



*Parent resources for
children with special needs*

2011

***Resource
Booklet***



Mission Statement

The mission of The Arc Muskegon is to provide advocacy, education and support services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families and actively support their full inclusion, equality and participation in their community throughout their lives.

History

The Arc Muskegon is an affiliate chapter of The Arc Michigan and The Arc of the United States. This organization is the oldest and largest grassroots organization advocating on behalf of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Many of the laws, services and rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities enjoyed today are a result of The Arc's hard work. The Arc Muskegon became a local chapter in 1952, and hired its first staff in 1984.

Program Services

Advocacy/Outreach

- ♦ **Provide** information/referral parent support, link to resources, access to various services, special education information/assistance and public policy.
- ♦ **Distribute** educational newsletters (The Arc Muskegon E-News) to members, parents, professionals and others.
- ♦ **Host** educational seminars/workshops for parents, professionals and individuals with developmental disabilities.
- ♦ **Monitor** –local public policy and available services.
- ♦ **Community Representation**-active committee member in the disability community representing people with developmental disabilities.
- ♦ **Prevention Activities**-Educational presentations on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and other preventative disabilities.
- ♦ **Community Outreach**-events-presentations-distribute information packets on a variety of developmental disabilities and other relative issues.
Contact person-Margaret O'Toole, (231) 777-2006 Extension 222

Community Living Supports

- ♦ Providing in-home and community supports to qualifying adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to include: assistance with cooking, budgeting, appointments, personal care needs & community participation. Referral source: Community Mental Health, (CMH) or private pay.
Contact person: Karen Bowne (231) 777-2006 Extension 223

Dignified Lifestyles

- ♦ Visiting mental health funded group homes to monitor quality of life of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Trained volunteers are advocates focusing on needs, rights, choices and community inclusion.
Contact person: Karen Bowne (231) 777-2006 Extension 223

Consumer Voice

♦Adult consumers who receive mental health services at Community Mental Health of Muskegon County are welcome and needed to participate on CMH committees and workshops. The focus is to promote self-advocacy.
Contact person: Margaret O'Toole (231) 777-2006

Join The Arc

The Arc is a membership organization. There are over **140,000** members nationwide. (Call (231) 777-2006 for a membership application) Local membership levels (annually) Individual/Family Level **\$25**, Professional Level **\$75**, Agnes Potuznik Honor Roll Level **\$125**

Membership privileges include

- ✓ Membership to the State and National organization
- ✓ Quarterly newsletters (Local/State/National)
- ✓ Conventions, conferences and special training (reduced costs)
- ✓ Insurance programs
- ✓ Bi-monthly E-News
- ✓ On line community
- ✓ The Arc's Credit Card Program
- ✓ Nationwide Resources
- ✓ Action alerts

How does my membership make a difference?

- ✓ Monitor and participate in public policy/legislation
- ✓ Support research/prevention initiatives
- ✓ Develop best practices
- ✓ Increased opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- ✓ Advocate for improved education, quality of life, employment and community integration
- ✓ **Support of the largest grassroots organization advocating for people with developmental disabilities and their families in the United States**
- ✓ Improve public awareness regarding inclusion, employment, education, community living, rights and abilities of people with developmental disabilities and more.

www.thearc.org

What is a Developmental Disability?

Developmental disabilities are a class of conditions that usually originate before birth, shortly after birth, and before age **22** that will continue in some form over a lifetime. An intellectual or developmental disability (previously called mental retardation) is a developmental disability in which a person's rate and degree of intelligence is lower than society as a whole and needs to occur before the age 18 years old.

There are approximately **7.2 million (3 out of 100)** Americans with intellectual or related developmental disabilities. **Locally, approximately one in nine families** have a loved one with a developmental disability. Causes for both may include:

- genetics
- trauma at birth
- poor nutrition
- substance abuse
- lead poisoning
- accidents
- environmental factors

Source: The Arc of the United States

Most people with an intellectual disability are in the mild range (I.Q. of 70-75)
Most common syndromes are Autism, Down syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder & Fragile X.

Visit www.arcmuskegon.org and find us on Facebook too!

Achieve with Us!



autism NETWORK OF MUSKEGON COUNTY

The Autism Network of Muskegon County is a non-profit organization created by parents, for parents, to support families and individuals with Autism in Muskegon County and surrounding areas. Our mission is to assist individuals and families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders by engaging in peer networking and group activities, and by providing education and resources within our county.

