

Meaningful Day Services

MAIN OFFICE:

225 S. School St., Brownsburg, IN 46112
(317) 858-8630 Fax: (317) 858-8715

JEFFERSONVILLE THERAPY CENTER:

590 Missouri Ave., Suite 204
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
(812) 288-4688
Fax: (812) 610-8333

INDIANAPOLIS DAY SERVICES:

3725 Kentucky Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46221 (317) 248-0016

LAWRENCEBURG THERAPY CENTER:

465 Bielby Rd., Suite C,
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
(812) 655-3541 Fax: (812) 610-8333

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www.meaningfuldays.com



Meaningful Day Services *newsletter*

27 Years of Meaningful Experiences!



pumpkin #1

Pumpkin Decorating Contest!

Adult Day Services hosted a pumpkin decorating contest. Voting took place at Adult Day Services and on our MDS Facebook page. See the contestants and the winner inside!

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Music Therapy Internships



Did you know that Meaningful Day Services has a music therapy internship? Our internship provides music therapy students with clinical experiences that are required to sit for the board certification. College students who complete coursework in music therapy are required to complete 1,200 hours of clinical experience. Most students receive 200 hours of practicum experience while completing coursework. The final 1,000 hours is completed through an internship. Upon completion of the internship, students sit for their board certification exam through the Certification Board for Music Therapy earning the MT-BC credential.

Our internship is recognized as a nationally accredited program through the American Music Therapy Association. Since 2013, 46 interns have successfully completed our internship program. We currently have four interns who are halfway through their internship experience!

To learn more about the certification process or music therapy check out:

Certification Board for Music Therapists (cbmt.org)

American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) | www.musictherapy.org/

Current interns:



Sarah Braverman
Wartburg College



Hannah Hunt
University of
Evansville




Asia Vincent
University of
Louisville



Gracelynn Norgaard
Western Illinois
University

[DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



This month we want to celebrate and embrace every cultural tradition during the holidays. We want to emphasize the importance of respecting other people's traditions and recognizing that there is more than just one holiday to be celebrated. Please take the opportunity and time to get to know how others may celebrate their holiday traditions. Whether that be to taking an interest in someone's holiday plans and making them feel welcome to share, doing research on a specific holiday and/or donating to an organization to help promote diversity and inclusion. Let's celebrate by providing that space to share differences by giving freedom, respect, and dignity to those around us. May everyone's days be merry and bright, no matter their religion!



Meaningful TRAINING INSTITUTE

Please help us plan our 2022 events!

Meaningful Training Institute would like your input as we plan for 2022 events.

Please complete the following survey.

SURVEY: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6635030/MTI-Training-Interest-Survey-2021>

Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Pumpkin #1 is featured on the front cover. See the other six pumpkin entries below. Which one do you think is best? Scroll to page 7 to see which pumpkin was our official winner!



