

# PIKE COUNTY PATHFINDER



May 2023

## CLS CELEBRATES BIRTHDAYS

PCADD's Community Living Skills (CLS) program has started having monthly birthdays celebrations for both persons served and staff. If there's one thing CLS participants like to do, it's have a good time, and if there is cake involved, then it's even better! Both persons served and staff alike are big fans of the monthly birthday celebrations.



*Above: CLS participants with February birthdays are recognized. L-R: Brent, Amanda, DeWitt*

## LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The Statewide Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Missouri (SOMO), founded by the Missouri Police Chiefs Association (MPCA) 37 years ago, will begin on May 22 and will continue through Friday, June 2.

One of the routes includes Bowling Green, sponsored by the Northeast Missouri Correctional Center and local law enforcement. The event will get underway May 25<sup>th</sup>



Above: The 2021 NECC Torch Run draws a big crowd at the Pike County Courthouse

## RESOURCE OF THE QUARTER: WONDERLAND CAMP

Established in 1972, Wonderland Camp has been a vacation destination for many individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities over the years, and the popularity of the program seems to grow each year.



Above: Cody from Bowling Green enjoys Wonderland Camp

Founded by Charles J. Miller and located on property near Eldon MO owned by he and his brother-in-law Harry Brown, the program served 173 individuals in its first year; today, the program serves over 1,000 individuals each summer. Wonderland Camp was initially sponsored by the Missouri State Division of Mental Health, United Cerebral Palsy of Missouri, the Woodhaven Learning Center, and Missouri Jaycee.

A limited number of financial scholarships are available locally through Champ Clark Service Coordination (CCSC) for individuals who have a financial hardship; contact CCSC at 324-6226.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### NECC SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RUN

May 25<sup>th</sup> 9am Pike County Courthouse, Bowling Green MO

#### WONDERLAND CAMP SUMMER CAMP

Weekly sessions start May 21 and go through August 4 Rocky Mount MO

#### PCADD CES SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

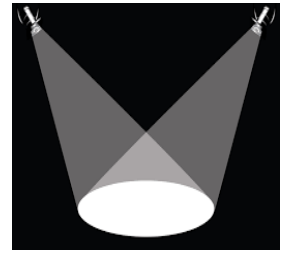
Starts June 5

**PIKE COUNTY FAIR** July 25-29 Pike County Fairgrounds, Bowling Green MO

Call PCADD at 573-324-5493 for more information on these events.

## SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS: DEVON JOHNSON

Devon Johnson is a man with many talents. He's in great shape, spending much of his time walking and lifting weights at the Twin Pike YMCA in Louisiana MO. He volunteers both in the community and at PCADD. Devon adds that "I'm a very good bowler; I bowled a 197 once!" Devon is also talented with certain video games, such as Need for Speed. According to Devon, "one of my special talents is making people laugh"... staff in all departments of PCADD can back up that statement! If that weren't enough, Devon also mentions that he is pretty talented at making animal noises, and gave a few hilarious examples during our interview.



Devon likes spending time with his family, including his mom and dad, brother and sister, nieces and nephews, and Harley and Coco, the family pets. Devon is a big fan of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, especially Leonardo; this also helps explain Devon's love of pizza. Devon attends the Refuge Church in Bowling Green MO, and likes spending his free time shopping, dining out, and going to resale shops.

Maybe at the top of all of Devon's many talents, though, is his supreme dedication to his work at Pike County Connections (PCC), delivering papers for the People's Tribune. Devon was recently recognized for his 10 years of service with PCC. Speaking of the event, Devon says that "It was awesome. I've never done anything like that in my whole life." Devon has worked at PCC since 2013; previously, he also worked at Super 8 as well as the Community Loving Hospice program. In addition to delivering newspapers, Devon also cleans agency vehicles for PCADD.

Devon Johnson... a man of many talents!



Above: Devon J. receives his 10-year anniversary recognition with Pike Co. Connections