Our Goal

Our goal is to present information for advocacy, education, resources, and various activities for members. We offer emotional encouragement and understand the importance of networking. As parents of children on the Autism Spectrum, we know first hand that it is not easy.



Events and Meetings

The Autism Network Board meets the third Tuesday of each month at The Salvation Army at 1221 Shonat Street in Muskegon from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. At times our meetings will consist of both business and social/educational events with various speakers and activities. These meetings are open to all interested parties.

Birth to Upper Elementary & Young Adult

We are currently looking for volunteers to help facilitate these groups. Interested persons may contact one of our board members: President Ronda Beamer at 231-638-7970 or email at rondabeamer@comcast.com or Trustee Judy Efting at 231-766-2954 or email at je-spotts@att.net

Groups for All Ages Family Drop-in Center

Veteran members are available to meet with new families on the second Friday of the month during the Family Support and Activity Night. One-on-one listening support is offered to help direct you to resources that benefit you.



Family Support and Activity Night

All ages are welcome to gather on the second Friday of the month during the school year. We provide opportunities for social interactions in a safe, structured environment. Activities include movie, game, and pizza night, bowling, swimming, and other ideas suggested by parents. At times a small donation is required, please contact a member for more details.



To Learn More

If you would like more information, or would like to be placed on our mailing list, please email us at muskegonautism@aol.com, call Dean Groendal at 231-672-5708 or e-mail him at deangroendal@yahoo.com, check us out on Facebook, or visit our website at www.muskegonautism.org. Our mailing address is PO Box 140, Ravenna, MI 49451.



Become a Member Today!



You can become a member of the Autism Network of Muskegon County.

Membership is open to any person diagnosed with or involved in caring for people with autism and who share the common goals of the Autism Network.

Visit www.muskegonautism.org and complete the online form. The annual membership fee is only \$10 for an individual or \$15 for a family. The dues help cover the costs to promote events and mail the newsletter.

The benefits of becoming a member of the Autism Network of Muskegon County are:

- Monthly newsletters
- Voting privileges
- Eligibility for board positions

Autism Network Board of Directors

President
Ronda Beamer
(231) 638-7970
rondabeamer@comcast.net

Treasurer
Denise Bragg
(231) 853-2832
denbragg@aol.com

Secretary
Amanda Skusea
(231) 853-2212
skusea@live.com

Trustee
Judy Efting
(231) 766-2954
je-spotts@att.net

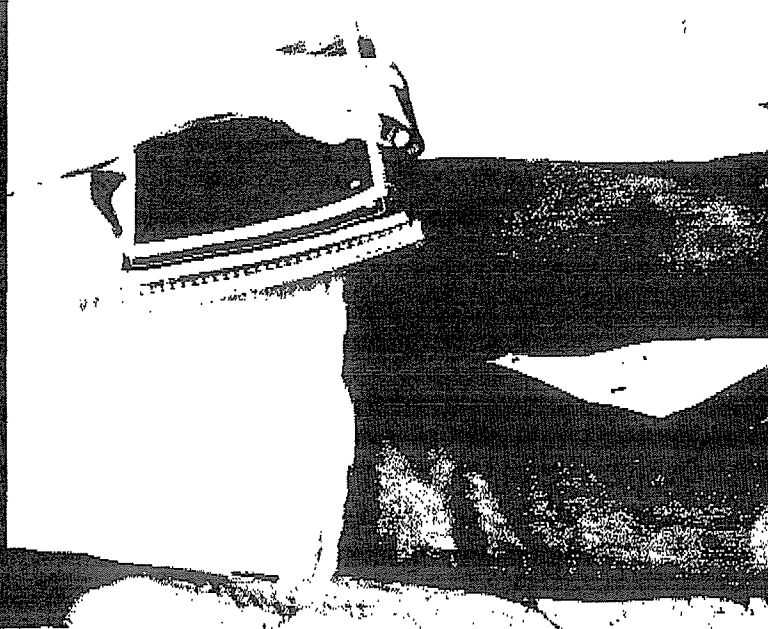
Trustee
Dean Groendal
(231) 672-5708
deangroendal@yahoo.com

Print services provided by the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District.

autism NETWORK

OF MUSKEGON COUNTY

Are you the parent of a child on the Autism Spectrum? We know it's not easy. We can help.



www.muskegonautism.org



Who is Eligible?

All residents looking for human services in Muskegon, Ottawa, Oceana, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Newaygo and Osceola counties.

Why CALL 2-1-1?

