



The Unity Newsletter

UNICORN CENTER



Read All About It!



New Year, More Fun

Hello family and friends!

We started the year right with exciting new outings and activities. We explored many of our local museums where we learned about history, culture, aviation, art, and more. Our trips included the McNay Art Museum, the Holocaust Museum, the SA Museum of Science and Technology, and the Texas Air Museum near Stinson Field.

We took time to explore and learn about ecosystems and animals too. One of our day trips included a glass-bottom boat tour in San Marcos and a visit to the Snake Farm to see some interesting reptiles up close! In January, when we weren't exploring we were helping. We volunteered at Meals on Wheels and continued packing and delivering lunches to people in need and awaiting services at local health clinics.

So far the new year has also included exercising and practicing. We had our first basketball game with Special Olympics. It was an intense game between our Unicorn All-Stars and the Jaguars. We're filled with pride for our players and also very proud of our cheer squad who joined the fun to perform at half-time (pictured above, left). Everyone continues to put in the hard work and effort. No one misses practices or rehearsals. Good job, everybody! I can't wait to see what we do next. See you soon!

Sussel Carreon
COO of Day Programming

A Look Ahead

Watch out for some fun activities in February

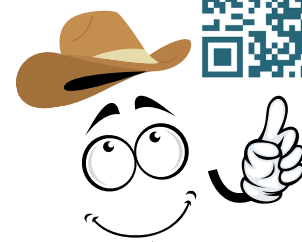
Valentine's Day Dance

Rodeo Days

Magik Theatre

VIA Appreciation Day!

Don't miss any of the fun moments. Scan to follow us on Facebook!



Supported Employment Department

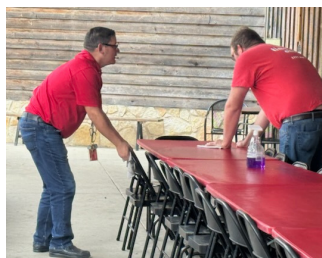


The Role of a Job Coach

The role of a job coach is a versatile one. It is all-encompassing. From the first meeting or interaction, our team is there to provide support. We will assist you in contacting the Texas Workforce Commission, explain the documents that individuals might need throughout the process, and we will be with you during meetings.

We are there through thick or thin! Our job coaches go through job orientation with our individuals and are there during the first days when training is crucial. Job coaches work alongside our individuals to make sure they understand instructions, duties, expectations, and policies and procedures – *even* on the weekends. We help with the onboarding process and follow up with our individuals throughout their job tenure.

Job coaches can help teach anything needed, including how to wipe a table, take appropriate breaks, ask for time off, identify support within the job site, properly clean an area, schedule VIA Transit, how to speak to upset customers, and more! Just take a look at a few of our individuals who were employed last month...



Mariah's Story

Mariah has never had a job before. To work toward getting her first-ever job, she chose Mission Road as her provider and started taking VAT training courses with our instructor, Mrs. Lavonne. After a few months, Mariah successfully completed her courses, and was assigned a job coach, Mrs. Bea. Together they worked on Mariah's Career Planning Assessment (CPA).

A CPA takes place out in the community to review a person's interests, skills, and capabilities to determine if they are ready for employment. Mariah's interests were giving back to the community and working with the elderly. Ms. Bea was able to schedule Oblate Madonna Residence as a CPA location for Mariah. Oblate is a retirement home for Oblate priests in the area, and an ideal location to identify Mariah's skills.

Mariah met with Father Lopez (pictured above) where she assisted with his socialization skills and feeding. Mariah and Father Lopez played Connect Four together and had a meaningful experience. Through this hands-on experience, Mariah also had the opportunity to ask one of the nurses questions about the job. The CPA is an important step in the process of obtaining employment.



Follow us on FB!





FREE TO BE NEWSLETTER

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Hello family and friends,

We definitely started the year off right! We'd like to start by saying a huge *Thank You* to our wonderful parents who give their time and efforts, not only to their loved ones, but to others as well. **Thank You** to Mrs. Amy Kipnes for continuing to lead Club 8706 *and* for taking the girls out to Buc-ees! Club 8706 is a jewelry club, and it is certainly a favorite around campus. We love seeing our gals being happy out in the community! We'd also like to say **Thank You** to Ms. Emily Bolner's parents, Mike and Mary Pat, for providing us with a fun day featuring Daisy Bee (pictured above, center left). Daisy Bee made us balloon hats and entertained several classes.

January was a BIG month as we held our first "Big Bingo" in the gym. Big Bingo includes snacks and a drink, real (amazing!) prizes, and music. It's a fun, relaxing activity. Plus, our classrooms were able to spend time together as a huge group, so it was great for socializing with friends from other classes. We think it was a BIG hit all around!

When we weren't enjoying our beautiful campus, we were busy visiting new places. Our individuals had the opportunity to go to the Snake Farm and have an interactive experience with a cute *furry* friend (pictured above, right). We also found time to explore some of our great local museums and parks, and we even rented out another movie theater. We can't wait to see everyone for more fun next month. See you soon!

A Look Ahead

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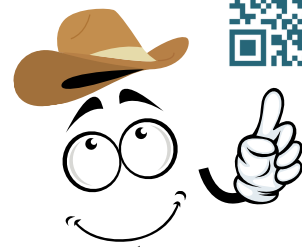
Let's go to the Rodeo!

Rodeo Celebration


Valentine's Day Dance

Magik Theatre

Scan the QR Code to visit our Facebook page where you can enjoy more information and pictures!



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COO of Day Programming

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