



ALL ABOARD FOR KIDS NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2022 EDITION



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Lisa McCarty

Hello friends,

And, hello summer! The snow and cold have given way to bright green grass and warm sunshine! The air is full of possibility and potential, and I'm excited for the opportunity to bring you up to date on All Aboard for Kids.

During the off-season, we spent considerable time as a team reflecting on our organization's mission and our vision for the future of All Aboard for Kids. Social connection is what we strive for, and with our STEAM-based projects and activities, we are providing an opportunity for our campers to explore, engage, interact, and connect – and they ARE connecting. It's so fun to see!

As we looked to our future, we began asking the question, "What's next for these emerging adults?" With this in mind, working as a team, we crafted a new All Aboard for Kids vision statement: *To equip autistic youth with the necessary resources to thrive in the world they live in today while preparing them for the world they will inherit tomorrow.*

So now we ask ourselves: How do we fulfill this vision? Can we, as parents and educators, do more

to help these kids prepare for their futures? The answer to that question is a resounding "YES!" Finding a career, getting a job, keeping a job, finding transportation, managing money - these are all vital skills a young adult needs to succeed in the modern world. The earlier they develop those skills, the better.

To that end, we are introducing a new summer program in 2022 for autistic 14-19 year olds called Full STEAM Ahead. This adult/workplace readiness afternoon workshop will focus on developing the foundational skills needed for a successful adult life. Topics ranging from soft skills to career exploration will be covered in the launch of this new program.

I am so very proud of our organization and the program we are building. Our amazing team of lead teachers and support staff, and our dedicated board members and volunteers clearly have a heart for these kids and our mission. I'm grateful for their contributions and I'm proud to work alongside them. I would also like to thank the many donors who support and encourage All Aboard for Kids and help us to meet this important need in our community.

This year's theme, *Things That Go*, explores the curious and wonderful ways the world moves! Learn more about what our campers will be discovering and learning this summer at www.allaboardforkids.com.



things that go



NEW! FULL STEAM AHEAD ADULT READINESS PROGRAM



This year, All Aboard for Kids is piloting an afternoon adult readiness program, specifically for high school students, called Full STEAM Ahead. For this first summer, the workshop is “invite only” and will only be open to a maximum of 10 participants, ages 14-19, currently enrolled in S.T.E.A.M. Academy.

This summer we aim to help our high schoolers:

- Learn about and practice their first impressions and other important soft skills
- Practice independent living skills (grocery shopping, meal planning, etc.)
- Participate in career exploration activities based on their interests
- Meet with community leaders and local business owners

Our Lead Coach for this program is Kate Ringstad (right).



Kate is currently serving as the Transition Alliance Program Coordinator for the Ames School District at Ames High.

She obtained her master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from Drake University in 2021 and brings a wide variety of experiences to our program. Kate has served as a Counselor for Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services, a Program Coordinator for Raising Readers in Story County, Grant

Program Assistant for Drake's Rehab Counseling program, and in various roles in the Blank Pediatric Clinics in Des Moines. We are thrilled to have her join us this summer for the soft launch of our new program!

Thanks to generous financial support from our community partners, we are able to offer this program at no charge for Summer 2022!

GET TO KNOW OUR AMAZING LEAD TEACHERS



Sydney Rosenboom

Lead Teacher, S.T.E.A.M. Academy

Where do you work?

I work at Goodrell Middle School in Des Moines as a 7th grade Special Education teacher.

What is one fun fact/interesting thing about you?

I once spent two months of a summer in China learning the language and culture.

Why did you want to get involved with All Aboard for Kids?

I love the mission behind this summer camp. I know All Aboard for Kids is something that can make a positive impact in these kids' and their family's summers by providing a structured and fun summer day camp experience.

What are you looking forward to the most at camp?

I am looking forward to seeing the kids take part with all of the exciting activities we have planned for the summer!

How do you think this summer camp benefits the community?

All Aboard for Kids promotes an inclusive, fun, and engaging environment for all kids!



Kate Vandenberg

Lead Teacher, All Aboard for Kids

Where do you work?

I am the Level II/III special education teacher at Ballard East Elementary.

What is one fun fact/interesting thing about you?

I have a black belt in Tae Kwon Do!

