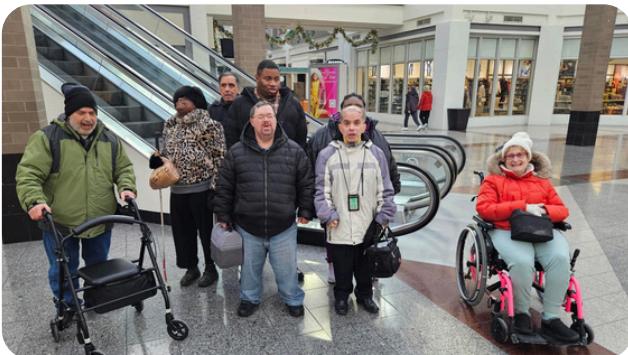


Anixtercenter DISABILITY SERVICES

January 2026 CRS Legacy: Urban Adventures

The month of January was quite frigid, but Legacy participants did not let that stop them from continuing to have fun. Bundled up in their warmest winter attire, they ventured out into the community to museums, shopping at the mall, the library, local community centers and more. They continued to give back to the community by volunteering at favorite locations like Feed My Starving Children and Bernie's Book Bank. They are looking forward to February events.



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CRS Choice: Community Connections

Choice participants stayed active, despite the bitterly cold weather, during the month of January. They participated in a variety of skill development classes including yoga, arts and crafts, cooking and knitting. They continued to venture out into the community to explore exciting destinations, but made to sure to bundled up in warm winter clothing, coats, hats, and gloves. Favorite destinations during the month included the Field Museum, Adler Planetarium, Water Tower Place, the Harry Potter Store, the library, Old Orchard Mall, Shedd Aquarium, River Point Plaza, the Museum of Science and Industry, and the Lincolnwood Mall. Participants also braved the cold to continue their commitment to the community by volunteering at Bernie's Book Bank. Participants are looking forward to what adventures await in February.



Literacy Spotlight: Welcoming New Learner, David Gerber



David's journey with literacy began in childhood. As an elementary student, he loved books and used his vivid imagination to explore stories, especially those about animals. However, teasing related to his glasses and leg braces deeply affected his confidence as a reader. As a low-vision individual, David faced additional barriers that caused him to step away from reading for many years.

Today, David attends the CRS Choice day program, where a simple conversation sparked a powerful turning point. In September 2025, David overheard fellow Anixter day program friends talking excitedly about their literacy tutors and the books they were reading! Inspired, David decided it was time to give reading another chance! He walked over to Anixter's Literacy Department desk and requested a tutor, sharing his interest in reading about animals.

David was enrolled in the Adult Literacy Program and paired with tutor Jonathan Hosea. They now meet every Saturday morning. David approaches each session with focus, curiosity, and a renewed belief in his ability to learn. With Jonathan's support, David is reading intermediate-level articles about animals, including tigers, and successfully answering basic comprehension questions. He has made strong gains in vocabulary, confidently recalling and defining words such as *incarcerate*, *skeptical*, *nominate*, *excel*, and *console*. These accomplishments have contributed to a growing sense of confidence and pride in his learning.

David dreams of one day working in an environment that involves animals. With the help of his high-powered eyeglasses, a supportive mother, dedicated Avondale staff, and his tutor, David completes his homework consistently and continues to make steady progress!

Anixtercenter DISABILITY SERVICES

ICILA: Keeping Up in the Cold

January brought extremely cold weather; however, with proper winter attire such as coats, gloves, and scarves, activities continued without interruption. During the month, individuals enjoyed grocery shopping, visiting local arts and crafts stores, and meeting with their support staff in their homes. They are looking forward with anticipation to the activities and opportunities that February will bring.

