



The Tailor Institute, Inc.

www.tailorinstitute.org

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Volume 1, Issue 2

The R.I.V.E.R. Project

The Tailor Institute is a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering the lives of individuals on the autism spectrum identified as high-functioning with areas of giftedness. The Tailor institute recently developed a work skills training module entitled The R.I.V.E.R. Project (Reaching Independent Vocational Employment Readiness). The Tailor Institute proposed a collaborative project with Southeast Missouri Hospital to jointly assist in the development of workforce skills in participants of The Tailor Institute.



A. McAuley labeling brochures for the education department of Southeast Missouri Hospital.

Four participants from The Tailor Institute are participating in this collaborative effort. The participants will work for a total of 20 weeks. They work on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00am until 12:00pm.

During this effort, The Tailor Institute is providing employer training and onsite job coaching as needed. These interventions are in place to enhance the potential for successful long-term job placement possibilities and to increase knowledge and understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The newly gained skills acquired through the collaboration will prepare the individuals to have a greater chance to become gainfully employed and live as independently as possible, reduce or eliminate the need for government support.

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The Education Department of Southeast Missouri Hospital gave the R.I.V.E.R. project participants a luncheon to thank them for all of their hard work. We would like to thank Southeast Missouri Hospital for allowing the participants the opportunity to gain valuable work experience. We look forward to working with them in the future. (continued on p. 3)



Links for more Information on Autism:

<p>Autism Research Institute Autism - MayoClinic.com Autism Web The Faces of Autism Autism - March of Dimes NIH - Autism Thompson Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders Autism Society of America Department of Mental Health (DMH) Division of Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities (MRDD)</p>	<p>Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Effective Practices Judevine Center for Autism Missouri Assistive Technology (MoAT) Missouri Association on Higher Education and Disability Guidebook Missouri Network Of Care MO-FEAT Missouri Autism Resource Guide Missouri Developmental Disabilities Resource Center (MODDRC)</p>	<p><i>These web links are provided as a service. However, the Tailor Institute cannot guarantee the accuracy of the content. (If you receive this in print, please go to our website, www.tailorinstitute.org to follow the link.)</i></p>
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Top 10 Traits of Autistic People (autism.about.com/od/inspirationideas/tp/besttraits.htm)

1. Autistic People Rarely Lie: a good word from a person on the spectrum is the real deal.
2. People on the Autism Spectrum Live in the Moment: People on the Autism Spectrum truly attend to the sensory input that surrounds them.
3. People with Autism Rarely Judge Others: People on the spectrum often see through such surface appearances to discover the real person.
4. Autistic People are Passionate: Many are truly passionate about things, ideas, and people in their lives.
5. People with Autism Are Not Tied to Social Expectations: They are not interested in keeping up with the Joneses.
6. People with Autism Have Terrific Memories: People on the spectrum are often much more in tune with details.
7. Autistic People are Less Materialistic: People with autism are far less concerned with outward appearance than their typical peers.
8. Autistic People Play Fewer Head Games: They assume that others do not either.
9. Autistic People Have Fewer Hidden Agendas: There is no beating around the bush.
10. People with Autism Open New Doors for Neurotypicals: for us neurotypicals, having an autistic person in our lives could have a positive impact on our perceptions, beliefs, and expectations.

Tips From Temple Grandin, Ph. D. (www.autism.com/families/therapy/teaching_tips.htm)

1. Many people with autism are visual thinkers: Depending on the age of the person, try using pictures, pen and paper, and/or flash cards to communicate.
2. Give directions in small steps.
3. If someone is having trouble writing with pen and paper, try using a computer, it will be easier to read also.
4. Some autistic people are bothered by visual distractions. To avoid this problem, make sure that the work area has very few distractions. Even a picture on the wall can be very distracting for someone.
5. Since a lot of autistic people are pay close attention to detail, using closed captioning while watching TV may help the person with comprehension.
6. Individuals with visual processing problems often find it easier to read if black print is printed on colored paper to reduce contrast.
7. Teaching a new principal may need to be done in a few different ways (or places) so that they know that the principal applies everywhere.



Barnes and Noble Autism Awareness Day Fundraiser

Autism Awareness Day April 2nd, 2009: Barnes and Noble hosted a fundraiser for The Tailor Institute. Thank you to Barnes and Noble and to those of you who came out and supported us that day. We have plans to participate in another fundraiser with Barnes and Noble in the future. This event will take place either in the fall of 2009 or in the spring of 2010. Look for information coming soon.

We would also like to say thank you to the Southeast Missouri Hospital Auxiliary. The Auxiliary volunteered time at Barnes and Noble to help us raise money. We really appreciate all of their help.

The R.I.V.E.R. Project (continued)



J. Wynn worked in the Telecommunications Department as a Mail Messenger.



C. Whites worked at HealthPoint Fitness as a Camp Assistant.



A. McAuley worked in Education Services as a Secretary Assistant.



P. Robertson worked in the Education Library as a Librarian Page.



What Is The Tailor Institute?

The Tailor Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with high-functioning autism or Asperger's Syndrome (a condition sometimes referred to as the "highest functioning" who exhibit areas of giftedness. Founded in 2003 by the father of an individual with high-functioning autism, *The Tailor Institute* was designed to provide gifted individuals on the autism spectrum the tools they need to live and work as independently as possible.

The Tailor Institute identifies the specific skills and talents of these individuals and develops strategies for employment and independent living. We match such individuals with employers who can benefit from the presence of employees remarkable abilities. Once we establish a match between a participant and an employer, we provide support for our participants and their employers in an effort to facilitate successful long-term employment.

Currently, *The Tailor Institute* is housed in the Southeast Innovation Center. In November 2009, TTI will be a tenant in the new Southeast Missouri State University Autism Center for Diagnosis & Treatment. *The Tailor Institute* team will work as a Collaborative Partner with the university and the local TouchPoint agency in providing assessment & treatment opportunities.



Creating unique pathways for
unique individuals

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*A special Thank You to
Martha Stocker for her
donation to
The Tailor Institute
on behalf of Lyn Stocker.*

If you wish to receive a hard copy or would like more information about The Tailor Institute, please e-mail kw.tailorinstitute@live.com and we will send you the information requested. Please include your mailing address.

If you wish to be taken off of the e-newsletter mailing list, please e-mail kw.tailorinstitute@live.com.

Updated Board Member Information

The Tailor Institute is growing its board and will be adding five new members later in the fall. Look for more information on this in the next newsletter.

Diamond In The Rough Banquet Sponsors

Hope Diamond Sponsors

*Brain & Neurospine Clinic of Missouri
Gary & Wendy Rust (in honor of the Southeast
Missourian Newspaper)
Dr. Raymond & Ann Ritter*

Dresden Green Diamond Sponsors

*Southeast Missouri State University Autism
Center for Diagnosis & Treatment
Dr. B.L. Ogborn*

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