Simply dialing 2-1-1 makes it possible for people in need to navigate a complex and ever-growing maze of human service agencies and programs. By making services easier to access, CALL 2-1-1 helps people avoid crisis and fosters self-sufficiency. A searchable database containing detailed information on thousands of health and human services is available to the public at www.call-211.org.



CALL 2-1-1 Services Overview

CALL strives to be a visible and effective access point for persons needing health and human service programs, promoting consumer education and choice of options. CALL provides Comprehensive Information and Referral for Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola and Ottawa counties as well as Specialized Senior Information and Assistance for Muskegon, Oceana, and Ottawa counties.

Your Source for Information

- Food, Housing & Clothing
- Utility Assistance
- Support Groups
- Healthcare Services
- Teen Pregnancy
- Senior Issues
- Transportation
- Prescription Assistance
- Seasonal Programs

Our Vision

Effectively connecting people and services

Our Mission

CALL's mission is to increase access to community services through effective and compassionate information and referral. Our program and our staff is committed to fulfilling this mission and to upholding the values that serve as the foundation for the way CALL operates.

Resource Database

CALL values the importance of data as the fundamental building block for making effective referrals. Information is a dynamic and fluid entity, and CALL is committed to maintaining a current, accurate, and comprehensive database. CALL employs a full-time nationally certified Resource Specialist dedicated to the continuous collection and updating of more than 2,000 health and human service resources. This information is classified using the nationally endorsed AIRS Info Line Taxonomy of Human Services, the standard used across the state of Michigan and nationwide.

These values include:

- Acknowledging and respecting the diversity of our callers
- Maintaining the highest degree of confidentiality
- Embracing the concept of self-determination and freedom of choice for consumers
- Empowering individuals to make their own informed choices
- Identifying and tracking community needs
- Advocating for new resources and services where current gaps exist

Community Mental Health Services of Muskegon County

Mission: To improve the quality of life for individuals with behavioral health needs through quality services, consumer involvement, community collaboration, and resource management.

Vision: We will be a community leader in planning and managing services for individuals with behavioral health needs through best practice and shared resources to promote health, recovery, and support.

The organization, established in 1964, serves and provides supports to individuals with developmental disabilities, mental illness, or serious emotional disturbance.

Community Mental Health Services of Muskegon County serves as a managed care organization for Medicaid and uninsured residents of Muskegon County for behavioral health services.

Community Mental Health Services of Muskegon County is accountable to citizens through the County Board of Commissioners, which appoints a twelve-person CMH Board. At least 1/3 of each board's membership is comprised of consumers, individuals who have a personal connection to mental health issues such as a developmental disability, mental illness or substance use disorder.

At Community Mental Health we cultivate hope...the hope that someone has when taking their first steps toward recovery.



Battling Barriers...

Becoming Accessible

27 E. Clay Ave.
Muskegon, MI 49442
Phone: (231) 722-0088
Fax: (231) 722-0066
Toll Free: 1-866-322-4501

Disability Connection/ West Michigan

- Located at 27 E. Clay Avenue, in the Bogner Human Services Complex
- Disability Connection/West Michigan has been operating as a Center for Independent Living since the fall of 1999.
- DC/MM serves:
 - People with any disability
 - People from Muskegon, Oceana, Newaygo, Mason and Lake Counties.
 - People of any age
 - People from any background

Mission Statement

"Disability Connection's mission is to advocate, educate, empower and provide resources for person with disabilities and promote accessible communities."

Vision Statement

"Accessibility will no longer be an issue... It will be an accepted civil right."

Values

"Disability Connection is committed to accessibility, inclusion, and diversity while being consumer directed and accountable."

Information & Referral

Perhaps the single most powerful service we provide is information.

DC/MM shares information about:

- ✦ Disability rights and responsibilities
- ✦ Community resources such as
 - accessible housing,
 - transportation,
 - employment opportunities,
 - personal care attendants,
 - interpreters,
 - readers
 - ...and many others.

Independent Living Skills Training

Disability Connection/West Michigan empowers individuals with disabilities. DC/MM coordinates independent living skills training and peer support in such areas as:

- Using public transportation systems,
- Managing a personal budget,
- Dealing with insensitive/discriminatory behavior,
- Securing assistive technology
- Empowerment Training
- Disability Sensitivity Training
- Accessibility Training
- Mentoring/Support
- Nursing Home Transition Services

Peer Support

At least 51% of DC/MM's staff and Board are people with disabilities. They've successfully established independent lives and understand how important it is to have peer mentors and peer support groups.

