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VOLUNTEER



GIVE

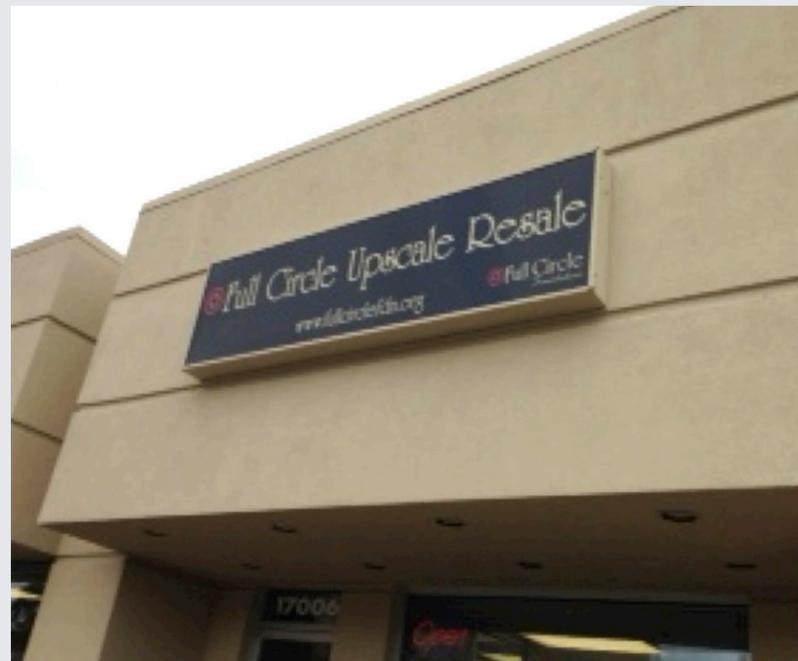


SHOP

Who We Are

The Full Circle Foundation, in partnership with Grosse Pointe Public Schools, is a non-profit provider of seamless transitions from school to work, to independent living for people with special needs. In order to reach their true potential, they learn job and life skills in a safe environment, tailored to their particular goals.

The only organization of it's kind in the State of Michigan; this pioneering program serves current and former students of the Grosse Pointe Public School System as well as members of the community.



The mission of Full Circle Foundation is to support the activities that foster a sense of self worth and independence in persons with disabilities, by providing opportunities to contribute and function productively in their community.

April 2015

Welcome to Full Circle

FullCircleFdn.org

The Summer Activities Program is just around the corner!

Registration will soon begin for the Full Circle Foundation Summer Activities Program. Donations from our Raise the Roof event will enable us to continue to provide great learning opportunities in a variety of areas throughout the summer.

Full Circle would like to welcome Jodie Mellos who will be the Summer Activities Coordinator. Mrs. Mellos has extensive experience working with students with special needs.



We would also like to welcome Mary Allemon will be coordinating the Edible Garden this summer. She is a graduate of Wayne State University's social work program, and has extensive experience in gardening. They have many great activities planned for our participants.

Our participants will experience community outings, work in the upscale resale store, edible garden, practice culinary skills, work in the laundry program, practice yoga, and have a variety of creative opportunities.

The Summer Activities Program will continue to focus on pre-vocational experiences while having some great summer fun. For more information please feel free to email Sue Banner at: sbanner@fullcirclefdn.org, or call 313.469.6660. Space is limited.



Mark Your Calendars

Edible Garden Planting Day: May 17, 2015 at 10:00 am. Plan on attending out garden planting day where we will join with our community volunteers

Full Circle Garden Party: Plan on joining us for our summer Garden Party at the Edible Garden on July 22, 2015, at 6:00 pm.

The Summer Activities Program begins on June 22, 2015. Contact our office for more information at 313.469.6660.

