

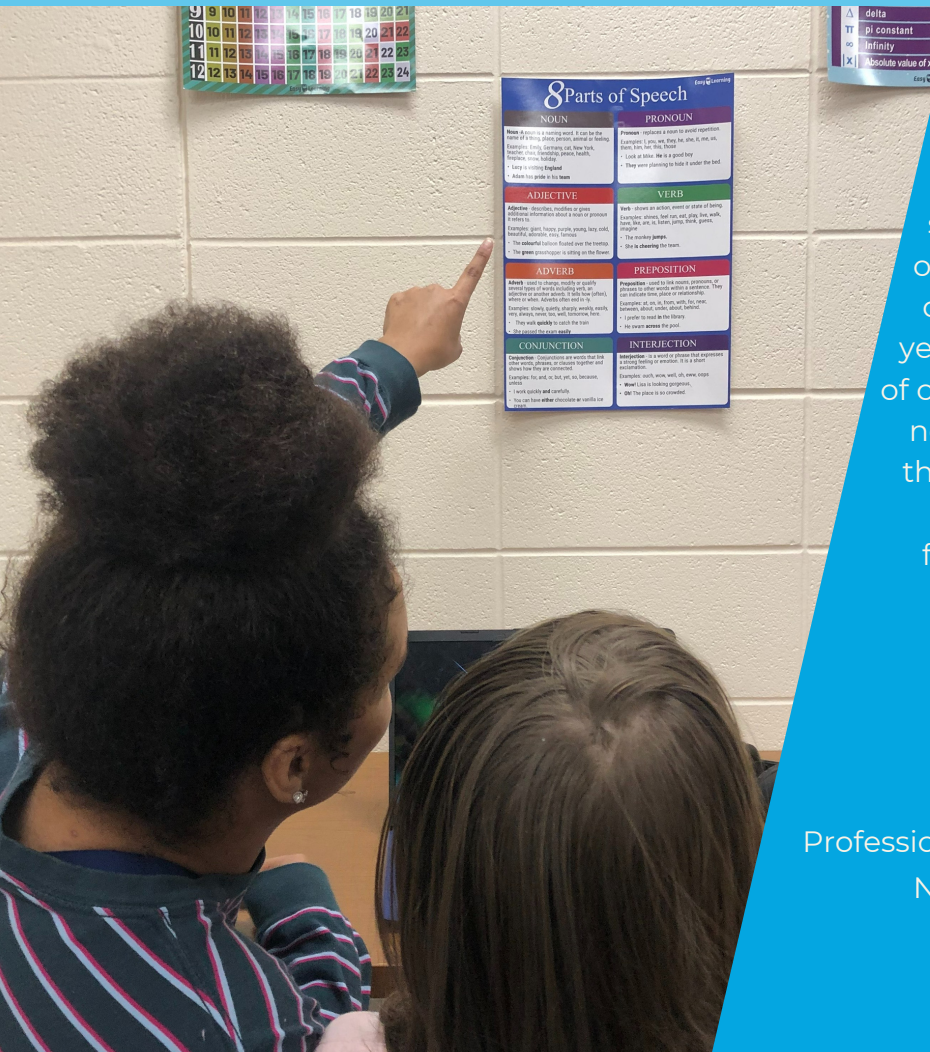
MARCH 2024
ISSUE 12

Community Newsletter



Partners in AUTISM

FAMILY OWNED • FAMILY FOCUSED



A Word from the Owners

The season of growth is upon us and Partners in Autism is doing just that.. We've seen the academic growth of our students in our learning center, increased our variety of social groups, and welcomed dynamic, passionate colleagues. Later this year, we are looking forward to the opening of our second location! This growth will bring new opportunities for our clients, as well as the whole community. We are grateful that you continue to choose us, and we look forward to sharing all the excitement with you. Keep an eye out on social media for updates and announcements!

- Tommy Guest and Camile Voglewede

In this issue..


- Learning Center - First Year - pg. 2
- Professional Learning & Community Events - pg. 3
- New Employment Services Director - pg. 4
- Growth from Social Groups - pg. 5
- Connection to Transportation - pg. 7
- Upcoming Events - pg. 8

 601 Noble Dr. Fort Wayne, IN 46825

 Contact@PartnersinAutism.com

 www.PartnersinAutism.com

 @partnersinautism

 +260-420-9332

SUPPORTED PATHWAYS LEARNING CENTER

Reflections on a
fantastic first year!