Peer Mentors and Peer Support Groups:

- Help people explore options, develop goals, and overcome barriers.
- Help people making adjustments to a newly acquired disability
- Help people learn to use community services

Individual & Systems Advocacy

✎ Disability Connection provides individual advocacy:
Accessing the communities' many resources.

- Helping an individual receive his/her rights in a court of law
- Helping an individual receive his/her rights at school
- Helping an individual receive his/her rights employment situations

✎ DC/MM provides community advocacy:

- By working to remove barriers and initiate changes for 100% accessibility for all citizens Priority community areas for advocacy are:
 - ✦ Transportation
 - ✦ Housing
 - ✦ Health Care (includes mental health)
 - ✦ Education/Transition
 - ✦ Accessibility



Down Syndrome Association
of West Michigan *Possibility. Promise. Potential.*

2011 Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan
233 E Fulton St, Ste 108 | Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: 616-956-3488 Toll Free 866-665-7451

The Down Syndrome Association of West Michigan (DSAWM) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to be a resource and advocacy organization, promoting public awareness and supporting lifelong opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome and their families.

We are a group of parents who have children with Down syndrome. We have banded together to share knowledge with other families, and help and support new parents. We also find it necessary to better educate ourselves, educational and medical professionals, and the public about Down syndrome, and to constantly remind everyone of all the things our children can do!

If you are a new parent of a child with Down syndrome, new to the West Michigan area or new to DSAWM, please contact us at info@dsawm.org

Head Start of Muskegon/Oceana

Head Start is a federally-funded child development/preschool program serving low-income children and families. Nearly one million American children are currently enrolled in Head Start programs. The MAISD partners with area school districts to serve 991 children throughout Muskegon and Oceana counties. The program's main goal is to provide a high-quality, comprehensive preschool program and thus help prepare our community's children for success in school and in life. Research shows that learning and development during the years from birth to age five is critical to a child's future success.

Children qualify for Head Start in a number of ways:

- A child must be age three or four as of December 1st of the school year.
- Family income
- Family receives certain types of public support for the child (such as TANF payments, child care subsidy, SSI payments for the child, etc.)
- Foster child
- Child qualifies under the federal definition of homeless
- Up to ten percent of enrolled children may be "over income"

Rather than trying to figure out by yourself whether your child qualifies, it is best to speak with a Head Start staff member. The rules can be confusing, and if your child does not qualify for Head Start, staff may be able to refer you to other preschool programs. Please call the MAISD at 231-767-8300 for more information about Head Start.

More than ten percent of all children attending Head Start have special needs. Head Start staff works closely with local special education departments to ensure proper placement and services for any child with an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Based on research and decades of experiences, Head Start activities focus on eight domains: Language Development, Literacy, Mathematics, Science, Creative Arts, Social & Emotional Development, and Physical Health & Development. All Head Start classrooms use Creative Curriculum for Preschool, a scientifically-based curriculum, along with an internet-based child assessment system to measure progress and make program improvements. In addition to focusing efforts on these domains, the Head Start program dedicates significant efforts on involving parents in activities including multiple home visits and parent-teacher conferences. Nutrition, mental health, health care and dental visits are also part of the program.

Early Head Start

Early Head Start (EHS) is a federally funded community-based program for low-income families with infants and toddlers and pregnant women. The mission is simple:

- to promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women,
- to enhance the development of very young children, and
- to promote healthy family functioning.

EHS is built on the following principles for serving children and families: High Quality & Comprehensive Services, Prevention and Promotion, Positive and Continuous Relationships with Children and Families, Parent Involvement, Inclusion of all Children, Cultural Sensitivity, Flexibility and Responsiveness, Transitions into Head Start or other pre-k programs, and Collaboration with Community Partners.

Pregnant women and children (birth to three years of age) qualify for Early Head Start in a number of ways:

- Family income
- A child aged infancy through two and one-half years old
- Pregnancy
- Family receives certain types of public support for the child (such as TANF payments, child care subsidy, SSI payments for the child, etc.)
- Foster child
- Child qualifies under the federal definition of homeless

Rather than trying to figure out by yourself whether your child qualifies, it is best to speak with an Early Head Start staff member. Please call 231-767-7288 for assistance.

More than ten percent of all children attending Early Head Start have special needs. Head Start staff works closely with Early On and local special education departments to ensure proper placement and services for any child with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP).

