About ASTS:
One of the programs within Catholic Charities’ Disability Services is our Adult Support and Transition Services. This program offers a variety of opportunities for adults and those entering adulthood with developmental disabilities and special needs. Services include assistance with social skills, pre-work skills, job skills and development, independent living skills, consultations, training, assessments, and classes. Those involved in the program take time to enjoy recreational skills on small group outings to places such as local swimming pools and bowling alleys. The program uses a wrap-around approach, aimed at meeting the needs of the individual.

I just wanted to thank you for everything you have taught me. It’s been extremely helpful at McDonald’s. I have been able to make people’s days by just smiling at them or greeting them when they come in the door. It’s a great reward. Please tell everyone that I miss them and that I hope they have the best of luck throughout the coming years. Again, thank you both for teaching me all the skills that I need to learn. Feel free to visit me at McDonald’s whenever you want. Who knows, I could be the person taking your order because I work at the front counter.

-Former Transitional Participant

If interested please contact at:
Adult Support and Transition Services
3710 East Ave. South
La Crosse, 54601
(608) 782-0710

Visit us on the web at www.cclse.org
1-888-212-HELP (4357)
On-Site Programs

ASTS offers an on-site program in which participants work on vocational skills training such as sorting, packaging, and assembling items. Participants work on daily living skills such as washing dishes, vacuuming, sweeping, mopping floors, and cleaning rooms. ASTS offers goal setting, performance evaluation, and job development in an integrated work environment. While in the building at Catholic Charities, participants work on various office, janitorial, and other miscellaneous jobs. Through our FACT program (Food and Clothing Today), the participants in our program helped set up and maintain a Men’s Clothing Closet and Food Pantry. Jobs performed in the Men’s Clothing Closet include folding and hanging clothes, sorting clothing by size, evaluating new donations, making signs, and measuring clothes that arrive without tags. The food pantry is filled with non-perishable foods, some refrigerated foods, personal hygiene items, and baby food. Individuals help to collect new donations, stock the shelves, and keep the food pantry organized. Many of the jobs performed are paid jobs.

Off-Site Programs

ASTS offers off-site job development at various businesses in the community with whom we have developed partnerships. These partnerships provide participants a variety of choices of workplaces and the ability to gain valuable work experience at these locations. Staff members work with the participant providing job coaching and job development to help build job skills to meet criteria of the employer, with the goal of earning gainful employment.

ASTS also works with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation to provide supported employment, skills assessments, and job placement. ASTS works with individuals with a variety of needs, and has a great deal of experience assessing and working with individuals on the Autism Spectrum.

Opportunities Offered

Classes are offered at Catholic Charities for individuals or small groups of individuals with special needs in various areas related to job skills, social skills, and community access. Subject areas addressed include strategies for getting along with co-workers, managing money, friendship skills, safety skills in the community, and work ethic. The ASTS uses direct instruction, videos, and role-playing to help teach these skills. Classes are based on an individual’s needs, and typically last 6 to 8 sessions per topic.

ASTS offers consultation to help determine an individual’s needs, understand how their needs are being met, and identify what supports or changes would be helpful for that individual. Consultation includes observing and interviewing the individual as well as significant people in their life. Follow-ups are offered as needed, as well as a report of findings, recommendations, and further support.

ASTS also offers staff training for employers and employees who work with individuals with special needs. Topics include, but are not limited to, positive behavior supports, visual supports, disability awareness, social skills, and other specific topics such as Asperger’s Syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorders.

When certain skill areas need closer examination, ASTS offers assessment in various areas of need. Using tools such as the Becker and Brigance, we can assess individuals one-on-one in areas such as independent living, community skills, career interests, work habits and attitudes, interpersonal skills, money managing skills, and work performance. Staff observe the individual and interview parents, teachers, care managers, etc. to get a full picture of the individual’s needs and provide a report based on what is found.

All of the activities listed above were created based on the needs of our participants. We continue to shape our program in order to meet each individual’s needs.