Fall 2026

Callaway Connections

FOSTERING COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS TO LAST A LIFETIME

A publication of Callaway County Special Services

CCSS Hosts First Disability Resource Showcase

Navigating Possibilities means looking beyond limitations & discovering the strength, talent, & potential in every individual.

In September, CCSS proudly hosted its first disability resource fair, *Callaway Disability Resource Showcase: Navigating Possibilities*. With significant support from Center for Human Services (CHS), the event connected individuals and families with valuable community resources, including recreation, transportation, assistive technology, education, advocacy, financial and legal services, and more.

The event was a true community collaboration. A total of 39 exhibitors shared information and services with attendees, while students from St. Peters Catholic School volunteered to help with event setup.

About 150-175 attendees participated, including students, teachers, parents, caregivers, self-advocates, service professionals, and community members. Attendees also had the opportunity to win one of 21 gift baskets donated by exhibitors.

Beyond the numbers, the event's greatest success was the connections made. Participants reported discovering new services, learning about opportunities, and meeting providers they may not have otherwise encountered. Exhibitors also benefited from networking and building relationships with other organizations serving the disability community.



Thank you to all our exhibitors, volunteers, community partners, and attendees. Your support helped create a meaningful opportunity for connection, learning, and empowerment. We look forward to growing this event and continuing to support individuals with disabilities and their families for years to come.

Movie to Watch

Being Heumann, a film about disability rights pioneer **Judy Heumann**, will be in select theaters on **November 6, 2026**, and stream on **Apple TV beginning November 13, 2026**. Heumann helped lead the fight for enforcement of **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act**, advancing civil rights protections for people with disabilities.

A Note from Our Executive Director

Navigating Possibilities

In 1988, the citizens of Callaway County made a promise.

When voters approved a local tax levy to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, they committed local resources to creating support, opportunity, and belonging in our community.

Nearly 40 years later, Callaway County Special Services remains entrusted with carrying that promise forward.

Keeping a promise for nearly four decades does not mean doing the same things year after year. Needs change. Resources change. New opportunities emerge. Our responsibility is to respond while staying true to the commitment our community made.

For us, that means “Navigating Possibilities”.

Those words served as the theme for this year's Callaway Disability Resource Showcase on September 17. The event brought individuals, families, organizations, and resources together to create connections and explore opportunities throughout our community.

But navigating possibilities reaches beyond one event.

For one person, a possibility might mean employment. For another, transportation might lead to greater independence. A family might need help finding services, recreation, education, or individualized support. There is no single path because each person's goals and needs are different.

Our role is not to decide what someone's possibilities should be. Our role is to help make more of them possible.

We do that by listening, building partnerships, investing local dollars responsibly, addressing gaps, and preparing for changing needs. These responsibilities are central to how CCSS carries forward the commitment Callaway County made in 1988.

Navigating possibilities is part of keeping that promise.

The possibilities will continue to change. Our commitment to the people we have the privilege to serve will not.

Warm regards,

Mike Lederle

Executive Director

CCSS Celebrates Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)

"Every day, DSPs help turn possibilities into achievements, choices into opportunities, and support into success."
- Author Unknown

This September, CCSS is proud to celebrate Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Week and honor the dedicated team members who make a difference every day at our Life Enrichment Center (LEC). Observed nationally during the week following Labor Day, DSP Recognition Week highlights the invaluable contributions of the professionals who support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in living meaningful, self-directed lives.

At CCSS, we know that our DSPs are the heart of what we do. Their commitment, creativity, compassion, and teamwork help create an environment where the people we serve can learn, grow, and enjoy fulfilling experiences. Whether they are planning engaging activities, supporting community outings, teaching new skills, or celebrating personal achievements, our DSPs work tirelessly to ensure each person has opportunities to pursue their goals and make choices that reflect their own dreams and interests.

The role of a DSP requires a remarkable combination of skills. On any given day, they may teach cooking, personal grooming, household management, reading, writing, math, communication, self-advocacy, and technology skills. They support the use of adaptive equipment, promote community inclusion, assist with medication administration, and provide encouragement through both challenges and successes. Most importantly, they help build confidence and independence while fostering meaningful relationships and a sense of belonging.

What makes our DSPs truly exceptional is the care and respect they show to every individual they support. Their dedication to person-centered services ensures that each day at LEC is not only productive, but enjoyable, engaging, and filled with opportunities for growth.

During DSP Recognition Week, we invite everyone to join us in thanking these outstanding professionals for their hard work and unwavering commitment. We are grateful for all they do and proud to celebrate the positive impact they make in the lives of those we are honored to serve.

Thank you, DSPs, for the difference you make every day! Your compassion, creativity, and dedication help create opportunities, build independence, and enrich lives.



