

ReadyForLife

(A program of SOAR!)

3250 28th street SE

Suite 102

Grand Rapids, MI 49512



Ready for Life Skill Building

JOB SKILL PROGRAM

For people with special needs above age 26

Location: 3250 28th street Suite 102, Grand Rapids, MI 49423

Funding Partners: Community mental health Skill Building hours or private pay/day

Hours: 9:00am-3:00pm, Monday-Friday

Staff to Client Ratio: 5:1

Transportation provided by client

PROGRAM FEATURES

- Work and life skills training developed through volunteerism, community integration and interactive lessons.
- Caring staff who provide services to assist individuals in their transition toward independence and meaningful work and/or independent volunteer roles in the community.
- Lifelong learning model based on students individual goals
- Relationships that are mutual and valued.
- Participation in a range of cultural and social outing at Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, John Ball Park Zoo, the YMCA and county fairs.
- Individual choice each day as to where the client would like to go and what work they would like to perform that day.

Program Values

- Individual worth and value
- Lifelong learning model dedicated to:
 - Fostering interdependent community
 - Encouraging strong work skills
 - Cultivating gift-based character
- Inclusion – working alongside others without special needs
- Service learning – giving back to the community
- Building purposeful relationships
- Promoting healthy lifestyle habits
- Advancing individual responsibility and citizenship

Community Partners

- Ronald McDonald House and Family Promise — bake cookies and brownies for their residents and make Thank You cards for their donors.

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- Mel Trotter Ministries Community Pantry, Kids Food Basket, Feeding America of W. Michigan, and Senior Meals — Sort and package food items, label food products and assist with packaging groceries for clients.
- Mel Trotter Daycare Center — Clean children's toys and toy room and socialize with the children.
- Humane Society of W. Michigan and Petco — Clean and fold towels, clean visitors rooms and socialize with cats and clean their cages.
- Comprenew — Disassemble electronic parts and sort for recycling.
- Our Daily Bread Ministries, Family Futures and Crossroads Bible Church — Assist with mailings.
- Sunshine Community Church — Clean sanctuary and children's toys.
- Brookside Christian Reform Church — Prepare and freeze meals for families.
- John Ball Park Zoo and Equest Center — Clean grooming and petting zoo stalls.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

- Diagnosed special need
- Completion of high school with certificate of completion
- Desire to learn work skills
- Ability to work as a team player
- Minimal behavioral needs
- Signed client guideline and policy handbook
- Parent/Guardian/Caregiver requirements
 - Willing to allow the RFL client the dignity of risk to make individual decisions
 - Open communication with Ready for Life staff

OUTCOMES OF READY FOR LIFE SKILL BUILDING

- Improved self-confidence, independence, communication skills and community awareness for Ready for Life clients
- Skill learning and skills development for Ready for Life clients
- Increase in maturity level for Ready for Life clients
- Community commitment to inclusivity

STAFF

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