



Remembrance

Mission Project 2 mourns the recent loss of Kathy Neff, a long-time member and an integral part of our organization. In addition to being an award-winning educator, Kathy was our secretary and the editor of this newsletter. She was an excellent writer with a sharp mind and a clever sense of humor. Kathy never turned down a request for help and always put the needs of others before her own.

It is fitting that this issue is about the value of living independently. Kathy was a dedicated advocate for persons with disabilities and a strong proponent of education and independence, not only for her son—an MP2 participant—but for all people. She is irreplaceable, and we miss her. We are a better organization because she was a part of it.



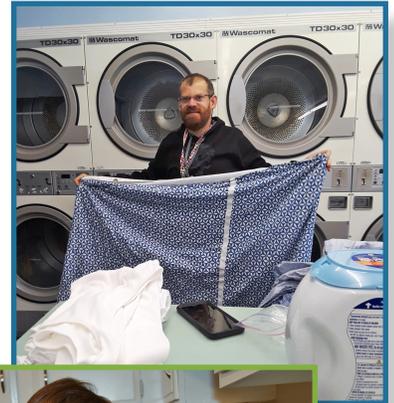
Mission Project 2 [MP2] enables capable adults with developmental or cognitive disabilities to live independently and safely in their own apartments, integrated into the general community with minimal support systems.

Small Tasks—Huge Pride

THE GREAT VALUE OF INDEPENDENT LIVING

Most of us think of independent living, if we think of it at all, as a natural part of adulthood. We may take its benefits for granted, half-jokingly complaining that being a grown-up turned out to be harder than we expected. While we all struggle to complete daily tasks, adults with developmental or cognitive disabilities face additional obstacles that can make living on their own especially challenging—and for that reason, their independence is all the more appreciated. As Mission Project 2 participants work to acquire and maintain important life skills, the value of independent living is never lost on them.

Ask any participant what they like best about being a part of MP2, and the answer is almost sure to involve independence. "I just love it," says Zach. "I can walk anywhere, be independent about money, do my own laundry, work, and hang out with my friends." Mallory, who moved into her apartment just last year, says "It's great being on my own and making my own decisions—without my parents."



Tom and Julie complete a few of the necessary tasks for successful lives.

Some emphasize specific advantages of having their own living space. While Tom likes being able to keep his two cats for company in his apartment, Kenzie appreciates getting to watch her favorite movies on her own. Elli puts it succinctly: "I'm doing everything on my own, when I want to do it...living the life!"

Of course, independent living means taking on greater responsibilities. MP2 participants need to manage their time and money, shop for groceries, prepare meals, clean their apartments, do their laundry, and make good decisions for their health and safety. While they may have

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varying levels of assistance from family members and service providers, they work hard to live as independently as possible. Josh admits that planning meals and keeping track of his schedule can be daunting, but he's improving his decision-making skills with assistance. "I feel good about learning to cook on my own," he adds. While most participants confess that they don't enjoy cleaning, they still feel pride and a sense of accomplishment in keeping their apartments neat.



Jack, Tom & Kenzie enjoy an impromptu dinner out in Mission with other MP2 friends.

MP2 participants are quick to mention social interaction among the top benefits of independent living. Jack says he likes having a community of friends and being able to do things together. Kelly appreciates the opportunities to hang out with her girlfriends. While MP2 provides many structured group recreational activities like Movie Club and Bunco Night, participants have begun initiating more and more social activities on their own. Weekend meals at local eateries have become a regular part of life in MP2, and often include participants from our sister organization, The Mission Project.

Providing opportunities for independent living and socializing for these adults with developmental or cognitive disabilities is the main goal of Mission Project 2. The organization offers participants some tools to develop critical life skills, enhancing their confidence and self-esteem. While the participants may likely always need help with certain tasks, MP2 is committed to enabling them to live as independent members of their Mission, Kansas community.

Independence Walk

On the beautiful morning of September 9th, Mission Project 2 held an Independence Walk fundraiser in partnership with The Mission Project. Program participants, family members and many of our supporters turned out for the spirited two-mile walk through Mission, Kansas to raise awareness of our organizations and to help fund the participants' safe and dependable work transportation across the metro area. We thank everyone who donned their sneakers, those who supported walking teams, and our many generous community sponsors!



Participants of Mission Project 2 and The Mission Project joined the large crowd for the fun walk.



Our Independence Walk Sponsors:

Cowell James Forge Insurance Group
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Travel Club



The MP2 Travel Club voted for a shorter day trip in 2017 to explore some of the recreational options in their own city.

Last August, the group started with a brief look around Union Station before entering the fascinating world of Science City.



The museum offered something for every interest and taste, as participants enjoyed a planetarium show on dark matter, a tug-of-war with pulley systems, a train exhibit with a full-size locomotive, and much more.

The day ended with a lively dinner in the downtown Power & Light district. If it's scientifically possible to condense a week's trip into one day, this group may have done it!



A Season of Success Community Garden

In its third season, the MP2 garden turned out its finest produce ever grown by the participants. Everyone pitched in with watering and weeding duties throughout the summer and continued to learn how to care for the plants. Harvesting these healthy snacks to eat at home, they



also enjoyed regular monthly tastings of various dishes created from the garden offerings. Many thanks to the Mission Hy-Vee for their continued support of our garden.



4th Annual Art Show

We had our largest turnout ever for this year's Art Show, and the MP2 participants were thrilled to discuss their artwork with our many visiting patrons.

Held on October 6th during First Friday in the Crossroads District, the show featured works for sale by local artists along with those created by MP2 participants.

The MP2 Arts Enrichment Program, funded by the annual art shows, continues to be a positive creative outlet for our participants. This is their favorite activity program, and they love learning about complex art movements, expressing themselves through their artwork, and visiting local art galleries and museums.



In addition to the donating artists, We Thank Our 2017 Art Show Sponsors:

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Boveri Realty Group

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Catalyst

JibJab Bros. Studios

McGonigle's Market

Mildred's Coffeehouse

MS Financial Resources

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News & Upcoming Events

Follow Mission Project 2 Online

Our website and Facebook page both provide up-to-date information about our organization, events and participant activities. Visit us at missionproject2.org and [Facebook.com/missionproject2](https://www.facebook.com/missionproject2). Join our supporters in the community and Like Us on Facebook! 

#GivingTuesday — 11.28.2017



Please remember Mission Project 2 during Giving Tuesday, a global day of giving back to your community during the holiday season.

We offer the convenience of secure online donations via our website. Go to missionproject2.org/donate or mail-in donations are always welcome!

Mission Project 2
5960 Dearborn, Ste. 240, Mission, KS 66202

★ 5TH ANNUAL ★
★ TEXAS HOLD 'EM TOURNAMENT ★
★ BENEFITING MISSION PROJECT 2 ★

Saturday, February 24, 2018

Lucky Brewgrille
5401 Johnson Drive, Mission, KS 66205
Tournament Start @ 6:30pm

\$40 Entry
First Prize Estimated \$500
missionproject2.org/holdem

*For sponsorship opportunities,
advance registration
and payment, contact:*

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