

Children's Center Adult Program (CCAP) Success Story

Lee is a 37 -year old young man who has been attending CCAP for about a year. He has some cognitive delays and mild physical limitations. When Lee started the program, his mother was concerned that the staff and clients would not be able to understand him because of his unclear speech accompanied by a slight stutter. Lee attended another program for young adults with disabilities prior to enrolling in CCAP. His family did not feel that program was providing him the structure or the stimulation that he requires to remain active in the community. Lee also participates in several extra- curricular activities for individuals with disabilities. Lee's family includes him in everything that they do. He is very involved in his church and active in his Sunday School class for individuals with disabilities.

Lee's whole personality has changed since enrolling in CCAP. When he first started, he was very shy and kept to himself. He was hesitant to participate in art activities and had to be encouraged to get involved during recreation. He is now always smiling and runs in the building when dropped off in the morning. The staff has discovered that his has a creative streak that he has used to complete some amazing art projects. Lee has become best friends with so many of the clients. They call each other at night and keep up with each other during happy and sad times. In the morning, the group he hangs with, sits together in an area in the family room where they can laugh and have a good time while waiting to begin the day. It is such a pleasant sound and makes the staff laugh too. Lee is not as awkward when participating in outdoor activities like basketball, kite flying, tennis and other fun activities as when he first started the program. My staff is very experienced in making accommodations for physical needs of the clients. When recreation is held inside in the mini gym, Lee's voice can be heard above everyone else. Cooking class may be Lee's favorite time of the week. His mother states that he always wants to make the recipe of the week at home. The staff can now understand his speech so much better because it has become clearer and he is controlling his voice so he doesn't stutter as much when trying to express himself. It's almost hard to believe that this is the same young man as the one we first met when he enrolled in CCAP. His confidence has increased tremendously and he is more willing to try new things.

Lee lost his dad about 4 months ago. When I walked into the church for the funeral, he stood up from his front row seat and ran down the aisle to hug me. That really just says it all. He feels safe, secure and loved at CCAP and considers us to be part of his family. I loved the look on his mother's face when she realized how much it meant to Lee for me to be there to support him. It showed he has his circle of support like other family members. Lee talks about his dad a lot and we encourage him to share happy memories. He wanted to return to CCAP immediately because his mother said CCAP is his happy place.

Lee's family has expressed gratitude many times for what CCAP has meant to Lee as well as to their family. His mother said he wasn't sure how he would have handled his dad's death had he not had CCAP to come to every day to be with his friends. They have seen tremendous improvement in his self-esteem and are actually shocked at some of the things we share about his involvement in activities at CCAP.