



STARLIGHT

JUNE
2023

Project LIFE Helps Interns Prepare for Work

Our first three Project LIFE interns recently graduated and were honored at the May Board Meeting of the Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Blanchard Valley Center.

Gavin Beach and Roman Mauricio completed two years of the program, while Emily Bauer completed one year. All three interns took job rotations at Oler's Bar & Grill, the Findlay YMCA and the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library. Gavin and Roman added Culver's to their rotations.

Through career exploration and interest inventory, Gavin discovered an interest in radio hosting. With this information in hand, the Project LIFE team contacted radio station WKXA for an informational interview and a tour of the station. During his two years in the program, Gavin demonstrated leadership skills at job rotations and in the classroom. His biggest area of growth was becoming more self-aware and creating strategies to help him manage emotions during times of stress. He plans to work with Opportunities with Ohioans with Disabilities to continue career exploration and secure part-time employment.

During his internship, Roman learned independent living skills. Roman had a positive attitude and a strong work ethic, often going above and beyond what was asked of him. Roman's biggest area of growth was his communication skills and being able to advocate for himself. He recently accepted part-time employment with the Findlay YMCA, and will begin his new job June 1. Roman's future goals include living on his own with a roommate and learning how to ride a motorcycle.

During her year with Project LIFE, Emily learned many job and independent living skills. Her greatest area of growth was increasing her self-confidence and willingness to try new things. With her internship experience and the rotation at

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Gavin Beach and Roman Mauricio



Emily Bauer

DATES TO REMEMBER | VISIT WWW.BLANCHARDVALLEY.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS

June 19
Juneteenth
BVC Closed

June 26 - 5:30pm
Board Meeting

June 26 - 4:30pm
Game Night
at Stevi B's

June 30 - 9am
Blood Drive

NOTES FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Best of Luck to Those Who Made Blanchard Valley School Special



It's with no small amount of melancholy that we bid farewell to Blanchard Valley School as one of our programs.

The final year of Blanchard Valley School under the auspices of Blanchard Valley Center is drawing to a close. Next year, Blanchard Valley School will be operated by the Hancock County Educational Service Center. We wish all of our teachers and students the best of luck in their future endeavors.

I'm exceedingly proud of the success of the Project LIFE program with its first graduates. When two of the three participants secure employment before the end of the session, you know we're doing something right. I'm anxious to welcome in the next group of interns in August. (Anxious, but let's not wish away our summer!)

We had another successful golf outing this year. The turnout was outstanding as we had 26 teams participate. This year's winning team – C&Y Painting – won the tournament with a score of 56. The winning golfers were Max Yankee, Matt Shimp, Christian Volk, & Todd Hitzeman.

The golf outing made about \$15,000 for Hancock County Special Olympics. All of that money will support our local Special Olympics.



Kelli Grisham

Kelli Grisham, Superintendent

STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Sophia Hofacker

CONTINUED "PROJECT LIFE HELPS INTERNS PREPARE FOR WORK"

Oler's, Emily was offered a part-time job as a busser and hostess. Her goals include increasing her hours with the help of Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities.

In the 2023-24 Project LIFE program, which will begin in August, there will be five new interns, and one returning intern. The focus of the program will be on basic soft skills, such as getting exposure to the community and its businesses.

If a Hancock County business is interested in hearing more about Project LIFE, contact Director of Community Supports Nicole Gunka at 419-422-6387 or ngunka@blanchardvalley.org.

BVC provides resources and supports that empower people with DD to live lives with meaning and purpose.



Blanchard Valley Center
Hancock County Board of Developmental Disabilities

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**Service & Support
Emergency Number**
419-722-9262

