

ASL_P1

American Sign Language: Vocabulary

Mondays – *Virtual*
P1: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Y. Chantz Harris

Description: Students will learn how to use hands, eyes, and body to express, listen, and communicate in American Sign Language. This class will focus on learning to sign commonly used vocabulary, as well as handshapes and fingerspelling.

Objectives:

- Learning sign vocabulary
- Learning how to create sentences

Course Topics:

- Introducing oneself
- Exchanging personal information
- Fingerspelling your name

ASL_P2

American Sign Language: Conversation Grammar

Mondays – *Virtual*
P2: 7:40pm – 8:40pm

Y. Chantz Harris

Description: Students will learn how to use hands, eyes, and body to express, listen, and communicate in American Sign Language. This class will focus on conversation grammar and will help students apply what they learn in **American Sign Language: Vocabulary** in a more practice-based approach.

Objectives:

- Learning how to ask questions and give answers
- Learning how to have a conversation using sign language

Course Topics:

- Talking about family
- Talking about favorite activities
- Discussing living situations

NEW CE 01

Explore CSI: Be Part of the College Fun!

Mondays – *In Person*
Building 1S – Rm TBD
P1: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Robert Yurman

Description: Calling all adventurers! In this interactive course, students embark on an exciting journey to explore the amazing places and hidden gems the College has to offer! The instructor will give a behind-the-scenes look at the coolest places at CSI. Students will also visit the historic Willowbrook Mile stations and learn about the campus's legacy.

Objectives:

- Become a College Insider: Learn cool facts and stories about each location and what makes our college special
- Capture the Fun: Take pictures & videos to share your discoveries and become a college ambassador!
- Attend Fun Events: Experience the excitement of athletics games, performances, and other happenings around campus!

Course Topics:

- Visit the majestic performing arts spaces
- Experience athletics games and the vibrant athletics facilities
- Attend a movie night in the Campus Center's Bijou Lounge
- See what a real radio station is like
- View the stars from a one-of-a-kind astrophysical observatory
- Learn about the latest exhibitions in the library

CE 02

Creative Writing

Mondays – *In Person*
Building 1S–Rm TBD
P2: 7:40pm – 8:40pm

Robert Yurman

Description: This class will encourage students to use their senses to talk and write about the world around them. They will share their thoughts and feelings as individuals and in groups for poems and stories.

Objectives:

- Identify how your senses impact your feelings
- Explore the ways people interpret the world around them
- Describe feelings and observations using language and speech first
- Use of oral language to describe student work or having their thoughts transcribed

Creative Writing continued...

Course Topics:

- Writing about friends, places, dreams, thoughts, and emotions
- Writing about the future or the past
- Completing story starters to create a new scenario
- Contributing to group writings by adding appropriate lines
- Reading and listening to select literature, such as Emily Dickenson and Ogden Nash
- Students engaging in dialogue with the instructor and their peers

NEW CE 03

**Superheroes &
Supervillains**

Evan Fersko

Mondays – *In Person*
Building 1S – Rm TBD
P1: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Description: Dive into the thrilling world of superheroes and supervillains! Explore the epic origins of characters, their mind-blowing powers, and their dramatic flaws. The students and instructor will review popular text, short animation, and cinema clips. The instructor will facilitate student discussion on the ways character traits and superpowers can be helpful and/or problematic to themselves and others.

Objectives:

- Explore the complexities of stories and characters
- Practice decision-making, empathy, and advocacy through discussions on characters

Course Topics:

- Review story development
- Imagine what it's like to be in the position of a character and give voice to their actions
- Identify character strengths and weaknesses, and explain your position
- Explore vengeance versus justice
- Explain how selected superpowers can help or hurt others
- Identify which characters are vigilantes and their impacts on others

CE 04

Comic Book Creation

Mondays – *In Person*
Building 1S - Rm TBD
P2: 7:40pm – 8:40pm

Evan Fersko

Description: This course will explore the creation of comic books and the use of animation for storytelling. Students will use different technical and virtual art to create and animate their story with the goal of completing a comic book by the end of the year.

Objectives:

- Review history of comic books, and movies inspired by comic books
- Explore story ideas and practice storytelling
- Inspire imaginative thinking through original story and character development
- Improve fine motor skills using pencils, pens and crayons
- Define the strengths, flaws, and complexities of their original characters

Course Topics:

- Elements of a story (beginning, middle and end)
- Planning and organizing storyboard panels
- Scene setting
- Learning to create characters and giving them a voice

NEW CE 05

Type & Tell with AusomeTech: Unlock Your Words on a Computer

Mondays – *In Person*
Building 1S – Rm TBD
P1: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Darlene Bowman

Description: This course will use fun ways to teach students how to use the keyboard to write and express themselves through the computer. Students will learn **ausome** tricks to make their writing even better, all in a supportive and friendly environment.

Objectives:

- Build writing skills through a computer
- Practice finger dexterity by typing and using a computer mouse

Type and Tell with AusomeTech continued...

Course Topics:

- Learn the keyboard keys
 - Type words and sentences with confidence
 - Use the computer to write emails, stories, and more
 - Make your writing shine with fun formatting tricks
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NEW CE 06

Discovering the Digital World with AusomeTech: Be a Super Surfer

Mondays – *In Person*
Building 1S - Rm TBD
P2: 7:40pm – 8:40pm

Darlene Bowman

Description: This course is your one-stop shop for navigating the **ausome** world of technology! The instructor will break down everything students need to know, from turning on your computer to staying safe online.

Objectives:

- Build student confidence with the fundamental digital literacy skills needed to navigate technology confidently and with ease
- Promote safe and responsible virtual behaviors

Course Topics:

- Computer Basics: Turning on your computer, logging in, and using programs
- Internet Safety: Discover **ausome** websites and protect yourself from online threats like viruses and scams
- Social Media Smarts: Log into Facebook and Twitter to practice using social media safely and responsibly

NEW CE 07

Self-Advocacy

Jennifer Litrell

Tuesdays – *Virtual*
P1: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Description: This course will focus on learning how to advocate for your needs, wants, and rights. Upon successful completion of this course, students will have a better understanding of what self-advocacy is, how to advocate for your wants and needs, and how to identify advocates in your life.

Course Topics:

- What is self-advocacy?
- History of disability rights and ableism
- Your individual rights as a citizen
- Self-advocacy leadership skills
- You and your best life!
- Advocate for what you want

NEW CE 08

Self-Care

Jennifer Litrell

Tuesdays – *Virtual*
P2: 7:40pm – 8:40pm

Description: This course allows students to learn all about making healthy choices and caring for oneself physically, mentally, and emotionally.

Objectives:

- Students will further develop their knowledge of hygiene, exercise, nutrition, and practices to improve mental and emotional health

Course Topics:

- Healthy foods
- Hygienic practice
- Physical activity
- Mindfulness
- The importance of sleep
- Healthy relationships

CE 09

Everyday Writing for Future Authors

Tuesdays – *In Person*
Building 1S - Rm TBD
P1: 6:30pm –7:30pm

Lenore Marchese

Description: A hands-on approach to building literacy skills, simple sentences, and notes for the purpose of creating a children's book over the course of the year.

Objectives:

- Develop an understanding of sentence structure
- Identification of everyday commonly used words
- Composing notes, postings on social media, greeting cards for birthdays, holidays, etc.
- Compile a glossary of commonly used everyday words
- Practice good penmanship in print and script
- Develop as everyday writers with renewed confidence and self-esteem toward the completion of a children's book

Course Topics:

- Sentences
- Periods
- Commas vs. periods
- Verbs
- Subjects of sentence
- Building ideas

CE 10

Poetry

Tuesdays – *In Person*
Building 1S - Rm TBD
P2: 7:40pm – 8:40pm

Lenore Marchese

Description: Students will understand and practice rhyming and types of poetry, such as haiku, couplet, nursery rhymes, and inspirational poetry.

