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Partnership for Hope

**Changing Lives
by Expanding
Developmental
Disabilities Services
in Missouri**

**FIRST YEAR REPORT
OCTOBER 2011**



Missouri Association of Counties for
Developmental Disabilities Services





October 1, 2011

As we continue to move Missouri forward, our citizens with developmental disabilities must not be left behind. Providing supports and services to enable all Missourians to realize their full potential is a priority of my administration. Partnership for Hope provides the opportunity that many persons with developmental disabilities need to become full participants in their communities.

This unique and innovative partnership between local, state and federal resources moves our system of supports and services away from a crisis-driven response to a preventive and enabling system of care.

Prior to implementation of the Partnership for Hope, demand for home and community-based services had resulted in a large backlog of Missouri families waiting for help. Many families had been waiting for years to receive the services they needed. Priority had been given to individuals in crisis, such as individuals who were homeless or whose primary caregiver had passed away. In many of those cases, residential or out-of-home placement became the only option.

Under my direction, the Partnership began enrolling Missourians in October 2010. Today, over 1,000 Missourians from 74 counties are enrolled in the program. We will not stop until all Missourians with developmental disabilities have the supports and services they need to live productive lives.

Sincerely,



Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor



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“This unique and innovative partnership between local, state and federal resources moves our system of supports and services away from a crisis-driven response to a preventive and enabling system of care.”

- Governor Jay Nixon

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“This program exemplifies the best of federal, state and local government working together to improve the lives of Missourians with disabilities.”

- Governor Jay Nixon

October 1, 2011

Under the personal leadership of Governor Jay Nixon, the creative efforts of local county developmental disability boards, and in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Mental Health and the federal Medicaid program, a new program called the Partnership for Hope was initiated in 2010. It has already changed the lives of over 1,000 individuals and families in Missouri.

Partnership for Hope makes a fundamental shift away from high cost, crisis oriented services for Missourians with developmental disabilities. Previously, people needing developmental disability community-based supports and services had to wait far too long, often for years, until they or their families were in crisis. Each waiting year represented lost opportunities in productive community involvement and/or added greater health risks.

Now, those people who had to wait, and people seeking services in the future, will receive the supports they need sooner and at dramatically lower cost. As a comparison, in past years the DMH Division of Developmental Disabilities would have considered a year successful when they could enroll 300 individuals into services off the developmental disabilities services wait list. Partnership for Hope has more than tripled that number in its first year. In the past, the average cost of an individual entering DD in-home services was more than \$20,000. In the Partnership for Hope program, the average cost of all services is less than \$10,000 per year.

The Partnership for Hope embodies the very best of local, state and federal collaboration with persons with developmental disabilities and their families. And the positive impact is not limited just to the individual enrollee. Families benefit also. In many cases, parents are able to go back to work, or to continue their jobs and careers, because personal assistance services, transportation and meaningful employment training are provided to their family member with disabilities. Before, their activities would have been limited by the intensity of their caretaking responsibilities. This partnership helps keep families together, remain productive and be emotionally healthy.

Governor Nixon personally and aptly named this program Partnership for Hope, because hope is what it gives those families who have sacrificed each day for their loved one while waiting to receive the services for which they were entitled and deserved. This is good government for Missourians with developmental disabilities, and for that reason, it will thrive and grow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Schafer". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light yellow background.

Keith Schafer, Ed.D., Director, Department of Mental Health

Today's Partnership brings Hope for the Future

For many Missouri families with a child with a developmental disability, the world changed on October 1, 2010. That was the day Governor Jay Nixon announced the Partnership for Hope, a new program that has helped end years of waiting for some of those families in need of the opportunity to make life better for their child.

Partnership for Hope represents a watershed change for the state in the way it provides services to individuals and families impacted by developmental disabilities. The state's limited resources are unable to keep up with the need for services. The result was a crisis-based system of care where those persons most in need – usually in an emergency situation – received funding. Partnership for Hope reaches individuals earlier, with less costly services, providing them support to lead a stable life instead of reaching a crisis level of need.

Through this unique partnership, funds from local county developmental disability boards, also known as Senate Bill, or SB 40 Boards, are matched with state funds to draw down federal funds that go back to the county for services to county residents. The county boards select the recipients of the funds, which are capped at \$12,000 per year per individual. The services include in-home personal assistance, employment and career preparation, transportation, behavioral therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, dental care and other in-home services.

