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About Us

Opportunities, Inc. assists adults with disabilities allowing them to achieve their fullest potential for independence and self-confidence. Our services include supported employment, employment focused training and support, and community inclusion activities.

College Bound

It has been more than 10 years since Opportunities, Inc. piloted a program to support people who are interested in attending classes offered through the Montgomery College Challenge Program.



Participants have enjoyed courses such as "Recycling, Safety in the Home, Astrology, Exploring the Woods, Rock N Roll, In the News and more. Students performed a play for Rock N Roll, and other program participants were able to attend and support their peers.

~Joycelyn Camper, CEP
(Germantown)

Zam Fans Listen Up

When was the last time you got excited about something and got fit at the same time? Opportunities, Inc. has partnered with Ms. Jackie Zamora to bring weekly ZamDance classes. Everyone gets so excited over ZamDance and this is definitely something to get excited about. Ms. Jackie enriches the experience with movement to high powered beats, encouraging all those who participate to engage in exercise and express themselves, have fun, and enjoy the experience.



Those who participate especially enjoy the one-on-one time in the middle of the circle because it's their time to shine.

~Katharine Saulsbury, Vocational Counselor (Germantown)

Executive Director's Message

Well, it is official! The groundhog did not see his shadow and we are shifting into an early spring. At Opp, Inc. we are looking forward to the warmer weather as it means an increase in the number of free outdoor activities for the people we support to engage in. It also means an increase in the number of employment opportunities for the people we support as seasonal positions become available. We are very excited to bring you this issue of *Shift* and hope you

enjoy reading about what we have been up to the past few months!

We are very excited to congratulate David M., Heather B., and Heather W. as they each secured employment positions during the toughest time of year—Winter!

~Tenille Ademiluyi

Executive Director

Tenille Ademiluyi

Officers

John Morgan
President

Tom Purcell
Secretary

Board of Directors

Stacey Briggs
Elizabeth Nardin
David Fierst
Tucker Stone



Opportunities, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization committed to serving adults with disabilities.

Montgomery College Resource Fair

Community Exploration Program (CEP) staff, Joycelyn Camper and Cynthia Dorsey represented Opportunities, Inc. at Montgomery College (Rockville) Resource Fair for transitional youth to discuss program services and our newly developed community programs.

~Joycelyn Camper, CEP
(Germantown)

"It was my first time attending a fair, and it was amazing to talk to others about our programs."

~Joycelyn Camper, CEP



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Special points of interest:

- "It was amazing to talk to others about our program. Pg.1
- Opportunities, Inc. staff help individuals identify interests and plan visits to places in the community based upon those conversations. Pg.3
- Volunteering helps to bridge the gap by offering employers an opportunity to develop relationships with individuals and observe demonstrated skills and abilities.... Pg. 3

Highlights

Spotlight



Please give a big, warm welcome to **Sydney Ransom**. She recently joined our team as a Vocational Counselor. In the beginning of the summer, Sydney facilitated fun and educational in-house activities. Sydney was originally introduced to the team as an intern and Activities Coordinator. In August, there

was an opening for a Vocational Counselor in the Lanham Office. There was no doubt in my mind who would be the best candidate for this position as from day one; she presented herself with a great deal of passion, enthusiasm, competence and commitment while working with the people we support. Sydney has continuously demonstrated a genuine care for the well-being of those who choose our support and the agency's prosperity.

Sydney has almost two years of experience with working with individuals with special needs, and this past December she graduated from the University of the District of Columbia with a Masters in Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling. Sydney is very passionate about professional development and plans on working on her LPC licensure while pursuing a PhD in Clinical Psychology. As her long-term goal, she wants to work with the offender

population to combat mental illness in the hopes of decreasing recidivism rates.

Sydney shared that she truly enjoys being a part of the Opportunities, Inc. team and so far, it has been an amazing experience. "The people we support are wonderful and make each day feel like an adventure. The staff is very supportive and welcoming. I am so appreciative of this opportunity at Opportunities, Inc. and can't wait to see what the future holds for me here," she also shared with me.

Opportunities, Inc. is very excited to have her knowledge base as well as her passion for assisting the people we support with reaching their fullest potential and becoming self-sufficient and independent members of the community. Once again, welcome aboard, Sydney, and we anticipate a rewarding future with you!

~Elena Laun, *Program Manager* (Lanham)



Plan a visit to Opportunities, Inc. and take a tour. We would love to show you around.

Lanham
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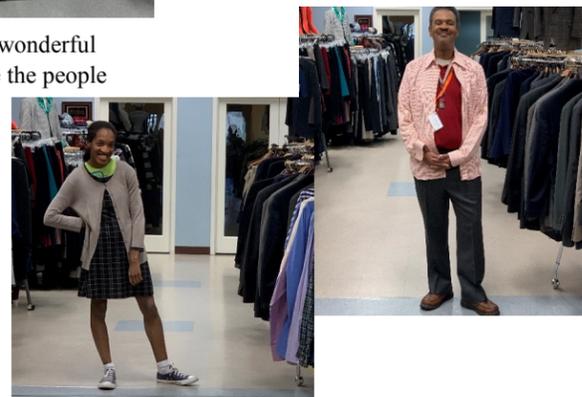
Say "Yes to Dress (ware)!"



support are provided with not only clothes, but a new found sense of confidence. This opportunity has reinvigorated the spirits of all who participate, with many more awaiting to reinvent their sense of style.

~Sydney Ransom, *Vocational Counselor* (Lanham)

Opportunities, Inc. has had a wonderful opportunity to further prepare the people we support for employment by working with A Wider Circle. A Wider Circle is a nonprofit organization that provides gently worn business attire to those seeking gainful employment. As we continue to work with A Wider Circle, more and more of the people we



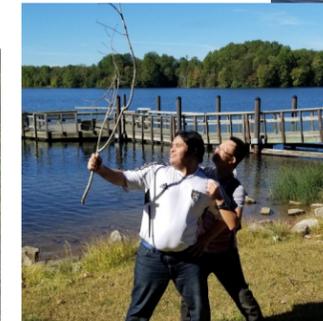
Programs

Discovering Amazing Things through Discovery Groups

Discovery Groups are just that... "Discovery." Opportunities, Inc. staff help the people we support identify interests and plan visits to places in the community based upon those conversations. These include employment interests, as well as fun things to do. Sometimes, both the staff and those we support discover amazing things through creativity and participation.

"It was a crisp, sunny discovery day. We strolled in Black Hills park and found a branch for art. We began to pose with the branch and enjoyed it so much."

~Joycelyn Camper, *CEP*

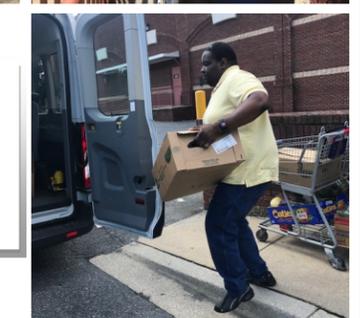


~Ms. Joycelyn Camper, *CEP* (Germantown)

Volunteering is a Valuable Partnership

The people who choose our support learn skills, gain confidence and give back to the community through volunteering. In addition, volunteering helps to bridge the gap by offering employers an opportunity to develop relationships with people we support and observe demonstrated skills and abilities without the restrictions of a rigorous employment process. And, staff are on hand to provide supervision and assistance, if needed.

~Cheryl Pierre, *CEP* (Germantown)



Individuals volunteer and assist families with delivering food to their vehicles.