# LEARN & EARN

WIOA/JMG Newsletter | Vol. 25, Issue I | August 2026 | Page 1




## Financial Reality Fair Kicks Off Work Experience Program

The Shiawassee RESD's Summer Work Experience Program began in July with a training session at SRESD. This summer program, created with Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), is the first step before the main program starts. The JMG program offers teens a chance to explore careers and build skills throughout the school year.

Students learned about workplace expectations and what makes a good employee, before tackling the LAFCU Financial Reality Fair. In this hands-on budgeting simulation, they visited stations about housing, utilities, transportation, groceries, insurance, and optional expenses like entertainment, clothing, and dining out. Afterward, each student talked with a financial counselor to go over their budget, discuss savings, and look at the difference between needs and wants. This experience helps students see how their education, career choices, and financial decisions can affect their future.

In the afternoon, students met one-on-one with their case managers to go over details about their worksite placements. They also learned about workplace safety, what employers expect, personal hygiene, professionalism, solving problems at work, and how to get ready for their first day. By the end of the day, students felt excited and prepared to start their community work experiences.



## Students Finding Their Spot



Kaylynn Spencer, Corunna. Helping care for toddlers at Noah's Ark Children's Center.



Rory Aebersold, Owosso. Learning new skills with the technology department at Durand Area Schools.

Shiawassee Regional Education Service District

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JOBS for MICHIGAN'S GRADUATES
powered by youth solutions




Kaylene Baker, Owosso. Assisting youth at the Congregational Child Development Center (CCDC).



Kennidy Goodwin, Owosso. Caring for animals at the Shiawassee County Humane Society.



Joseph Jacobs, New Lothrop. Getting the grounds ready for the Shiawassee County Fair.

## *Thank you to the employers who make it happen:*

Alpine Marketplace, Durand Area Schools, Congregational Child Development Center (CCDC), Gilbert's Hardware and Appliance, Iron Horse, Noah's Ark Children's Center, Memorial Healthcare, Pat's Place, Save- A-Lot, Shiawassee County Fair, Shiawassee County Humane Society, Village Fresh Marketplace, and Volunteers of America




Emma Pugh, Corunna. Assisting in Public Safety at Memorial Healthcare.



Mia Ramirez, Laingsburg. Helping with fun activities at Pat's Place.



Isabella Russell, Byron. Keeping the shelves stocked at Alpine Marketplace.

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This program is in partnership with GST Michigan Works! Workforce Development Board and the Workforce Development Agency, State of Michigan. Supported by the State of Michigan Equal Opportunity Employer Program. Michigan Relay Center: 711 Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.



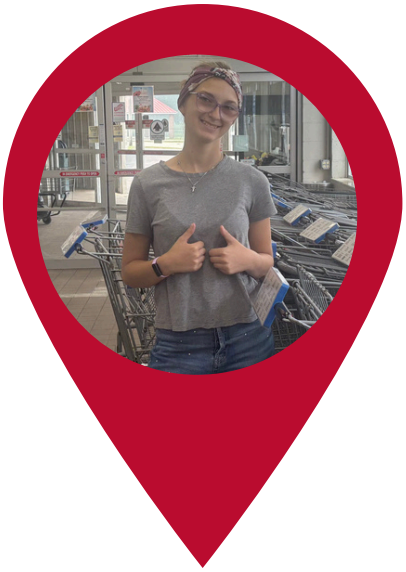
Logan Cooper, Corunna. Organizing merchandise at Volunteers of America.




Hannah Jacobs, New Lothrop. Front facing shelves and stocking at Save- A-Lot.



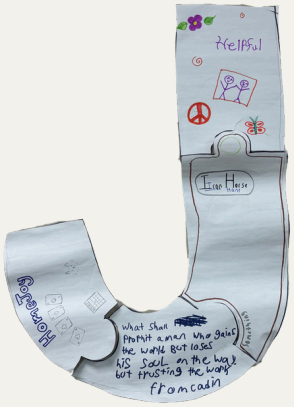

Evan Russ, Durand. Washing dishes and cleaning at the Iron Horse.



Rylie Shay, Perry. Keeping Village Fresh Marketplace looking great.

**Congratulations to all our JMG students on a successful summer!**

## What Does It Mean To Me?









During a recent exercise, students were asked to help complete the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) 'puzzle' by sharing what they learned during their work experience.

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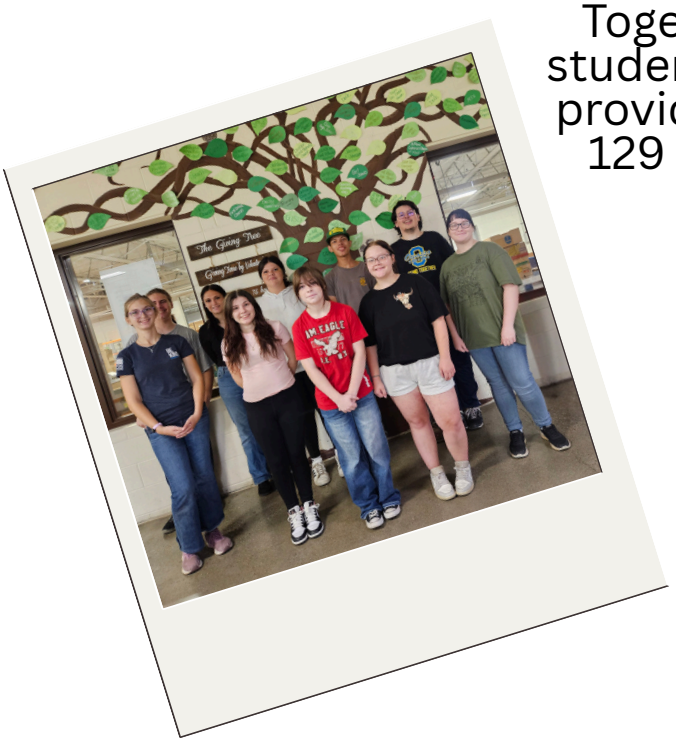
# Making *Memories*, *Learning* Skills

The JMG Launch Celebration recognized student accomplishments and initiated them into SRESD's JMG Chapter. Students received certificates celebrating their hard work, followed by pizza and ice cream. Students shared their achievements from their summer work experiences and reflected on the valuable skills they developed. They also participated in an activity that helped them recognize how the skills they gained this summer can transfer to a variety of careers and workplace settings, leading to future employment opportunities and long-term success.

As part of their summer experience, students also planned and participated in a community service event at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. Working together as a team on an assembly line, students packed food boxes for families in need. They learned that the Food Bank serves 22 counties across eastern Michigan and we were proud to support its mission.




Together, our students helped provide food to 129 families!



We are incredibly proud of all of our JMG students for stepping out of their comfort zones, trying new things, challenging themselves, and investing in their futures.

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