Thirty six counties and the City of St. Louis were part of the startup of the program on October 1, 2010. Since then, 37 more counties have joined and over 1,000 individuals have been enrolled in the first year. Eleven additional counties are awaiting federal approval to participate. The Division of Developmental Disabilities continues to meet with those counties not yet enrolled.



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At the direction of Governor Nixon, the bureaucratic term “prevention waiver” was replaced with “Partnership for Hope” – a designation that truly reflects what the program is about: a partnership for today that brings hope for tomorrow.

Instead of waiting for years until a disabled family member reaches a crisis level, Missouri families can now access services much earlier, saving heartache to the family and reducing the overall costs to the state, since prevention services in a family’s home are much less expensive than out-of-home care.

Initially, the Partnership for Hope was available for 470 individuals. More county developmental disability boards expressed interest in getting help for their local families and in December 2010, the Governor authorized the Department of Mental Health to seek federal approval to enroll 500 additional Missourians in the program.

The interest continued to grow as did the list of counties wanting to participate. In June of this year, the Governor authorized another expansion of 300 more Missouri families. The future for Missouri families affected by developmental disabilities is brighter than it was a year ago, but Partnership for Hope is the beginning of the journey, not the end. Persons with developmental disabilities have the right to the opportunities and dignity that all citizens deserve.