Objectives:

- Recognition of rhyming words
- Developing an appreciation of poetry across the genres
- Composing couplets and haikus
- Public speaking opportunities for everyday life

Course Topics:

- Acrostic poems
- Rhyming and stanzas
- Humorous poems and nursery rhymes
- Inspirational and seasonal poems
- Poet's purpose and poetry sharing
- Student's choice

NEW CE 11

Chance 2 Dance

Tuesdays – *In Person*
Building 1S - Rm TBD
P1: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Jacquelyn Castore

Description: Chance2 Dance, or C2D, will provide genuine, traditional, inclusive, and accommodating dance opportunities and experiences.

Objectives:

- Foster Inclusivity, Build Confidence, Self-Expression, and Develop Dance Skills
- Promote social connections, teamwork, collaboration and friendships through shared dance activities

Course Topics:

- Encourage physical fitness and coordination through dance moves that adapts to meet the diverse needs of each student, enhancing overall health and mobility.
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NEW CE 12

Chance 2 Dance

Tuesdays – *In Person*
Building 1S - Rm TBD
P2: 7:40pm – 8:40pm

Jacquelyn Castore

Description: Chance2 Dance, or C2D, will provide genuine, traditional, inclusive, and accommodating dance opportunities and experiences.

Objectives:

- Foster Inclusivity, Build Confidence, Self-Expression, and Develop Dance Skills
- Promote social connections, teamwork, collaboration and friendships through shared dance activities

Course Topics:

- Encourage physical fitness and coordination through dance moves that adapts to meet the diverse needs of each student, enhancing overall health and mobility.

NEW CE 13

The Wonderful World of Walt Disney

Wednesdays – *Virtual*
P1: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Jennifer Litrell

Description: Ever wondered how a mouse became a global empire? Join us on a magical journey through the life and times of Walt Disney! From the humble beginnings of hand-drawn animation to the breathtaking landscapes of Disneyland and Disney World, this course is your backstage pass to the ultimate entertainment mogul. Let's embark on this enchanting adventure!

Objectives:

- Learn the secrets behind the iconic characters, Walt Disney's extraordinary success, and the unforgettable storytelling that has captured hearts worldwide
- Explore the evolution of animation from pencil to pixels

Course Topics:

- Disneyland and Disney World: More than just happy places
 - Animation: From Mickey Mouse to Marvel
 - Lessons learned from Disney villains and princesses
 - Disney Deep Dives: Discover the hidden gems of the Magic Kingdom and beyond
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NEW CE 14

Lights, Camera, Action!

Wednesdays – *Virtual*
P1: 7:40pm – 8:40pm

Jennifer Litrell

Description: Ever wondered what makes a movie a masterpiece or a musical a must-see? In this cinema class, we will unravel the secrets behind the silver screen. From classic flicks to modern blockbusters, we'll explore everything from how movies are made to the social messages each movie is trying to communicate.

Objectives:

- Learn how movies are made
- Unmask the main ideas and hidden meanings
- Compare movies like a pro

Course Topics:

- Learning the lingo of cinema and film
- When possible, compare the old and new version of a movie or musical
- Criticize movies and their social messages

NEW CE 15

**Challenge Accepted!
Build Your Decision-
Making Muscle**

Wednesdays – *In Person*
Building 1S – Rm TBD
P1: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Amy Lenza

Description: This course uses a variety of interactive activities to encourage students to make individual and group decisions in fun and challenging ways. The instructor will provide a mix of stimulating recreational activities for students to choose from and plan out. Each month students will vote on a new set of activities.

Objective:

- Practice critical thinking, communication, collaboration, time management, and independent action

Course Topics:

- Self-Discovery
- Self-Advocacy
- Negotiation
- Scheduling
- Team Building

NEW CE 16

**Forget Textbooks -
Grab a Game: Learning
Made Fun!**

Wednesdays - *In Person*
Building 1S – Rm TBD
P2: 7:40pm – 8:40pm

Amy Lenza

Description: This course will challenge students to apply their knowledge of games and other recreational activities in practice. Students will develop literacy and listening skills as they learn song lyrics and rules of games, apply focus and recall while playing and performing, and strengthen their peer-to-peer connections and social skills during guided activities.

Objectives:

- Develop critical thinking through literacy, recall, and problem solving
- Practice self-regulation, communication, and collaboration

Forget Textbooks – Grab a Game: Continued...

