



Thrive Upstate volunteers delivering recipes and food to a Head Start School



MISSION

To provide all people with disabilities and special needs with meaningful services, opportunities, and support so they may thrive in work, life, and play. Together we are redefining ability.

What is Community Integration?

Since our last newsletter, several people have asked what is meant by “community integration.” At Thrive Upstate, community integration means that the individuals we serve are present in the community and have opportunities to experience the world in the same way people without disabilities do. We live in a county with so much to offer! From visiting our beautiful parks, to attending community events, volunteering through outreach programs like Meals on Wheels, learning about gems as shown below, and by visiting businesses in our growing employment hub to explore job opportunities, we learn about ourselves and others. These life experiences help us discover our interests and abilities, and help us make informed choices and decisions.

Community integration is the opposite of being segregated in special programs doing activities or contract work chosen by paid staff and only with others who have disabilities. Our commitment to providing community integrated services requires that we ask individuals how they prefer to spend their time, offer and honor choices to the best of our ability, and do all we can to accommodate participation in preferred work and activities.

Thrive Upstate is fully committed to providing services in this way.



GEM MINING AT GREENVILLE GEM MINE

THANK YOU for your feedback and to those who said “yes” to participating in forthcoming Discussion Group meetings related to community integration. We will be reaching out to you shortly with some dates and times for our first meeting.

JOIN US! There’s still time to sign up to participate in a Discussion Group meeting. Simply send an email to Dee DiCarlo, Employment Development Manager: Doreen.dicarlo@thriveupstate.org and tell her that you want to be on our mailing list to receive notices.



*Together, we are
redefining ability!*

THE ACCESS GRANT



We are very excited to announce that on July 1, 2019, Thrive Upstate entered into a partnership with ABLE SC and the Charles Lea Center to participate in the ACCESS Grant, a three year grant to introduce Customized Employment to individuals with disabilities in South Carolina.

Customized Employment is a method of *intensive* job coaching for individuals who want to work, but whose disabilities make finding a job in the community difficult for them. Customized Employment focuses on the individual's specific or unique skills and abilities, and requires the employment specialist to negotiate with an employer to create a job built around the job candidate's strengths. The desired outcome is for the individual to experience success on the job, work alongside people with or without disabilities, and feel a sense of self-worth and inclusion. This is also an example of Community Integration.

This grant is funded by the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council.

The HASCI Acting on Impulse Drama Team collaborated with Warehouse Theatre to present *Cosmic Crusaders: Capes and Capabilities* on August 5th. The actors worked with Teaching Artists Amanda Sox and Thomas Azar to create superhero characters and explore their inner superhero traits. The superheroes band together, overcome fear, and find their motivation—and save Planet Earth! This original production was the sixth annual performance of the drama team. Each year the actors have grown in confidence and have improved their communication and acting skills. HASCI and the Acting on Impulse Drama Team thank everyone who attended the show!