Voices from LEC…Our staff:

- Are good friends
- Are sweet and caring
- Give us lots of choices
- Help everybody
- Are good to us
- Always have a positive attitude
- Are awesome!

Thank you DSPs: Amanda, Brianna, Jessica, Coralyn, Maria, Bethany, Jazlynn, Patrice.

Apple Crisp with Cake Mix



Ingredients

- 5-7 large apples peeled, cored, and sliced
- ½ C butter, melted
- ½ C pecans or walnuts, chopped
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 2 Tbsp sugar
- 1 Tbsp plus 1 tsp cinnamon, divided

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350F.
2. Arrange apples in a 9x9 or similarly sized round baking dish. Sprinkle 1 tsp of cinnamon over apples and toss to coat.
3. In a medium bowl, combine butter, nuts, cake mix, sugar, and remaining cinnamon. Mix well, until crumbly. Sprinkle evenly over the apples.
4. Bake at 350F for 40 minutes or until crumb is golden brown.
5. Serve hot with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

This recipe works beautifully with any kind of fruit. Just fill your pan about ½ way with the uncooked fruit of your choice and top with the crisp topping. Cook until the topping is golden brown and starting to get crispy.

Mobile Phone Applications for Navigation and Accessibility

- **Wheelmap**: A crowd-sourced application (app) that rates the accessibility of public places (ramps, elevators, restrooms), helping users choose accessible locations.
- **AccessNow**: Lets users search and filter places worldwide based on specific accessibility needs.
- **Be My Eyes**: Connects individuals who are blind or visually impaired with sighted volunteers for real-time assistance (reading labels or navigating unfamiliar environments).
- **Seeing AI**: Uses artificial intelligence (AI) to describe the surroundings, including reading text and identifying objects.
- **Live Transcribe**: Converts speech to text in real time.

Help with Holiday Meals



Fulton Soup Kitchen 12-1p, 5-6p 573-826-7491

Serve, Inc.- provides food assistance to Callaway Residents (may know of holiday food baskets or meal programs) 573-642-6388

Holts Summit Soup Kitchen-free hot meals on Tuesdays & Thursdays. Also provide special Thanksgiving & Christmas community feasts. 573-301-8181

Salvation Army Jefferson City 573-635-1975

Call 2-1-1 for the most current holiday basket and free meal listings.



Community Events

October

-10/3 8am-3pm Annual Hatton Craft Day (Community Hall)
-10/3 4-8pm Car Show (Holts Summit Pizza Hut)
-10/3 8am-12pm Capital City Cars & Coffee (Jeff City)
-10/3 7am-4pm Auxvasse Garage Sales (City-wide)
-10/4 1-4pm PorchFest (Forest Hill Ave., Jeff City)
-10/10&11 9am-5pm Hartsburg Pumpkin Festival
-10/14 9am-12pm Callaway County Senior Expo (YMCA of Callaway County)
-10/19 10am-4pm Centralia Pumpkin Festival
-10/23 5:30-7:30pm Halloween Dance (see flyer)
-10/24 8am-12pm Capital City Cars & Coffee (Jeff City)

November

-11/6 4-8pm Holiday Open House (The Brick District)
-11/7 4-5:30pm Annual Pumpkin Stomp (Presser Arts)
-11/7 10am-2pm Holiday Open House (The Brick District)
-11/25-1/6 5-11pm The Magic Tree (Columbia)
-11/29 10am-5pm Fulton Christmas Market (Fulton Train Depot)
-Late Nov-Dec Capital City Festival of Lights (Binder Park-Jeff City)

Fall Family Fun!

1. **Lloyd's Family Farm (Ashland)**

Sept. 28 to Oct. 27; Sat & Sun 10 am-6 pm.
Corn palace, Slide, Farm animals

2. **Shryocks Callaway Farms (Columbia)**

Sept. 13 to Nov. 3; Fri-Sat 12-9 pm, Sun 12-6 pm. Corn maze, Jumping pillows, Three-story coaster

3. **Hickory Ridge Orchard (Mexico)**

Now through early Nov; Wed & Thu 12-6 pm, Fri & Sat 10 am-6 pm. Petting Zoo, Train rides, Farm-fresh goods

4. **Peach Tree Farm (Boonville)**

Oct. 1 to 31; Mon-Sat 10 am-dark, Sun 1 pm-dark. Pumpkin patch, Apple orchard, Hayrides

5. **Rhymers Ridge (Jefferson City)**

Sept. 27-Nov. 3; Friday 4-8 pm, Sat 11 am-7 pm, Sun 11 am-6 pm. Unicorn rides, Slides, Peacocks