Grosse Pointe Public Schools Transition Services Department will host Parent Night, April 22, 2015 at Brownell Middle School in the Auditorium. There will be information about post secondary options at universities, community colleges, vocational opportunities, and more. For more information email: shannon.holmes@gpschools.org

The Grosse Pointe Public Schools Office of Student Services would like to welcome a new group for parents called; Parents Supporting Parents. They hope to provide opportunities for families of special needs students to come together, offer support, and work as collaborative partners with the Office of Student Services. For more information on activities and meeting times email: PsPgppss@gmail.com

April is Autism Awareness Month

According to the Center for Disease Control, Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges. There is often nothing about how people with ASD look that sets them apart from other people, but people with ASD may communicate, interact, behave, and learn in ways that are different from most other people. The learning, thinking, and problem-solving abilities of people with ASD can range from gifted to severely challenged. Some people with ASD need a lot of help in their daily lives; others need less.

A diagnosis of ASD now includes several conditions that used to be diagnosed separately: autistic disorder, pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS), and Asperger syndrome. These conditions are now all called autism spectrum disorder. For more information visit their website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/facts.html>



Our friends at Autism Speaks report . . .

- Autism now affects 1 in 68 children and 1 in 42 boys
- Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disorder in the U.S.
- Autism costs a family \$60,000 a year on average
- Boys are nearly five times more likely than girls to have autism
- There is no medical detection or cure for autism

For more information visit their website at: www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism/facts-about-autism

Points for Parents

The Michigan Transition Outcomes Project, (MI-TOP) facilitates the development of systems that help students achieve positive postsecondary outcomes. The systems concentrate on student focused planning to prepare them for postsecondary education, employment and independent living. <https://mi-top.cenmi.org/>

Self Determination is the practice of believing that all individuals have the right to direct their own lives. The programs at the Full Circle Foundation are developed to support students and young adults in their self determination endeavor. For more information about self determination, visit the National Center on Secondary Education at: www.ncset.org/publications/viewdesc.asp?id=962

Assets & Affirmations

When a child is born, the world offers a vast array of possibilities. When a child with special needs enters the world, the future become somewhat limited. While there has definitely been advancement in the worldview pertaining to special education, there is still much work to be done. This year many young adults will age out of the school system and enter the job market, a market that is indeed bleak. We in the community are very fortunate that Full Circle was created to help fill the gap between schooling, job training and hopefully, employment.

The laundry program at Full Circle is in the beginning phases of becoming an operating, self-sustaining enterprise. With the help of many supporters and a GoFundMe account, we were able to raise almost \$5,000 to take the program to the next level. Several local businesses have already become clients and we currently have three young adults working part time in the laundry program. We are hoping to find enough work so that three more young adults can work and experience what it is like to receive a paycheck for a job well done.

Thanks to Full Circle and the caring people who donate time and money, we can make the future much brighter for those persons with special needs in our community.

– *Judy McLoughlin (mother of Caitlin, pictured above)*



Emily's Butterfly Bench

Emily Virga, a student who attends the Community Campus classroom will be one of the artists in the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Butterfly Bench event. Full Circle is proud to be her sponsor thanks to donations from the community! For more information about the butterfly bench event, visit their website at: www.grossepointechamber.com



Congratulations!

Rachel, Matt and Amelia from Mrs. Dykstra's classroom will be working at Biggby Coffee at Roslyn and Mack and this summer!! Stop in for a cup of java!

Our Programs

The Upscale Resale Store is a great vocational setting where students take gently used donated clothing, and prepares them for sale on the sales floor. Tagging, sizing, hanging, and organizing are just a few of the skills that are learned in this retail atmosphere. Donate your gently used clothing. Donations taken daily!



The Computer Skills Program provides training and opportunities in a variety of technological areas. Individuals learn skills such as, data entry and management.



The Laundry Program is a service and job-training site where students learn the process and skills of laundry cleaning. We currently have four clients who rely on our services weekly.

The Edible Garden is beautiful community collaboration with Riverside Rehabilitation Center. Our students and volunteers who work together to grow produce, herbs and flowers. The rehabilitation center donated over three acres of land that is overseen by our young adults and volunteers. Those interested in a seasonal subscription please contact. sbanner@fullcirclefdn.org, or call 313.469.6660.