



Life in Community

Having a developmental disability does not mean that you need to live a segregated life. Participants live in apartment communities of their choosing.

Opportunity to make their own decisions & establish a sense of autonomy

Walkable community to allow freedom & access

Volunteering – both by & with Participants

Collaborations with JCCC Clear Program, Sylvester Powell Community Center, Down Syndrome Innovations, Rockhurst Occupational Therapy Department, & Kansas Center on Autism Research and Training

Relationship with City of Mission including police department

Community education



Inclusive Employment

While less than 1/3 of working age individuals with IDD have a job, all MP Participants maintain jobs, many of which have been in their position for a number of years.

Transportation, which is a key barrier for most individuals with IDD, is provided.

Job skills support



Translational Coaching

Participants are all adults & are respected as adults, but often do need some support in navigating everyday social & life situations.

Staff efforts are directed towards advancing social skills, conflict resolution, interrupting impulsivity, self-advocacy, & self-expression.

Problem Solvers Group

Individualized goal support, problem solving, & increasing participant independence

Safety cues, practices, & drills

The Acceptance Environment

Mentorship of graduate students

Personal care assistance support



Family Partnership

Families are an active part of The Mission Project community & one of the innovative elements in the MP model.

Families support all the Participants through natural relationships.

Families support each other through monthly family meetings and informal connections.

Families provide over 5,000 volunteer hours a year.

Community information & referral

Replication support



The Social Self

Research indicates that friendships impact outcomes in many areas of one's life, yet individuals with IDD have less opportunity to make & sustain friendships.

Opportunities for social experiences such as Bunco, Movie Club, and shared celebrations

Building reciprocal friendships

Conversation Trios

Building self-confidence

Informal gatherings



Healthy Choices

Individuals with IDD are at a much greater risk of both mental health & physical problems including cardiovascular disease, sensory deficits, falls/mobility issues, depression, anxiety, & Alzheimer's disease. MP takes a proactive approach through integration of health-based activities.

Fitness classes

Nutrition

Integration of healthy activities in the social context:

- Walking Club
- Garden club

Individualized support



Lifelong Learning

While the importance of social engagement is widely known, little attention is given to the role learning plays throughout the life of those with a developmental disability. MP believes the integration of opportunities to learn something new not only is enjoyable, but also expands the repertoire of conversation, interests, & connections.

Drama classes

Art classes

History Club

World Dining Club

Travel Club

Book Club

Integration of technology in life management

