

Better Connections. Better Community. Summer 2016

[Visit us at TotalLink2.org](http://TotalLink2.org)

Upcoming Programs

Click to open:

[Girlfriends Group](#)
[Yoga & Healthy Supper Club](#)
[Community Life Club](#)
[Movie Night Out](#)
[Guys Night Out](#)

Hot Off the Press

Click to open:

[Dancing from the Heart, featuring Kelly Kogen Nuflatot 2016](#)

Jenna + Little Beans = Meaningful Employment



Jenna started her working career with TL2C's support in November 2015 when she began a part time job at a, Growth Spurts, an indoor playspace for young children in Wilmette. It was a great stepping stone for Jenna's new job at Little Beans Cafe. Little Beans is a larger facility, with more programming for an older age group of children. One of Jenna's favorite programs is Karaoke because she loves to perform and appreciates children wanting to sing.

[Check out Little Beans!](#)

Spotlighting:

First Summer NUFLATOT was TOTAL FUN for Everyone



Mission Accomplished! A disability friendly summer event including our clients, families and community members that would be TOTAL FUN for Everyone - NUFLATOT!

A big thank you to our many sponsors - businesses and families as well as a turn out of 175 people to enjoy an indoor carnival of fun, food, dancing, prizes, games, raffle and more. We raised \$28,000 to support our Customized Employment Services, Learning Labs and Social Connections for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities right here in our community.

[Read More...](#)

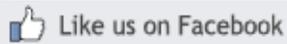
Nick Betsoleiman Social Media Intern



Nick Betsoleiman is the latest addition at TL2C and joins the team as a social media intern this summer. His out-going personality, tech savvy skills and years of experience on various platforms of social media makes Nick the perfect fit.

Welcome and connect with Nick on our Facebook or email him at nickb@totallink2.org.

[Read More: Nick's Bio](#)



Microenterprise Lab for Artists

The Lab participants have been learning new skills and techniques to create Friendship Benches. They have researched different designs and structures for benches, learned how to cut, sand, wood burn, paint, stain and build. Through this process they have discovered individual talents and skills and have delegated responsibilities to those whose strengths and interests best serve the group overall.

The finished benches are comfortable, useful and attractive and are embellished with lyrics from songs and original poetry, all relating to the theme of friendship. Each bench is a one-of-a-kind original and was on display for purchase at the Nuflatot event or currently through the TotalLink office.



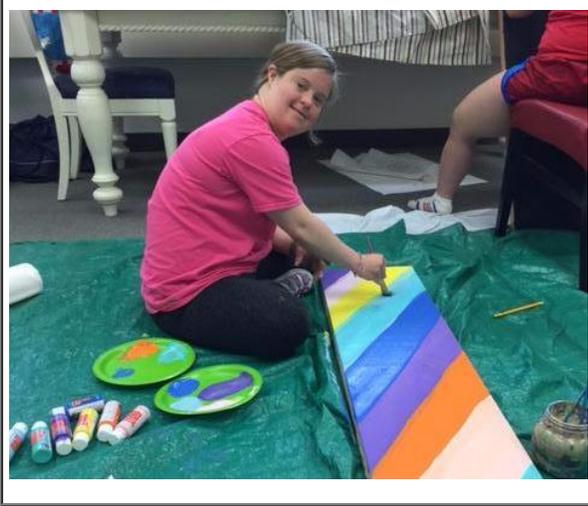
2016 Vision: The Community Life Project Update

Our Community Life Club is off to a great start! We're an active and diverse group of young adults and we learn best through active participation. This summer, our facilitators have helped us plan our bi-monthly club meetings out and about in the community. In May we helped TotalLink2 get ready for the Nuflatot by baking cookies and helping put together some of the carnival games.



Our **Summer Bucket List** includes:

1. Checking out volunteer opportunities: at Wagner Farm and The Grove. We took a tour, observed and asked questions about the gardens, animals and community events at Wagner Farm. We loved meeting some of the 4-H students who care for their own animals at The Farm. Several of us decided to



spend some time volunteering with Wagner.

2. Community Meetups: We're also gathering for local summer concerts in Glenview and Northbrook in July and August. Last month we met at the Rock House in Glenview for Karaoke night in support of our friends at Special Gifts Theatre. Everyone had a blast! We also attended the opening night of "Finding Dory" at ArcLight Cinema in Glenview. [Read More...Looking ahead to the Fall](#)

Join us for Meetups!



What are Meetups, you ask? Well...they are "happenings" taking place in the community that TL2C is inviting you to attend. In June, we met up at the Rock House in Glenview for a night of karaoke and fun!

There is no fee for these events, we only ask that you register! Meetups are a great way to meet new friends and get familiar with new places in the community. A TL2C community coach will be on hand to promote a sense of community and help everyone feel comfortable and confident. Sign up for community meetups on the [website](#) and let us know if you need help with anything.







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Workshop Creating Pathways for Entrepreneurship



Research from the Chicagoland Entrepreneurship Education for People with Disabilities (CEED) Project tells us Entrepreneurship is the creation of a business that is both profit- and growth-oriented. Meaning that it is intended to employ others as well as being a customized employment strategy with the goal of financial self-sufficiency.

While self-employment has been shown to be an effective customized employment strategy, it is not an anti-poverty strategy. This is because it is only intended to employ one individual. Entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship are anti-poverty strategies because they are growth-oriented and intended to employ others. This can be an effective strategy because it creates jobs on a larger scale. Especially if entrepreneurs with disabilities hire other people with disabilities!

[Read More...](#)
[Click here to view CEED - Infographic](#)

GBS Freshman Bowled The Night Away with Community Life Club





Glenbrook South high school teacher, Austin Smith, and his freshmen English class, had a wonderful opportunity to meet TL2C clients and learn about their lives after high school. The GBS's students decided to host a bowling night in May. The GBS students and TL2C staff planned the event which included bowling, pizza and fun at Pinstripes in Northbrook.

Lindsey Cogan, a GBS graduate shared, "It was really great to go back to my high school and meet the students. Everyone was friendly and I had a great time!"