

The Bridge

“Bridging the Gap Between
Work and Home”

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Community Enterprises of St. Clair County

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Shaylyn VanMilligan- Ext 8817
Electronics Recycling Sales
Representative

Jason Bobcean, All-Star Player



This month we at ECL wanted to recognize one of our consumers for some truly spectacular accomplishments. Jason Bobcean has attended our ECL program for the past 6 years and is currently a very important asset to our Work Activity Program. For those who don't know Jason, not only is he an extremely kind, thoughtful, and creative person, he is also a truly gifted athlete. Whether its bowling, hockey or softball, Jason excels whenever he steps on the field or court.

These talents have led to some great opportunities for Jason outside of program, one of which is playing for a local softball team in the Modified Church league. Because of his efforts on the field during the season, Jason was chosen to participate in the league's All-Star game. Following that honor, he continued to tear it up on the field during the end of season playoffs. In the last inning in the championship game, Jason hit the game winning triple to give his team the playoff championship. He was then voted MVP for the playoffs by his teammates, coaches, and opponents.

We are so incredibly proud of what Jason has been able to accomplish both in and outside of program. He has come into his own and continues to make amazing strides. Jason and everyone at CE would also like to take a moment to thank a beloved staff member who we lost far too soon. Dave Tramski was a major advocate for every consumer that he worked with and was instrumental in getting Jason into the league and onto the team he plays for now. Jason and everyone at CE are extremely lucky to have been blessed with the opportunity to work with Dave before his tragic passing. He is missed, but his impact is felt by us all when we see stories like this.

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Jason Bobcean, All-Star Continued...

In Jason's own words, "I just want fellow consumers to know that every one of us have a gift we can use outside of program. My gift is sports, but I will never let having disabilities stop me from doing something I love.... CE and the staff there has forever changed my life and I'm grateful for it. I would love to be able to thank every staff member at CE and also tell consumers to follow their dreams. Anything is possible!"

Way to go Jason, we are proud of you, and we know Dave is too!

Two Decades of Success



20 years ago, times were very different. Gas was only \$1.46 a gallon. George W. Bush was sworn in as our 43rd President of the United States. And of course, it was also the year of the September 11th attacks on our country. We all have changed since then.

On February 13, 2001 Becky Armstrong also changed. She decided this was the day she was going to start her path for more independence. Becky was living with her parents and wanted to be out on her own, making a future for herself. Becky teamed up with the Community Enterprises' Community Employment Program. From there she and the CEP team were able to find her a job at Kroger's on 24th street.

I interviewed Becky's Mother, Dawn Armstrong and she said, "Becky has done so much for herself since she started working 20 years ago. Her confidence has grown, and she has learned that she can do things she never thought she could. Becky has a purpose, and she is driven to do better. She has learned the value of dependability, and the satisfaction of helping others. She has always been a 'people person,' but her work has allowed her to understand how to work through problems when a situation comes up with her coworkers, or with the customers at Kroger. We are so happy and proud of her."

When I spoke to Becky about her 20-year accomplishment at Kroger, she had this to say, "Well, I did what I wanted to do. 8 years ago, I moved into my own apartment. I love my apartment and being on my own. I like being able to make my own money and I even went to Disney with my own money a few years ago. I have made a lot of friends at work through the years, and I feel good when I get up and go to work. Paydays are my favorite day. I want to go to work for as long as I can."

Becky's advice to anyone who wants to work in the community, or isn't sure if they are ready to was,

"Do it. Sometimes it is scary, but you have to try. You will get to be more independent. You have to be to work on time and you can't call in sick a lot. You will learn how to do things on your own. You will make a lot of friends at work too. That's my favorite part. Just try it because I am so glad I did."

20 years is an amazing accomplishment. 20 years is dedication and determination. Becky Armstrong is a role model for many participants her at Community Enterprises. She is a motivator to her friends here. They see her success and are able to see themselves being successful working in the community.

Becky, congratulations on 20 years of hard work and making your way through life they way you want it to go. We couldn't be happier for you and wish you the best in your career for all the years to come.

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Blue Water Secure Shredding Welcomes New Customers:



- Golembiewski Financial, St. Clair
- Doehring Schultz, Marysville

We THANK YOU for your business!



Launched in 2017, **avail**® was researched and developed from a desire to both raise public expectations and empower individuals to achieve their goals. From our academic and professional backgrounds, we questioned how we could revolutionize how we support individuals, to equip them with the tools to self-manage their day and have ownership. The advances in technology can now support such an approach. In addition, we wanted to support organizations to be in line with best practice guidelines, implement evidence-based applications which report and achieve data-driven outcomes. This has been achieved, and today the solution is funded globally by many local authorities and governments as a leading solution and proven to have life-changing impact for users.”

Beginning in the next several weeks our janitorial crews will begin using this application. It will be designed to be program and job specific and will help individuals learn and develop job skills and to be as independent as possible. This application can be used in a variety of settings, including but not limited to, work sites, program or school type settings, home and in the community. One of the interesting aspects of the application is that it can be individualized to specific needs of the person. You can set timers, give verbal and visual prompts, add rewards and praise to tasks and so much more. It is also HIPAA compliant, all information is secure. We look forward to initializing this application and expand its use to enhance the services we provide to all.

We are fortunate enough at CE to team up with Michigan State University to review and develop this application for use in the state of Michigan. Together, with our input, MSU will be evaluating the application and its uses. The staff of CE and the individuals using the application will be asked to report on various aspects of the application. Dr. Hung Jen Kuo, Assistant Professor of the Office of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies of MSU will analyze the information gathered from us and the other 3 organization in the trial over the course of 6 months. MSU research team will report their findings. All information gathered is secure and only viewed by those on the research team. The possibilities are enormous!

If you have questions about the use of this application, please contact Laurie Karig at lkarig@cescc.org.

Don't Forget!

CESCC will be closed on Monday, September 6, 2021, in observance of Labor Day.

