

# UNITY

## MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

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Website: **\*\*CHECKOUT THE NEW REVAMPED WEBSITE AT: [miarkay.org](http://miarkay.org)**

Don't forget to like us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/miarkay.org](https://www.facebook.com/miarkay.org)

Executive Director: Kevin McGuckin

Case manager/Program Director in training: R.E.L. Neal

Case Managers: Amanda Witchelhouse and Jared Hamilton

### The Staff That Proudly Serves Our Individuals:

Angelo Bivings, Brenda Capps, Femi Dada, Dollie Germer,  
Lisa Green, Lee Green, James Kendrick, Dea Laitis,  
Geri Loree, James Medaris, and Marcelline Williams



## Mission Statement

**“Our Mission is to assist the Developmentally Disabled and the Elderly Disabled to achieve community inclusion that enhances personal potential, employment opportunities and/or volunteerism”**

**\*If you would like a digital/emailed copy, please let REL, Amanda or Jared know.**

**Business Developers' Corner:**

We are happy to report that two of our Individuals are now back to work at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, supporting the Culinary Arts classes.

We have two important webinars coming up that are employment related. On March 5, 2021 the webinar is about Work place accommodations. On March 11, 2021 the webinar is regarding paid employment and SSI benefits. The information for these webinars will be on Arkay's website and Arkay's Facebook page. If you have any questions regarding these webinars, please call Arkay Business Development Department at 734-258-8966, we will be happy to help you.

Your Arkay Business Development team:  
Kyra, Kim, Mark, Megan, Tammy & Ken

**Psssssst its someone's  
Birthday! Please wish:**

**Chiquita G.**

**John J.**

**Frankie M.**

**Robin M.**

**Michael O'D.**

**Susanne S.**

**Michelle W.**

**R.E.L. N.**

**A Happy Birthday!**

We are coming to the month of March & hopefully Spring is around the corner. Some of us are probably glad to see February gone with the cold & snow. March is the month when spring officially begins and Daylight Savings takes root typically the second Sunday in the month. It can be a dramatic month with sometimes wild and shifting weather as Mother Nature tries to shed her winter coat. But as the seasons change from winter to spring, it's the perfect time to review & reflect on how the Pandemic has brought many challenges to Arkay.

As we continue through the pandemic, the future is looking brighter for all of us due to the vaccine. At this point in time, Arkay has had approximately 40% of our staff receiving the 2<sup>nd</sup> COVID vaccine. This tells us that someday in the future we will get back to normal. Currently, Arkay is at 25% of our former consumer capacity & we hope to grow our consumer base further in a safe & healthy environment. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the state of Michigan have established a prioritized list of who will get the vaccine and in what order. The priority groups may be revised by the state of Michigan. Wayne County will follow MDHHS guidance on this distribution strategy and priority group classification.

The Michigan Disability Rights Coalition signed on to a Jan. 14 letter written by Self Advocates of Michigan, a group that advocates for the rights of people with disabilities, pushing state officials to move people with disabilities higher on the priority list and ensure they can get to vaccine sites safely. In Detroit, residents with documented intellectual or developmental disabilities were eligible for vaccines on Feb. 11. It is expanding COVID vaccine eligibility to residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Mayor said residents 18+ with disabilities can call to schedule an appointment at the TCF center for next week. Wayne County Public Health is presently vaccinating individuals in Phase 1A and select subgroups of Phase 1B of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan. Wayne County seniors are also eligible to receive the vaccine. Seniors should coordinate with their hospital group or Meijer to schedule a vaccine appointment. Supplies are still limited to all providers so please be patient.

#### **Virtual Skill Building & Supported Employment**


Again, if you have a loved one who can't attend in person, Arkay has **virtual skill building (VSB)** which can assist your loved one. I want to emphasize VSB because it would be so good for your loved one to interact & learn with others during this time period. We have a great team who has put together a great curriculum for the people we serve. I really think you would enjoy being part of this program. These sessions have been very welcomed by our participants. Our team is very dedicated to helping our consumers to connect with others using technology. Please make note: Arkay has received funding to work on a new curriculum for our consumers.

Lastly, consider setting aside part of your budget to support the work of Arkay with a tax-deductible charitable donation. We've simplified the donation procedure, allowing supporters to donate online or by mail. Visit [www.miarkay.org](http://www.miarkay.org) to make a gift using a credit card or send a check to Arkay. Every gift matters. We thank you in advance for responding to this need.

Very Sincerely,

Kevin McGuckin  
Arkay CEO

# UNITY MARCH 2021 ACTIVITY CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT.
<b>1 Exercise Class</b> (increasing stamina for the workplace, improving health and strength) <b>Free</b>	<b>2 Make your own ice cream</b> (kitchen safety) <b>\$2</b>	<b>3 Trivia Day</b> (teamwork, following direction) <b>Free</b>	<b>4 Dental Hygiene</b> (hygiene and proper ) <b>Free</b>	<b>5 Bingo</b> (number and letter recognition, math skills) <b>\$1 *snack included*</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>8 Fire Side Reading</b> (confidence, reading skills) <b>\$3</b> <b>*donuts and coco included*</b>	<b>9 Exercise Class</b> (increasing stamina for the workplace, improving health and strength) <b>Free</b>	<b>10 Show &amp; Tell</b> (communication skills) <b>Free</b>	<b>11 Health Talk</b> (communication, proper eating habits) <b>Free</b>	<b>12 Safety Class</b> (safety skills) <b>Free</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>15 Irish American History</b> (history of the Irish) <b>Free</b>	<b>16 Tea Tuesday</b> (proper communication, interaction ) <b>\$1 *tea and cookies included*</b>	<b>17 St. Patrick's Day Party</b> (socialization skills, active listening) <b>\$5 *Lunch will be Provided*</b>	<b>18 Budgeting Class</b> (math skills, numbers) <b>Free</b>	<b>19 Bingo</b> (number and letter recognition, math skills) <b>\$1 *snack included*</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>22 Math Monday</b> (number skills, counting,) <b>Free</b>	<b>23 Exercise Class</b> (increasing stamina for the workplace, improving health and strength) <b>Free</b>	<b>24 Make Someone Smile Day!</b> (team building, confidence building) <b>Free</b>	<b>25 Book Swap</b> (reading, sharing) <b>Free</b>	<b>26 PJ &amp; Movie Day</b> (decision making skills, teamwork, appropriate clothing for the workplace) <b>\$2</b> <b>*Snack will be Provided*</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>29 Waffle Day</b> (communication, building relationships) <b>Free</b>	<b>30 Healthy Recipes</b> (learn healthy eating habits) <b>Free</b>	<b>31 Birthday Celebration!!</b> (socialization skills, following instructions) <b>\$7</b> <b>*Lunch provided*</b>			

**\*Items listed on the calendar do not include regular daily activities. \*The activities may change without notice.**

## UNITY MARCH 2021 ACTIVITY CHECKLIST

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Activity:	Price:	What activities would you like to participate in?
03/1: St. Patrick's craft	\$4.00	
03/2: Make ice cream	\$2.00	
03/5 or 03/19: Bingo	\$1.00	
03/8: Fire side reading	\$3.00	
03/16: Tea Tuesday	\$1.00	
03/17: St. Patrick's party	\$5.00	
03/26: PJ game day	\$2.00	
03/29: Waffle day	Free	
03/31: Birthday celebration	\$7.00	

Amount enclosed:

Take from account:

