Senator and State Rep Roll Up their Sleeves for Take Your Legislator to Work Campaign

Michael was shadowed during his shift at Old Navy by Senator Patrick Colebeck and State Representative Kristy Pagan. From wiping the countertops to sweeping the floors, Michael demonstrated each task with precision and showed both Colebeck and Pagan what a little elbow grease can do. "It's important to show how people with disabilities can be an essential part of our workforce," said Representative Pagan. "I don't mind rolling up my sleeves for a cause I support." Michael has autism, but his two years at Old Navy have shown that having a disability does not stand in the way of being an exceptional worker.

ADA/Olmstead Decision

This year marks the 17th anniversary of the Olmstead Supreme Court decision which was based on the Americans with Disabilities Act. Prior to 1999, two women from Georgia, Lois Curtis and Elaine Wilson found themselves in and out of hospitals due to their mental illnesses and lack of proper help at home. Even though they were cleared by a doctor to live in an assisted community, the state of Georgia waited years to give this issue proper attention. An attorney who represented Lois and Elaine filed a lawsuit which made it to the Supreme Court in 1999. The Court sided with the women and found that under the ADA, the state could not discriminate against a person based on their disability. They found it illegal for the state of Georgia to deprive them of proper services and demanded they receive the treatment they needed and deserved.

New Website To Serve As ABLE Account Clearhouse

The site from the ABLE National Resource Center is designed to be a one-stop shop for families as well as financial professionals and program administrators, organizers say, with information about laws, regulations and product offerings in each state. Under the Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABLE, Act, individuals with disabilities can save up to $100,000 in special accounts without losing Social Security and other government benefits. Funds in the accounts – at any level- also will not affect eligibility for Medicaid. Federal passage of the Able Act in 2014 cleared the way for the accounts, but each state had to approve its own legislation and regulations in order to make the new offering available.

CLS is a private, non-profit organization that provides supports and services to over 4,000 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties. CLS also provides services to seniors and those with chronic illness. CLS is funded by the Detroit-Wayne Mental Health Authority, the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority and Macomb County Community Mental Health, United Way and the City of Allen Park. The CLS Annual Report can be found on the website (www.comlivserv.com), click "Financials" on the "About" tab.

Evening with Friends Recap

Friends of CLS annual fundraiser, Evening with Friends, took place on Thursday, September 15th at Laurel Manor in Livonia. The night was filled with food, fun and friendship. This annual event highlights the accomplishments of people receiving services from CLS and its outstanding community partners with a spectacular dinner, entertainment, business expo and video awards presentation. Nine people that exemplify the mission and vision of CLS were selected by a Volunteer Board from a pool of 30 candidates were honored during the award ceremony. These individuals included Yash Mittal, Cole Gluklick, Austin Bazan, Therese Wallace, Shawn Neal, Mariam Khan, and Lawrence Dawson each bring unique and promising qualities to the community, along with a message of perseverance. Nominees were formally recognized with an award video for their accomplishments during "Evening With Friends". We would like to thank everyone who helped make   Evening with Friends 2016 a success!