

NEWS RELEASE

Pathfinder Services Inc. kicks off “Life After School” Workshop

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Pathfinder Services Inc. kicked off “Life After School”, A Career Exploration Workshop for teenagers with disabilities on Tuesday. The Workshop runs July 18th through August 10th on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00 AM until 1:00 PM at Riverview Middle School in Huntington. Pathfinder Services Inc.’s Sarah Wagner, who holds a Master’s degree in Special Education, instructs the workshop.

Each day the group will first spend two hours in a classroom setting learning personal and societal aspects of work, job classification, and investigating local occupational and training options. Then the group will take a field trip to a different local business each day, and review jobs available at the business. Businesses to be visited include: Huntington University, Huntington Nursery, Schenkel’s Dairy, Heritage Assisted Living Facility, Pathfinder Services Inc., North Star Civic Center, Homier Distributing, Bostel Builders housing development, Mignone Communications, Kids Kampus, and Professional Janitorial Services. After the field trip, the group will summarize what was learned on the trip.

“The goal of the program is to help these kids think about what they want to be when they grow up,” says Chris Kauffman, Associate Director of Community Supports for Pathfinder Services Inc. “It is designed to assist them in exploring a wide variety of careers so they can make educated decisions about what path to take after high school. Each day the kids will get a behind the scenes look at a different business in Huntington. They will get to see the jobs that make these businesses tick and talk to the people who do them so they can learn if it is a line of work that suits them. The program will also provide an opportunity for the kids and their parents to meet with a variety of agencies that can be a resource for them as adults.”

The workshop will conclude on August 10th with a reception at Pathfinder Services Inc. at 6:30 p.m. All participants in the workshop, and their families will have the opportunity to talk to several agencies regarding services available to the children as adults. Agencies at the reception include: Indiana’s Vocational Rehabilitation, Indiana’s Bureau of Developmental Disability Services, Indiana Works, and Ivy Tech’s Disability Services.

Life After School is made possible by Huntington-Whitley Special Services, Pathfinder Foundation, and Help Inc. Pathfinder Services, Inc. is a not-for-profit human services organization based in Huntington, where it was founded in 1966. In addition to Huntington County, Pathfinder Services Inc. also provides services in Wabash, Marshall and Starke Counties. For more information on Pathfinder Services Inc.’s Life After School Workshop please contact Chris Kauffman at (260) 356-0500.