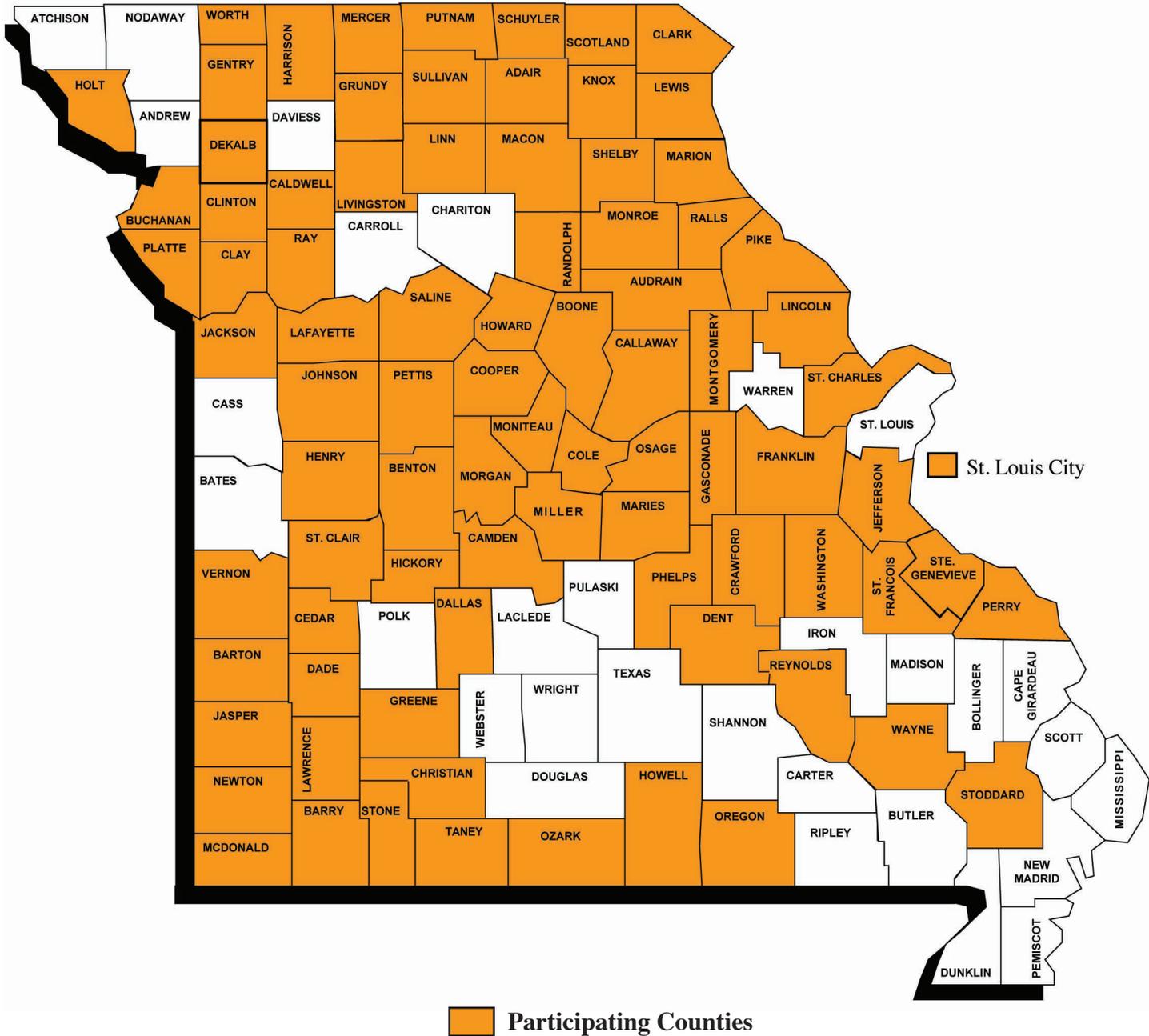


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“In these difficult fiscal times, this epitomizes a terrific partnership between families, County DD Boards and the state to allow families to keep their loved one at home while still providing them the supports they need to thrive in their communities.”

- Governor Jay Nixon

Partnership for Hope Waiver Counties





Facility	County	Active Slots	Authorized	Expended
Albany Regional Office				
	Buchanan	22	\$123,381	\$38,740
	Caldwell	2	\$1,394	\$0
	Clinton	5	\$24,117	\$11,104
	Dekalb	2	\$11,778	\$784
	Gentry	8	\$85,147	\$20,085
	Harrison	5	\$23,540	\$5,016
	Holt	0	\$0	\$0
	Worth	0	\$0	\$0
	Region Total:	44	\$269,357	\$75,730
Central Missouri Regional Office				
	Benton	0	\$0	\$0
	Boone	83	\$1,109,448	\$252,230
	Callaway	2	\$19,120	\$0
	Cole	11	\$88,422	\$5,162
	Cooper	15	\$109,069	\$28,278
	Howard	0	\$0	\$0
	Moniteau	2	\$31,711	\$11,095
	Pettis	11	\$93,652	\$30,352
	Saline	3	\$19,035	\$7,562
	Region Total:	127	\$1,470,457	\$334,678
Hannibal Regional Office				
	Audrain	4	\$24,108	\$4,506
	Lincoln	10	\$146,573	\$54,006
	Marion	7	\$85,034	\$24,844
	Monroe	5	\$47,187	\$12,718
	Montgomery	4	\$88,164	\$9,230
	Pike	10	\$150,087	\$48,186
	Ralls	3	\$20,559	\$7,914
	Region Total:	43	\$561,713	\$161,404
Joplin Regional Office				
	Barton	5	\$22,582	\$7,368
	Cedar	2	\$13,373	\$932
	Dade	2	\$4,078	\$0
	Henry	4	\$23,311	\$7,768
	Jasper	37	\$329,447	\$116,220
	Lawrence	4	\$24,755	\$12,027
	McDonald	1	\$1,264	\$0
	Newton	16	\$64,829	\$31,750
	St Clair	0	\$0	\$0
	Vernon	2	\$2,491	\$6,454
	Region Total:	73	\$486,131	\$182,518
Kansas City Regional Office				
	Clay	41	\$256,327	\$47,003
	Jackson	157	\$966,008	\$238,184
	Johnson	9	\$90,443	\$38,710
	Lafayette	7	\$59,121	\$10,758
	Platte	37	\$305,643	\$88,030
	Ray	5	\$57,463	\$22,354
	Region Total:	256	\$1,735,005	\$445,039
Kirksville Regional Office				
	Adair	8	\$56,585	\$17,609
	Clark	5	\$11,902	\$605
	Knox	0	\$0	\$0
	Lewis	0	\$0	\$0
	Linn	2	\$0	\$7,524
	Livingston	8	\$88,025	\$34,617
	Macon	8	\$39,696	\$12,585
	Mercer	3	\$0	\$13,600
	Putnam	1	\$5,000	\$0
	Schuyler	1	\$12,000	\$140
	Scotland	1	\$11,032	\$1,762
	Shelby	6	\$41,623	\$14,174
	Sullivan	1	\$5,000	\$0
	Region Total:	44	\$270,863	\$102,617
Poplar Bluff Regional Office				
	Howell	0	\$0	\$0
	Region Total:	0	\$0	\$0
Rolla Regional Office				
	Camden	29	\$79,975	\$53,275
	Crawford	0	\$0	\$0
	Dent	4	\$17,600	\$5,690
	Franklin	49	\$302,841	\$110,159
	Gasconade	4	\$34,042	\$11,527
	Maries	2	\$29,358	\$8,478
	Miller	14	\$69,006	\$36,982
	Osage	5	\$44,900	\$18,852
	Phelps	11	\$54,059	\$10,837
	St Francois	9	\$71,079	\$11,662
	Washington	16	\$84,490	\$30,856
	Region Total:	143	\$787,351	\$298,317
Springfield Regional Office				
	Dallas	6	\$45,422	\$2,266
	Greene	74	\$713,721	\$194,676
	Hickory	1	\$10,623	\$2,045
	Ozark	2	\$0	\$2,043
	Stone	4	\$31,841	\$2,272
	Taney	3	\$30,190	\$6,433
	Region Total:	90	\$831,798	\$209,736
St Louis Regional Office				
	Jefferson	25	\$73,443	\$8,118
	St Charles	73	\$699,446	\$185,186
	St Louis City	97	\$447,108	\$74,993
	Region Total:	195	\$1,219,997	\$268,296
	Total Slots:	1,015	\$7,632,671	\$2,078,336

