

The SPARC Handprint

Newsletter for
St. Paul's Ability Resource Center

Celebrating 11 Years of Developing Independence, Skills, and Fun!

Volume 9 Issue 4 Fall 2017



Embracing and supporting individuals with developmental disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders, cognitive impairments, and Down syndrome, in all aspects of living to enhance their quality of life, develop their God-given talents and gifts, and realize their full, individual potential.

HOPE Garden

Our garden provided a summer of opportunities for charting the growth of giant sunflowers and beans, harvesting cucumbers for over two months, eating peas and beans off the vines, sharing our harvests with others, turning the produce into snacks and meals, and creating a collage of garden art. The artists responsible for turning a morning harvest into a bouquet (seen below) are pictured on the newsletter cover. .



Gardening 101

Throughout the summer our gardeners weeded, planted successive crops, watered, and strapped tomato vines to cages. We also took home a great harvest that lasted well into October.



Pickles

What did we do with so many cucumbers? We turned them into pickles of course! Many participants had a chance to make pickles and take them home. We discovered everyone had own opinion of what pickle is the best, so we made both dill and bread and butter pickles!



Garden Stats

Giant #1 sunflower head: 17 inches diameter

Giant #2 sunflower height: 11 feet

Giant #2 sunflower blooms: 57

Longest purple bean: 9 inches



Fresh Eating

The favorite garden activity was eating beans, peas, broccoli, and tomatoes fresh off the vines. The vegetables certainly passed the taste and crunch. We can now say our vegetables not only taste great, but they are awarding entries at the county fair.

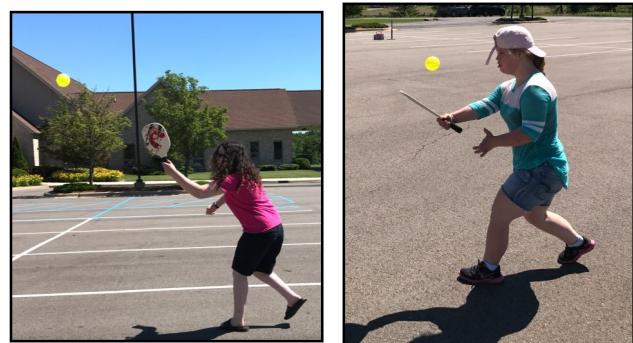


Summer Game



Hangtime

Summer activities included pickle ball, softball, and bike riding. Everyone advanced their pickle ball skills and we were able to engage in longer volleys back and forth over the net.



BIBLE STUDY



There are two opportunities for SPARC Bible Study. The Thursday Bible Study meets at St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 4:00 right before Hangtime. The second opportunity is the Sunday morning Bible study at 9:30 am. We act out Bible stories, have great discussions, and sing great songs with drums and guitar.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Wednesday October 18, 2017

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

SPARC

68 Waldron St., Hillsdale, MI

517-797-1227



Homemade tomato sauce
Fabulous salad
Homemade bread
Homemade cookies
Lemonade and Iced Tea



SPARC Annual
Christmas Party
Sunday
December 3, 2017
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Make gifts for your friends and family
Decorate Christmas cookies
Pizza and Beverage provided

SPARC Weekly Programs October 1 - December 31, 2017

Art at SPARC Tuesdays

4:00 pm - 5:15 pm
All ages

Projects adapted for ability levels:
Painting, water color, paper maché,
drawing, crafts, and other exploration.

Hangtime Bible Study

Thursdays
4:00 pm - 5:15 pm

Program located at:
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
2551 W. Bacon Rd., Hillsdale

Fall SPARC Game Nights Fridays

October 20
November 17
December 3 (Sunday Party)

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
SPARC, 68 Waldron St.
Board Games, card games, and
other games
Pizza and Beverage Provided

Looking Ahead to SPARC Winter 2018

Christmas Break December 20, 2017 - January 8, 2018
Winter SPARC Schedule Begins Tuesday, January 9, 2018
SPARC Game Night, Friday, January 19, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

HOPE/SPARC programs are not "drop-off" programs unless prior contact has been made with Tammy Ryan, Director.

For more information, please call the SPARC office 517-797-1227

or send email to sparchillsdale@gmail.com. Programs are located at two locations:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 2551 W. Bacon Rd., Hillsdale, MI 49242

SPARC (St. Paul's Ability and Resource Center), 68 Waldron St., Hillsdale, MI 49242