent that we needed to distinguish ourselves from one another while remaining one unified group. The team met and poured over suggested names for each room. The unanimous conclusion was that each room would take the name of an American space shuttle to represent individual goals and aspirations. The spaceship names which were decided upon were: The Atlantis, The Enterprise, and The Discovery.

We continue to on our mission as a team and are unified in many of our activities however the separation of groups has aided in person specific programming and ability focused groups. Like the creative name we came up with together, we will never stop reaching for the stars!

Arius, a member of the Discovery Room says “I love the new room and the changes.”

Welcome Gina!

We are proud to announce that Opportunity Works has hired an additional staff position to help support the growing needs Club 22. Gina Whitfield has transitioned into the new role of Club 22 Coordinator. She has eagerly started to meet the families of Club 22 participants and looks forward to applying her spin on participant based programming.

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Upcoming Dates

Opportunity Works Yard Sale 9/28
Talent Show 10/4
Columbus Day 10/4
Annual Recognition Gala 10/18
Halloween Spirit Week 10/28-11/1

“Love the trees until their leaves fall off, then encourage them to try again next year.” — Chad Sugg
I attended job training in Haverhill with Kelly, Allyson, Kaitlin, and Craig. The training was conducted by a group called Massachusetts Advocates Standing Strong. I learned how to explore, prepare, and take action in order to find a job. I also learned that employment means working in the community and getting paid for your work. In addition, I learned that working is good because it will allow me to earn money and help me make new friends.

Kaitlin Dower

I went to a conference in Haverhill about getting a job. I watched videos and talked about how to dress for a job. I learned how to act in a job interview, like shutting off my cell phone and being prepared. I also learned to never give up.

Craig Michaud

I went to a workshop to learn about jobs. The two most important things I learned were to never give up when searching for a job and to use the people in my network to help me find a place to work. The people in my network include my friends, family, teachers, and classmates. These are people who can help me get more information about jobs and could give me direct job leads.

A Word From A New Participant:

Hello, my name is Chris St. Germain. I am the newest member of Club 22. I came here from American Training and before that I went to Methuen High School. I went to school with Craig, Vanessa, Chelsea, Renee, Danny, and Kevin who are all in Club 22 with me. I like being back with all of my old friends. I also like being in Club 22 because it is fun and I am learning about job skills.
Opportunity Walks

We are excited to have partnered up with local pet groomer Bartlett’s Cove in the initiation of a regularly operating dog walking service. Currently, Opportunity Works participants have been paired up with dogs and are undergoing the initial phases of training with the dogs each week. The next phase of the plan includes Opportunity Works assisting the elderly in the Sullivan Building to walk their dogs with an ultimate goal of establishing a regular operation providing several paid positions for our participants. The program has been great and we would like to send out a special shout out and Thank You to Jackie of Bartlett’s Cover for all of her assistance and help in this venture!

Chelsea Barr

For the past two months, I have been learning how to walk dogs. I have been working with a woman named Jackie and she has been teaching me everything I need to know. Jackie has taught me a lot of things such as how to hold a leash and the right way to walk by a dog’s side. The last time I went dog walking, I was asked to walk three dogs named Dakota, Gracie, and Sandy. I liked walking all the dogs, but my favorite one was Dakota because he was very friendly and liked to give me kisses. I love to walk dogs and look forward
Hi! My name is Kevin Benoit and I work at Opportunity works in club 22. Every Thursday we go to the YWCA right down the street in Newburyport. We go to YWCA to lift and work out. Our staff bring us and exercise with us. My dad Jack Benoit meets us there and works out with me. My dad and I motivate each other to work hard. We exercise to be strong and healthy. I really enjoy getting out into the community with my friends. We all exercise real hard and by the time I get back to Opportunity works I am so sore I feel as though my arms are going to fall off.

Opportunity Works partnered up with the Essex County Sheriff’s Department to initiate the first ever, Special Outreach Program. Through this program, Opportunity Works participants embarked on a 5 week pilot program at the Middleton location to learn about self advocacy, respect, and self defense. In the first weeks, participants were given a tour of the facility and were able to see K-9 training firsthand. The later weeks included trainings on personal respect, self advocacy, and self defense. The program concluded with a graduation ceremony where participants were welcome to invite family members. We would like to send out a special thank you to Judy Lacroix and Barbara Cross for helping facilitate this positive experience!
Opportunity Works is going green with Single Stream! We are excited to have started a new recycling project here at Opportunity Works. Club 22 participants are learning how to sort materials and what can be recycled to help the environment. Receptacles have been placed throughout the building and Club 22 participants are starting the initiative in making this a company side venture.

Left: Club 22ers helped cheer in the players at our annual golf tournament!

Right: Renee enjoys weekly volunteer trips to local food pantry, Our Neighbor’s Table

Congrats to Ally Barr for her new job at: Sam’s Club
Community Hoops

My name is Jesse Timothee and I love playing basketball at Opportunity Works. Every Thursday we go outside and play from 10:00 am to snack break. Jay, Mike, Danny, and other individuals from Opportunity Works go out and play. Jay is very good at basketball and I like to watch him play. We all get bracelets that say community hoops.net, mine is blue. Basketball is a good exercise because we all run around and stay healthy. The slam dunk is my favorite move.

This is a picture that I (Jeff Gonyea) made on the computer ALL BY MYSELF!!! I hope to take a Graphic Design course at NECCO sometime in the near future and maybe get a job as a Graphic Designer either self-employed, or employed by a company that can put my talents to good use. I would prefer self-employment but that’s just my opinion!

-Photo Credit: By Jeff Gonyea (a.k.a. El Gringo Loco) dated on July 24, 2013

Questions? Comments?

Is there something you would like to see in our newsletter? Your feedback is welcome! Please send any suggestions or comments to Monica.Albach@Opportunityworks.org

To join our Email list, simply write an email to Monica and you will be included on all Club 22 group emails!