



FOCUS ON *ability*

An Update from ODC, Inc.

MARCH 2019

TOO FUN NOT TO SHARE...

Highest level of independence. That's what ODC's CommunityConnect service is all about, and it's Stacey Schultz's mantra.

"Individuals who participate in CommunityConnect have different goals," said Stacey, ODC's Director of Community and Day Services. "For some, it's about becoming active citizens in their community. For others, it is a 'stepping stone' toward community employment. For everyone, it's about achieving their highest level of independence."

That's why Stacey is so excited to have started ODC's first CommunityConnect group in Portage County. All of the group members live in the Plover area, so it's Plover that the group will explore.

Aaron, Anthony, James and Abby are the first group

members. They arrange for their own transportation to meet at the Plover library each Thursday, where they begin and end their day... what happens in between is up to them!

After doing some "community mapping" to determine what's in the Plover area and developing a list of the personal goals they want to achieve through

group activities, the members began to explore. First the library, where they got to know library staff and took a tour. They quickly scheduled a "movie day" that will be open to the public and chose a film to view.

As time passed, the group's mapping led them to

Thanks to **Donaldson Company, Inc.** for their support of CommunityConnect in Portage County!

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LEFT: ODC's CommunityConnect group wanted to check out Starbucks in Plover... they got a big kick out of Aaron's whipped cream "stash"! | CENTER: Aaron, Anthony and James suddenly realized that all this snow is good for something! They had a great time snowshoeing at Little Plover River Park. | RIGHT: Abby says that snowshoeing might not be her favorite recreational activity, but it was fun to give it a try!



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FUN

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Clay Corner, a “do-it-yourself” studio where visitors can create “masterpieces” with clay, paint and more. Then snowshoeing at Little Plover River Park, where they made a plan to go back and check out the trails in the summer. Bowling alongside a 40-person league at 5 Star Lanes was also a hit.

While engaging in the community and increasing independent living skills is an important aspect of CommunityConnect, the group’s goals also include exploring career opportunities and improving their skills for independent work by volunteering. ODC staff are working to set up volunteer opportunities at non-profit organizations throughout the area.

“As we are introducing ourselves to the community,” said Stacey, “everyone has been so welcoming! We’re already seeing what a close and supportive community these individuals live in.”



Bowling, anyone? What a fun day for Abby, Anthony and Aaron with lots of other community members at 5 Star Lanes.



PLEASE NOTE: ODC and the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development’s Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) work together to fund and support individuals through job search and training services.