

The Story Behind **GREAT PROSPECTS, INC.**



Michelle Jericevich, husband, Kurt Powell, and children, Indya and Stone, have lived in ACC since 2001. Michelle is Croatian by birth, a ballet teacher, and CEO of Great Prospects. Kurt is originally from Iowa and is now an attorney and managing partner for Hunton-Andrews-Kurt and acts as Chairman of the board of Great Prospects. Daughter, Indya, is 32 and was the inspiration and motivation to create Great Prospects. Son, Stone, is 27, a graduate of Blessed Trinity Catholic High School, and KSU with a degree in economics and now works for Home Depot. The entire family is involved in Great Prospects and is honored to have been the chosen charity for the 2020/2021 CPWC. Michelle has also stepped in to be the Chair for Charities of the CPWC and is excited for the year ahead. Now that you know a bit about the family, we'd like to share about the wonderful organization, Great Prospects.

Our story ...

Life will lead you down many paths. I never dreamt I would be running a program for the developmentally disabled, but here I am. Life was simple when my daughter, Indya, was in the school system. Then the day came when it was time for her to transition out of the school system and we started looking for a place for her and my life came to a halt! There was absolutely nothing in 2000 that I would even consider as a place to send her.

Great Prospects was born out of a need for a safe place for my daughter to continue to grow, develop friendships, experience peer support, and have fun living life!

Our mission at Great Prospects is to offer parents a place for parents to trust leaving their son/daughter and go to work knowing that they would be well cared for in an enriching and loving environment. We have created a place to lighten the load for our families and support one another.

We offer many incredible opportunities for the developmentally disabled community. We have our ongoing "Therapeutic Day" program for young adults who have graduated or transitioned from High School that focuses on social skills training, peer support, exploration of workplace options, community service, health and fitness, therapeutic activities, and planning for an independent future. Our summer program, "Summer Friends," begins this June. Summer Friends is for individuals aged 16-21 still attending high school. Students participate alongside our Therapeutic Day program participants during the summer. The program offers participants a fun place to go and be with friends while giving parents an alternative to staying home or finding "childcare" during the summer. It also introduces the Therapeutic Day Program as a potential long-term solution for their children once they age out of the school system at 22.

Additionally, we have two other programs to highlight:

- “Respite Day,” which is a fun Saturday program designed once a month where our participants socialize with friends, go to the movies, bowling, the arcade, mini-golf, lunch, and many more exciting options.
- “Social Connections” program allows the community to come together for a themed dance, bingo or bowling once a month.

It has been a meaningful journey to develop these programs with our talented and incredible staff. We have safety procedures in place as we navigate this new normal with COVID-19 and would be happy to discuss any concerns with family members as they make their decisions for summer and school year programs.

My motto has always been a life worth living is for my daughter. My joy comes from seeing my daughter’s happiness and fulfillment and the happiness and fulfillment of her friends and others. Great Prospects Inc. will continue to spread happiness and provide growth through our opportunities and programming the developmentally disabled in our community.

