

Direct Connection



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Home Modifications Lead to Dignity and Independence

A FAMILY STAYS TOGETHER WITH THE HELP OF HOME MODIFICATIONS

Story submitted by Vonda Powell, KCRO Community Living Coordinator

When Mike isn't singing in the church choir, watching professional wrestling, dancing the night away, or attending events all over Kansas City, he is enjoying life at home with his parents.

Mike has Cerebral Palsy, so he needs additional physical supports to keep his balance. Home modifications to help Mike be more independent were completed in the fall of 2015 through the Department of Mental Health Partnership for Hope Waiver.

Mike has since been able to use the bathroom independently due to the grab bars installed in the shower and on the bathroom walls.

Additionally, a handrail leading down the basement stairs to the garage was replaced. This home modification has helped Mike to be able to independently access the family's vehicle. Mike wants to do all he can on his own to achieve his goal of true independence.

According to Mike's father, Michael Sr., "Every little thing helps him to stay safe and live with us as a family that much longer."

Mike's long-term goal is to move out and get married, but for now, he enjoys a fulfilling life at home with his loving parents, achieving his goal of independence with the help of home modifications.

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**CONNECTING WITH THE
DIVISION OF
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**

Missouri Department of
Mental Health

Division of Developmental
Disabilities

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Dental Student Training

In late March, the Division of Developmental Disabilities and several local providers partnered with the Missouri Oral Health Network (MOHN) and the A.T. Still Dental School to offer special care training to third and fourth year dental students doing their clinical practice in St. Louis. Training on day one included a lecture, video, and discussion. On day two, students had an opportunity to provide dental care under the supervision of licensed dentists to 25 individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities. Dental services provided during the training clinic included examinations, X-rays, prophylaxes, fillings, full-mouth debridement procedures, fluoride varnish treatments, and extractions. In addition to providing the dental students with valuable hands-on clinical experience, the volunteer patients benefited from free dental care valued at over \$7,000.

Robert Rada, DDS MBA, clinical professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry, was the primary trainer. Several Missouri-based specialists assisted Dr. Rada, including John Dane, DDS FAAHD DABSCD, State Dental Director and former director of the Elks Mobile Dental program, and Vincent Lutterbie, former dentist at Marshall Habilitation Center. Organizations that brought volunteer patients to the clinical training included: Bridges, Arc of St. Louis, Emmaus Homes, Home Sweet Home, Magdala Group Homes, Bellefontaine, and St. Louis Developmental Disabilities Treatment Center (DDTC). Since 2009, training has been offered six times at various locations around the state for licensed dentists, dental assistants, and dental hygienists.

Home Modification Training Update

The Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD) contracted with Missouri Inclusive Housing Development Corporation (MO Housing) to provide training on home modifications for individuals who need modifications to better access their homes and community. Training has been provided around the state with 432 support coordinators, Regional Office staff, and staff from other agencies in attendance. Additional information including a [Home Modification Resource Guide](#) and other helpful tools are available on the Division of DD's website.

Training is now being planned for home modification providers who make the modifications and for the Occupational Therapists (OTs) and Physical Therapists (PTs) who provide evaluations required for home modification services. Information regarding training dates and venues will be announced as they become scheduled.

Home Modification Providers Needed

There is a great need for more contractors to provide home modification services as well as Occupational Therapists (OTs) and Physical Therapists (PTs) to provide home modification assessments in Missouri. In order for a contractor or therapist to provide home modification services and/or assessments through one of the DD waivers, the contractor or therapist must have a contract with the Division of Developmental Disabilities. A home modification contractor or therapist who is interested in obtaining a contract with the Division of Developmental Disabilities may contact the Provider Relations Team at their local Regional Office, or MO Housing at 855-444-5100. A list of the Regional Offices and the areas they serve may be found at: <http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/facilities/>.

“Well done is better than well said.”

Benjamin Franklin





St. Charles Co. Holds Housing Conference



One hundred thirty one people registered to attend the St. Charles County Housing Conference held in Wentzville on May 5, 2017. Builders, developers, staff from agencies that support citizens with disabilities, individuals and families with disabilities, support professionals, and experts in the field of quality, affordable, universally-designed housing were in attendance. Panel discussions allowed for collaboration and participation by a broad spectrum of the housing community and the citizens it supports.

Topics included fair housing, universal design, building complete communities, and apprenticeship opportunities in the building trades. Keynote speaker Frank Montgomery provided the latest information from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.

Nathan and Melissa Franklin share their experience of living in a universal designed home during a panel discussion. Jim Ruedin, panel moderator, looks on with interest hearing their personal story.