pumpkin #2



pumpkin #3



pumpkin #4



pumpkin #5

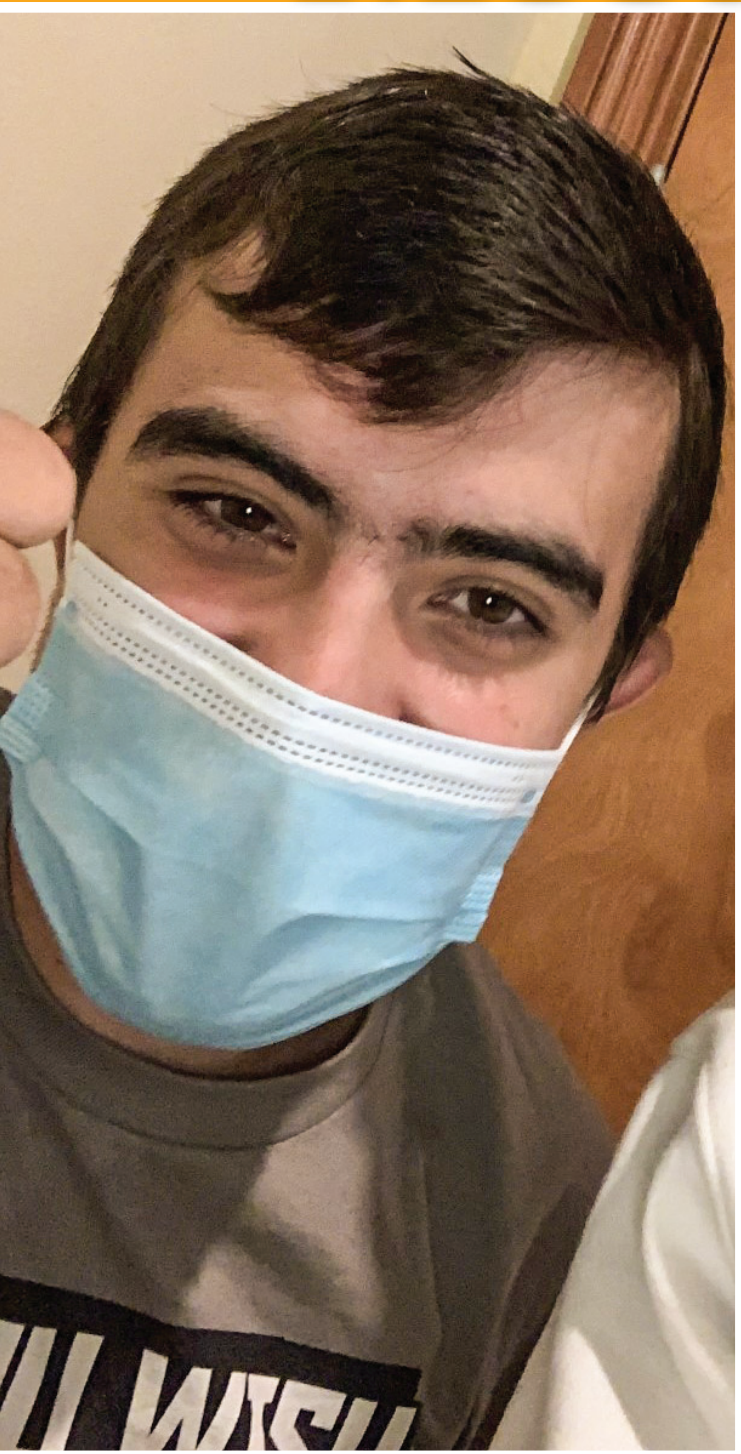


pumpkin #6



pumpkin #7

Meet Evan!



This month, the Community Supports Department would like to highlight Evan. Evan has been attending the after-school program at Meaningful Day Services for several years and has been working very hard on various goals. Evan has recently demonstrated tremendous progress in his social goals. This year, we have been working on communication with Evan, and specifically, having him answer questions and participate in conversations with peers and staff involving multiple words and verbal interactions. Also, he has been working on engaging in activities with other staff and peers, with the goal of increasing his overall social skills.

Since the beginning of this school year, Evan has been demonstrating growth in his conversations, and staff have noted many occasions where Evan had expressed wants and needs, as well as conversing with staff and asking questions such as, "How are you doing?" This is a massive step for Evan, and we could not be prouder of the growth that he continues to show every day. To go with the verbal communication growth he has shown, he has also made great strides in the interactions he is having with peers and other staff. Evan will take daily walks with his staff and usually will invite other staff and peers along on those walks. He gets very excited when it is time to go on the walk and his infectious energy motivates everyone to join him for a daily walk. On those walks, we have seen Evan pointing out landmarks and identifying road signs, as prompted by his staff. We are very proud of the work he continues to put in and the growth that he shows on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. On top of that, he continues to come to the program with a smile on his face that lights up the room and a positive attitude that makes him a role model for everyone he interacts with at the program and in the community!

Keep up the good work, Evan!

Meet Maverick!

