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#### Mission Statement

Community Inclusive Recreation works with local organizations to make educational and recreational programs fully accessible to children and adults with disabilities.

CIR was founded on the belief that every person should be valued, respected, and accepted. Everyone has a gift to offer, and deserves the right to fully participate. Two decades ago adults with disabilities had few places to go.

In the early 90's, Battle Creek resident Linda Linke was very bothered by the fact that her brother-in-law was unable to enjoy many of the resources in our area. He was an adult with a developmental disability. Linda envisioned a community where all people would be able to participate, and she set about to make that happen. The result? Community Inclusive Recreation (CIR).

Now in its 22nd year, CIR participants keep active and socially connected through a wide range of programs: dances, disc golf, a walking club, cooking classes, day trips to sporting and cultural events, and more. The public is always welcome to join in. CIR also partners with other entities to provide them needed services, such as an after-school art class for children living in shelters. Their "Compassion with Action" program helps the disabled give back to the community with volunteer work at the Food Bank, Charitable Union, and other agencies.

DeafLink, another program under CIR's umbrella, offers sign language services across 18 counties in our area, helping individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to bridge communication barriers in their community.

CIR also strives to provide scholarship support for those who cannot afford fees for activities. Today with CIR there is truly something for everyone.

#### Connecting with Mercy

Collecting art and craft supplies for popular programs at CIR

at weekend Masses  
**April 9 and 10**

Suggestions:

Elmers glue    glue sticks

markers        paper

tempura or acrylic paint

paint brushes    foam brushes

markers        Sharpies

modeling clay    buttons

stickers        buttons

beads            bead cords

rubber stamps    ribbon

This would be a great time to clean out those craft supplies that you haven't used. 😊

Did you know...

- the Knights of Columbus support Special Olympics for persons with disabilities through their annual Tootsie Roll sales?

