

Working Together *Toward Independence*

Fluid and focused partnerships among local institutions and agencies is vital to the success of this program.



The **Upper Valley Career Center** provides the expertise and training professionals to direct the program and coordinate the efforts of interns, job readiness trainers, and site supervisors.



Upper Valley Medical Center and Koester Pavilion both provide a training office, computer lab, and on-campus work rotations.



These agencies provide oversight and continued support for each intern gaining employment as a result of their Launch participation.

Patti K. Moore, Coordinator

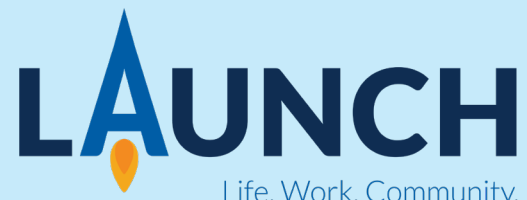
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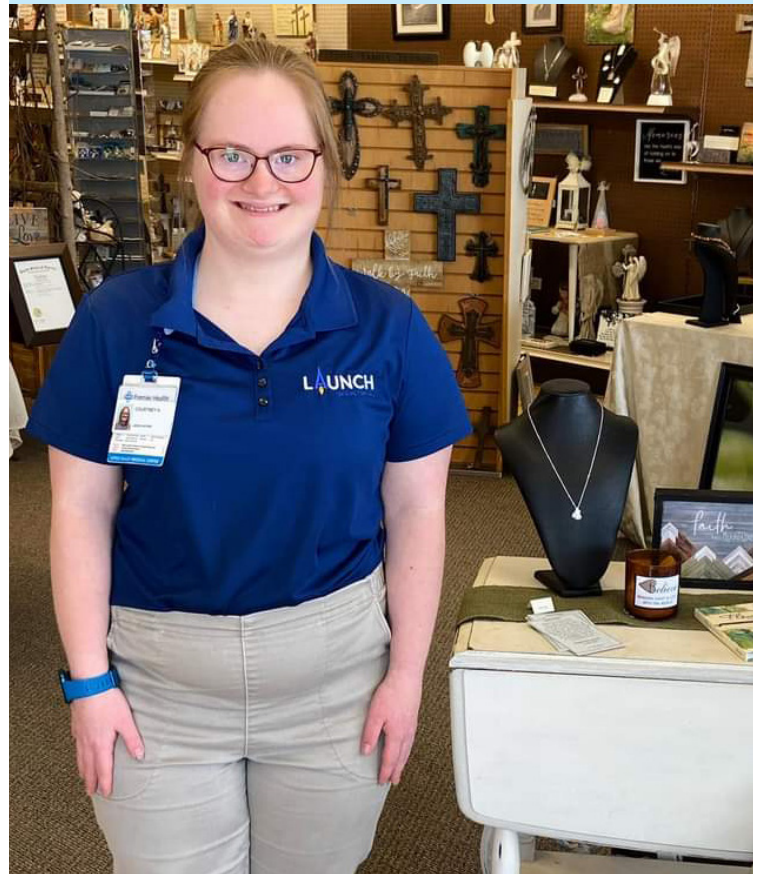
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Upper Valley Career Center



Launch is a one-year, high school transition program for individuals with disabilities to receive training and education leading to community employment.

The Goal is Independence & *Competitive Employment*

This program serves as a workforce alternative for young adults (ages 18-22) who defer their diploma and are in their last year of high school. All students who express interest in Launch must submit an application which is reviewed by a selection committee.

The cornerstone of Launch is total immersion in a large business. The Upper Valley Career Center Launch program accomplishes this thanks to the on-going collaboration between professionals, interns, and their families.



Each day, interns report to the host business to learn employability and job skills through three individualized internships.

Inside the Program

Instruction reinforces on-the-job learning and introduces critical employability topics:

- Unit One - *Keeping Safety First: workplace requirements*
- Unit Two - *Being a Team Player*
- Unit Three - *Understanding the Human Resource Processes*
- Unit Four - *Communication and Social Skills*
- Unit Five - *Health, Wellness, and Individuality*
- Unit Six - *Technology for the whole person*
- Unit Seven - *Career Exploration*
- Unit Eight - *Managing Money and Independent Living*
- Unit Nine - *Presentation, Interviewing and Community Connections*
- Unit Ten - *Making Plans for Career Success: Resume, Attitude and handling changes in job status*

On-the-Job Experience

On-site managers work with the coordinator and job readiness trainers to support the interns. Interns receive regular feedback from the internship manager, co-workers, and Launch staff. At the end of each work day interns reflect and journal their learning experiences in order to identify problem areas and consider solutions and plans for improvement. Launch staff instruct and oversee the interns during their job internships and in their final job placement.

Three internships give each intern real-world work experience based on his or her unique abilities and needs. The options include:

- Nutrition
- Rehabilitation
- Linens
- Cancer Care
- Environmental Serv.
- and more