



# Callaway Connections

**FOSTERING COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS TO LAST A LIFETIME**

A publication of Callaway County Special Services

## Remade for a Purpose – Innovation in Employment!

CCSS proudly supports Remade for a Purpose in Fulton. Their mission “is to employ adults with disabilities in purposeful endeavors utilizing their gifts through a two-fold business: an upscale resale boutique and upcycled creations”. They are in Fulton’s Brick District and the shop itself is very warm and welcoming. Remade for a Purpose strives to utilize each individual’s unique gifts through purposeful, respectful, and gainful employment. The atmosphere for employees is innovative, safe, and respectful. All employees earn a fair wage, making minimum wage or better.



*Photo contributed by Remade for a Purpose*

Job duties are varied and give opportunities for employees to shine, learn, and grow in their work. Duties on the resale side include sorting donations to determine the appropriate price, pricing items, displaying merchandise. Other duties include creating gift items or household décor such as signs and wreaths.

In October they will celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Barbara Reid, from Remade states, they are “beyond grateful for all God has done to create and sustain Re-Made, as well as the community who has supported them”. Ways you can support this amazing, innovative business are through donations of goods, stopping by to shop, and spreading the word. You will not be sorry to visit this fun shop at 17 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Fulton – and you will leave with a smile on your face. They love receiving donations of vintage glassware, holiday decorations, quality women’s clothing and accessories. Since they are a nonprofit organization, monetary donations are also helpful and very appreciated.

## Meet Our New Administrative Assistant



The next time you come to our Administrative Office there will be a new, smiling face to greet you! Please join us in welcoming Heather Thewlis to our Team! She is a graduate of Tarrant County College in Texas with an associate’s degree in office administration. She previously worked at Beltone Hearing in Mexico. Prior to that she had the pleasure of being a stay-at-home mom with her children.

She has 2 children, daughter Elizabeth, age 19, and son Nicholas, age 15. She is married to husband Michael, and they have 2 dogs, Grace and Gizmo. She has a sister, 2 brothers, and 15 nieces and nephews. Her son is currently working on accomplishing his Eagle in Boy Scouts!

Heather enjoys spending time with family and friends. She enjoys reading and is part of a book club. Her family enjoys the side-by-side world. In addition to all of this, she volunteers at the VFW in Mexico on Thursday nights for BINGO.

## A Note from Our Executive Director

### Empowering People. Enriching Lives. A Season of Growth and Gratitude

As the leaves turn and fall settles in across Callaway County, we're reminded of the importance of community, belonging, and the strength we find when we come together. At Callaway County Special Services (CCSS), this season offers an opportunity to reflect on the progress we've made and the bright future we are building alongside our partners, families, and neighbors.

This year, we've taken bold steps forward through our Vision 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, which charts a clear path for growth, innovation, and collaboration. Guided by this plan, CCSS will be expanding services to better meet the diverse needs of individuals and families while strengthening operations to ensure lasting impact.

Central to this vision are the partnerships that make progress possible. We are grateful for the collaboration of Center for Human Services, Remade for a Purpose, SERVE, Inc., Callaway County Extended Employment, local school districts, and local municipalities. By working side-by-side, we are creating opportunities that enrich lives today and build the foundation for an even more inclusive and supportive tomorrow.

Our Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) also continue to shine as the heart of our mission. They embody compassion and advocacy every day, serving as ambassadors not only for CCSS, but for the individuals and families they support. Their dedication ensures that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are not just included but celebrated as essential members of our community.

On behalf of the CCSS Board of Directors and staff, thank you for being part of this journey. Your partnership and support make all the difference as we work to empower people and enrich lives in every season.

Warm regards,

*Mike Lederle*

Executive Director



## CCSS Achieves Maximum 3-Year Accreditation

Callaway County Special Services (CCSS) is proud to announce that we have been awarded a Three-Year Accreditation from CARF International for our Community Integration programs. This marks the ninth consecutive Three-Year Accreditation for CCSS since our first full accreditation in 1998. This is the highest level of accreditation that can be given and shows substantial conformance to CARF standards.

“This accreditation affirms the outstanding dedication of our staff, who bring compassion and professionalism to their work every single day,” said Kimberly Lorentz, Board Chair of CCSS. “It also reflects our Board’s commitment to ensuring that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Callaway County have access to the highest quality supports and services.”

## DSP Recognition Week 2025

*“To our incredible DSPs, you are fantabulously-indispensable! Thank you for bringing your passion, creativity, and care to everything you do.” - Mike, Executive Director*

*“Our DSPs are the heart of our team, creating a caring, joyful, and engaging environment while making a lasting difference in every life they touch.”  
- Emery, Director of Day Services*

*“I want to recognize and thank our Direct Support Professionals for the incredible work they do each day. Their dedication, patience, and compassion make a profound difference in the lives of the individuals we support.*

*Because of their commitment, the individuals we serve are able to live with greater independence, dignity, and joy. They provide not just care, but also encouragement, advocacy, and friendship, helping people achieve their goals and build meaningful lives in their communities.*

*Their work is the heart of our mission, and we are deeply grateful for the kindness, skill, and respect they bring to every interaction. Thank you for all that you do. You truly change lives.”*