We created our Learning Center to provide neurodivergent students with the educational freedom to reach their full potential, and they've achieved so much in just this first year!

Each student always receives the appropriate amount of challenge to spark their curiosity for learning because we continually modify each student's curriculum based on individual progress in each subject area. They are neither bored or overwhelmed. They are free to move rapidly through material that they master easily and are supported in material that takes more time. This individualized curriculum model also leaves more time free for art activities which foster creativity, social skills, and fine motor skills.

Our students also have the freedom to utilize sensory and movement breaks. They work with our staff to self-identify when they need these breaks - a self-advocacy skill which they will be able to use across many settings.

For our students with previous experience in traditional classrooms, our flexibility decreased rates and intensities of behaviors that had interfered with their learning in the past. It has been invigorating to see barriers fade away and to see our students thrive!

ESA Applications for funding Learning Center and more

Interested in our Supported Pathways Learning Center? This and many of our other services can be funded through ESA dollars!

The Indiana ESA program provides eligible students with tax-free scholarship money for pre-approved educational services.

Applications are open now through Sept 1st. Visit www.in.gov/tos/inesa

Questions about using ESA funds?

Contact@PartnersinAutism.com



DESTINATION FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst is no small task. It requires up to 2000 hours of fieldwork experience, a Masters degree, and successful completion of the rigorous BCBA exam. It always brings us such pride when our Behavior Technicians dive into this challenge. We support them with paid, concentrated supervision hours as they serve as Program Coordinators. Under the supervision of our Behavior Analysts, they observe clients, train technicians, practice treatment plan development, participate in parent consultations, and assist with client programming.

Half of our current program coordinators have experience with us as behavior technicians and half came as technicians from other companies. We see both routes as a good sign. We are a place where both those who know us intimately and those who know us from a distance come to learn more.

Under the mentorship of our Behavior Analysts (over half of whom were also program coordinators with us), they are able to experience the difference of family-owned vs a large corporation and see first-hand how our values improve outcomes. This richer understanding directly benefits our clients as compassion, client dignity, and self-advocacy skills are prioritized in every interaction.



Community Resource Fairs

Come chat with us, enjoy fun activities, and connect with others at these upcoming events:

- “Spring into Reading” Dr. Seuss Event - April 13th, Noon-3 at PFW’s Walb Student Union
- Disabilities Expo - May 11th, 10am-3pm at the Memorial Coliseum
- Resource Fair & Family Fun Night - May 16th, 1-3 (resources) and 4-7 (family fun) at Renaissance Pointe YMCA



EXPERIENCE, VISION, PASSION

Director
Spotlight



Director of
Employment
Services:
Patience
Ncube

With years of rigorous education and diverse work experience under her belt (everything from software engineering to business and non-profit management), Patience was looking for a place where she could, in her own words, “contribute meaningfully towards sustained growth and quality service delivery.” At the same time, Partners was looking for our next Director of Employment Services. Patience sensed a commonality with the visionary purpose for which Partners was founded, and we are excited to embrace the ever expanding programs and opportunities that her systems-thinking mindset will develop.

As an innovative thinker and tenacious problem solver, Patience is keenly driven to support clients in dynamic ways as they pursue meaningful employment. She is already examining strategies to further diversify the supports we provide in order to serve a wider range of clients. She looks forward to amplifying our impact through building and strengthening intentional relationships with employment partners and municipal organizations and supporting them as they discover the value of a diverse workforce.

2023 Impact Summary

Our Employment Services provides support to clients with self-directed employment goals through the following phases: Career Goal Development, Skill Development and Experience, Obtaining Meaningful Employment, and Transition of Sustained Employment

The goal of Employment Services is to assist clients in their own goals of obtaining and sustaining employment that they find meaningful, suitable, and fulfilling. In 2023, we served 70 individuals through our Employment Services, and received 100% satisfaction from voluntary client surveys. Check out our annual summary at PartnersinAutism.com/ES_summary.html

PARTNERSINAUTISM.COM



EMPOWERING EACH OTHER TO GROW

We are each unique individuals, but our health, wellbeing, and ability to grow is largely determined by the community that surrounds us. Our social connections allow us to feel supported and give us a sense of belonging ... but they are also key to helping us feel capable.

