



VISIONARIES

*Facilitating and promoting self-development,
independent living, self-advocacy and community
inclusion for Latino youth with developmental
disabilities in Jackson County, Missouri.*

VISIONARIES

FEATURES OF VISIONARIES:

- Individuals are able to develop and work on goals to meet their needs, skills, interests and dreams through person-centered planning and one-on-one peer mentoring.
- Youth are connected to peers and other community opportunities to develop independent living skills and increase self-determination skills.
- Youth are supported by bilingual and culturally competent staff.
- Latino youth with developmental disabilities direct the development of the project by becoming advisory members and volunteers.

SERVICES:

Independent living skills training:

Providing youth with ongoing groups and individual opportunities to develop:

- Daily living tasks
- Autonomy using the public transportation
- Survival English
- Basic computer skills
- Employment processes
- Rights and responsibilities
- And other topics

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YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP:

Weekly meetings offer young adults the opportunity to:

- Connect to others
- Celebrate Latino culture and heritage
- Discuss problems, share joys and ideas
- Learn about community resources and opportunities
- Improve social skills
- Learn about rights and responsibilities
- Participate in arts and crafts, dance and music classes, fieldtrips, parties and other social activities



ONE-ON-ONE MENTORING:

Bilingual staff and community navigator:

- Assist youth in identifying their needs and goals.
- Empower youth to locate and connect to resources and opportunities that meet their needs (healthcare, mental health care, employment, community supports, educational options, volunteerism, etc.)
- Guide individuals to create an Individual Centered Plan, which will increase their skills of self-determination and self-advocacy and increase their support network
- Support young adults as they advocate for themselves during meetings and appointments.

“This is the best time of my life ...”

Mario, speaking about the activities he was participating at Visionaries

“This program has given so much to my girl! She keeps asking me daily: Am I going today? She looks forward to the days she goes with her group or to her classes or to her volunteer activity. She has improved a lot!”

Visionaries young girl’s mother

“My son is much happier now ... since he started going to Mattie Rhodes.”

Visionaries young boy’s father



MATTIE RHODES CENTER

Brightening lives. Building futures.

For More Information:

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