

Business Partners

Mass Transit Authority (MTA), Flint

MTA believes that all people deserve competitive, integrated employment and looks at potential employees for what they can do, not what they cannot do. As a BSBP partner, MTA has hired two BSBP clients. MTA is currently working with BSBP to develop a training site for clients to showcase their abilities and provide a “hands-on” work experience for BSBP clients.



Mary Ann MacIntosh – Biggby Coffee, Cadillac

Ms. MacIntosh and the staff at Biggby Coffee are recognized for their partnership with BSBP and community partner Hope Network West Michigan in Cadillac, for providing competitive, integrated employment for a BSBP consumer. Her enthusiasm and dedication to employing people of ALL abilities was evident as she eagerly offered employment to a BSBP client with no functional vision, giving this young woman a chance to succeed and learn. She’s now working 20 hours per week to acquire more advanced barista skill training to meet her employment goals.



Genevieve Nowak – Belle Isle Conservancy, Detroit

One of the services that BSBP is required to provide to transition-age youth is paid work experiences. Once Ms. Nowak (the director of Volunteer Services for Belle Isle Park) learned about BSBP’s Pre-ETS program, she enthusiastically placed three BSBP students as weekend docents at the newly renovated, Belle Isle Aquarium. The students gave guided tours to the public, serving as volunteers -- with BSBP providing wages under Pre-ETS services. This partnership with BSBP is a great example of an unconventional work opportunity that met the needs of both the business and the students. BSBP is the only agency to place students with disabilities at Belle Isle Park.



Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) Partners

Diana Maddox – Disability Network Capital Area, Lansing

Ms. Maddox and the team at Disability Network are recognized for partnering with BSBP on many initiatives including creating a five-day Pre-ETS program for local students, the Tools for Transitions program through the Braille and Talking Book Library (serving as fiduciary) and providing assistance with individual and group referrals.



Mona Khaled – Disability Network Southwest Michigan (DNSW MI), Kalamazoo

As program director at DNSW MI, Ms. Kahled has been instrumental in assisting BSBP in providing Pre-ETS services for a BSBP client which included the development and implementation of a paid work experience through DNSW MI. She also advocated for the client's placement in the Advocacy Academy and provided Pre-Employment Skill Building for the client for a more successful work experience. Ms. Kahled has worked tirelessly to promote DNSW MI to consumers who are blind and future opportunities for other students in DNSW Michigan programs.



Ann Marie Sladewski – Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD), Macomb

Ms. Sladewski is credited for opening doors to other groups of school professionals who interfaced with BSBP students but didn't know what BSBP had to offer. She helped make the necessary changes between BSBP and MISD to meet the demands of new federal requirements, recognizing that the opportunity to help students can be initiated at any level. She worked to re-engage the Macomb Visually Impaired Teacher Consultants (TCVI's) with BSBP staff to build a stronger partnership. She also was instrumental in the restructuring Pre-ETS services based on students' work-readiness needs.



Express Printing Solutions, Kalamazoo

Last June, Express Printing with very little lead time, came to the rescue for BSBP's Pre-ETS NASA STEM program by providing printing services when printers didn't arrive in time. Subsequently, Express invited BSBP students to visit their business to learn about the many career opportunities in 3D Printing. Express has also worked with BSBP Pre-ETS staff to develop and execute a 3D Printer building weekend so students can further explore this technology and career path. Express worked with BSBP to learn how to teach a blind student to put together the 3D Printer kit and are participating in a series of informational transcribed videos for BSBP students to take home with their printers, as well as a parent packet. Express has been an extraordinary community partner by helping BSBP students explore cutting-edge technology and are interested in having students complete work experiences at Express Printing.



Community Partners

Dawn Price – Hope Network West Michigan, Cadillac

Ms. Price and job coach staff member, Melanie Robbins are commended for their work in developing and providing training for a BSBP client at Biggby Coffee in Cadillac, and for helping place other BSBP consumers into employment throughout the year. Although Ms. Price came to Hope Network without the experience of working with people with visual impairments, she has enthusiastically assisted BSBP consumers in locating and customizing work experiences.



John Rose – Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Ann Arbor

For more than 35 years, Mr. Rose has worked as a teacher consultant in Washtenaw ISD's Young Adult Program. He works with individuals with disabilities in the classroom and the community at various work sites. He's best known for going above and beyond for his Pre-ETS students by assisting them, from registration to attendance, ensuring they have the most positive outcome. According to his colleagues, John is a cut above the rest, a very special person.

