Including Communities
A community-based work experience program

Our Mission
Including Communities is an Orange-Ulster BOCES transitional program based within the Goshen community serving students ages 18-21 years. Including Communities builds upon each student’s strengths and interests to support the development of transitional skills. This is done in collaboration with our community partners who provide diverse work and volunteer experiences for our students.

"Preparation for independence, diverse involvement in the community and inspiring confidence."
— Jarletta, parent of a student in the Including Communities Program

Students at Including Communities work at a non-traditional classroom in the heart of the village. They work to develop independent living skills, social skills, money management, employability skills, travel training and self-advocacy skills. These skills are taught and practiced in the classroom to be generalized and applied in the community setting.

The goal of this program is to work with students within a community setting to foster a smooth transition from school to adulthood. As a result of their authentic community-based experiences, our students build a complete resume. They leave with a diverse set of skills ready to be active, productive participants in their communities.

"These students are some of the best workers with the greatest hearts and we are lucky to have them."
— Hayley Coriaty, LEGOLAND New York

Work and Volunteer Opportunities

Office Work
Copying, scanning, printing, filing, alphabetizing, mailers, labeling, shredding, special projects (can be dropped off by appointment)

Food Services
Food preparation, table and dining area preparation

Hospitality
Cleaning and organizing

Retail
Stocking shelves, sorting, cleaning

Grounds keeping
Variety of small landscaping tasks, decorating for seasonal and special events

Early Childhood Experiences
Teacher’s Assistant, preparation of the environment for students, modeling various activities and providing positive reinforcement and support.
Including Communities: The Facts

- Students working within the community will **always** be accompanied by a staff member.
- Students come to Including Communities with a variety of work experiences including: retail, foodservice and hospitality.
- Students are matched to businesses based on their strengths, skills and preferences.

"I like working in the community and helping out. I feel **happy** because I am learning how to work **independently.**"
— Lori, a student in the Including Communities Program

- Students are trained in job specific tasks within each location.
- Students are available to work between the hours of 8:30AM-1:30PM.
- If you have jobs on an as needed basis, we are flexible and would be willing to discuss any experiences for our students within the community setting.

“It’s been like the greatest experience of my life. I went to give back to my community and it’s turned into this **beautiful partnership.**"
— Charleen Predmore, Happy Buddha Yoga

Community Partnerships

Our Valued Partners
- Amore’s Pizza
- Board of Elections
- Catherine’s Restaurant
- Childcare Council of Orange County
- Goshen Public Library
- Goshen Food Pantry
- Goshen Humane Society
- Happy Buddha Yoga
- Joe Fix Its
- Kennett’s Gymnastics
- LEGOLAND New York
- Napolitano Accounting
- M&T Bank
- Foley’s Goshen Hardware
- Chester Greenery
- Just-A-Buck, Chester
- St. John’s AUMP
- Orange County Chamber of Commerce
- Not Just Bagels

“The most valuable part of partnering with the program is the **relationships** built with the students. Job **experience** is so important."
— Mr. Napolitano, S. Napolitano Corp.

“The program empowers students to reach their **goals** through volunteer opportunities. Our business partners share and support our **vision**, to see our students become successful."
— Susan DeGeorge, Including Communities Program educator

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