

## STARability's STAR\*Made Studio hosted Candle Camp for local children

STARability Foundation's social enterprise, the STAR\*Made Studio, partnered with the City of Naples' River Park Community Center this summer to teach children how to make candles.

A Naples-based nonprofit, STARability provides vocational training, continuing education and life-enriching experiences to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Participants in the STAR\*Made Studio make products that are sold at the STAR Store, STARability's upscale resale and stellar art shop, and to area businesses.

The 90-minute "candle camp" classes were led by STAR\*Made Studio Assistants Hannah Kandel and Taylor Collins and studio volunteer Olivia Deangelis. Forty campers from River Park's summer camp, which is inclusive of all abilities, made the short walk down the street to the STAR\*Made Studio for their lessons.

Each class had four campers ages 7 and up learning the art of candlemaking, and, to accommodate everyone, two classes were held per week for five weeks. At the end of each class, participants went home with a personalized candle of their own making.

"This partnership was fantastic! It allowed our campers to experience something that they have never done before," said Lynn Clarke, Recreation Supervisor for River Park/Anthony Park, Community Services Department. "It also allowed them a glimpse into what some of their friends may have the opportunity to do when they are older, and it was great to have the STARability participants help facilitate the experiences. It was really a win-win for all."

Located in the Naples Design District at 106 10th St. N., the STAR Store and STAR\*Made Studio employ STARability participants and provide vocational training for more than 40 participants of the foundation's Trailblazer Academy and Junior Trailblazer Academy as they work to create stellar home décor items for sale in the store and beyond.

"This partnership gave our studio assistants an amazing opportunity to explore their leadership skills and reinforce the candlemaking processes they work so hard on in their jobs each week," said Cayla Childs, Director of Communications and Special Initiatives, and head of STAR\*Made Studio. "They were able to share their passion and abilities and show these campers that they can find a passion and job for their abilities, too."

Childs added that, from hand-poured soy candles to holiday ornaments, each studio product's process has a place for all abilities to contribute to a beautifully finished product. This empowers the makers to creatively express themselves as they learn and practice critical skills that translate to their time in the community, at home and in other workplaces. She said the enterprise is growing each day and hopes everyone follows them to see what they create next.

For more information about the STAR\*Made Studio, please contact Cayla Childs, Director of Communications and Special Initiatives, at [cayla@STARability.org](mailto:cayla@STARability.org).

**ABOUT STARability**

The STARability Foundation is a



Cayla Childs and Taylor Collins with M.J. M., Carter M., Logan K.



Cayla Childs with M.J. M.



Cayla Childs and Hannah Kandel with Dominick, Ethan, Sophia and Andrew



Taylor Collins with McKenzie M.



LaMya M.



Liv D. with Carter M.



Liv D. with Lauren N.

Collier County-based nonprofit with a mission of serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. With a professional staff and more than 100 volunteers, STARability delivers a full calendar of engaging, innovative and creative programs to ensure that participants, ages 14 to 70, can live their best lives. The STARability Foundation exists to Support people with intellectual and

developmental disabilities by providing life-transforming opportunities that emphasize Teamwork and connection to the community to build Awareness and Respect for their individual abilities.

To help support the work of STARability or learn more information about the nonprofit and its programs, please visit [STARability.org](http://STARability.org) or [facebook.com/STARabilityfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/STARabilityfoundation).

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