- Janelle, Associate Director

*“The backbone. The bomb.com! ...who make everything possible.”*

- Lisa, Assistant Director of Day Serves

*“DSPs, You are the heart of our agency. I deeply admire and respect you for the way you care for those we serve.”*

- Bobbi, Quality Assurance Director

*“Your hard work and dedication are inspiring! Thank you for going above and beyond! It takes a lot to sparkle like a DSP and you do it everyday!”*

- Heather, Administrative Assistant

*“Our DSPs prove every day that super heroes don’t always wear capes. We are grateful for all that you do to make CCSS extraordinary!” - Michala, Executive Assistant*



## National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The theme for this year's National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) is "Celebrating Value and Talent". This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NDEAM, which is celebrated in October. NDEAM honors contributions of America's workers with disabilities. This year's festivities will highlight the achievements of Americans with disabilities, both past and present, and showcases supportive, inclusive policies and practices that benefit both employees and employers. This year also marks the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), landmark legislation resulting in greater inclusivity in our communities and workplaces.



"Celebrating America means celebrating the value and talent that all Americans – including people with disabilities – add to our nation's workplaces and communities," said Secretary of Labor Lori Chavez-DeRemer.

There will be a celebration Friday, October 10, from 11:00 a.m. – noon at the Harry S Truman Building (301 W High St., Room 490/492 in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Auditorium).

Information taken from <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20250626> and <https://disability.mo.gov/NDEAM.htm>

## Accessible Voting



The Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council (MODDC) at <https://moddcouncil.org/voting/> has quick overview videos of how to use the accessible voting equipment by county. Eligible voters can register to vote at <https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/register>. If you have any questions about voting, you can contact the Callaway County Clerk at 573-642-0730.

Callaway County has several options for voters with disabilities:

- **Curbside Voting**- allows those with limited mobility to park, have your attendant go inside to make the request, and a poll worker bring the ballot out to you.
- **Personal Assistance** – If you need physical assistance, you can bring a person with you to assist you in voting or request a poll worker to assist you.
- **Accessible Voting System** – Each polling place is required to have an accessible voting system.
- **Accessible Polling Places** – If your polling place is not accessible, you may request a different polling place by calling the Clerk's office at 573-642-0730.
- **Permanent Absentee Voting** – If you have a permanent physical disability, you may request to be placed on a list, so the clerk's office automatically sends an absentee ballot application directly to you prior to each election.

Information taken from [www.callawaycountyclerk.com](http://www.callawaycountyclerk.com), <https://moddcouncil.org/voting/>, and [www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/register](https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/goVoteMissouri/register)

## Updated Pneumonia Vaccine Recommendations

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommend pneumococcal vaccinations for children younger than 5 years and adults 50 years or older. The previously recommended age for adults was 65 years or older. If you are an adult younger than 50, you may still be eligible for the vaccination if you have certain conditions that put you at risk. Please check with your doctor for more information.

### FALL SAFETY TIPS

- Leaves can be slippery – be careful!
- Make sure your heater is working
- Cold/Flu season is starting – wash your hands
- Check the batteries in your smoke detector, CO detector, & flashlights



## Transportation Resources



Transportation can be a challenge for those with IDD. Some barriers that are faced with transportation include lack of accessible transportation, lack of public transportation, lack of specialized transit, lack of training on how to access transportation, lack of training for general transportation providers to meet specialized needs, cost of private transportation, and complex schedules and requirements of transportation systems. These transportation challenges can prevent people with IDD from working, socializing, accessing medical care, and accessing other needs such as groceries.

Options for transportation Callaway County are:

- **MO Rides** at 844-836-7433 or <https://morides.org/> . They offer a free Medicaid brokerage service that helps you to find a provider that's right for you. 
- **MO's Best Shuttle & Taxi Service** at 573-416-3549. They are located in Fulton. Please call for scheduling and rates, both in Callaway and surrounding communities.
- **Oats Mid-Mo Region** at 573-449-3789 or <https://www.oatstransit.org/callaway> . They are available for transportation within the county or to Columbia or Jefferson City, with limited days. They offer door-to-door services for those approved through Medicaid. 
- **Serve, Inc. (MO Serve, Inc)** at 573-826-3939 or <https://www.moserve.org/transportation> . They are a door-to-door public transportation provider in Callaway County, pending driver availability. They can provide transportation to adjacent counties for medical appointments. All trips must be scheduled in advance. Funding sources are available for qualified passengers who receive Medicaid benefits, are over the age of 60, or have a developmental disability. Costs: In-town \$4 each way, in-county \$6 each way, adjacent counties \$12.50 each way. 
- **Services for Independent Living (SIL)** at 573-874-1646, extension 602 or <https://silcolumbia.org/transportation/> . They provide door-to-door services Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4:00 pm. To be eligible you must have a disability, be at least 55 years, or be a veteran. Rides first come, first served, so calling as soon as you know you need transportation. Rides are dependent upon available drivers. Each stop costs \$14, so roundtrip is \$28. 
- **Lyft** at <https://www.lyft.com/> requires the use of the Lyft app on a smartphone. There is a cost with this service. They also provide **Lyft Up** at <https://www.lyft.com/lyftup/programs> . Requires use of the Lyft app on a smartphone. If available, this service may provide some free Lyft car rides to/from job training programs, interviews, and the first 3 weeks of new employment. They offer discounted Lyft car rides to low-income families and seniors to/from grocery stores, farmers markets, food pantries and SNAP benefits appointments. As available, they will offer Ride to Vote on election days with discounts noted on their website. Dependent upon providers in our area. 