*Partnership for Hope
Waiver Summary List*

Local County Boards help make Partnership a reality

The Partnership for Hope (PfH) is the outgrowth of a grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health to the Missouri Association of County Developmental Disability Services (MACDDS), an association of County Developmental Disability Boards, to research better ways to use all available resources to serve persons with developmental disabilities.

MACDDS presented their recommendations to the Division of Developmental Disabilities which collaborated with Missouri's Mo-HealthNet Division of the Department of Social Services for application to the Centers for Medicaid/Medicare Services (CMS) for the Partnership for Hope.

For every dollar, the local county board contributes 18 cents; the state 18 cents; and the federal share is 64 cents. Service costs are capped at \$12,000 per year per person. However, actual costs are running below that amount for the first year.

"People are using what they need and we are finding not everyone needs the total amount allowed per year. This is a very cost-effective and efficient program," says Les Wagner, Director of the Boone County Family Resources (BCFR), a local developmental disabilities board that has 78 clients enrolled in the PfH program.

Without the in-home services, many people in the program would eventually need residential or institutional services, which are far more costly.

"Many families wish to support their loved one at home and can do so with some assistance," said Peg Capo, Director of the Developmental Disabilities Resource Board of St. Charles County, which has 66 clients enrolled in the PfH.

The Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County has 153 persons participating in the PfH. Jake Jacobs, the Executive Director, says the program has allowed his agency to make inroads in meeting the needs of the families it serves.



"Hope has been re-born where before there was none."

- Jake Jacobs

Executive Director of Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County

Families offer insight into impact of Partnership for Hope

Families had the opportunity to tell their stories first-hand to Governor Jay Nixon and Dr. Keith Schafer, Director of the Department of Mental Health, during a series of discussions held to announce the Partnership for Hope (PfH) program.

Families of children who would benefit from the Partnership told the Governor and other state officials the benefits of receiving services and supports through the program. In some cases, it was transportation that was needed to get a son or daughter who had completed high school to a day program so they could have meaningful activities. Others talked about the need for pre-employment training. The participants included parents, grandparents, guardians and also some of the persons enrolled in the PfH.

“Hearing directly from families caring for a loved one with a developmental disability was a humbling experience. The sacrifices they make each day to do all they can for their loved one is inspiring,” said Governor Nixon. “We learned that often just a little bit of help can make a world of difference.”

The families explained how PfH services have an impact far beyond the person receiving the assistance. Transportation to a day program means that mom or dad doesn't have to quit a job to stay home and provide care during the day. A wheelchair ramp into a home gives someone mobility and independence and helps keep a family intact. Helping prepare someone for a job can change that person's life forever and give parents comfort knowing their child is prepared for the future.

