DO
GOOD

How we can make small positive changes together.
OVERVIEW

Mission
Sherwood’s mission is to empower children and adults with autism and related disabilities to maximize their potential in family and community life.

History
Sherwood was the first organization in Kansas City to provide special education services for children with autism. It was founded in 1974 in a church basement with six children who had nowhere to go for services. As the original children grew up, Sherwood added services for adults.

Growth
When Sherwood was founded autism was rare; nationwide only 1 in 10,000 children were diagnosed. The Centers for Disease Control now predicts that 1 in 59 children will be diagnosed with autism each year. Since 2015-2016 the number of individuals enrolled at Sherwood has increased by 25%. In FY 17-18 Sherwood served 142 individuals (88 students and 54 adults)—at no cost to families.

Funding
Sherwood is funded by a combination of public dollars from the Missouri Department of Mental Health (Medicaid Waiver), fees from public school districts for services we provide their students, and fundraising.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Special Education
The Special Education Program is a comprehensive, school program that operates 220 days a year, including an eight-week extended term during the summer. Students, ages 5-21, are referred to our program through their public school districts when a specialized school environment is recommended for their success. Transportation is provided by the student’s school district. Each student has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), that identifies individual goals and objectives that determine programming.

School year days/hours:
Monday–Friday, 8:15am–2:30pm

Extended School year (summer):
Monday–Friday, 8:15am–2pm

Staff/student ratio:
1:1 to 1:6 depending on the needs of the student.

Adult Program
The Adult Day Program serves adults, 21 and older, who have been referred to Sherwood by the Department of Mental Health. Services are provided both on and off-site in a small staff to participant ratio, 1:4 to 1:6, depending on the needs of the individual. Each participant has an Individual Support Plan (ISP) that determines the services needed. Transportation is provided by the individual.

Hours:
Monday–Friday, 8:30am–2:30pm; 260 days a year

The Adult Day Program has two components:
• Day Habilitation
• Supported Employment
Volunteers are an invaluable asset to Sherwood Autism Center. Over 350 volunteers dedicate their time to Sherwood every year and tremendously further what we are able to accomplish as an organization. Our mission with this program is to provide meaningful opportunities where help is needed most within the organization. Volunteers come to Sherwood with a wide variety of skillsets — we appreciate your interest in getting involved and would love to find a position that works well for you!

Commitment
- There is currently no long-term commitment required when you sign up to volunteer at Sherwood Autism Center.
- A one-page volunteer waiver must be filled out and returned to participate. You will receive this upon arrival for your volunteer shift.
- We kindly ask that if you are unable to attend a volunteer activity and need to cancel, please let the Development Coordinator know 24-hours in advance.

Requirements
If you are interested in volunteering with Sherwood Autism Center, you must:

- Be 18 years or older to volunteer alone in group or individual activities.
- Be accompanied and supervised by a parent or guardian if you are under 18 years old. Must be at least 5 years or older to participate in the program.
- Be 21+ for event-specific opportunities (Beat the Blues, We Dig Sherwood, and Blues & BBQ).
- Possess a respectful and positive attitude while at our facility or event.
- Support the mission of Sherwood Autism Center.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Sherwood Superhero Day
Join us for Sherwood’s Superhero Day in mid-March, the beginning of June, or mid-August. These are set days during the week each year for companies and groups to volunteer their time in a variety of ways. It is the perfect opportunity for team-building and making a difference for individuals with autism at the same time. Projects include:

- Cleaning up our playground
- Deep cleaning our classrooms
- Washing and cleaning the interior and exterior of Sherwood’s vans that transport children and adults on outings

Specific dates to be determined. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact kderohanian@sherwoodcenter.org.

Group Opportunities
Get a group together and help Sherwood with building and grounds upkeep. This includes:

- Cleaning
- Gardening
- Raking leaves
- General clean-up

Sherwood Autism Center has one Facilities Manager responsible for building and grounds maintenance, therefore this is an on-going area of need for the organization. We can work together on a mutually agreeable date.
**Individual Opportunities**

**Classroom Assistance:** work directly with our Assistant Director to support the needs of our teachers and organize classroom materials. This opportunity is available Monday through Friday, 8:15am–2:30pm. Activities include:

- Cleaning
- Copying
- Laminating
- Cutting
- Overall assistance with classroom materials

*This position will not have direct contact with Sherwood students, but will work in our resource room.*

---

**June: Blues and BBQ**

We have partnered with BB’s Lawside BBQ for 25+ years, bringing together two of Kansas City’s favorites – Blues music and BBQ. Volunteers needed the day of the event to:

- Set up event
- Take tickets
- Pour beer
- Staff the Sherwood info booth and more!

**Spring: We “DIG” Sherwood**

This is a sand volleyball tournament at Volleyball Beach. Volunteers are needed the day of the event to:

- Set up event
- Register guests
- Sell raffle tickets

---

**Set up the Staff Holiday Party.** This includes:

- Put out tables and chairs and decorate the tree the night before the event in December — date to be announced.

---

**Administrative support and mailings**

---

**Event Support**

**January: Beat the Blues**

This is a fun night of eating, drinking and dancing to help guests Beat the (Winter) Blues while raising money for Sherwood! Volunteers are needed to:

- Help secure silent auction items
- Set up the event
- Work during the event at registration, silent auction, coat check
- Clean up after the event

---

**Off-Site Opportunities**

**Host a Jeans Day.** Organize a special day at your workplace where employees can ask for a $5 (or other) donation to wear jeans to work and donate the money to Sherwood.

**Organize a Wish List drive.** Sherwood always needs school supplies, Clorox wipes, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, tooth brushes and tooth paste.