Course Topics:

- Board Games
- Card Games
- Performing Arts
- Arts and Crafts
- Virtual Games
- Other hands-on and recreational activities

CE 17

**Music from Around
the World**

Wednesdays – *In Person*
Building 1S - Rm TBD
P1: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Evan Fersko

Description: This course will expose students to music from different areas of the world. Students can also share music from their own cultures. We will learn the way music is used to celebrate culture and preserve heritage.

Objectives:

- Discuss the history behind songs and how/when they would be played today
- Explore how music is used as a communication tool and brings people together
- Student sharing on their cultural roots and traditions through music

Course Topics:

- Musical genres will include examples from the seven continents as well as indigenous cultures
- Traditional music versus popular music

NEW CE 18

Budgeting

Wednesdays – *In Person*
Building 1S - Rm TBD
P2: 7:40pm – 8:40pm

Evan Fersko

Description: Students will learn how to develop a budget for daily living. This course will focus on understanding income, spending, and saving.

Objectives:

- Practice independent, financial decision making
- Develop practical budgeting skills
- Practice adding and subtracting

Budgeting continued...

Course Topics:

- Understanding different forms of income
 - Reviewing expenses like housing, food, transportation, medical, and entertainment.
 - Discussing needs versus wants
 - Use of spreadsheet for budgeting
 - The purpose of bank accounts
 - Forms of payment like cash, credit cards, debit cards, and digital payments.
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CE 19

AusomeTech: Gaming & Virtual Reality

Wednesdays - *In Person*
Building 1S - Rm TBD
P1: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Darlene Bowman

Description: Get ready for an exciting adventure into the world of computer science! This class will focus on building games and exploring augmented and virtual reality. **AusomeTech's** friendly mentors will guide students through fun technology lessons in this workshop series - no experience needed.

Objectives:

- Learn block-based coding
- Provide hands on technology training
- Unleash student creativity

Course Topics:

- Building games
- Exploring augmented reality and virtual reality

CE 20

AusomeTech: Art & Music Making

Wednesdays - *In Person*
Building 1S - Rm TBD
P2: 7:40pm – 8:40pm

Darlene Bowman

Description: Get ready for an exciting adventure into the world of computer science! This class will focus on using technology to create music and digital art. **AusomeTech's** friendly mentors will guide students through fun technology lessons in this workshop series - no experience needed.

Objectives:

- Learn block-based coding
- Provide hands on technology training
- Unleash student creativity

Course Topics:

- Crafting digital art
 - Making music
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CE 21

Taking Care of the Environment: Sustainable Living

Thursdays - *Virtual*
P1: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Nora Santiago

Description: This course will teach students life skills that are good for the environment, also known as “sustainable living.” Students will also be able to participate in campus-wide environmental volunteer activities during the day.

Objectives:

- Socialization through the course and through on-campus sustainability events
- Engage through a class capstone project

Course Topics:

- Environmental impacts of littering and the importance of clean ups
- How trash, recycling and composting works
- Viewing movies and documentaries with environmental topics
- Local and global current events and environmental issues

CE 22

Taking Care of the Environment: Sustainable Cities

Thursdays - *Virtual*
P2: 7:40pm – 8:40pm

Nora Santiago

Description: This class will explore sustainable cities around the world based on the three pillars of sustainability. Students will have access to hands-on workshops/events on campus.

Objectives:

- Students will virtually visit these cities and learn about their sustainability initiatives
- Examine eco-friendly living, eco-friendly villages and wildlife crossings around the globe
- Students will be introduced to eco-friendly living tips they can implement in their daily lives

Course Topics:

- Composting
- Gardening and garlic planting
- Propagating plants
- Stop 'N' Swap

CE 23

World History & Geography

Thursdays - *In Person*
Building 1S - Rm TBD
P1: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Robert Yurman

Description: This class will explore great ancient civilizations, where they were located, and how they shaped the world as it exists today.

Objectives:

- Learn about each civilization's culture, the significance of their geography, their accomplishments, their controversies, and their major events
- Identify explorers from each civilization, and learn about the impact they had on America
- Use of visual aids and websites to gather information on all geographic and historical subject matters

World History and Geography continued...