Roundtable discussions were held in Columbia, Troy, St. Charles and Kansas City. The Governor also met with families in Rolla and announced in St. Louis the start of the Partnership for Hope. He also visited families in Springfield to announce the subsequent expansion.

“There are families all across the state that can benefit by some assistance early in the life of their son or daughter with a developmental disability,” said Dr. Schafer. “The partnership is helping keep families together.”

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“...often just a little bit of help can make a world of difference.”

- Governor Jay Nixon

Lucy

The moment Lucy Spare walks into a room it comes to life. Shouts of hello and greetings of friendship fill the room. Lucy is well known and loved at her work and in the community. Her parents, Kenneth and Diana Spare, are proud of her achievements. But like all parents, they wish she could have more opportunities and challenges.

Lucy has a diagnosis of mild mental retardation and Downs Syndrome. She wants to learn and doesn't accept that there are obstacles. She is a fast learner and quite capable of learning numerous skills. However, her opportunities were very limited with the employment she was able to get. Realizing her employment opportunities needed help, Lucy's parents sought services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities. The result was that Lucy was placed on a waiting list for supported employment services.

Now, however, the Partnership for Hope is providing Lucy with the opportunities she needs. Partnership for Hope allowed her to come off the waiting list in February 2011 and attend Community Choice where she receives supported employment services that are helping her explore new directions and learn new skills. Instead of being restricted to doing repetitive and tedious work, Lucy is learning new employment skills to achieve her dreams. In addition to pre-employment skills, Lucy is also learning to recognize what is appropriate attire and how to communicate in the work environment.

Lucy has gained confidence and social skills. She is out in the community more and has even started volunteering. Partnership for Hope has allowed Lucy to address issues that if left unaddressed would leave her without options. Lucy has potential and through the Partnership for Hope she is discovering what talents and skills she has and her provider is helping to bring out the best in her.

Lucy is served through Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County

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Lucy Spare

“Lucy is exploring new directions and learning new skills.”

Lashon

Some of the things that most of us take for granted, such as mobility, can be a challenge for persons with developmental disabilities. Lashon Davis is a 33-year-old woman with a passion for life and a spirit that will not quit. She loves caring for her nieces and nephews and has very strong bonds with all of her family. Lashon attends Hope Day Care Center in Jackson County which gives her the opportunity to be around friends and get out into the community.

The adult day care center also offers her mobility by providing her a power wheel chair. However, at the end of the day, that mobility is gone as Lashon must leave her power chair behind and be carried to the bus and then carried from the bus by her parents across the yard and up several steps to place her in a manual wheel chair.

Unfortunately, Lashon's home did not have a ramp to allow her access. The Partnership for Hope changed all of that by allowing her to have a ramp at her home and giving her the dignity she deserves. She can move around her home and help the family as she never could before.

For the Davis family, the wheelchair ramp is the answer to a prayer. Lashon's parents waited patiently and hoped fervently as their hopes for the ramp were stymied by lack of funding. The Partnership for Hope gives Lashon the freedom to interact with her family independent of their assistance.

Lashon is served through Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County



Lashon Davis

“For the Davis family, the wheelchair ramp is the answer to a prayer.”

Norma

Norma Anderson will be the first to tell you her job taking care of cats at the Central Missouri Humane Society is a dream come true.

“I get to work with animals and the people there know my diagnosis,” she said.

Norma, 21, has Asperger’s Syndrome, a form of autism that can make ordinary social interactions a struggle, among other things. Until recently, Norma’s developmental disability might have prevented her from joining the workforce and made her more dependent on her grandmother, a scenario Fern Anderson feared disastrous for her granddaughter.

“My goal in life has always been to get Norma to live independently,” said Fern, who has raised Norma since she was 4. “If something happens to me, what will happen to Norma?”

Thanks to the Partnership for Hope, Fern is confident her granddaughter will be ready for the future. Through the Partnership, Norma receives a variety of services through Boone County Family Resources, including job training and a chance to participate in a socialization class called Circles. She also receives Community Specialist Services to develop practical living skills such as budgeting and cooking. In the past, Norma would have to be in crisis – lost her grandmother or become homeless – to receive services.

After Norma graduated from high school in 2009, Fern worried her granddaughter would be stuck at home and lose the social skills she acquired in school. Partnership for Hope was an answer to her prayers.

“The services she receives through the Partnership of Hope have made all this possible,” Fern said.

Norma is served through Boone County Family Resources



Fern Anderson and granddaughter Norma Anderson

“My goal in life has always been to get Norma to live independently.”

-Fern Anderson

Cody

During his years attending Hillcrest High School, Cody Koyle worked on employment skills through The Arc of the Ozarks and Vocational Rehabilitation Services. But because he didn't qualify for services from the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Cody, who has Downs Syndrome, spent the next four and one-half years after high school unable to utilize the employment skills he worked so hard to learn.

But in October 2010, the Partnership for Hope program provided Cody the opportunity he needed to pursue employment. Through the Partnership for Hope, Cody was transitioned into a program at the Development Center of the Ozarks (DCO) Tech Center. He worked on relearning those employment skills he first learned in high school. Cody's mother and guardian, Karleen Tutton, says he has blossomed in this new environment and his confidence has grown.

Karleen says she has noticed that Cody is more aware of tasks he can complete. He often pitches in to pick up chairs at church or wipe down tables. Karleen was thrilled when Cody brought home worksheets from DCO showing how he used a calculator to solve math problems. The feedback from DCO staff is that Cody only needs verbal prompting to complete tasks. He is eager every morning to go to work, Karleen says.

"Cody has more confidence now, is less shy and is more comfortable with making decisions on his own," Karleen said. "We waited so long for something like this program to come through, we definitely are thankful for it and want Governor Nixon to know what a difference it has made."

Cody is served through Arc of the Ozarks of Springfield



Cody Koyle

"We waited so long for something like this program to come through."

*-Karleen Tutton
Cody's mother and guardian*

Jackie

Jackie Quesenberry lives on her own in an apartment in Troy. She is in the process of buying her own home. She loves being independent and making her own decisions. She has worked at the local Denny's restaurant for 10 years. She has also been involved in the National Disabled Sports Organization Games. In 1993, she won the Congressional Award for all of her community service hours through the Girl Scouts where she advocated for accessible services in her community. She is a strong advocate for herself and other persons with disabilities.

This has all been possible due to the love and support of her family and her service agency - Community Opportunities for People with Developmental Disabilities. Her mother checks to make sure she fills her medication planner correctly and calls daily to make sure Jackie remembers to take her medication. Her mother also helps her with paying her bills, and balancing her checkbook. Community Opportunities' staff now help her with planning for meals and shopping.

A few years ago, Jackie's dad had a stroke. This has been very hard on Jackie's mom since she has to provide oversight and assistance for Jackie, plus help her husband with his personal care needs. Partnership for Hope provides the family with the support they need to avoid a crisis. The Partnership provides Jackie with some personal assistance services that relieves some of the responsibility from Jackie's mom and makes it possible for Jackie to continue her independent lifestyle.

"It is vitally important that Jackie maintain her independence, but it is difficult to cover both her needs and my husband's," said Dee Quesenberry, Jackie's mother. "The Partnership for Hope gives me a helping hand in making sure that Jackie has the support she needs to live independently and productively. I can't tell you what a relief this is to me as a mother and a wife."

Jackie is served through Community Opportunities for People with Developmental Disabilities in Troy



Jackie Quesenberry with Governor Nixon and her parents

"Partnership for Hope provided the family with the support they needed to avoid a crisis."

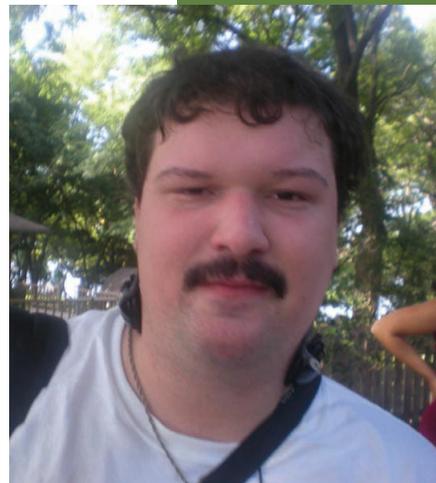
Austin

Austin Kinart began receiving personal assistant services through the Partnership for Hope program in February 2011, after being on the wait list for that service since 2008. The personal assistant has helped Austin succeed at the University of Central Missouri (UCM), where he is enrolled. Austin gets assistance keeping up with his coursework, and talking to his professors about the work that is expected of him and the timeline for getting his work completed. According to his mother, Austin is enjoying the fall semester at UCM.

