

# moka



## **Giving Made Possible**

### **MOKA Partners with Feeding America**

It's Tuesday morning, the clock just hit 10 a.m. and Margaret is already at her station inside Feeding America West Michigan eager to begin the day's tasks. She grabs a clear bag and begins to fill it with pre-packaged food. Once the bag is full, she places it in a bin and reaches for the next bag, chatting with fellow volunteers from the MOKA Community Supports Life Skills program as she works.

This is a time Margaret looks forward to each week. It is a chance to not only give back to her community but to spend time engaging with others and building essential skills. "I have watched Margaret blossom from when she first started. The way she assists her fellow volunteers is incredible to watch. She is very proud of the work she does here," says Francesca Almonte, Reclamations Coordinator at Feeding America West Michigan.

Feeding America West Michigan distributes food to relieve hunger and increase food security in 40 counties throughout West Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. The

volunteers from MOKA's Community Supports Life Skills program were named one of their top five volunteer groups in 2020 and assist in the processing of more than 200,000 pounds of products a month.

"The people we serve love volunteering and being a part of their community," says Supervisor of Community Supports Jenny Shumard. Natalie Visser, Specialized Assistant Supervisor, adds "They're developing their leadership and teambuilding skills. They work as a group the entire time they are here." Francesca says, "The consistent hours they spend here, their dedication, and their stage presence make the volunteers from MOKA stand out. They give off an energy that makes people want to be here. Their impact is huge."

[Find more stories like this by clicking here to read our latest Annual Report](#)



### **MOKA Partners with The Wege Foundation to Address Healthcare Inequity**

MOKA's Residential Services believes that the health and safety of the people we serve is our top priority. We believe that everyone deserves a life full of equity and integrity, which includes the way health care is handled.

One way MOKA has been prioritizing improved healthcare has been through a partnership with The Wege Foundation to work on prevention, support, and education of

adults with disabilities and diabetes. It is reported that a total of 21% of adults with disabilities have diabetes, compared to 8% of people without disabilities. This large difference in percentage was a sign that we needed to act. **To read the full blog on the impact of this initiative please click the button below!**

We would like to give a huge thank you to The Wege Foundation for their support in this endeavor and the direct support professionals who have continued to make the necessary changes to improve the health of the people we serve.

[Read Full Blog Here](#)



### **MOKA Attends community partnership event with MI Bureau of Services for Blind Persons**

Joni and Molly from MOKA's Community Supports program had the opportunity to attend a two-day Community Partner event through the Michigan Bureau of Services for Blind Persons. They learned about resources, accessibility, accommodations, and creating a

broader understanding and appreciation for those with visual impairments. We are proud of our team for their passion for inclusion and drive to be life long learners.

Thanks to the BSBP Training Center for hosting this event!



### **Check Out Our Latest MOKA Apparel**

*YOU* are our greatest strength when it comes to expanding our mission to the community. Show your support for MOKA by repping our gear while your out and about! Click the button below to see our full apparel shop.

**[Click Here To Shop MOKA Gear](#)**



### **Congratulations, Brock!**

Congratulations are in order for Brock, who is participating in MOKA's Employment Services Program. Brock has been eager to find employment and was recently invited for an interview at [Gordon Food Service Store](#) in Muskegon. In preparation for his interview, Brock worked with a MOKA Job Developer, who supported him to learn the tools to ask and answer questions in a professional way.

"Jamey was very helpful, the process seemed easier than I thought it would be and it was fun," Brock says. During the interview, he demonstrated his skills, highlighted his experience, and showcased his friendly personality. He was then offered the job on the spot!

"I feel confident about starting my first "real" job and look forward to learning new things," says Brock.

Congratulations on your new opportunity, Brock!

[Click Here For More Info On MOKA's Employment Services](#)





### **MOKA is seeking Youth Autism Specialists**

MOKA's Youth Autism Specialists work 1:1 with children, teens and young adults in their homes or clinic center Kent county. The Youth Autism Specialist will provide Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention and other Applied Behavioral Interventions under the supervision of the Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

These positions are part-time with flexible day and evening hours. Evening availability is required. High School diploma or equivalent required, college education preferred in related field such as Behavioral Analysis, Psychology, Social Work, Education, Communication Disorders, Behavioral Science, Special Education or Human Development and prior experience working with people with autism or similar disabilities. Reliable means of transportation and an acceptable driving record are required. Positions start at \$18.55 hourly.

**[To view a detailed job description and to apply online please click here](#)**