

Volunteering Works: Adults with Disabilities Give Back

Every week more than 100 individuals set off from Via across the Lehigh Valley to volunteer their time and give back to their community through Via's *Community Connections* service.

They head off to organizations like Luther Crest Retirement Community, the Crayola Factory, and the Salvation Army to help make their community a better place.

"Adults want to be valuable, active, and productive members of their community," said Lisa Musselman, Via *Community Connections* director. "They volunteer because they enjoy work-

ing with other people and developing new relationships. It's ... what keeps them connected to the communities where they live."

Via's *Community Connections* program helps people with disabilities connect and live in their communities through volunteer and recreational activities. These experiences help people develop interpersonal relationships and explore vocational options.

In addition to life skills, Via coaches people individually or in small groups on communication skills, socialization, vocational skills, public transportation, volunteerism, and recreation.



Taren Czyrski volunteers every week at the Crayola Factory.

In the last year, Via volunteers logged more than 3,100 volunteer hours at 26 organizations across the Lehigh Valley.

For more information about Via of the Lehigh Valley, visit www.vianet.org. ■

Assistive Technology

What's New in AT?

What is it?

Contemporary Living

What does it do?

This is a personal skills and independent living skills tutorial program designed for individuals with cognitive or learning disabilities or low vision.

How does it work?

This series of CD-ROMs, companion books, and online lessons, which can be used independently or in groups, was designed to promote the reading comprehension and critical thinking skills necessary for students to transition from school to the workplace and community living.

Who makes it?

The manufacturer is unknown.

What is it?

Handling Your Money

What does it do?

This is a money management system designed for individuals with cognitive, learning, or vision disabilities.

How does it work?

This series of 14 duplicatable books is written at a third- to sixth-grade reading level and can be used independently or in groups. The books cover basic information to make students intelligent personal money managers.

Who makes it?

Phillip Roy, Inc., P.O. Box 130, Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785, (800) 255-9085, www.philliproyc.com.

What is it?

Portable Laptop Desk

What does it do?

This is a notebook/laptop computer support designed for individuals with mobility disabilities.

How does it work?

This lap desk has a sturdy surface designed to keep a laptop computer stable, and the padded, angled design keeps the user's lap cool.

Who makes it?

Brookstone, Inc., One Innovation Way, Merrimack, NH 03054, (866) 846-3000, www.brookstone.com.

Source: ABLEDATA (www.abledata.com), which adds over 1,000 assistive technology products to its database each year. ABLEDATA records are provided for informational purposes only. Products contained in ABLEDATA have not been examined, reviewed, or tested.