



*Seeking Employment, Equality and Community for
People with Developmental Disabilities*

SEEC E-News

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VIRTUAL SUPPORTS

By Abby Taylor and Kyra Harvey

SEEC is focusing our efforts on offering virtual supports during this pandemic. Our goal is to make sure that we continue to provide services to help those we support learn and grow even while staying home. These virtual activities first began in March when we launched a virtual curriculum for the people we support.

In addition to the curriculum, which addressed a vital learning component, we recognized the need to engage people socially, in a platform that was more informal. A team of staff volunteered to work on Virtual Hangouts, which were daily opportunities for people receiving supports to engage with their peers in a variety of ways. There are Mindful Mondays where we discuss meditation, stress management, and anxiety; Tasty Tuesdays where we learn to make a simple dish (ex. Fruit pizza, pizza bagels, edible cookie dough, fruit salad); Workout Wednesdays where we do a light workout and talk about exercise; a rotating Tech Thursday and Thankful Thursday where we discuss apps/technology that is beneficial to work and everyday life as well as focusing on positive aspects of life in a time where it is so easy to think about the negative; and finally, Fun Friday where we play games, do art projects, go on virtual roller coaster rides, and tell jokes. Tasty Tuesday and Fun Friday are the most popular, but all of the hangouts offer an opportunity to share, learn, discuss, and have fun!

We invite community volunteers to facilitate a virtual hangout alongside a SEEC Staff Co-Facilitator. Community volunteers help expose the people we support to different experiences, interests and hobbies. Throughout this process, we are thankful for the people we support and their families who have been patient with us and offered great suggestions.

If you are interested in joining a **virtual activity**, please visit the **SEEC website under the Virtual Support** tab. The calendar is updated every Friday afternoon.

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Project SEARCH Class of 2020 Graduations

Project SEARCH celebrated four graduations in the past month, all of which were virtual! The Project SEARCH Interns worked so hard this year and we were thrilled to be able to celebrate their successes during some innovate and fun zoom presentations! Please join us in congratulating the following



Project SEARCH Montgomery County

Alisha Dey
Delevar Hedayati
Charles Hepp
John Paul Lane
Eniola Oniya
Guillermo Sanchez
Tiye Sharp
Nmandi Thompson



Project SEARCH Embassy Suites/Capital Hilton

Denise Anderson
Crawford James
Montezz Green
Jeremiah Griffin
Daniesha Pinkney
Barry Stevenson
Jose Villatoro
Jeanell Ward
Timothy Witherspoon
Joseph Woodland



Project SEARCH Smithsonian

Chukwudumaga Ahanotu
George David
William Hudson
Hallem Martin
Cai Pavetti
Kevin Pope
Kavon Quattlebaum
Zaiyre Smith



Project SEARCH NIH

Laura Pastel
Katherine Clement
Samuel Cunniff
Quincy Henry
Jose Mejia
Victoria Sorrondeguy
Justin Valenti

Celebrating Entrepreneurship

By Lennie Gladstone

My son, Scott Gladstone is a young man with Autism who is supported by SEEC in Silver Spring. Since the COVID Crisis, he like everyone else has seen his life change. Scott however, is not particularly concerned about not going out. He really likes being home - I have said often that he has been practicing social distancing his whole life!

Scott, who has excellent computer skills, often had trouble working in a close office environment. The staff at SEEC worked with him to figure out where he could apply those skills in a different setting.

They looked at his strengths, challenges and interests, and helped him create a photo and document scanning business, SOS, Scott's Office Services. With a little investment in equipment, and his comfort with repetitive tasks, SEEC really hit on a perfect business model for Scott. He could work from home and still be connected to the community through his business.

He started with friends and family and a few years ago, and since have marketed his business more widely. With the stay home order currently in place in Maryland, he has been sought after. People, who have put off the task of organizing old family photos, finally have had the time to get into their basements and pull out the old albums of photos that they wanted digitized. He now has a waiting list of folks with photos and documents, just waiting for his availability! This crisis has been good for his bank account!



Job Club

by Kyra Harvey

Job Club is back with a bang and **virtual!** Job Club is hosted weekly by Kyra Harvey and The Employment Outreach Team. The employment outreach team is filled with, Pamela Toole, Linda Hoyt, and Katie Smeltz. Job Club focuses on providing awesome discussion about discovering skills, maintaining a job, and while also sharing the ups and downs of the job searching process.



Job Club launched on June 8th, We had an first excellent session. Job Club has featured speakers that have shared about their profession. We also have GAMES!

In June our Speaker series featured sessions on how to start a business on Etsy, a goal setting series, and improving financial literacy. In July we plan to continue with speakers and skill development sessions. We hope to provide a virtual tour soon.

We are thankful for our volunteers that come from the community and are willing to give their time to speak with our Job Seekers. It is so important for myself and EOT that Job Club serves as safe space for the people we support. With recent events happening surrounding COVID-19, we are hoping that this space can help offer structure during what seems like a chaotic time. **Job Club is open to all**, the zoom link to join us for a session is located on the **SEEC website under the Virtual Supports** tab. Join us soon!

FootGolf Save the Date Saturday, September 26, 2020

SEEC's Socially Distanced FootGolf Event will be held at Sligo Creek Golf Course!

Come enjoy the outdoors while socially distancing! More information to follow.



Giant Food Community Bag Program



we've been selected for the



Giant Food Community Bag Program!



Buy this bag this month and we will receive a \$1 donation

SEEC has been selected by local Giant Food store leadership as the benefiting non-profit in the Community Bag Program!

For the month of August, SEEC will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the Giant Food store located at:
1280 East-West Highway, Silver Spring MD.

301.576.9000 | www.seeonline.org