Early Head Start families either receive home-based services or children are cared for in one of two child care center classrooms. For the sixty families participating in the home-based program, a weekly, one and one-half hour visit is made to the home by an Early Head Start Family Services Worker. For the sixteen children receiving child care in one of two Early Head Start centers (eight children per classroom), child care is available Monday – Friday for up to ten hours per day depending on family needs.

Early On

The first few years of a child's life are very important. Babies and Toddlers grow and learn at different rates. If you have questions about how your child is developing, or if you think that your child might need extra help, call **Early On at 231-767-7260**. **Early On** is a statewide early intervention system that provides a range of services to assist infants and toddlers from birth to 36 months who have developmental delays or established conditions that may lead to delays. The developmental needs of infants and toddlers are addressed through the collaborating efforts of several support systems in the community.

[Home](#) > [Contact O&P](#) > [Muskegon](#)

Muskegon Orthotics & Prosthetics Contact Information

Our Muskegon office is located next to a Hope Network office

Muskegon Orthotics & Prosthetics Location

1078 East Sternberg Road
Muskegon, MI 49444 | [Map](#)

Located in the Points Mall, just west of Hwy 31.

Hours and Appointment Info

8 am - 4:30 pm, Monday - Friday

Please call ahead to make an appointment.



Orthotics and Prosthetics Locations

- [Grand Rapids](#)
- [Big Rapids](#)
- [Hastings](#)
- [Holland](#)
- [Rehab Tech Center](#)
- [Mobile Seating Services](#)

Contact Muskegon Orthotics & Prosthetics

Hours: 8 am - 4:30 pm, Monday - Friday

Email: OandP@MaryFreeBed.com

Phone: 231.798.0047

An important aspect of education planning for infants through young adults (birth to age 26) with special needs is communication. Your ability as a parent, educator or service provider to communicate effectively when creating and implementing an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individualized Education Program (IEP) can affect the quality of a young person's development and education.

Mediation & Restorative Services at the Brian Mattson Center for Restorative Justice through the Michigan Special Education Mediation Program, provides services for building constructive relationships.

Facilitation can help the parties develop the best plan for the circumstances. A neutral facilitator helps participants with communication so the participants can focus on resolving the planning or resolution session issues.

Mediation aids the parties in resolving disputes that may arise from IFSP or IEP implementation. Mediation is voluntary and confidential. The neutral mediator fosters cooperative discussion. The parties alone make the final decisions. If they can not reach a decision, the parties can move on to the hearing or complaint process.

Training - Learning collaborative communication and dispute resolution techniques can make parents, educators and service providers more effective in planning and decision making. Workshops can be adapted to the particular needs of parent, educator provider or other group.

Mediation, Facilitation and Training services are provided at no cost in early intervention and special education through a federally funded project of the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services.

When you request facilitation or mediation, a trained staff person will collect information about who needs to be at the table, the basic issues in dispute and whether a hearing has been scheduled or a complaint filed. The staff person will explain the options for selecting a mediator or furnish the roster of mediators if requested. The staff person will also explain what to expect in mediation, inform you about the role of attorneys and advocates in the process and make the arrangements for the mediation sessions.

For more information contact:

Mediation & Restorative Services
At the Brian Mattson Center for Restorative Justice
27 E. Clay Ave Muskegon, MI 49442
231. 727.6001 ex 102 fax 231.727.6011
www.mediatewestmichigan.com



Michigan Department of Community Health
Children's Special Health Care Services
Guidance Manual for Local Health Departments



SECTION 1: CSHCS MISSION STATEMENT

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Program Mission

CSHCS strives to enable individuals with special health care needs to have improved health outcomes and an enhanced quality of life through the appropriate use of the CSHCS system of care.

Our goals are to:

- Assist individuals with special health care needs in accessing the broadest possible range of appropriate medical care, health education, and supports.
- Assure delivery of these services and supports in an accessible, family-centered, culturally competent, community-based, and coordinated manner.
- Promote and incorporate parent/professional collaboration in all aspects of the program.
- Remove barriers that prevent individuals with special health care needs from achieving these goals



We See the **Individual** in Everyone

MOKA is a change agent for hundreds of individuals with all types of disabilities throughout West Michigan. We've created opportunities for independence and acceptance for individuals and families since 1978. Individuals live successfully at home, transition to community living situations, and develop employment skills for jobs with local employers. Based on your eligibility and authorization from Medicaid or your insurance plan you may be eligible for our services detailed below.

