



Inclusion | Empowerment | Relationships | Employment

COBI Human Services 2021 Final Report

Thanks to the financial support from this grant, we were able to impact human services on Bainbridge Island in positive ways for an especially marginalized population, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). This COBI Human Services grant funded \$10,000 of the \$17,939.40 in Vitalize Kitsap's (formerly Island Time Activities) payroll tax expense.

Throughout the pandemic year, we provided respite, social, life and job skills, recreation, fitness, specialized habilitation, and community engagement programming for adults and teens. This programming impacted between 92 and 116 individuals with I/DD and their families and caregivers during each quarter of 2021. As public health advice shifted, we were able to move to a hybrid format that combined Zoom classes with safely-distanced in-person clubs. A major highlight of the year for our members was their annual Halloween party, during which they introduced the public to their upcoming musical that combines the Little Mermaid and the Wizard of Oz.

We hope you enjoy some photos from our Oz Under the Sea extravaganza:



Below is a success story quote in the form of feedback we received in 2021 from a Vitalize Kitsap community member who has served our wider community as a special education professional:

"I am very glad you are working with M. I have worked with him since he was in about 4th grade. Often, he would interact with the group, but often he wanted to do his own thing, related to what we were doing, but in his own way. All of his teachers interpreted this as pure defiance.... By 12th grade, somebody should have thought, maybe M has trouble following directions. He clearly has visual deficits, and most research points to people with Downs Syndrome as needing to rely heavily on visual information. Seeing something and translating that visual information in a way they can interpret and work with the information seems to work well for many individuals with Downs. This means, with poor vision, M is often unable to rely on the kind of cognitive supports that would likely help him most. So far, you have been the best professionals in the field I have observed in cognitively supporting people with Downs."