

AUTISM RESOURCES

Bridging the Gap: Transition to Adulthood

Transition Preparation

The shift from high school to adult services can feel like the top of a roller coaster — full of anticipation but also uncertainty. Brian's family discovered that self-advocacy, executive functioning, and planning for college or career were not automatically taught in school. Missouri libraries, through LearningExpress and MOREnet, provide ACT prep, skill-building, and job readiness tools to help families bridge this gap.



Independent Living Preparation

Daily life skills often become urgent only after high school ends. Brian's family realized the importance of cooking, organization, money management, and emotional self-advocacy as their son moved toward independence. Through Digital Literacy and Financial Literacy databases, Missouri libraries offer resources that guide families in teaching practical skills and creating safe systems for success at home and in the community.



Presented by:



Brian Harper

Brian Harper is an Ohio professor, attorney, and proud dad. His son, Brian II, is a rising senior at Baldwin Wallace University. He was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Epilepsy at the age of 3. Brian II's unique journey has taken him to multiple school placements, through intervention successes and failures, and, as a young adult, an active career as a performing pianist. Across these experiences, Brian has come to understand the best practice for supporting Brian II as a student and career-minded young adult.

Mandi Rickelman is an educator, consultant, and the founder of Welcoming Spaces LLC. She partners with schools, libraries, and community organizations to create inclusive, sensory-aware environments. With more than 20 years of experience, she supports autistic individuals and their families and is dedicated to providing continuity of care from preschool through adulthood.



Mandi Rickelman

In Partnership:

