

# SUMMER EMPLOYMENT TRANSITIONS



**Community Living Sarnia-Lambton**

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# What is Summer Employment Transitions?

- Eligibility:
  - Secondary & College Students aged 16 -29
  - Identify with a disability, In school & returning
- 8 week paid (min. wage or more) summer job
- 4 hours- 25 hours/ week
- Supported by a job coach, as needed
- Types of employment consist of retail, restaurant, administrative, grounds work, janitorial and other

# Purpose of the Project

- Realized there was a need for the program
- Gain transferrable skills and work experience
- Build students confidence and self-esteem
- Increase employability upon graduation
- Work together with the schools to get students ready for work after graduation

# How does it work?

- Student Job Coaches
- Students with a disability
- Local employers
- Training-coaches
- Job development
- Employment Preparation in Class-students
- Parents Night



# Success of the Program

- Running for 28 summers
- 347 students since 2012
- 123 job coaches since 2012
- Over 60 employers each summer
- Multiple jobs per employer
- Robert E. Dale - Gabe
  - Broken Elevator
  - Blueprints



# Where are they now?

# People	Employed	Job Searching	ill	Post-Secondary Ed	Moved	Volunteer/Com Inv.	Left Prog./don't wish to work
85	47	5	6	15	2	10	9

- One point in time 'snap-shot' (2011)
- Past 5 years – data specific to persons with an intellectual disability
- Sum of rows do not total 85 as 5 people in school & working, 4 people in CI/Volunteer while also job searching
- Almost 80% are working, attending post-secondary ed, or volunteering; Majority are working, in college, or both
  - In Canada only 26.1% of working age people with an intellectual disability are employed, almost 40% have never worked (Achieving social & economic inclusion, June 2011, CACL)
- \*Note:
- All 'Volunteering' takes place in traditional volunteer jobs
- All jobs min wage or better

# Success Story

- Tiffany Cater
- SET Toys R Us
- SET Grounds keeping
- Lambton College- Early Childhood Education Program
- SET while in College
- jobStart
- Full Time job in a day care



# The Impact- Why summer employment?

- Student
  - Gain skills, experience
  - Self-esteem
  - Make \$\$\$
- Job Coaches
  - Return to community and become employers
- Family
  - Introduction to services a lot earlier
  - Early intervention- easier to get a job

**“The number one indicator of successful labour market attachment for people with a disability, upon graduation from school, was having a paid job while in school”**

Study: Improving Post High School Outcomes for  
Transition-Age Students with a Disability:  
An Evidence Review, 2013



# What's Next?

- Toolkits
- Continue to grow
- 14 agencies in Ontario adopting model
- Interest from the United States
  - Walgreens

For more information:

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