When the UCM's spring semester ended, Austin returned home and his family was able to find a former teacher, Nate, who wanted to work with Austin through the personal assistant service. Nate has pushed Austin to try new things, has exposed him to different social situations, and encouraged him to learn more about himself and his interests. Nate and Austin have developed a very strong bond that is evident after spending only a few moments with them. Nate has also introduced Austin to new people.

Mary reports that Austin gained so much confidence this summer, and she is very excited to see what the future holds for him. Austin's Service Coordinator has seen an incredible amount of growth in both his confidence and social skills since the start of his personal assistant services. Austin is happy and confident, and is looking forward to the life he wants to lead. His family is also excited to see what that life will look like because of the supports funded by the Partnership for Hope.

Austin is served through Developmental Disability Services of Jackson County



Austin Kinart

“Austin has been so blessed by the people who have come into his life as a result of this program.”

*– Mary Kinart
Austin's mother*

Nathaniel

Nathaniel Huffman has a diagnosis of quadriplegic cerebral palsy, a condition that affects the body's ability to relax muscles, causing tightness and difficulties in movement. Nate's cerebral palsy affects all four limbs as well as his speech.

Throughout his school years Nate received occupational and physical therapy that increased the elasticity in his muscles, built strength, and allowed greater independence. However, since graduating high school in 2002, Nate's condition declined significantly because the therapies stopped. As a result, Nate, now 27, requires assistance with all his daily living needs. Nate's mother, Chris Heitman, provided all his support, which prevented her from being employed.

The Partnership for Hope now makes it possible for Nate to receive much needed physical therapy and some personal care attendant services that allow Chris to seek the employment opportunities that will help keep the family together.

"We were in a Catch 22 before Nate was approved for the Partnership for Hope program," said Chris, "Nate belongs at home with us and this is where Nate wants to be. But we were at a point where we had serious concerns about how we could continue to support Nate's health and safety and make ends meet."

While cerebral palsy is part of Nate's life, he doesn't let it define him. Anyone who knows Nate describes him as a techno-genius. Equipped with a device that sits on top of the computer monitor and is guided by a dot on his glasses, Nate can repair computers, create music and music videos as well as participate in video games. Nate holds certificates from St. Charles Community College for Microsoft Office Suite programs.

Nate is served through Developmental Disabilities Resource Board of St. Charles County

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Nate Huffman

"Nate belongs at home with us and this is where Nate wants to be."

*– Chris Heitman
Nate's mother*

Stephanie

Stephanie Haydel is no stranger to work. For eight years she worked at a day care center in New Orleans where she is from originally. In 2005, all of that changed when Hurricane Katrina destroyed all of their belongings, forcing them to relocate near relatives in Missouri.

The family lost everything, including services for Stephanie, who has a diagnosis of Downs Syndrome. Stephanie has always placed a lot of emphasis on being an active, contributing member of her community. So when she was hired at BCI, a facility based contract packaging company in St. Peter's, having a meaningful day and a paycheck created independence for her. But that success soon was jeopardized by the lack of available transportation services to her. Her parents provided transportation until recently when both experienced serious health issues. Stephanie was at risk of losing her job.

Fortunately, Partnership for Hope became available to Stephanie and is providing her transportation to and from work. That not only allows Stephanie to continue working, but also provides her parents the opportunity to tend to their own health care needs and ultimately keep Stephanie living with her family.

“Stephanie is a valued employee with a positive attitude. We knew it would be another setback to take this part of her life away because she doesn't drive,” said Kathie Doughty, Stephanie's case manager. “She's built a life for herself here. She's made numerous friends at BCI and the work provides greater independence.”

Stephanie is served through Developmental Disabilities Resource Board of St. Charles County



Stephanie Haydel

“Partnership for Hope assists Stephanie in getting to and from work.”

Vishal

For years Vishal Patel had to crawl or be carried to the upstairs of his home to shower. Once there, he had to use a home-made ramp to scoot up and into the shower stall. Vishal will soon be 21 years old. His parents, Harikrishna and Pushpaben Patel, provide for Vishal's care and fear injuring Vishal or themselves performing these tasks. For Vishal, he simply wants to carry out his personal care needs safely and with dignity.

