

Relationships and Community Connections

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I'm Cathy Grow. I'm the Transition Coordinator from the Warrior Run School District.

And I'm Brian Habermehl, a self advocate for the Arc of Susquehanna Valley.

You're about to watch a short informational video that focuses on relationships and community connections. So Brian, could you share with us how you have gotten so connected in your community and what being connected has done in your life?

Being connected's been very important to me. You know, you're reaching for your goals, you never know when you're going to make an important relationship. For me it was in daycare. I met the daycare administrator and then when I got done with college all those years later, she was the only one that had voluntary applications and called me back and gave me the job. So those relationships you have are gold, and you need to keep those connections going and keep them fresh.

What advice can you give students and their parents to ensure they are getting connected in their neighborhoods and communities?

Get to know the people you need to know in your community, the people that are connected with the areas of interest that you have, and allow them to know that you're skilled and that you're interested. And the more you work together with the people out there, the more they feel comfortable with you and the more you're connected.

How can students and their families connect typical family routines such as shopping, going to the bank, mechanic, hairdresser, doctor's office and more to employment?

Well, if you're interested in any of those routine things, say if you're person is interested in an auto mechanic, and you ask the auto mechanic, how is that done? And you show that you're interested and you say, hey, I'm going to votech for auto mechanic. And eventually he's like, wow, you got the skills, I need to hire you. So you connected with

someone and later they can get you a job, and it's really that simple. You only need one.

Right. How can students and their families use their own friends and family network to explore work opportunities?

Well, the friends and family know your character and personality and skills the best. And they're going to be the greatest salesmen of you. And you're going to let them give your information and your business school and all those things to people you know so that they can connect you to them and they can get you that opportunity you want. And friends and family are very valuable and how people get opportunities.

How can joining groups and clubs create opportunities for employment exploration?

Me myself, I'm an Eagle Scout. So what that means is you do a lot of community service and you have a lot of people that you know. And that allows you to get connections. So maybe you're interested in a school play or the ROTC or something. You can use that experience vocationally. And they can help you get jobs and information, so they're just another connection for you, and all connections are gold. And we keep every connection we gain fresh, because we never know which one is that magic one that's going to get us where we need to go.

What can The Ark offer students in high school and as they graduate?

Well, we have a STEP program, which is our Student Transition Education Program, that meets on Mondays. We have our Bridge program, which is all about connections and community. I have always viewed myself as a bridge to the other people, and we connected through employment opportunities and people. And I want to be a bridge for you, so please contact me. If I can help you in any way, I will.

And how can you be reached if a student or parent has questions?

They always can be reached at their phone number, which is 570-286-1008. Or I can be reached personally at my email, which is bhab123@ptd.net and thearcsusqehanna.org

OK, thank you very much.

Thank you.

Yep.

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