Why did you want to get involved with All Aboard for Kids?

I became interested in the All Aboard for Kids Program after hearing about it from a family friend and fellow special education teacher, Tammy Tinder. I love that All Aboard for Kids was started by a local family to help kids learn and grow over the summer!

What are you looking forward to the most at camp?

I am most looking forward to meeting my students and getting to go out in the community with them.

How do you think this summer camp benefits the community?

I think this camp benefits the community because it meets the socio-emotional and intellectual needs of kids in the area through music, games, activities, and community outings.



Monica Jansen

Lead Teacher, Express

Where do you work?

Grandwood Education Center in Granger, IA as a teacher.

What is one fun fact/interesting thing about you?

I love shopping at Aldi for anything and everything!

Why did you want to get involved with All Aboard for Kids?

I've been teaching special education for 9 years now, but always in the same school. I'm interested in expanding my horizons in the area of special education.

What are you looking forward to the most at camp?

I am looking forward to continue to make a difference in children's lives in a new way! This has definitely become my passion and I'm excited to get to know new faces!

How do you think this summer camp benefits the community?

It provides children with special needs an opportunity to continue to succeed during the summer. It is great for the community to allow them to participate in a summer camp like several other children.

IN THE NEWS: ALL ABOARD FOR KIDS



ALL ABOARD FOR KIDS PARTNERS WITH ISU CYBIZ LAB MBA STUDENTS

All Aboard for Kids partnered with the ISU Pappajohn Center for Entrepreneurship's CyBiz Lab this spring. CyBIZ Lab provides the opportunity for cross-functional teams of students to work on business and organizational projects. Students gain hands-on experience working to solve real problems, and companies and organizations receive potential solutions to business issues from a perspective outside the company.

The three-student team that worked with All Aboard for Kids consisted of MBA students Maxwell McFadden, Derek Bokelmann, and Dominique Hain.

The team was asked to develop branding and marketing

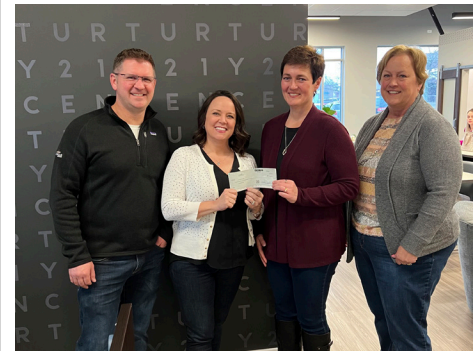
resources to support the growth of AAFK in the two-month timeframe for the project.

In April, the team showcased their deliverables — a branding guide for AAFK, as well as a potential logo for a new adult readiness program being piloted this summer for high school students called Full STEAM Ahead.

During their presentation, the AAFK team did well enough to be one of the two teams to be awarded MBA Leadership in Service Scholarships for their work on these projects! We are grateful for this program and the hard work of these students in helping All Aboard for Kids grow in our community!



Greater Iowa Credit Union donated \$1,000 for this year's summer camp programming! Thank you for your generous support, GICU!



Century 21 Signature Real Estate generously donated \$3,500 through its Impact Fund, comprised of donations from C21SRE agents and staff with a 10% match from the company.



The North Ames Fareway hosted a Register Roundup event to support All Aboard for Kids! With their support, we were able to raise \$1,200!

BLAST FROM THE PAST: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Laura Murray is a former intern of All Aboard for Kids — as a college student, Laura served as a Participant Impact Evaluation Intern. She was passionate and enthusiastic about this work, and that experience helped inform her future career path. We recently reconnected with Laura to see where she is today — take a look at what she had to say!

Where do you live/work now?

I am currently living in Phoenix, Arizona and working at Aspen Behavioral Consulting as a Training Interventionist. I recently completed Arizona's licensure process and am now licensed to practice as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

What was something that you learned, either about yourself or about the autism community from

your time at All Aboard for Kids?

During my internship there, a teacher told me, "Once you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism." I learned that everyone, inside and outside the autism community, is unique in their own way and we need to embrace the differences. I also learned that I have a passion for serving families and children in the autism community and for helping others reach their goals.

How did working with All Aboard for Kids influence your career goals?