Course Topics:

- Use of maps, globes, and GPS systems to identify where the ancient civilizations and the explorers were from
- Learn about the seven continents and four major oceans
- Artwork and inventions from these civilizations
- Identifying differences and similarities between nations and civilizations

CE 24

Famous People & Civilizations

Thursdays - *In Person*
Building 1S - Rm TBD
P2: 7:40pm – 8:40pm

Robert Yurman

Description: This course will build from the World History and Geography class, focusing on famous people from ancient civilizations and the present day, as well as their impacts on society in ancient and modern times.

Objectives:

- Identify leaders and explorers from each culture, the significance of where they were from, their accomplishments, and their controversies
- Learn about the impact they had on the United States of America
- Use of visual aids and websites to gather information on all personal and historical subject matters
- Understanding how people and civilizations have changed over periods of time

Course Topics:

- Students will teach one another use of maps, globes, and GPS systems to identify where people are from
- Individual accomplishments, artwork/inventions, and policy making
- Participating in group discussion or writing to describe the achievements of individuals or groups covered in class
- Identifying common needs for all civilizations, people, and cultures

CE 25

Earth, Planets & Our Solar System

Thursdays - *In Person*
Building 1S-Rm TBD
P1: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Evan Fersko

Description: Explore the planet earth, the sun, and other planets in our solar system!

Objectives:

- Learn basic information on each planet such as what they are made of, are they inhabitable, when were they discovered, and by whom, and what if ever explored
- Learn about the technology used for space exploration
- Discuss why space exploration mattered in the past, what it means in the present, and imagine what it will be in the future

Course Topics:

- Identifying planets in our solar system
 - Natural versus man-made resources including satellites, their use, and their function
 - The functions of the sun and its impact on daily living needs
 - What do humans, plants and animals need in order to live on a planet
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CE 26

Dinosaurs & Prehistoric Animals

Thursdays - *In Person*
Building 1S-Rm TBD
P2: 7:40pm – 8:40pm

Evan Fersko

Description: This class will focus on prehistoric times and the animals that lived during the age of the dinosaurs, as well as the climate, geography, and conditions during the Mesozoic Era.

Objectives:

- Learn about dinosaurs and prehistoric animal species including when their fossils were discovered, by whom, the meaning behind their names, and what we know about them like their diets and habitat
- Discuss what may have led to the extinction of dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals

Course Topics:

- Multiple dinosaur and pre-historic animal species like the Tyrannosaurs, Stegosaurus, Triceratops, Velociraptor, Diplodocus, Spinosaurus, and Ammonites

LS

Life Skills

Jaclyn Garafola

Tuesdays & Thursdays –

In-Person

P1: 6:30pm – 7:30pm

P2: 7:40pm – 8:40pm

Description: The goal of Life Skills is to foster self-sufficiency. With support from the instructor and peers, this program's focus is to develop skills and habits for living more independently through practice. Applicants and their families or guardians should have a desire to work or are already working, independently or through supportive employment. Verbal communication and basic literacy are also required. Applicants must demonstrate why they want to participate in the program through a project of their choosing or an interview. Examples of projects include: a work of art the student created, a PowerPoint, a recording, a brief essay, or a creative writing piece like a poem.

Objectives:

- The fall semester will focus on self-discovery and wellness.
- The spring semester will focus on success in workplace settings.
- Students who successfully complete the program will be assisted through the Melissa Riggio application process as requested

Course Topics:

- Self-reflection, image, and self-esteem
- Goal setting
- Self-regulation
- Stress management, self-care, and mental health
- Building healthy relationships in personal life
- Decision-making
- Time management
- Conflict resolution
- Coaching for getting and keeping a job
- Self-advocacy with care management agencies, Access VR, and employers
- Understanding confidentiality and boundaries in workplace settings
- Workplace etiquette including dress and hygiene
- Cultural competency and an understanding of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)
- Digital skills development through Microsoft Office and Google
- Financial literacy which includes understanding income, savings, spending needs versus wants, and lending money
- Travel training and safety
- Nutrition and exercise