Community Living Supports



When we work with an individual, we help them develop or maintain a meaningful life. Whether living in a specialized, licensed adult foster care home or living in their own home or apartment, individuals who partner with MOKA build lives based on healthy relationships, enduring friendships, and increasing competence. **Hours: Services delivered as specified in each individual's person centered plan.**

**For information, contact Judy Geyer, Regional Manager
(231) 830-9339 ext. 620 or email jgeyer@moka.org**

Skill Building

Provides knowledge, training, and exposure to new opportunities and skill development for individuals with a goal of employment. Daily activities support increased independence, community inclusion, and productivity. Individuals in the program receive assistance in community based settings with skill acquisition, skill retention, and socialization. This includes the development of sites and curriculum based on the needs identified in their individual person centered plan and through our assessment process. They focus on attendance, task completion, problem solving, safety, and improving their attention span while working towards their goal of employment. Transportation is included to and from a participant's home in the morning and at the end of the day. **Hours: Services offered Monday – Friday with the choice of selecting which day(s) work best for the individual.**



**For information, contact Sarah Aitken, Skill Building Program Manager
(231) 830-9339 ext. 647 or email saitken@moka.org**

Social Coaching



Program designed for young adults aged 16-25 is being offered with the goal of improving the social skills of individuals with Asperger's Syndrome or Autism. The ultimate goal of the program is to enhance each individual's educational and/or career potential with emphasis on conversation skills, general social skills, self-advocacy, stress management, organization, problem solving, personal safety, time management, independence and interdependence. **Hours: Services offered in weekly sessions varying from 12-15 weeks with weeknight, daytime, and Saturday morning options available.**

**For information, contact Stacy Burns, Project Coordinator
(231) 830-9339 ext. 619 or email sburns@moka.org**



**Muskegon Area
Intermediate School District**
630 Harvey Street
Muskegon, Michigan 49442-4278
Phone 231-777-2637 Fax 231.773.1028
www.muskegonisd.org

**Muskegon Area Intermediate School District
Assistive Technology Services**

We provide support for students with a variety of disabilities enrolled in Muskegon County Schools. Within this role, we partner with school staff and parents to maximize student participation in their education. We evaluate individual needs based on educational placement in the areas of:

- Communication
- Reading
- Math
- Writing
- Computer Access

As needed, services may extend into the home and include family participation in the prescribed intervention.

We provide consultative services and training to local school district staff to enhance educational practices.

For more information contact the Assistive Technology Team, at 231-767-7246.



Muskegon Area
Intermediate School District
630 Harvey Street
Muskegon, Michigan 49442-4278
Phone 231-777-2637 Fax 231.773.1028
www.muskegonisd.org

Autism Services

At Muskegon Intermediate School District the Autism Spectrum Disorder Consultants work in cooperation with local school districts in Muskegon County to provide consultation on best practice services and programming for students with ASD. Services are provided for student's ages 0-26 in a variety of settings. Evaluations for educational identification of ASD are provided through the local district Special Education director.

What is Autism?

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that usually manifests by the age of three. It is a spectrum disorder, meaning that the symptoms and characteristics of autistic behavior can appear in a very wide variety of forms, from mild to severe. It affects an individual's understanding of what is seen, heard and sensed. It results in problems with verbal and non-verbal communication skills, reasoning and learning skills, social interactions and abnormal responses to sensations.

What is Aspergers?

Aspergers is a neurobiological disorder, which falls at the 'high end' of the autistic spectrum. Individuals with Aspergers have difficulty in social skills, have difficulties with transitions or changes and prefer sameness. They may be preoccupied with a particular subject of interest. They have great difficulty reading non-verbal cues (body language) and determining proper body space. They have difficulty with sensory (sounds, tastes, smells, lights, touch). A person with Aspergers perceives the world very differently because of their high degree of functionality. Those with Aspergers are often viewed as eccentric or odd. While language development appears normal, individuals with Aspergers often have deficits in pragmatics (social languages) and comprehension skills. They can be extremely literal and have difficulty using language in a social context. IQ is generally at grade level or above.



TRANSITION SERVICES FOR HIGH SCHOOL AGED STUDENTS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Transition process helps students age 15 and older with IEPs plan for a successful transition from school to adulthood. Transition planning is the process of preparing a student to live as independently as possible, access continuing education or training, be employed, and participate in the community. *EARLY, THOUGHTFUL, AND THOROUGH* planning among the student, family, teachers, and agencies enables students to be equipped to meet the challenges of adulthood.

Transition has three major components:

- Coach every student along with his or her family to think about goals for life after high school and develop strategies to reach those goals.
- Design the high school experience to ensure that the student gains the skills and competencies needed to achieve his or her desired post-school goals.
- Identify and link the student and their families to any needed post-school services, supports or programs before the student exits the school system.