Prior to working at All Aboard for Kids, I was unsure what demographic I wanted to work with. During camp, I quickly found my passion for working with children and the autism community. All Aboard for Kids had a major impact on my decision to pursue my masters in ABA and continue working with children and the autism community.

While pursuing my masters in Arizona, I also volunteered for a soccer program for individuals with special needs of all ages. Each Saturday the team had a game/practice and I was a "buddy" and was paired with a different player each time to assist with participation in the games/drills. It was a fun way to stay connected with the game and work with a population I love so much.



How do you think All Aboard for Kids benefits the community?

Summer can be a very stressful time for families of children with ASD. It can mean less structure, the potential of regression in academic and social skills, and difficulty finding activities for their children to participate in.

All Aboard for Kids provides a safe, structured environment during the summer and gives participants the opportunity to learn new things, continue to grow socially with their peers, and maintain skills they learned during the school year while also having fun.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

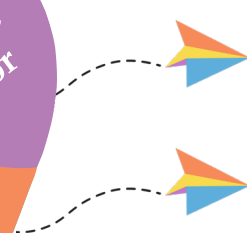
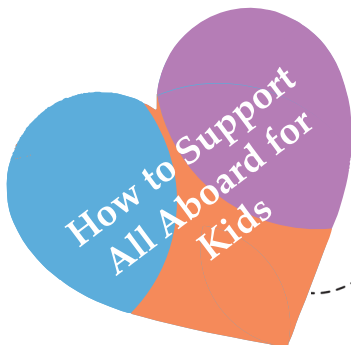


Dhuha & Omar Akili
 Mike & Angie Alexander
 Steve & Thereasa Alexander
 Brian & Christina Anderson
 Adrian & Elizabeth Araguas
 Kevin & Summer Barber
 Denise Bjelland
 Matt DeVos & Sarah Brangoccio
 Kendra Braucher
 Anthony & Amber Brice
 Rich Burkle
 Molli Butler
 Dan Carney
 Evelyn Chambers
 Mary Cory
 Jim & Fran Crotty
 Tim & Sarah Day
 Jacklyn Delagardelle
 Dick & Paula Dietz
 Jessie Border
 Dan & Rose Dowling
 David Dowling

Marian Dowling
 Mark & Amanda Dowling
 Matt & Heidi Dowling
 Sean & Jenna Dowling
 Savannah Fiedler
 Mike & Gina Gassman
 Greg Gebhart
 J.W. Glotfelty, D.D.S.
 Todd & Michelle George
 Hardacre Family
 Connie Hargrave
 Brett & Staci Harper
 Chad Hartzler
 George & Dottie Hatfield
 Beth Dedic
 Randy Johnsen
 Ryan & Julie Johnsen
 Pamela Riney-Kehrberg
 Don McCarty & Karen Koch
 Brenda Kromrie
 McKenzie Lambert
 Becky Lamkey

Matt & Cassie Larson
 Tim & Mandee Lind
 Jessica Loecke
 Dr. Tim Lowry
 Al & Mary Lynch
 Carol McCarty
 Greg & Polly McCarty
 Mary McCarty
 Mike & Lisa McCarty
 Craig & Lani McKinney
 Joyce Meyer
 Mark & Betsy Meyer
 Claire Mitchell
 Dan & Ann Murray
 Fred Gulden & Liz Nygaard
 Matt & Amy Olson
 Mary Pape
 Ken & Mary Pink
 Adam & DeAnn Pitman
 Kelly Polich
 Allison Robinson
 Anita Rollins

Sydney Rosenboom
 Jason & Rose Mary Ross
 Bill & Rosellyn Rudolph
 Nathan & Missy Sanow
 Dan & Pam Sargent
 Cory & Amy Schmidt
 Nicole Heinricy Schmitz
 Todd & Lisa Schuelka
 Curt & Sandie Smith
 Emily Smith
 Mary Townsend
 Jacob & Jamie Varghese
 Kathy Vince
 Robyn Vogel
 Amy Vorst
 JoAnn Vorst
 Rena Wilder
 Nick & Sarah Windhorst
 Mark & Eileen Wuebker



Donate or become a sponsor!
 online at allaboardforkids.com

Follow our Facebook page!
 search [@allaboardforkids](https://www.facebook.com/allaboardforkids)

