

Trailblazer Academy

The Trailblazer Academy offers community-based vocational and life skills development for young adults. The Trailblazer Academy fills a gap for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities when they age out of school at 22 and the supportive services they receive end.

We have expanded this popular program thanks to the generous support of individual donors and grantors, including the Golisano Foundation, the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, the Collier Community Foundation, Arthrex, The League Club and First Foundation Bank.

Each morning, Trailblazers like Molly K. participate in the program, excited to begin a day full of opportunities to learn skills, connect with friends and engage in activities that shine light on their abilities.

"I am so happy that I can attend the Trailblazer Academy," she says.
"This program supports people like me to reach their goals."



Molly K. (left) and the Trailblazers at St. Matthew's Food Pantry

Participant Reach

EXPERIENCES

11,591

STARability Transformative Experiences
(Trailblazer Academy /Jr. Trailblazer Academy
& STAR Connections)

9,072

In-Person Experiences

2,519

Virtual Experiences

INDIVIDUALS

314

STAR Enrollees

Trailblazer Academy

67

TRAILBLAZER
ACADEMY

20

JR. TRAILBLAZER
ACADEMY

87

Total In-Person & Virtual Enrollees

71

Individuals on the Wait List



STARs at Work

STARability is an approved provider for the Florida Department of Education Vocational Rehabilitation.

35
Individuals Served by Vocational Services

15
Job Seekers

3
New/Additional Placements

33
Jobs Filled

63
Partners in Vocational Services Network
and/or Providing Job Training Sites

Programs

We call our participants STARs because they brighten our lives, our community and the world. They are at the center of everything we do.

Trailblazer Academy

Our pioneering outreach program offers community-based skill development experiences for adults, whether they are on a path to life enrichment or have vocational aspirations. We use an evidence-based model to assess Trailblazers' mastery of eight life skills as they work toward their goals.

Virtual Trailblazer Academy

This outcomes-driven program enables Trailblazers to connect with one another, engage in meaningful classes and activities and work toward their individualized goals from anywhere.

Jr. Trailblazer Academy

Modeled after the Trailblazer Academy, this structured after-school program is offered to 14 to 22 year olds.

STAR Connections

From monthly dinners and dances to creative expression experiences and sports leagues, our largest program offers an array of social connections and life-enriching opportunities both in person and online for our STARs.

Vocational Services

This growing program helps individuals explore employment options, supports them through job searches and long-term volunteer opportunities, and provides on-the-job support.

OUR MISSION IS...

To transform the lives of individuals with disabilities through social, vocational and educational connections to the community, while strengthening awareness and respect for individual abilities.

Community Support

Golisano FOUNDATION
Imagine the possibilities!

The Golisano Foundation
awarded STARability a \$100,000 grant to expand the Trailblazer Academy over two years.

NAPLES CHILDREN
NCEF
& EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

Naples Children & Education Foundation,
Founders of the Naples Winter Wine Festival,
awarded STARability an \$80,000 grant to
expand the Jr. Trailblazer Academy program
during the 2023-2024 cycle.

Our 2023 STAR Gala: Night on the Red Carpet
raised \$2.9 million to support our mission.



Volunteer or support our STARs today!

STARability.org
239.594.9007