THE LAW: *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) 2004*
In federal Law, the term “transition services” is defined as a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that is designed to be within a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate the child’s movement from school to post school employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation.

Transition Services are based on the individual students needs; taking into account their strengths, preferences, and interests.

Transition Services also include instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and when appropriate, the acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocation evaluation.

Each student, beginning no later than the first IEP to be in effect when the child is 16 years old, and updated annually thereafter will have appropriate, measurable postsecondary goals based upon age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and where appropriate, independent living skills.



Special Services

Special Services is an important part of the broad range of services offered at Muskegon Community College. Our goal is to provide effective services, materials, and resources which enable students who are members of Special Populations to be successful.

JANICE W. ALEXANDER, LPC
Coordinator/Counselor
Room 101A, (231) 777-0309
E-mail: Janice.Alexander@muskegoncc.edu

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

- Individual with a disability;
- Individuals from economically disadvantaged families, including foster children;
- Nontraditional training and employment participants;
- Single parents, including single pregnant women;
- Displaced homemakers;
- Individuals with other barriers to educational achievement, including individuals with limited English proficiency.

SUPPORT SERVICES

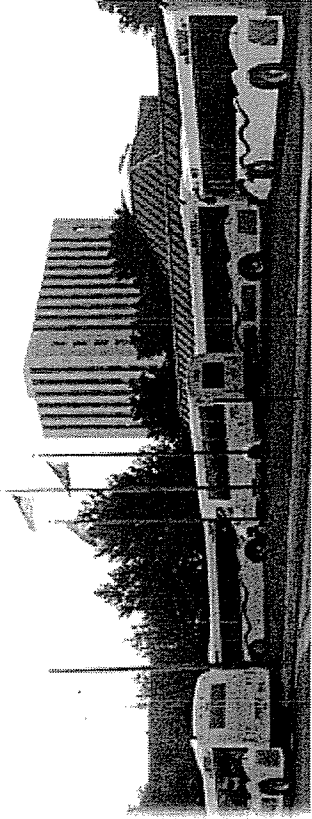
- Personal counseling
- Academic advising
- Assistance with testing
- Classroom accommodations
- Sign language interpreters
- Attendance costs
- Peer tutorial and/or Professional Instructional assistance
- Note taker services when needed
- Readers
- Writers
- Assistance with accessing books on tape
- Liaison services with community agencies, including Michigan Rehabilitation Services
- Other specialized support services as deemed necessary following an assessment of the student's special needs
- Some of the tools available include Kurzweil Reader, an institutional membership for Recording for the Blind and Dyslexia, TDD telephone, ZoomText software, Jaws, Dragon, Naturally Speaking, and Scan and Read software

For more information regarding services, or to schedule an appointment, call 231.777.0404 or 777.0309. VOICE: 231.777.0410 TDD

MATS

Muskegon Area Transit System

Muskegon Area Transit System



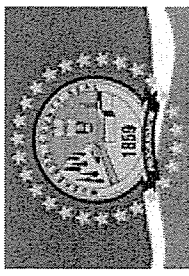
Muskegon Area Transit System > GoBus
GO BUS

- MATS Home Page
- Routes
- Nite Routes
- Days of Operation
- How to Catch the Bus
- Courtesy Rules
- Fares
- GoBus
- Trolley
- Map/Directions
- Contact Us
- Advertising



The GoBus: 231 724-6420

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An Official Muskegon
 County Website

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

What is the GoBus?

The Muskegon Area Transit System GoBus is a shared-ride public transportation, pre-scheduled, curb-to-curb service for the elderly, or persons with a disability.

Who can ride GoBus?

Persons over age 60, persons with disabilities, their personal care attendants, companions, and service animals.

Where does GoBus go?

GoBus travels all of Muskegon County

When is GoBus available?

Monday-Friday 7am-10:40pm

Saturday 9:30am – 5:30pm

How do I access GoBus?

Reservations may be made up to 14 days in advance by calling the MATS office at 231-724-6420.

Riding the GoBus

How To Schedule

Reservations may be made up to 14 days in advance or on a next day or same day basis, as space permits. For best results, call in advance. When scheduling, please have the pick up and drop off address available. Call takers cannot book trips without a street address.

