

Mission Moments

Made Possible By YOU!

Edition 66, September 2021

Together, Again



Teresa, a DSP, and Bobbie, an Employment Consultant strike an island-inspired pose

This summer, so many of us experienced the joy of reconnecting with loved ones after months of being apart. For many Tangram clients and staff, this reunion happened at our summer luau in July. And while it was a special event for everyone who attended, it was especially meaningful for a group of Deaf clients and employees who missed being able to gather together.

Ruth, a Tangram Behavior Consultant, explained that she worked with her colleagues who serve Deaf individuals to make sure that clients would be able to attend, knowing that many of the clients and staff members hadn't seen each other in over a year. "Many of my clients came with the goal of practicing their social skills—watching and interacting with others—and were thrilled that they had a great time to boot! People were excited that so many hearing staff signed or tried to sign—that was a cool surprise!," she said.

The Deaf community is a closely-knit community and many of the clients and staff members reconnected with people that they knew many years ago, often in different circumstances. For instance, several clients recognized Tangram's Director of IT, Carol Christopher, from her "former life" when she served the Deaf community at the Indiana School for the Deaf (nearly 40 years ago!) and as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor.

Not only was it a pleasant surprise to see old friends, but it was also fun to take part in all of the luau festivities. "One of my clients, Josh, was brave and joined a bingo game with his staff (he won!). That was a huge leap for him as he is a bit shy and being with others can be hard for him. He did a great job and enjoyed himself!," Ruth explained.

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Chris, a Tangram client, channels the Hawaiian spirit with a festive hat.

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Others enjoyed dancing and creating their own sand art. And EVERYONE had fun with the photo booth—trying on a variety of silly accessories and using all the island-themed props.

It was easy to see how much it meant for everyone to see each other in person and catch up after a long time apart. ASL signs seemed more lively and energetic, there was plenty of laughing and hugging, new friendships were made, and old ones were renewed. It was exactly what you would expect from a reunion, but, also, better somehow.

We are so grateful that we were able to gather safely and are glad that all of our clients and employees were able to celebrate the long days and warm nights of summer with an island-inspired party. We'll happily relive these memories until the next time we get together!

International Week of the Deaf is celebrated September 20-26 this year. Tangram is honored to serve those who are Deaf, recognizing their invaluable contributions to our community.

Your donations make moments like this one possible. Support more successes by donating here:
www.thetangramway.org/donate.



Left: Andre, a Tangram client, dresses up for the camera. **Center:** Kurt, a Tangram client, and Ruth, a Tangram Behavior Consultant, share a happy moment. **Right:** Christina, a Tangram client, smiles for the camera with Jauna, a Tangram program manager.