When we are accepted by peers and encouraged by friends, we become motivated to pursue goals we might not have on our own. Creating environments where this acceptance and encouragement are fostered is a central goal for each of our social groups - especially our new Social Outings group. This group will meet monthly to try something of interest to the members. Our first outing will be on April 9th for a putt-putt trip! For more info or to register, contact Mariah@PartnersinAutism.com.

Though it may seem like just a putt-putt trip, a concert, a museum visit, or a stop at the farmers market, these outings are so much more. Since destinations will be selected based on client requests and interest, our clients will be building connections with life-long significance.

They will practice social interactions and learn fun new skills in a mutually supportive community of peers. We hope they will also connect with each other outside of official group meets and explore their own destinations using the confidence they'll gain within the group.

These groups are more than just fun - though they're definitely also that! They're opportunities for clients to support each other and discover how truly capable they are.



Behavior Consultants Available for New Clients

Behavior Consultation is a highly personalized service that teaches new skills and supports clients as they apply those skills to a wide range of environments. Services are provided in the environments where the skills will be used such as at home, work, school, or in the community. Our Behavior Consultants have years of experience with diverse abilities and participate in specialized training to understand the autism spectrum.

Want to learn more about Behavior Consultation? Contact Megan.P@PartnersinAutism.com

New Staff
ABA and PAC



ABA: Kylee, Morgan, Mckenzie, Bailey **PAC:** Jetti, Natalie



ALWAYS GROWING

Considering a career
as a BCBA?

We offer after-hour tours
so you can get to know us
at your own pace and on
your own schedule.

Contact Courtnie@PartnersinAutism.com



Want to earn a BCBA certification on the job? Learn about our Program Coordinator position and the supportive benefits we offer such as paid, concentrated supervision hours to fast-track your certification.

COMMUNITY



CONNECTION TO TRANSPORTATION

Reaching Goals and Destinations

Communities are built on connections - being able to access resources, contribute skills, and share social experiences. But in order to engage in these connections, an individual must also be able to connect to locations. This can present a barrier to individuals with disabilities. Modes of transportation that many take for granted may not be immediately accessible to others.

Our Employment Specialists help connect our clients to transportation and create accessibility through training. For clients who would benefit from using the public bus, our Employment Specialists conduct one-on-one training. This training is specific to each client based on their own goals and needs. They practice bus skills and routines like boarding and disembarking safely, planning their route, knowing which stops to use, and navigating social interactions.

This training is done using routes that the client will take regularly. This helps them become comfortable with the specific stops and schedules they will be using. The training can be repeated for added confidence or if they need to practice additional routes as they connect and engage even more with their community.

UNLOCKING CLIENT OPPORTUNITIES

Director
Spotlight

Director of
Waiver
Services:
Megan Perry



Whether Megan is implementing new social groups, coordinating access to local venues, or securing grants to enrich experiences, she is always seeking out new ways to support current and potential waiver clients.

Megan is an organized go-getter whose attention to detail allows her to anticipate the needs of clients and develop ways to meet those needs. Megan engages with every client with the highest level of care and compassion. She takes the time to get to know each new client and educate them on what they can gain from Waiver Services. She also takes the time to faithfully check in with existing clients to make sure their expectations are being fulfilled.

She is continually researching ways to improve client experience and maximize staff investment in sustainable ways, and it is clear from our geographic reach and client feedback that she is succeeding at both. We are so glad to have Megan at the helm of Waiver Services as she takes us in innovative directions to reach a wider range of clients in more meaningful ways than we ever have before.

Upcoming Events

Social Outings Group (Waiver), Putt-Putt, April 9
Registration required in advance to Mariah@PartnersinAutism.com

"Spring into Reading" Dr. Seuss Event, PFW
April 13th, Noon-3pm

Disabilities Expo, Allen County Memorial Coliseum
May 11th, 10am-3pm

Resource Fair & Family Fun, Renaissance Pt YMCA
May 16th, 1-3 and 4-7

PAC Family Bowling - Final Tuesday monthly
Registration required in advance to Mariah@PartnersinAutism.com

Adult Aspergers Group
2nd Monday monthly
6:30-8:00pm at Partners in Autism

Allen County Autism Caregiver Support Group
2nd Thursday monthly
6:30-8:00pm at Partners in Autism and via zoom.
For zoom link, email info@myautismally.org

Spectrum Sisters
2nd & 4th Tues. monthly
6:30-8:00pm via zoom.
For zoom link, email info@myautismally.org