Maverick is a social, enthusiastic and affectionate 7-year-old boy. He joined us at Meaningful Day Services in 2019. Those who know Maverick will tell you that he has the ability to light up a room and warm your heart. His favorite activities include swinging, talking to others about shows, and watching others draw pictures. He has accomplished so much this year. Despite some hurdles, he has rocked toilet training and learning to use verbal language to connect with others. Maverick has recently started back to public school, where he is learning to generalize his skills within a group setting. Maverick is persistent as he continues to learn how to navigate his environment in a way that promotes positive learning experiences. We are so happy to be a part of Maverick's journey.

Keep up the good work, Maverick!





Meet Kylie

Meet Recreational Therapist Kylie, CTRS. Her clients have commented on in the recent stakeholder survey, "Kylie does a great job and is creative and inclusive. Between in person and Zoom activities, we see her five times a week. My son loves doing activities with her."

LEFT: Kylie with her best friend, Kali.

Thank you for all you do, Kylie!

WINNER REVEALED

The winner of our pumpkin carving contest was pumpkin #5!



Be sure to view our website to stay informed on our protocols for safety measures for COVID-19.
LINK: <http://meaningfuldays.com/resources/covid-19-alerts-and-notices/>

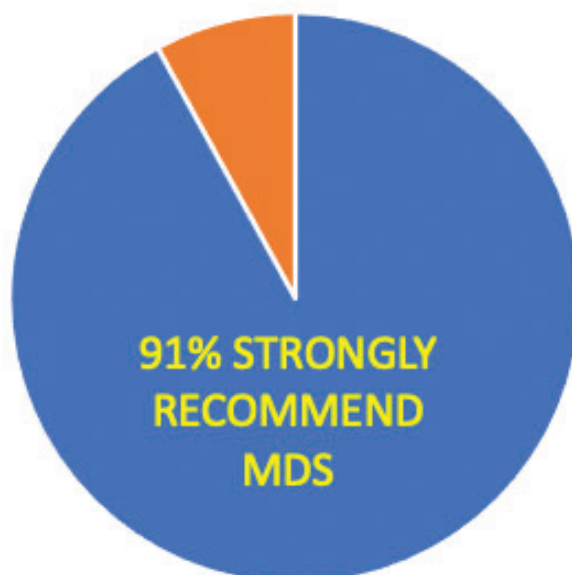


Follow us on Facebook: Meaningful Day Services or find us on Twitter: @MDSIndiana and Instagram at: Meaningful_Day_Services

Stakeholder Approval Survey

Every year, MDS sends out a survey to seek input regarding the services we provide. This year, we received 264 total responses from clients, parents, guardians, case managers, and other providers. The responses were overwhelmingly positive!

91% of respondents said they would strongly recommend MDS. In addition, on a 5-point scale, MDS received an overall satisfaction score of 4.74.



Much open-ended feedback was also provided specific to MDS staff and programs. This is used to help our staff identify their strengths and areas for improvement. Some specific feedback received included:

- They have all been very accommodating and adaptable and kind.
- I like that they are willing to focus on things that are important to our family, and that they understand the other issues/dynamics that go on with implementing therapy ideas in real life.
- Friendly, kind, understanding, caring, flexible, prompt, proactive, take initiative, great at building relationships, and making studying helpful and fun, my mom feels like she is great at being a friend and advocate for me.
- Very friendly and trustworthy.
- Communication and an unwavering commitment to inclusion.
- She keeps the line of communication open and is kind to everyone in the house her clients live in. She is resourceful and great at getting the clients to try new things.
- She is super friendly, but also, she is no pushover. She is consistent and comes up with fun and varied ways to get my son active. When there is a problem area, she usually comes up with a solution to the problem.
- She is compassionate and persistent with me when I am having a hard day; she meets me where I am at and encourages me to try my best, no matter what type of mood she finds me in. Her strengths are empathy, compassion, and persistence.
- Personable, understanding, never talks down to you. Always treats his job as a humble guide as opposed to someone who is consumed with knowledge.

Thanks for everyone who took the time to provide valuable feedback to help us continue to improve!