15-Minute Window

GoBus operates on a 0-15 minute window of operation. This means if your scheduled appointment time is 2:00pm, the GoBus will arrive "on time" between 2:00pm and 2:15pm. This allows the GoBus to better serve more customers. Keep in mind the GoBus can only wait 5 minutes.

Boarding the Bus

All MATS buses have wheel chair lifts. Drivers will help customers on and off the bus as needed. Drivers are unable to walk away from the bus or push customers to and from the bus.

Parcels and Packages

Drivers must adhere to a schedule and customers are allowed to bring only what they can independently carry onboard in one load. Customers will not be allowed to get on and off the vehicle loading packages. Customers may consider purchasing a small shopping cart, one that can be safely secured and would not roll while in the vehicle.

Changing a Trip Already Scheduled

Passengers needing to change the time or destination of a trip previously scheduled should notify the MATS office as soon as possible. Schedulers do the best they can to accommodate the change, however, it is not always possible.

Cancel Policy

Please call the MATS office as soon as possible to cancel a reservation. This allows other customers to use the service.

Muskegon Waves Sports Team for athletes with physical disabilities

The Michigan Victory Games is a sporting competition for athletes with various abilities throughout the state! Muskegon Waves is one of several teams throughout the state of Michigan that will compete at the Victory Games at MSU in the spring. Many different events are available to participate. Athletes with Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Multiple Sclerosis, Traumatic Brain Injury, Stroke and various other physical disabilities qualify to compete. Athletes may be ages 7 through adult.

Contact Katie Ellis for More Information
231-414-4767 or Kellis@muskegonisd.org



Visit www.michiganvictorygames.com for more information.



**Does your child want the opportunity to make new friends?
Are you looking for a support system with other families who are facing your same issues?
Does your child want to participate in community activities with their peers?
Does your child want to be on the playing field and not on the sidelines?**

**JOIN
NO MORE SIDELINES
AND
LET THE FUN BEGIN!**



**IT'S MY TURN
TO PLAY!**

OUR MISSION

No More Sidelines is committed to its mission of helping children and young adults with special needs to become accepted members of our community and to reach beyond the limits set by society. We provide them with the opportunity to participate in sports and community events with their typically developing peers year-round that nurture friendships.

OUR GOAL

We strive to level the playing field in the lives of children and young adults with special needs. It is our responsibility to encourage them to reach above the limits set by society. By integrating our entire community, we experience each other, learning how we are much more alike than different. We all deserve the right to feel loved and accepted.

OUR PROMISE

We promise to create environments where children with special needs feel safe, accepted and happy. We also hope to foster relationships for parents and siblings, providing a place to network and socialize, thus fulfilling another important need for these families. We educate and expose children and parents who do not face the challenges of these types of special needs to become friends and team-mates, enriching the lives of all who participate. We are all in this together.

For more information contact (231) 724-7142 or visit our website www.nomoresidelines.org



ABOUT US

PROGRAMS



TRANSPORTATION



HOUSING



FOOD SERVICES



CUSTODIAL



TRAINING



INDEPENDENT LIVING



RECREATION



CAREERS

Our History

Pioneer Resources began as an unincorporated association of parents and educators in the late 1940's, operating as Pioneer School and providing special education and therapy. In 1955 the agency became a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation called Western Michigan Center for Handicapped Children, Inc. As special education and mental health services grew and expanded in the public sector, the organization evolved into Pioneer Resources, Inc.

Today the agency offers a diverse array of individualized supports for persons with disabilities as well as contractual services for governmental units and schools that serve children and adults with disabilities.

Pioneer Resources provides:

- [housing](#)
- [transportation services](#)
- [food service / catering / coastline deli](#)
- [custodial services](#)
- [supported employment and vocational instruction](#)
- [supports for independent living](#)
- [recreation in Western Michigan](#)

Support Our Mission

Your contributions to Pioneer Resources are tax deductible and will help support independence, choice, and dignity for persons with disabilities. Consider making Pioneer Resources a part of your estate planning. Contact us for more information concerning how you can help.

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Overview:

We will have a staff available to answer any questions w/ brochures and other handouts of our programs that we provide.

The programs that will be available for discussion are: Day Camp that is held at Pioneer Trails in 3, three week sessions in the summer for ages 5-26 attending school, PLUS (People Learning Useful Skills) a skill building program for people not attending school, The Leisure and Recreation Club (LARC) for adults 18+, Camp Horizon for Transition Students ages 16-26 receiving special education services. Community Living Supports (CLS), and Food Service and Training.

All of the above mentioned will be set up at the booth and we will have a staff available to answer questions.

Thank You!