

The Transylvania Times -

INTERACT Participants 'Won't Give Up'



Pictured, left to right, are Laura Newton (INTERACT participant), Taylor Love (INTERACT participant), and David and Pam Love (event guests). (Courtesy photos)

Editor's Note: Jeanette Wayne, [Transylvania](#) Vocational Service's INTERACT supervisor, wrote the following.

"I Won't Give Up... even if the skies get rough."

That's the motto for the INTERACT program of [Transylvania](#) Vocational Services (TVS), where we are committed to supporting the needs of adults with intellectual and developmental challenges.

We strive to empower our participants in leading self-determined lives, en-couraging their personal growth and development, working toward their own personal goals, enhancing their unique strengths and talents, and enriching their daily lives.

We use a person-centered approach in our program, which is reflected in the acronym, INTERACT: Interact, Network, Teach, Engage, Relate, Achieve, Connect, Together.

Our dedicated INTERACT team strives to provide activities and opportunities that are meaningful to the individuals we support.

One of our goals is to support our participants in their employment pursuits within TVS and in the community.

We also offer a variety of quality classes, such as cooking, music app-rciation, independent living skills, fine motor skills, health, fitness and creative writing.

Art projects are another important focus, as we have many talented artists who display and sell their artwork at TCARTS every year.

INTERACT participants are passionate about giving back to the community.

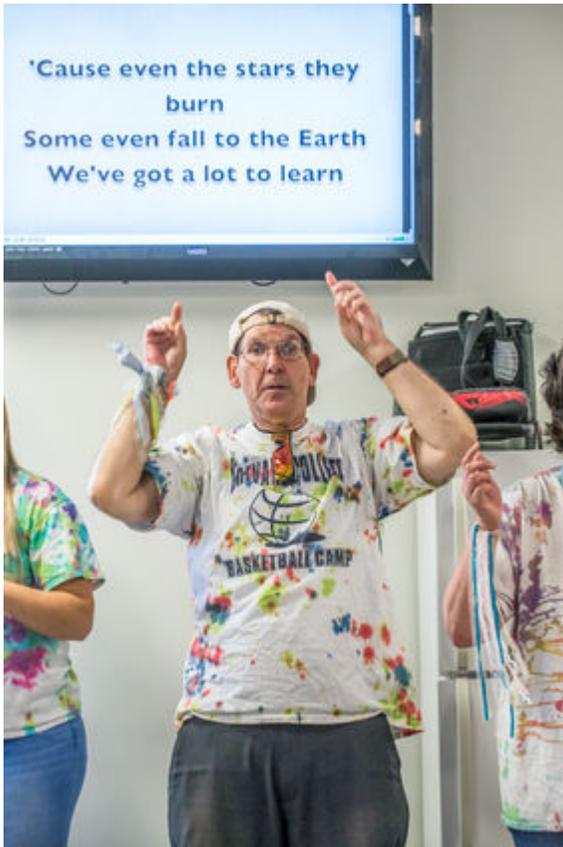
We have hard-working volunteers who help others in need through Four Seasons Hospice Store, Tiger Town thrift store, Restore and Safe's Attic. Animal lovers donate their time to the [Transylvania County Animal Shelter](#), Forever Farms and the Serpentarium.

Other participants fight hunger by volunteering at Meals on Wheels, Anchor Baptist food pantry and the Bread of Life.

In addition, we have civic-minded members who share their talents with Flat Rock Park, [Pisgah Forest Elementary School](#), and the Reading Buddies program with Mountain Sun School.

Earlier this year, INTERACT, along with Life Skills program participants, hosted an Open House at TVS.

As a special presentation, our team performed a sign language project aptly named "I Won't Give Up."



Robert McGuire (INTERACT participant) performs as part of the sign language program.

It was a powerful experience to witness such a beautiful expression of hope, strength and celebration of each person's uniqueness and invaluable worth.

There were no distinctions of race, creed, gender or disability. We were one, unified, equal.

We were humbled by the overwhelmingly positive response to the presentation.

Many visitors were so moved that they asked if we could perform it at their business or organization.

Here at TVS, we celebrate the connections that bind us together as fellow human beings. We would love to continue to share our message with the community.

Contact me at (828) 884-1506 if you are interested in having our team perform this inspiring sign language project for your organization or event.

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