The conference was an outgrowth of the success of the St. Charles County Housing Team. A little over a year ago, Missouri Inclusive Housing Development Corporation (MoHousing) and Delta Center for Independent Living collaborated to form the St. Charles Housing Team. The housing team has grown to include many advocates interested in furthering the development of affordable, universally-designed housing in St. Charles County. The housing team meets the first Friday of every month at Delta Center. If you are interested in participating, please contact Vito Lucido at vitoludico@dcil.org or 636-926-8761, extension 246.

For more information about this conference or information about developing a housing team in your community, please contact MoHousing at 855-444-5100.



Katina Combs, Director of Testing & Fair Lending Specialist, Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing & Opportunity Council, discusses design and construction requirements of the Fair Housing Act.





Helping Individuals Achieve

In October 2016, the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD) launched the Empowering through Employment Initiative. The initiative has set a two year goal that 35% of all individuals receiving services and supports are afforded the opportunity to participate in employment services to explore employment choices, address myths about earned income, and assist with becoming employed. Progress towards achieving this goal is measured monthly. Recognition awards presented from January thru April 2017 are the following:

Regions

- Kirksville area of the Central Missouri Regional Office – Blue Ribbon Recognition

Targeted Case Management

- Howard County SB 40 Board – Red Ribbon Recognition
- Springfield Regional Office – Red Ribbon Recognition
- Stoddard County TCM – Red Ribbon Recognition
- St. Francois County Board – Red Ribbon Recognition

Service Providers

- Access II – Blue Ribbon Recognition
- Chariton Valley – Blue Ribbon Recognition
- High Hope – Blue Ribbon Recognition
- Learning Opportunities – Blue Ribbon Recognition
- Wider Opportunities – Blue Ribbon Recognition

DD Staff

- Monique Frazier (Central Missouri)– Red, Blue and Purple Ribbon Recognition
- Kate Johnson (St. Louis) – Red Ribbon Recognition
- Todd Alexander (St. Louis) – Red Ribbon Recognition
- Ann Lehr (St. Louis) – Red Ribbon Recognition
- Cynthia Doherty(St. Louis) – Red Ribbon Recognition
- Erin Ceesay (Poplar Bluff) – Red Ribbon Recognition
- Tina Davis (Springfield) – Red Ribbon Recognition

2017 Mental Health Champions' Awards Banquet

The Mental Health Champions' Banquet is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14, 2017. The annual event will be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, 415 W. McCarty Street, Jefferson City, Missouri.

The Mental Health Champions' Award recognizes individuals living with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and addiction disorders who make positive contributions to their communities, exemplify commitment and vision, and whose actions have increased the potential for independence in others with similar mental health conditions.

The keynote speaker will be Lee Woodruff, wife of Bob Woodruff, former co-anchor of ABC's World News Tonight who was severely wounded in a roadside bomb attack in Iraq. Woodruff has penned multiple best-selling books and is a contributing reporter for CBS This Morning. Lee and Bob Woodruff are founders of the Bob Woodruff Family Fund for Traumatic Brain Injury.

For more information, call the Missouri Mental Health Foundation at 573-635-9201 or visit:

<http://www.missourimhf.org/page.do?pid=353>

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH/DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (DD) THIRD ANNUAL TIERED SUPPORT SUMMIT was held on April 19 and 20. Over 200 staff from more than 50 provider agencies along with DD staff who coach them came together to learn and showcase the best practices they have developed and implemented to better support individuals with developmental disabilities. The keynote speaker, Dr. Florence Digennaro-Reed, Associate Professor at Kansas University and Licensed Behavior Analyst, shared research and strategies for improving staff training so that the direct support staff can be selected and best prepared to perform their important duties in a caring, efficient, and effective manner. The event was a huge success.



Community Calendar

May 22 - 23, 2017 – 27th Annual Aging with Developmental Disabilities Conference

For more information, click on: https://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0017-0016-81da00e4640e4c96ab0e7eccc2a59165e

June 1 - 2, 2017 – The Missouri Department of Mental Health's Spring Training Institute 2017, Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, Missouri

For more information, click on: <http://www.springtraininginstitute.com/>

June 14, 2017 – 2017 Missouri Mental Health Champions Banquet, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Jefferson City, Missouri

For more information, click on: http://www.missourimbhf.org/?page_id=353

August 20 – 22, 2017 – 2017 Real Voices – Real Choices Conference, Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, Missouri

For more information, click on: http://www.missourimbhf.org/?attachment_id=3588

September 21 - 22, 2017 – 12th Annual Thompson Center Autism Conference, Double Tree St. Louis Hotel, 16625 Swingley Ridge Rd., Chesterfield, Missouri 63017

For more information, click on: <https://thompsoncenter.missouri.edu/event/12th-annual-autism-conference/>

MISSOURI DIVISION OF
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES



Improving lives THROUGH
supports and services
THAT FOSTER self-determination.

DIVISION OF
DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES

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Fostering Self-determination



Supporting Families



Facilitating Individualized Services and Supports



Developing Accessible Housing



Promoting Employment First

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