

# Turning abilities into opportunities



## eMPower Academy: Garden Learning Lab Feature with Angela Webb

In a recent feature interview with Angela Webb, the Gardening Learning Lab Career Specialist with the eMPower Academy, we learn about her passion and dedication to flourishing! With a love for plants and a desire for hands-on work, Angela's journey began 20 years ago at Carey Services, where she worked her way up from a Direct Support Professional (DSP) to a site manager. However, seeking a change that would bring her closer to working with individuals, she was excited when she learned about the new opportunities opening up with the eMPower Academy.



Beyond the joy of growing plants, Angela is dedicated to teaching a broader perspective. The Gardening Learning Lab is a place

where gardening meets nutrition and kitchen skills. Angela believes that the eMPower Academy will provide a holistic learning experience that emphasizes a healthy lifestyle.

In line with Empower Academy's mission to enhance employment opportunities, Angela introduces individuals to various career paths within the plant world. With field trips to greenhouses, individuals are exposed to diverse job opportunities, inspiring them to consider retail, marketing, or even culinary careers where they can use their gardening skills.

The Gardening Learning Lab also fosters a sense of sustainability and environmental responsibility. "Through gardening, we're teaching them [individuals] how to be self-sustainable, to grow their own food and care for the environment," Angela shares. "It's about connecting with nature and understanding the cycle of life."

Angela envisions a farmers market where the individuals can proudly sell products they have grown and created. With excitement in her eyes, she talks about pumpkins, herbs, and even homemade soaps and salves. "I hope the lab becomes a place of creativity and empowerment," Angela says with determination. "I want them to leave with a sense of accomplishment and the knowledge that they can do anything they set their minds to." Angela's commitment to nurturing both plants and the individuals through the eMPower Academy is an inspiration to all. As the lab thrives and grows, so too will the future of the individuals involved, ready to face the world with newfound skills, sustainable practices, and a love for nature.











#### SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for the 1st Annual Grant Regional Disability Resource Fair on Saturday, September 9th, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Carey Services in Marion, IN! We are thrilled to partner with Connections Case Health Services, and Management, Meridian Self Advocates of Indiana to bring you this incredible event. We can't wait to see you there! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to info@connections-in.com. You can look forward to food, interactive activities, vendors offering a wide range of products and services, and exciting raffles



#### COMING SOON

Be on the lookout for details about the eMPower Academy Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting! We cannot wait for you to see the new space filled with possibilities for all!

### **MAKE AN IMPACT TODAY!**

- 1. Make a general donation via PayPal through the QR code!
- 2. Make a general donation through our website at <u>careyservices.com/go-to-give</u>









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