



All Abilities **WELCOME**

IC was thrilled to have the riders from nationally-known organization The Ability Experience stop in to see us during their cross-country trek on July 14. About 40 college-age cyclists dropped by the IC Activity Center to spend some time with our members and peers, interacting with food, games and lots of laughter. The Ability Experience works to raise awareness and fund organizations which support people with disabilities. They donate to worthy nonprofits such as IC – we are hoping to be chosen again this year as one of the recipients. Thanks, Ability Experience!

IC Phone Number

IC has a new phone number! Please use this number when inquiring about general activity questions such as what time an activity begins or telling us you will be late. You will reach the

activity supervisor for that day – Debbie is not at every event! 913-282-2176 is the number to call or text! Thank you for your cooperation as we make this transition.

Our mission is to strengthen the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities by creating opportunities for community involvement, access to meaningful employment and better options for independent living.

IC Gets CREATIVE

One of IC's most popular programs is CreateAbility, where our members and peers get to explore their creativity. Participation in the Arts is important in many ways, including helping boost self-esteem, increasing problem-solving skills and adding joy to everyday life. IC's art classes offer the opportunity to learn



from talented and seasoned instructors who understand the importance of encouragement and patience while helping students sharpen artistic skills. We also continue to partner with Martin City Melodrama Company, giving our kids the chance to act side-by-side with pros. If you haven't been to one of our shows, you really should! IC families

also enjoy Broadway productions at Starlight Theatre, which has been very generous with donating tickets. If you are interested in a creative experience, take a look at our upcoming Fall Schedule and sign up for your favorite classes or events.

IC Mourns Loss

It is with great sadness that we offer condolences to our member Melanie Montes and her father Andres. Su was a kind and generous person and a strong supporter of Inclusion Connections. It was beautiful to see how our IC family bonded together in support of the family's needs during Su's illness. We also want to thank Kansas State Senator Rob Olsen and other political figures who rallied to ensure that Melanie's needs will be met. Additionally, we want to thank everyone who has given to IC in memory of our dear friend, Su. We will miss her at all our events.

Activity Center Update

The new Activity Center, located at 2083 E. Santa Fe in Olathe, was ready just in time for Summer Camp! It was a major move which took a lot of effort – special shoutout to Stefan Freeman, parent and Board Member, without whom this move would not have been possible! He volunteered for several weeks preparing our new space by painting and providing handyman services, helping with moving and even helped hang our new tv's which we purchased thanks to a grant from Royals Charities. On July 1 we held a Royals game Watch Party with a group of our Peer Mentors. Thanks, Royals Charities! Local nonprofit Crosstown has held an evening music event at the space, and we are proud to have a wonderful new home!

SUMMER CAMP 2015

This year's 6 week Summer Camp began on June 8 with all kinds of activities and classes. The camp filled up on the first day the schedule was announced, and we are thrilled that TRIPLE the number of peers as last summer signed up to participate! Classes included art, cooking, acting, Zumba and yoga. A couple special visitors included Olathe South High School theater department, Paws for Freedom for service dog training, and The Ability Experience. Monday Trips included visits to TimberRidge, Pinstripes, PowerPlay and Thirsty Pallet; Fridays saw visits to several local parks for Big Kite flying, a fun PE Day, sports activities, and cooking breakfast with Chef Paul. IC's Summer Camp is a great way for our members and peers to interact several days a week, allowing them to really get to know one another, form friendships and have a ton of fun. We are already looking forward to Summer Camp 2016.

WEBSITE

Re-design

Our website, ICkc.org, has recently been re-designed, with a modern, fresh look and greater functionality. We have a beautiful new calendar which makes it easy to find out what's happening each day at IC, and we are thrilled with how well the site integrates with Smart phones – give it a try! Our members will be pleased

with how easy it is to sign up and pay for classes – the checkout and cart features are exactly like what you're used to with other shopping websites, so the learning curve is minimal. We plan to continue to add more photo galleries to the site, and encourage everyone to visit the "News" tab often to see what's happening with IC. You will find it

extremely easy to "share" any of these news items with your friends and family with Facebook, Twitter and other icons on the News page! We welcome stories about accomplishments of our members or peers – we love to hear what you are up to and want others to know, too! Please contact us with suggestions.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

CLAYTON RENNER

19 years old



How You Can Invest in Inclusion Connections:

- Become a Monthly donor or give a one-time donation at ICkc.org
- Ask your employer to match your donation
- Teach a class using your gifts, hobbies, talents
- Host a fundraiser – at work or in your neighborhood – we'll show you how!
- Choose Inclusion Connections as your charity for Amazon Smile

Email us at
info@ICkc.org
today and we'll help you
invest in our kids' future!

Q: *Now that you have graduated from Olathe South High School, what are your plans/dreams for the future?*

A: I plan to work next year! (Clayton has been accepted as an intern for Project Search)

Q: *What is your favorite IC Activity?*

A: Tae Kwon Do is fun and keeps me in shape (he pats his belly while he says this). I like learning new moves and skills.

Q: *We heard you recently took a road trip with your brother. Tell us a little about that adventure.*

A: My brother Collin and I went to North Carolina, and it was a long drive. Jeez, Louise! I really liked the mountains and trying the BBQ. I want to go again!

Q: *Anything else you'd like people to know about you?*

A: I like to hang out with my dog, a boxer named Boscoe, and I love our family trips to the beach in Florida!

JOBS!

We are pleased to announce that IC offered a preview of classes from our much-needed Employment Program, EmployAbility, during this year's Summer Camp. We hope to have about 30 members participate in this program. Employment readiness will be the subject of Phase I of EmployAbility, covering topics such as determining individual skills and interests, interviewing for jobs, filling out applications, and appropriate interactions with co-workers and managers. We are happy to be fulfilling this great need for our members, and are determined to assist in helping our members attain marketable skills so they might become employed in the future. Jobs are the pathway to independent living! This program will continue after camp and into the future.

THANK YOU for your recent generous CONTRIBUTIONS

Macy's	Olathe South Student Council
Expedia	Hannah & Jayhawk Friends
Michael Poland	KC Royals (tickets)
Amore Dance	Starlight Theatre (tickets)
Sprint Foundation	

SAVE THE DATE

Fashion Ability

February 18



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