Recreational Therapy Programs
The Munroe-Meyer Institute (MMI) Recreational Therapy Program was founded in 1982 when Omaha Public Schools lost funding for its summer programs. With the need for a summer program evident, the Hattie B. Munroe Foundation funded Camp Munroe, a summer camp for children with developmental disabilities. The Hattie B. Munroe Board of Directors responded to the feedback from this effort and decided to fund the summer program again the following year.

The MMI Department of Recreational Therapy has continued to grow and prosper with the support of the Hattie B. Munroe Foundation Board, the C. Louis Meyer Foundation, the MMI Guild and the MMI Operating Board.

The Department of Recreational Therapy has expanded its programming from its original Camp Munroe summer program to include a winter camp, after school and Saturday recreation programs, Arnold Stern Saturday nights transition programs, preschool recreation, Kids on the Block outreach education program, adult swim program and the adult respite and habilitation program. The department offers many community service and volunteer opportunities. Student internships in therapeutic recreation are also available, as are research opportunities.

The MMI Department of Recreational Therapy staff includes a director, certified therapeutic recreation specialists, special programs coordinator, therapy technicians and volunteers. These trained individuals are responsible for providing a safe, positive, learning environment that emphasizes recreational and leisure experiences.

Volunteer Program

Individuals 12 or older may volunteer for any of the programs offered by the Department of Recreational Therapy. Volunteers provide assistance to program participants to ensure safe and fun activity participation. The program strives to increase the volunteers’ awareness of individuals with disabilities. Volunteer training is required and includes instruction on positioning, feeding and swallowing, behavior management, universal precautions, and use of adaptive equipment.

Adult Evening Respite and Habilitation Program

Adults over the age of 21 with developmental disabilities are invited to enroll in our Adult Evening Respite and Habilitation Program. This program is designed to provide recreational activities and social interaction opportunities with peers. Cooking, swimming, art, dance, and crafts are examples of the types of activities offered each week. This program is held each fall and spring on Thursday evenings.

Adult Day Swim Program

The Adult Day Swim Program is designed to provide adults over the age of 21 with developmental disabilities an opportunity for physical activity and social interaction. The program is offered in the fall and spring.

Note: Blue headlined programs are sponsored by the Hattie B. Munroe Foundation Board. Red headlined programs are sponsored by the C. Louis Meyer Foundation Board.
Camp Munroe

Camp Munroe is a summer recreation program for children/youth ages 3 - 21 who have developmental disabilities. Children attend camp for one or more weeks. They participate daily in activities such as cooking, swimming, art, music, dance, sports/games and community outings. The purpose of this program is to provide recreation, play and social interaction opportunities for the campers and peers, learning experiences for student volunteers and respite for families. The program is offered Monday through Friday and typically runs from late June through early August.

After School Program

The After School Program is offered each fall and spring for children/youth ages 3 - 21 who have developmental disabilities. Each day the children participate in two to three activities that include cooking, swimming, art, music, sports/games and community outings. The program is offered Monday through Thursday afternoons. Depending on their age, participants attend the program on either Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday.

Saturday Program

This Saturday program coincides with the After School Program in the fall and spring. It is offered Saturday mornings to children/youth ages 3 - 21 who have developmental disabilities. Each Saturday the children/youth participate in three to four activities such as cooking, swimming, art, music, sports/games and community outings.

Arnold Stern Saturday Nights Transition Program

This transition program for teens ages 13 - 21 is held one Saturday night a month from September through May. The participants engage in community leisure planning and community outings. The purpose of this program is to teach adolescents about recreation options in the community and to provide respite opportunities for families.

Preschool Program

The preschool program is designed for children with developmental disabilities and peer partners ages 3 - 6. The children participate in either a morning or afternoon session one day a week. Three to four age appropriate activities are offered each week. The activities include, but are not limited to swimming, art, music, sensory stimulation projects and snack time.

Kids on the Block Program

The Kids on the Block Program is an education awareness program targeted at children ages 6 - 12. The program uses puppets to educate children about disability awareness, medical/educational differences, and social concerns. Presentations are given to school children in the Omaha area and in rural Nebraska.
The Mission of the Munroe-Meyer Institute for Genetics and Rehabilitation is to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities and their families.

Questions and Comments
Questions and comments can be directed to the Recreational Therapy staff at:
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