Instructor Bios

Darlene Bowman is the CEO and founder of AusomeTech, which provides vocational training and internship opportunities to youth with autism. With a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master of Science in Special Education, Darlene brings 20 years of educational expertise drawing on the strengths of her students to improve their literacy and digital skills. She is a Proclamation Day award recipient for leadership and excellence in Computer Science initiatives for District 75 and received the "Teacher of the Year" award from Senator Lanza before retiring from the NYC Department of Education. Darlene is an Apple Certified Teacher, an Adjunct Professor of English, and started teaching in the Creative Exchange program in 2023.

Evan Fersko is a dedicated administrative professional serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1993 in various roles with OPWDD's Staten Island Developmental Disability Service Office. He has a bachelor's degree in Human Services, and a post graduate certificate in Developmental Disabilities. He started as an Instructor in Creative Exchange in 2011.

Jaclyn Garafola is a Life Skills instructor at the CSI Creative Exchange Program, fostering self-sufficiency through skills development and career exploration. In this role, she encourages open communication and one-on-one role-playing activities. In addition to her role in Creative Exchange, Jaclyn is also an adjunct professor at LIM College, working in the Career and Internship Services department instructing students with internship preparation, resumé writing, interviewing and professionalism in the workplace. She holds a master's degree in Education from the College of Staten Island.

Y. Chantz Harris is a Communications advocate and enthusiast. She studied Speech Language Pathology, American Sign Language, and literacy education. Her mission is to partner with children and adults to reach their comprehensive communication goals effectively.

Amy Lenza is a committed professional in the field of intellectual and developmental disability service provision for over 30 years. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology. She has served the Creative Exchange since 2016.

Jennifer Litrell was born and raised in Staten Island. She holds a BS in Communication Studies from St. John's University. She has worked in human services supporting and advocating for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities for over ten years. She is currently the Community Support Supervisor at AHRC's Melissa Riggio program housed at the College of Staten Island.

Lenore Marchese started as an instructor with the Creative Exchange program 16 years ago, working with students to explore their creative potential as poets and writers. She holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in education from CSI. In 2020, amidst the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lenore became a celebrated children's book author, writing multiple stories as part of **The Grumpy, Grumpy Grandpa** series. In 2022, Lenore's worked with her Creative Exchange students to create the program's first children's book **Once Upon a Time in Staten Island.**, which is accessible at csi.cuny.edu/creative. Her students continue to create their own couplets with her, which they perform at the end of year celebrations.

Nora Santiago is the Sustainability Project Manager at CSI, responsible with advancing the College's sustainability initiatives. In this role, she hosts hands-on workshops on composting, gardening, and waste diversion; campus and community clean-ups; clothing drives; and other sustainability-related workshops for degree-seeking and Creative Exchange students. In addition to her administrative and instructional role in Creative Exchange, Nora is a former adjunct faculty member in the Geography Department. She holds a bachelor's degree in Geography, and a master's degrees in Urban Affairs and Planning.

Robert Yurman started his career in the Creative Exchange program in the 1980s. He played a key role in the consolidation of the Sunnyside and St. George campuses, to the College's current location on the grounds of the former Willowbrook State School. As one of the first instructors in Creative Exchange, Robert is passionate about working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as an educator on campus and a sports coach off campus. With a bachelor's and a master's degree in Public Administration, Robert is one of the administrative leaders in CSI's Office of Public Safety.

Jacquelyn (Jackie) Castore is the Director of Programs and Expansion at Chance 2 Dance, Inc. (C2D). Before her role with C2D, Jackie was a dancer for the National Basketball Association (NBA), for the Orlando Magic for 4 years. With a bachelor's and master's degree in Special Education and Teaching, she also serves as a dance coach for C2D, fostering an inclusive movement arts experience for individuals with autism and other disabilities. Through her work, C2D is an official vendor of the NYC Department of Education and collaborates with organizations like Eden II, Grace Foundation, PCCS, Adapt Community Network, SNACK & Friends, CrimsonRise, A Very Special Place, We Rock the Spectrum, and Yachad.
