



It's a Wrap!



Gala FashionAbility 2017, held on February 16, was a smashing success! Not only was the fundraising event totally sold out, it also increased revenues over last year's event by 60%!!! There are so many people to thank, including returning emcee Jennifer Bertrand, and our wonderful sponsors and donors.

The show featured teens and young adults, with and without disabilities, highlighting their hopes and dreams, giving the audience great insight into their everyday lives. Again this year, the Fund-A-Need was an event highlight, hosted by KCTVs Joe Chiodo. Thanks to each and every one of you for supporting this amazing annual event. We look forward to seeing you next year!

PawsAbilities Update

Our mission is to strengthen the lives of individuals with disabilities by creating inclusive opportunities for



meaningful
employment, and
better options for
independent living.

We ♥ Volunteers

PawsAbilities enterprise is teaching our youth hands-on job skills, preparing them for jobs in the community. Our operation has grown from 4 to 7 interns (post-graduates), and we are selling treats at the Olathe Farmer's Market, KC Pet Expo, Doggie and Dogwoods Festival, and Old Settlers Festival. PawsAbilities dog treats can be purchased online and at the IC Activity Center at 2083 E. Santa Fe. All of these selling opportunities would not be possible without our dedicated interns and volunteers.

Together, we will create a program that can support these individuals' growth towards jobs in the community.

On the Move!

Our Activity Center is relocating to a bigger, more modern space (in the same shopping center on Santa Fe)! This new space will allow us to serve more youth, create a larger area for exercise equipment, better equip our kitchen, and have a nicer storefront for PawsAbilities. Please contact us if you or someone you know can help us with our needs: Commercial kitchen equipment, Flooring, Blinds, Exercise equipment, Office furniture, and a Projector.

Ask anyone about Morgan Boyer, and they'll say she's beautiful inside and out! This Olathe South High Senior loves making new friendships at IC, and believes that "Inclusion Connections is the core of understanding people with disabilities in our community".



Morgan has been inspired to work with people with special needs, and plans to obtain a Masters in Clinical Social Work. Besides volunteering at IC, she is involved in Student Council and enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Our Peer Mentor Program is a key to the success of IC's programs. If you are interested in making a difference in your community, visit our website and click on the "Volunteer" tab to see how you can get involved.



Meet Sam Charpentier, who is 22 years old and has been included in IC programming since the beginning. He is currently one of our PawsAbilities interns (a post-graduate who works during the week baking, packaging,

marketing and distributing dog treats and toys).

Sam tells us his favorite part of working at Pawsabilities is working with his friends. In the future he hopes to get married and maybe attend college. His mother Jessie says, "I have seen amazing growth and maturity in Sam since he started at Pawsabilities." Everyone enjoys being around Sam at IC, and our programs are helping to prepare him for the transition to a more independent life which he and his family desire.

Donations Needed!

IC needs flour, creamy peanut butter, and a couple gently used office desks and desk chairs. We also need a treadmill and an elliptical. Thank you!

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If you are interested in joining our Board, please submit an [application](#).

Donate to Inclusion Connections

IC North



Our location in Liberty has really grown over the past year, now providing classes and activities for 46 teens and young adults with disabilities, and our base of peer mentor volunteers is growing as well. Acting classes in the fall offered opportunities to learn various acting techniques. The Hand Bells class just before Christmas was fun and unique, as most of the participants had never held a hand bell before. The best part was getting to play three Christmas carols by the last class! In January we had Yoga class which was taught by a yoga instructor along with a personal trainer.

Current classes include Art, giving kids the chance to be very creative with a variety of activities ranging from canvas art to sensory foam to sculpting on the pottery wheel. A Service Project in the fall and spring included packing snack packs for students in the area who don't have enough food to eat on the weekends.

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

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