Vishal was born with a rare form of Cerebral Palsy that formed his lower body backward requiring him to use a wheelchair to ambulate. He has moderate use of his upper extremities and can navigate his wheelchair in his home and community. In addition to the lack of access within the home, the family had concerns about a homemade ramp for entering the home from the garage that tipped and caused Vishal to fall.

The Partnership for Hope has provided the necessary home modifications for Vishal to have a stair lift, a roll-in shower with a shower chair, permanent garage ramp and the physical therapy he needs.

Friends and family describe Vishal as very social with a great sense of humor and for the past two summers Vishal has been employed at a local cinema where he takes tickets and directs patrons to the correct theater. When Vishal ages out of school this December he plans to work and continue his education.

Vishal is served through Developmental Disabilities Resource Board of St. Charles County



Vishal Patel

“Partnership for Hope helps Vishal carry out his personal care needs safely and with dignity.”

Robert

Robert Schroeder, 38, is a man with a lot to offer. He is a graduate of the University of Missouri – St. Louis with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology and volunteers for Voices for Children, a non-profit organization for abused and neglected children, performing technical assistance to their website. He enjoys maintaining an active social life with family and friends and seizes every opportunity to access his community. The one thing he doesn't do is let the physical limitations of his spinal cord injury define him.

Robert was just three years old when he was struck by a motorcycle and permanently disabled. Today, Robert lives with his mother who helps him with most of his daily living and transportation needs.

Robert is always looking for ways to work around his disability in order to maximize his independence and uses an electric wheelchair to access all areas of his home. The home has been modified for Robert to exit exterior doors; however, with limited use of his hands he isn't able to operate a wall light switch. This poses a safety risk for Robert if he can't see to navigate his wheel chair or needs to evacuate the home during an emergency. As a result, Robert was never left at home alone.

The family for a long time had been on the wait-list for an environmental control unit to enable Robert to turn lights on and off within the home without assistance. Funds from the Partnership for Hope provided the unit and added independence and safety for Robert. It also has eased the physical demands on his mother who is also his primary care giver.

Mrs. Schroeder is now retired and while she's thankful that Robert has been able to remain with her in their home all these years, taking Robert everywhere with her can be physically demanding on her as well. She reports that he is very intelligent and capable of staying home alone for a few hours so that she can tend to her own personal needs as long as he has the necessary accommodations in place.

Robert is served through Developmental Disabilities Resource Board of St. Charles County



Robert Schroeder

“The Partnership for Hope has eased the physical demands on Robert’s mother, who is his primary care giver.”



Partnership for Hope: Shaping the future of the developmental disability services system

Missouri's Partnership for Hope program has had a tremendous impact on the lives of individuals and families in its first year of implementation. The initiative also has potential to have a profound impact on the service delivery system for the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

"As we continue to expand the Partnership and serve people from a prevention perspective we are moving away from a system that is driven by crisis situations," says Bernie Simons, Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

The Partnership for Hope has taken more than 1,000 people off the Division's in-home services wait list in the past year. The Division estimates another 1,800 to 2,000 people on the wait list are eligible for Partnership for Hope services. Each year, hundreds of persons with developmental disabilities graduate from the state education system and seek services and supports from the Division.

"This is a more efficient way to address the needs of persons on the waiting list and an effective vehicle to move people from the education system into the community-based service system to prepare them for the future," says Simons. "Without this vehicle many of these individuals could be on the wait list for years."

Governor Jay Nixon has directed the Division to work with local county developmental disability boards to continue to look for ways to expand the Partnership for Hope (PfH) to more families. Thirty counties still are not participants in the PfH and many families remain in need of these in-home services.

"We will continue to work to develop strategies for getting services to individuals and families as early as possible," says Governor Nixon. "In many instances, the challenges that families face can be overcome with the right interventions at the right time."



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“The Partnership is helping keep families together.”

*- Dr. Keith Schafer
Director, Department of Mental Health*

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*This report produced by the
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and the Missouri Association of Counties for
Developmental Disabilities Services.*

*“We will not
stop until all
Missourians with
developmental
disabilities have
the supports
and services
they need to live
productive lives.”*

*- Governor
Jay Nixon*



Missouri Association of Counties for
Developmental Disabilities Services