



KRESA

Young Adult Program

Pathway to Success

Our Focus . . .

- To prepare students to live a meaningful and purpose-filled life.
- Our instruction centers around the transition planning quad areas of employment, post-secondary education/training, adult living, and community participation.



How are we different than high school?

- At YAP you work on your goals & areas of need to lead to an independent life.
- A typical day is rarely spent sitting in a classroom - rather in the community where learning & applying skills in real life settings takes place.
- We offer community-based work experience that provides opportunities to develop transferrable and marketable skills for integrated employment.



Our Culture is Framed By:

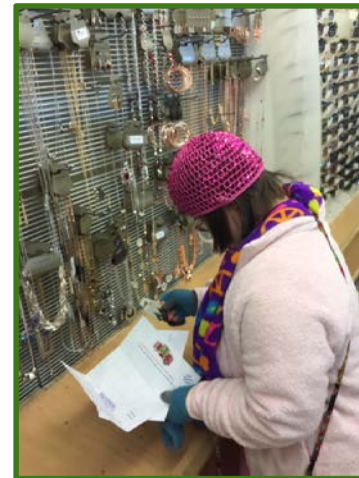
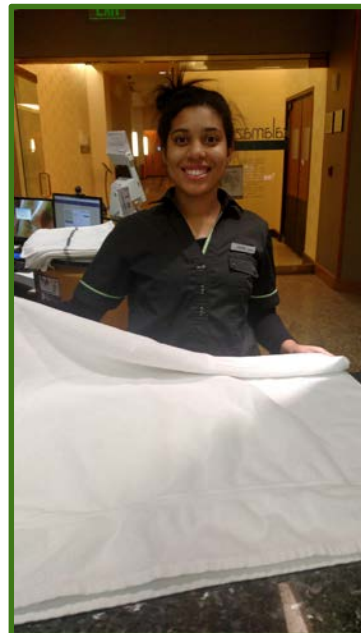
- Independence
- Respect
- Safety

We practice being I.R.S. in all areas of our lives: home, school, work, community.



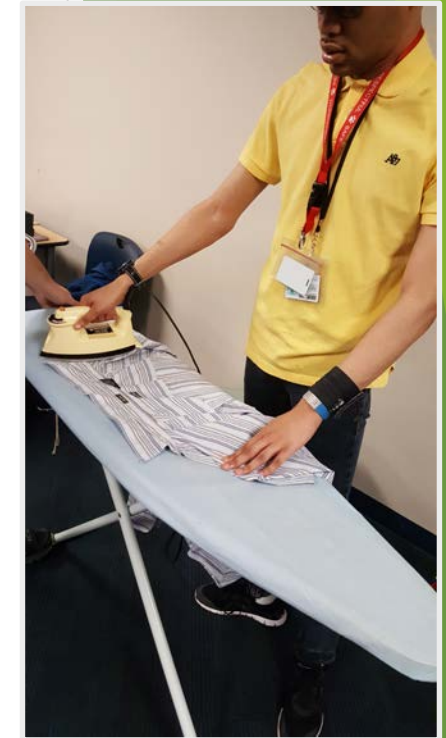
Community-based Instruction:

- ▶ Daily specialized instruction is focused on the four areas of transition planning: employment, post-secondary education/training, adult living and community participation. Instruction is centered on meeting the needs of each student as we prepare all students for life after school.



Adult Living Skills That We Instruct During The Year

- ▶ Accessing YOUR community:
 - Riding the bus
 - Taking the Metro County Connect
 - Exercise at the YMCA
- ▶ Life Skills:
 - Budgeting
 - Money management
 - Shopping
 - Cooking
 - Cleaning
 - Safety



Employment:

Students participate in work experience with the support of a job coach. The job coach helps them learn the skills and routine needed for employment.

Soft skills needed for employment:

- Good personal hygiene
- Attendance
- Positive Attitude
- Friendliness & helpfulness
- Willing to learn - Not afraid to ask questions or make a mistake.



Work Experience Sites:

- ▶ Goodwill
- ▶ Endurance Gym
- ▶ Kalamazoo College
- ▶ Textile Systems
- ▶ Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes
- ▶ The Radisson
- ▶ KVCC
- ▶ Gernaat Greenhouse

- Meijer
- YMCA Preschool
- Heritage Community Center
- Friendship Village
- Kalamazoo Gospel Mission
- HeadStart
- KRESA
- AACORN Farm



How do I get to work?

- Many of our worksites have a shuttle bus that transports students.
- Some students may take the Metro Bus or Metro County Connect
- Fewer may be transported with a job coach.

The closer students come to exiting our program, the more we encourage independence in order to access transportation. That independence will help with a seamless transition from working as part of school to working for your own employment.



Community Agency Connections:

Young Adult Program students also make connections with area agencies. Our staff helps you connect with these agencies to ease your transition beyond school.

- ▶ Kalamazoo County Community Mental Health
- ▶ Michigan Rehab Services (MRS)
- ▶ Disability Network of Southwest Michigan
- ▶ Arcadia Institute
- ▶ MRC - Alcott Center - WMU Center for Disability Studies

Other experiences:



WMU Job Fair



Lunchtime Live



Animal Rescue Project



KV Museum



Waiting for Metro Bus



Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH is an unpaid internship located at Bronson Methodist Hospital. Students work various job rotations throughout the hospital. They must apply, interview, and successfully complete each mandatory activity to be able to participate in the program.

The work experience gained while attending YAP better prepares many students to transition to Project SEARCH successfully.



Exiting YAP

The timeframe for when students are ready to leave our program varies. Some students are ready after a year or two. Other students may attend longer to meet all their transition goals.

Our staff works together with you and your family to determine when you are ready to exit and begin your independent life. We are here to help you every step of the way and your success is what it is all about.

