

High School Youth With Disabilities Prepare for Workforce

St. Joseph's historic, 70-year-old Phil Welch Stadium requires commitment to maintain, so the Mustangs are glad to welcome three high school students for important, behind-the-scenes teamwork.

Christian, Malasia and Zach are part of a summer work experience program for youth with disabilities. Four days each week, the students help keep the grounds in good condition, get the stadium and field ready for games and clean up after games.

The youth are excited for the opportunity to help them transition from high school. As they do their assigned jobs, they aim to develop employable skills through the real work environment. The summer pilot program provides a job coach from UCP of Northwest Missouri for training and supervision.

UCP and the Mustangs were able to set up this solid learning experience for the students thanks to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Show Me Careers Grant and strong community partnerships.

Teresa Gagliano, Executive Director of UCP, said the long-range plan through Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation is to provide similar, pre-employment work experiences in competitive, integrated settings for youth with disabilities in future years.



While Christian, Malasia and Zach work to prepare themselves for employment after high school, they enjoy their first job with paychecks. The Mustangs are thankful to have help getting the stadium ready to play ball.

18 PARTNER AGENCIES

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United Way of Greater St. Joseph supports 18 Partner Agencies and operates seven Initiatives

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LIVE UNITED at July 10 Mustangs Game

July 10 is LIVE UNITED night at the St. Joseph Mustangs 7 p.m. game at Phil Welch Stadium.

Mustangs players will be wearing United Way jerseys that will be auctioned off to fans during the game.

United Way volunteers will be selling 50/50 raffle tickets, handing out free children's books to families and sharing information about how the community can LIVE UNITED through giving, advocating and volunteering.

This season, 12 area businesses are sponsoring the United Way Extra Base Club. The sponsors have agreed to donate \$10 to the 2015 United Way Campaign for every double, triple and home run hit by the Mustangs.

For questions and additional information, contact Kylee Strough, President of United Way of Greater St. Joseph, at 364-2381 or to stjosephunitedway.org.

