



Pathways to Independence

Client Testimonial and Statistics

“Social relationships are often difficult for this population due to the disabling nature of social dysfunction, which continues as they enter adulthood”

- **Client Success Story**

- Ben came to Pathways to Independence (PTI) to improve his socializing skills, specifically to work on his job-seeking skills. “I wanted to have a social life, to do more stuff around St. Louis and get out of my shell a bit”, says Ben. Being cooped up in my house is bad for my psychological well-being.” He started working in PTI’s Growth and Potential (GAP) services program that includes one-on-one training on employment readiness, interview skills, job training and applications. After honing his skills, Ben was accepted into and now participates in the highly competitive LaunchCode program, which he describes as “an adapted course from Harvard and Yale that is aimed at people who come from a non-traditional background who want to learn computer science.” Through the help of PTI’s social and GAP programs, Ben has developed his abilities and has a clearer path to follow in order to achieve his goals.

- **Statistics**

- Eighty-Six percent of participants reported that they strongly agreed that PTI staff is supportive of their individual goals.
- One Hundred percent of participants and Eighty-Nine percent of parents reported being happy or extremely happy with the services provided by PTI.
- Eighty-Six percent of parents report that the participant has learned or improved social skills through their participation in PTI.
- Ninety-Four percent of parents agree that skills participants learn at PTI have been able to be applied to their everyday lives.
- In the 2016 fiscal year, PTI provided services to 137 participants.
- Pathways to Independence held 471 activities in the 2016 fiscal year.



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About Pathways to Independence

- **Description**
 - PTI's programs teach interpersonal, advocacy and community involvement skills, applying them through community-based events that help the participants feel more comfortable in their environment. Over time, participants experience success in their personal and work relationships and become actively engaged in their community.
- **Mission Statement**
 - Pathways to Independence supports the development of skills that positively impact the lives of adults with disabilities who seek greater independence and social success.
- **Focus**
 - Pathways to Independence is dedicated to providing a path for adults with complex learning disabilities and Level 1 autism spectrum disorders to lead confident, fulfilled and connected lives.
- **What Makes PTI Unique?**
 - Only organization in the St. Louis area that specifically provides social coaching and training opportunities for clients to connect with each other.
 - Only organization in the St. Louis area to consistently provide services to an underserved population in the special needs community.
- **History**
 - Pathways to Independence began in 1987 in St. Louis County initially as a small group of individuals trying to stay connected past high school
 - In 1992, PTI has had 30 participants, expanding quickly to 65 in 1993.
 - Today, PTI has expanded into St. Charles County and the city of St. Louis, now providing services to 137 participants.
- **Who's eligible to participate?**
 - Must be at least 18 years of age.
 - Clients who have social interaction skills impacted by certain diagnoses or conditions that place a substantial functional limitation in area of learning.
 - Clients who have a substantial functional limitation in their receptive and expressive language and development and use.