6. **Boots Farms Pumpkins (Moberly)**

Opening Sept. 20; Fri 3-6:30 pm, Sat-Sun 10 am-5 pm. Pumpkin carving, Corn pit, Field trips

Arts for All Abilities at Presser Arts
Annual Pumpkin Stomp Dance 11/7/2026 4-5:30pm
Game Night 12/16/2026 4-5:30pm

December

-12/3 5:30pm Christmas Tree Lighting-Rotary Centennial Park (Jeff City)
12/3 5:30pm Festival of Lights (Fulton)
12/4 5:30-7:30pm Jingle & Mingle Holiday Fair (see flyer below)
-12/4 6-9pm Downtown Living Windows (Jeff City)
-12/4 6-8pm Living Windows Festival (Columbia)
-12/4 7pm Free-Hitt Street Harmony Concert (MU Whitmore Recital Hall)
-12/4 5-7:30pm Jingle & Mingle Holiday Fair (See Flyer below)
-12/4 5:30pm Mayor's Xmas Tree Lighting-Rotary Centennial Park (JC)
-12/4 6pm Fulton Lighted Christmas Parade
-12/5 1pm Annual Fulton Christmas Parade
-12/5 12-4pm Sneaky Snowman-The Brick District
-12/6 4pm New Bloomfield Parade & Tree Lighting
-12/12-12/13 Columbia Comic, Tow & Pokémon Show-Free at Columbia Mall
-12/12 10am-12pm Holidays Through Time (Free-Boone County History & Culture Center)
-12/12 2pm Holts Summit Christmas Parade
-12/12-12/24 nightly-Starstruck Christmas Drone Show (Over Special Olympics-MO in Jeff City)
-12/16 4-5:30pm Game Night-Arts for All Abilities (Presser Arts)
-12/19 7pm Centralia Lighted Tractor Parade

Events to Watch For

- Magic Tree Lighting Festival (Columbia)
- Columbia Christmas Parade-last 2 blocks sensory-friendly. Concert & pics with Santa after parade
- Shelter Insurance Winter Wonderland-live performances first night, open nightly through Dec (Columbia)
- Jaycees Christmas Parade (Jeff City)
- Auxvasse Annual Christmas Parade
- Santa & Mrs. Claus at the Gingerbread Maus House (Carnahan Memorial Garden, JC)
- MO Governor's Mansion Candlelight Tours (JC)
- Capitol Caroling (JC) Missouri State Capitol Rotunda-high school bands & choirs perform free
- Sounds of the Season-Columbia Community Band-free holiday concert
- Christmas Handbell Concert (Columbia)-free
- MO Governor's Mansion Candlelight Tours (JC-free)


HALLOWEEN
DANCE
PARTY
5:30-7:30 PM
OCTOBER 23, 2026
LEGENDS REC PLEX
808 STATE STREET
FULTON, MO 65251
DJ JAY
— FROM —
COLOSSAL SOUNDS
PIZZA
REFRESHMENTS
COSTUMES
ENCOURAGED
FREE EVENT
FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH IDD
AND THEIR FAMILIES, FRIENDS & CAREGIVERS
HOSTED BY:
CCSS
Callaway County Special Services
Empowering People. Enriching Lives.
CENTER FOR
HUMAN SERVICES
Life Beyond Limitations

Jingle & Mingle

HOLIDAY FAIR

Friday, December 4, 2026

5:30–7:30 PM

Callaway County Extended Employment
2611 N Bluff St
Fulton, MO 65251

A FREE event for individuals with IDD and their *families, friends, and caregivers!*

HOLIDAY FUN

- Scavenger Hunt/Passport
- Guessing Jar
- Ugly Sweater Contest
- Pictures with Santa
- Photo Booth

CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES

- Decorate a Holiday Bag
- Holiday Card Making
- Make a Holiday Bracelet
- Puzzle & Coloring Booth
- Make a Holiday Ornament
- Decorate a Cookie

GAMES & FUN

Activity Area with games such as:

- Jenga
- Cornhole
- Connect 4
- & More!

EAT, DRINK & MINGLE

Enjoy sliders, chips, water and a delicious *Hot Chocolate Bar!*

— HOSTED BY: —

CCSS Callaway County Special Services
Empowering People. Enriching Lives.

CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES

Join us for an evening of holiday cheer, fun activities, good food, and great company!

EVERYONE WELCOME!



- **How did the tree get a new job?** *She had the right qua-leaf-ications!!!*
- **Why shouldn't you tell a secret in a cornfield?** *Because the corn has ears!!*
- **What do pirates wear in autumn?** *Pumpkin patches!!!*

Fall Hidden Objects!



