

Transcript of VOICE II Tools for Life.

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>> Female narrator: VOICE 2 Tools for Life 2018.

Hello my name is Jamie Ellison. I'm a special education teacher in the Blaine County School District. I work for Wood River High School and I'm the 18 to 21 year old transition program teacher called VOICE 2. Each year I bring students to Tools for Life. This year I brought six students. Some have never left home before and this is their first road trip - EVER! Some have left home before but always with their parents. This is a long journey for us coming from Blaine County all the way to Moscow. But well worth it.

Hi, I'm Jonmarie Shaw. I am a first year teacher at Wood River High School. I teach the Extended Resource Room.

Hi, my name is Milagro Lucia Espinosa and my school is Wood River High School. I am senior.

Hi, my name is Bud Haslam. I'm in the 11th grade and my teacher is Mr. Ellison.

>> Mr. Ellison: And what school do you go to?

>> Bud: I go to Wood River High School in Hailey, Idaho.

Hi my name is Cynthia Salinas and I'm in 12th grade and I go to Wood River High School and this is where I work at Dr. Luke Whalen's office.

Hi my name is Noah Sorensen. I'm in 12th grade and I go to Wood River High School. And this is where I work. At Albertson's.

>> Mr. Ellison: What do you do at Albertson's?

>> Noah: I collect carts, I bag groceries, I help people out. I clean up spills, I do floor sweeps.

Hi, my name is Xavier Diaz. I go to the Wood River High School and I'm in 12th grade. I work at Idaho Lumber, the store behind me.

Hi my name is Adrian Salinas. I go to the Wood River High School and I am a junior and I work at the Sun Valley Auto Club.

>> Female narrator: What I liked most about Tools for Life 2018.

>> Ms. Shaw: My favorite part of Tools for Life was watching my students increase their independence and become individuals. When we get to Tools for Life they... you can start to watch them blossom. They first get there and we get out of the van and they're looking around, not knowing quite what to do, how to check into the hotel, what they're supposed to do with their luggage. And then all of a sudden it's... I'm here and I have a room of my own and there's no parents and all I have to do is know where my teachers are and what their phone numbers are and I'm on my own. I get to make my own decisions and my own choices for the next 48 hours.

>> Adrian: My favorite part of Tools for Life is feeling confident for everybody getting up onstage, talking to people, and shaving mysteries. Beard!

>> Noah: My favorite part about Tools for Life was the ride up there. It was gorgeous.

>> Mr. Ellison: The ride up to Moscow?

>> Noah: Yeah, to Moscow, Idaho.

>> Bud: Meeting new friends with disabilities and hanging out in the pool with them.

>> Mr. Ellison: Oh yeah? What was your favorite part about hanging out in the pool?

>> Bud: Trying to make who can see, trying to see who can make the biggest cannonball.

>> Mr. Ellison: Whoever can make the biggest cannonball? Who made the biggest cannonball?

>> Bud: I'm pretty sure it was a tie because the pool really wasn't that big and...

>> Mr. Ellison: Okay, was it cool meeting new people?

>> Bud: Yeah it was actually!

>> Mr. Ellison: Yeah? And that you'd never met before?

>> Bud: I'd never met anyone there before.

>> Xavier: What I liked most about the conference was the college tour and the tour of the Disability Center.

>> Cynthia: I like that I got to stay at the hotel and that I was... that I had a lot of independence in there. And that, that I got to meet other people outside of our group.

>> Mr. Ellison: Cool!

>> Cynthia: And I got to, got to hang out with some of them.

>> Mr. Ellison: All right. Did that make you feel more confident?

>> Cynthia: Yeah, that made me feel really confident.

>> Milagro: My favorite part is... speaker, no...

>> Mr. Ellison: Keynote

>> Milagro: Keynote speaker, Mr. Ellison because he was for fun.

>> Mr. Ellison: Because okay, and I'll help you a little bit here okay, because I was funny.

>> Miagro: Funny, yeah.

>> Mr. Ellison: Okay and why else?

>> Miagro: For interest.

>> Mr. Ellison: I was interesting?

>> Miagro: Yeah, for stories.

>> Mr. Ellison: Okay so I, what about the students?

>> Miagro: Inspire.

>> Mr. Ellison: I inspired students? She's getting extra credit.

[giggling]

>> Mr. Ellison: What I enjoy most about Tools for Life is seeing the level of independence increase for my students outside of the school setting. We work on community based skills regularly and I see a regression in independence between the in-the-box school setting and then out in the community. This is a great opportunity for students to learn to network, rely on other people, and get confidence in a setting they're not used to. I do see when we get back from Tools for Life that the level of independence goes up out in the community every year, with every student at a remarkable rate.

>> Female narrator: What I learned at the Tools for Life Conference.

>> Bud: I learned how to use a resume to help me get a job. I learned how to... I learned how to get a job application so I can fill it out.

>> Mr. Ellison: Okay, how to get a job application and fill it out.

>> Bud: Yeah.

>> Mr. Ellison: Awesome! What breakout session was that?

>> Bud: America's Got Talent.

>> Mr. Ellison: And you liked that?

>> Bud: Yeah. It was pretty cool.

>> Adrian: I learned having a disability can get you a lot of connections and a lot of people could help you out. I also enjoyed finding new people, making new friends, and talking to everybody.

>> Mr. Ellison: What did you learn at Tools for Life?

>> Miagro: What I learned is I speak English better.

>> Mr. Ellison: Okay, so you felt you, you speak English better than you thought?

>> Miagro: Uh-huh. I learned for help.

>> Mr. Ellison: Okay, you learned to ask for help -- in Spanish or English?

>> Miagro: In English and Spanish.

>> Mr. Ellison: Okay, and did that make you feel more independent?

>> Miagro: Yup.

>> Xavier: When I was walking around the hotel I didn't realize how many resources that were there to help me get through my adult life.

>> Noah: I learned that I actually enjoyed dancing. More than I used to around here. Because I think around there I felt, I felt accepted because there was a whole bunch of people that had autism like I do.

>> Mr. Ellison: Awesome!

>> Noah: So I felt like I could just dance and nobody would care.

>> Mr. Ellison: I like it!

>> Cynthia: I learned some soft skills at a job site called Your Job, Your Way.

>> Mr. Ellison: And they taught you about soft skills?

>> Cynthia: Uh-huh. Soft skills.

>> Mr. Ellison: And how will you use those?

>> Cynthia: Like at work and like knowing how to go out of my own way and say, "Oh can I do this other thing?" At work.

>> Mr. Ellison: Okay, so you'll be able to apply it in your job.

>> Cynthia: Uh-huh.

>> Ms. Shaw: The vendor I found the most helpful was the Assistive Technology Project. They were there to help guide me in the direction that I needed for a student who's nonverbal with the technology that will be able to assist him to communicate with us and his peers.

>> Mr. Ellison: What I learned this year was that really any student is capable of finding independence at Tools for Life. I had a few students that have never left home before and they were very nervous and they're very shy and very quiet and they're not very confident out in the community. And they decided to make the trip to Moscow to experience Tools for Life. We arrived and it was deer-in-headlights. When we left it was blah-blah-blah-blah-blah. I did get home and see students, the first time we went out in the community, show a level of confidence that I hadn't seen before. So I really, I really learned that all students can take something from Tools for Life and if you get the opportunity to take your students to Tools for Life please do. It's definitely the highlight of my year that's also the highlight of my students and really in a short two days it's mind-blowing how much progress students make as far as independence, confidence, and ability to navigate a new setting.

>> Male narrator: Tools for Life 2018 Moscow, Idaho. Created by Jamie Ellison and Jonmarie Shaw.