

# SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM (SWEPP) 2024

CHERIE STOLZE

ASSISTANT COORDINATOR, SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

JEFF STRASBURG

DIRECTOR, MERS GOODWILL CAREER CENTER



MERS Missouri  
Goodwill Industries

1

## WHAT WE'LL COVER:

- Summer Work Experience
- Summer 2024 Outcomes
- 2024 Success Story
- Job Offers



2

## SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM (SWEPP)



- This was the 27<sup>th</sup> year of PLB funding the SWEPP program!
- Several thousand St. Louis County youth with disabilities have gained work readiness skills to move into competitive employment

3

## SUMMER WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM (SWEPP)

- 8-week pre-employment program – “a meaningful work experience”
- Transition-age individuals (ages 16-20)
- Close collaboration with Special School District
- Often participant's first work experience



4

## SWEP 2024 OUTCOMES

- 215 applicants with 176 eligible
- No wait list this year!
- 150 participants began the program; 132 completed (88%)
- Six agencies provided direct support to participants:
  - Center for Specialized Services (now RISE)
  - Easterseals Midwest
  - MERS Goodwill (lead agency)
  - Paraquad
  - St. Louis ARC
  - UCP Heartland

5

## SWEP 2024 OUTCOMES

- Participants worked at one of 45 employment sites in the community
- 20 hours/week on average June 3-July 26 earning \$12.30/hour
- “Soft” outcomes such as self-advocacy, time management, workplace etiquette, and communication.



6

## THIS YEAR'S SUCCESS STORY

---



7

## JAYDEN S

---

- 2<sup>nd</sup> year participating in SWEP
- Trained this summer at Brentwood Goodwill retail store
- Summer highlight reporting:
  - “Works well with others”
  - “Always cheerful”
  - “Truly a team worker”
  - “Outstanding worker!”
  - “All I can say is WOW!”



8

## JOB OFFERS!

---

- 7 participants received offers from their SWEPP site employer
- 5 accepted



9

THANK YOU TO THE  
BOARD!  
QUESTIONS?

---

10