



## Via of the Lehigh Valley

## Creating Success Every Day

Via of the Lehigh Valley is a non-profit agency that provides services for children and adults with a wide range of disabilities like autism, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, mental health and intellectual disabilities. Via's mission is to provide leadership, support, opportunities and resources for people with disabilities so they may be independent, productive and enjoy full lives within the community.

Via envisions a time when all people will have equal access to appropriate developmental and educational services, friends who care and relationships that are rich and meaningful, a rewarding career of their choice, and a satisfying retirement. Everyone deserves the chance to succeed and, through the support of our community, Via is able to provide support for the people we serve.

### Children's Services

Children deserve a bright and healthy start in life. Recognizing developmental delays and treating them early is vital in the growth of children. Via's Children's Services can make all the difference in a family's life.

#### Early Intervention Program



Via's Early Intervention program is staffed by highly qualified and experienced professionals from a variety of disciplines.

Via's speech therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists and special instructors work with children in their natural environments (homes, daycares, etc.) to meet individual needs of children and their families.

Children are assessed by their therapist to determine their strengths. A plan is developed that helps each child learn and grow according to their needs and abilities.

#### Sibshops



Sibshops are lively celebrations of the many contributions made by brothers and sisters of kids with special needs. This series is for children

who want to celebrate the many contributions they make to their brothers and sisters with special needs and find support among peers experiencing the same types of things.

Sibshops intersperses information and discussion activities with games designed to be unique, off-beat, and appealing to a wide ability range.

### Employment Services

Via's Community Employment services are based on the belief that Everybody Works™ and no one should be excluded. Work is a typical part of adult life and everyone should have the opportunity to benefit from being a part of the employed community. Every day, Via staff work on innovative ways to help people find and maintain employment in the community.

#### Community Employment



Via works to provide the best employment option for individuals and excels at creating innovative employment solutions that match business' needs. Via

enables adults with disabilities to work in integrated settings in the community and provides ongoing support so people can perform their job well. Via works one-on-one with adults and employers to make effective job matches, and provides onsite job coaching and support to assist individuals in getting, learning and keeping a job.

#### Business Services & ViaWorks



Via's Business Services & ViaWorks are avenues provided to help adults with disabilities develop skills and gain valuable work experience so

they are prepared to ultimately move to a job in the community. Via's Business Services subcontract to complete assembly and packaging for businesses. ViaWorks provides job training and work in community settings in positions including clerical, food service, housekeeping, janitorial, light manufacturing and production.

### Community Connections

Via's Community Connections facilitates relationships between individuals and their communities through volunteer, recreational, social and educational activities.

#### Community Mentoring & Retirement Services



People want to be valuable, active and productive members of their community. Via helps individuals discover preferences and choose

recreational and volunteer activities to participate in as independently as possible. Via also helps people, age 55 and over, transition to retirement to maintain skills, participate in leisure and volunteer activities, stay active, and connect with activities in community settings.

#### Autism Services



Via's Autism Services provide adults with an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis with educational, vocational and recreational activities in the community.

#### Teen Summer Experience



Via works with teens to develop educational, recreational and vocational goals centered on developing life skills.

This service includes job shadowing, career counseling, volunteering, and recreational and team-building activities that help prepare young adults to become successful members of the community upon graduation.

#### Supported Living



Via's Supported Living helps people live independently in their own apartment or home. Individuals explore where they want to live and if they want to live with a friend or on their own.

of the Lehigh Valley



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## Gracie – Early Intervention



Two-year old Gracie and her older brother's arguing seemed to be just a part of family life. However, Gracie had extreme difficulties communicating and was frustrated in her interactions with those who love her most. After evaluation by the Via's Early Intervention program, it was discovered that Gracie's speech development was slower than that of most children her age. This discovery helped the family understand that Gracie's temper tantrums and arguments with her brother were a result of her frustration of not being able to communicate her feelings using speech.

Via began working with Gracie and her family on a weekly basis. The change has been dramatic since Via started working with her. Gracie's speech has improved and she has learned how to tell her family what she needs and wants without frustration.

## Travis – Community Employment



Travis, a student at Bangor High School, wanted to be sure he was prepared for adult life after school. His school brought Via in and began working with him through a process called discovery, providing him opportunities to volunteer and job shadow in the community.

Through this process, Travis narrowed down his interests and likes to continuous interaction with people and organization. Through job shadowing, he learned organization and communication skills. In addition, Travis' hard work and dedication earned him a part-time job at CVS. Travis stays busy outside of work and school, volunteering at a local rehab center, assisting at his church and volunteering at his school. Travis' opportunities for success continue to grow with his dedication to volunteering and love for his job.

## Taren – Community Connections



As a volunteer at the Crayola Factory in Easton, Taren works with hundreds of children every day. Taren's shy and quiet demeanor disappears once she puts on her volunteer smock and starts handing out craft projects to the children. When Taren started volunteering, she was shy and rarely talked to anyone other than her Via Community Coach. But over the past two years, Taren's sense of independence has grown and so has her confidence.

Now she readily initiates conversations with other volunteers and interacts with staff, her volunteer director and the children and families at the Crayola Factory. Taren was recently recognized with The Crayola Factory Spirit of Volunteerism Award. She is a valuable member of her team, giving of her time to support the community and working with hundreds of children every day.

## Alan – Community Connections



Alan was focused on his routine and didn't want to do anything to alter his daily activities. Fast forward to today and you can catch Alan at any number of community sites volunteering with his friends. Alan requests certain sites that involve activities he enjoys most like clerical work and any site that involves working around other people.

Alan's sense of humor has flourished and he's always ready to joke around with his friends and other volunteers with one of his one-liners. Alan continues to develop communication and other life skills needed for independent living and through Community Connections has developed bonds and relationships within his community.

## Jacob – Early Intervention



Dear Ms. Kathy,  
We greatly appreciate all you have done in your work with Jacob. It is obvious that his improvements are because of your hard work with him. We believe Jacob would not be as advanced in his developmental milestones if not for your patience, kindness and love for your work and the children you serve.

You have gone beyond the expectations that are required of you and Jacob has made such excellent progress in not only the occupational therapy area but also social expression, development of individual interests, personality development, and expression of wants, needs and feelings.

Thank you for all of your efforts and know that you have brought joy to our family every week.

Our deepest thanks, Jacob's family

## Bruce – Community Employment



After doing production work as part of a school program, Bruce wanted to pursue the same type of job after graduation. Cigars International gave Bruce the opportunity to participate in a work assessment and after two days, offered him a part-time job on the packaging line.

Bruce's coworkers have been very supportive and were quick to recognize his talents and capabilities. His manager went out of his way to provide opportunities for Bruce to learn more responsibilities.

After five months on the job, Bruce was offered a full-time position. Bruce has found Cigars International to be a great place to work and his coworkers have made him a part of the team.

The official registration and financial information of Via of the Lehigh Valley, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



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