## AT&T Connected Learning

AT&T Connected Learning offers **free courses to help people gain skills and confidence with computer and mobile device technology**. Digital literacy is valuable in learning, finding employment, being socially connected, etc. They offer online basic classes to help users gain confidence. There are classes on technology basics, online safety, and digital citizenship. The classes include short videos, examples, and practice sessions. They include a text copy of the information from the course and a certificate of completion. You can view and take their free courses at <https://att.digitallearn.org/> .



Podcast Series:

Department of Mental Health's Children's Office  
Presents:

*Parent's Point of View (PPOV)  
Series Edition:  
Growing Healthy Communities*



Episode 7: Looking to the future, are there any challenges and or hurdles you foresee and what, if any, are your plans to help find a solution?



**Sky Zone** in Columbia offers **Sensory Hours** on **Thursdays 5-7 pm**. [www.skyzone.com/columbiamo/](http://www.skyzone.com/columbiamo/)

### 3 Ingredient Banana Peanut Butter Ice Cream

<https://www.cleaneatingwithkids.com/peanut-butter-banana-ice-cream/>



#### Ingredients

- 4 Ripe bananas frozen, peeled and cut into chunks
- 1 tbsp Peanut butter
- 1 tsp Vanilla paste

#### Instructions

1. Freeze banana chunks (about 3 hours in the freezer)
2. Blend frozen banana until smooth.
3. Add peanut butter and vanilla and give it a quick blend until combined.
4. Eat immediately or pop into the freezer and allow it to slightly thaw before eating.

To sign up for our digital newsletter, go to <https://callawaycountyspecialservices.org/> and enter your email at the bottom of the page.

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5, 5-9 pm **First Friday at The Woods** at William Woods monthly
- 11/30-12/25-**Festival of Lights**-Jeff City
- Tuesdays 6-9p **Hambo Latham** at **Callaway Senior Center**
- 9/27 10a-3p **Free Car Show** (1393 Hwy O, Fulton)
- 10/1 9:30a **Lap Quilts** at Presser Arts (Mexico)
- 10/2 Noon-2pm **Community Connections Lunch**-Fulton Library-free lunch & wellness resources in our community
- 10/4 **Walk to End Alzheimer's**- Columbia
- 10/7 4-5p Holts Summit Library-**Beginner Embroidery of Constellations**-must register
- 10/10 10-10:45a Columbia Library-**Stories & activities**- for Adults with IDD
- 10/11 **Cider & Sweaters**-Brick District
- 10/11 & 10/25 **Fulton Farmers Market**
- 10/14 2-4p Columbia Library-Make **Scrapbook Pumpkins** – must register (adults only)
- 10/15 7p **Harlem Wizards**-New Bloomfield High School-tickets needed
- 10/23 6-7:30p Columbia Library-**Journal Making**
- 10/24 5:30 **Halloween Dance** (see flyer below)
- 10/27 4-5p Columbia Library-**Sensory Friendly "Creepy Crafts"** – teens and adults-register
- 10/31- 4-5:30p **Trick or Treating**- Brick District
- 11/5 9:30a **Wreath Making**-Presser Arts
- 11/7- **Pumpkin Stomp Dance** (see flyer below)
- 11/7- **Holiday Open House**-Brick District
- 11/8 **Holiday Open House**-Brick District
- 11/8 10a-2p **Holiday Bazaar**-MO School for the Deaf-Harrison Gym (free entry)
- 12/3 9:30a **Make Ornaments**-Presser Arts
- 12/4 5:30p **Mayor's Xmas Tree, Living Windows**-Jeff City
- 12/6 **Fulton Christmas Parade**
- 12/13 **In the "Nick" of Time**-Brick District
- 12/16 **Game Night**-Presser Arts Center in Mexico

To submit an event email [info@callawaysb40.org](mailto:info@callawaysb40.org)

Please join us  
**October 24, 2025**

# **HALLOWEEN DANCE PARTY**

DJ Jay from Colossal Sounds will  
 be providing music and CCSS will  
 be serving pizza and refreshments

**From 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM**  
**At Legends Rec-Plex**  
 808 State Street  
 Fulton, MO 65251





# **PUMPKIN STOMP**

*dance*

**NOVEMBER 7**

Dress to Shine  
 4:00PM-5:30PM

Presser Arts Center  
 900 S Jefferson St, Mexico,  
 MO 65265



- ❖ What did the pumpkin say before Thanksgiving?
- ❖ What's a tree's favorite drink?
- ❖ What's worse than finding a worm in your apple?

*I guess it's time to say, good pie!*  
*Root Beer!*  
*Finding half a worm!*



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