



# HENRY FORD HEALTH<sup>SM</sup>

## West Bloomfield Hospital

### Project SEARCH Newsletter

DECEMBER 2025 EDITION

#### Upcoming Events

- Winter Break – December 22, 2025 – January 2, 2026
- Welcome Back – January 5, 2026
- No Project SEARCH – January 19, 2026
- Half Days – Dismissal @ 11:30 am January 22 & 23
- Open House – January 27, 2026 9:30 am – 10:30 am
- Employment Review Meeting Day February 3, 2026
- February 16, 2026 Winter Break NO Project SEARCH

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#### Project SEARCH Interns Complete 1<sup>st</sup> Rotations

"Wow!" "That went by so fast." "I've learned so much." "I'm really glad to be here." "I was scared at first, but I love it here." Common phrases we heard from interns during the last few days of their first rotation experience within the various departments. The foundation of confidence the interns have gained has been life changing for each of them. We are grateful for the amazing team members from the following departments who welcomed the interns; **Supply Chain Management Linens, Acorn/Birch 1 GPU and Acorn/Birch 2 GPU, Supply Chain Management Surgical Supplies, Patient Transportation, Food and Nutritional Services.**



## Interns at Work



### Your Next Rotation will be...

It was a morning filled with excitement and anticipation on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 as the interns received their second rotation assignments from Christina Trivett, Business Liaison and Volunteer Services Department Manager. The interns will start working on January 6<sup>th</sup>, in the following departments: **Acorn/ Birch 1 & 2 GPU, Supply Chain –Surgical Supplies and Acorn 3 GPU, Nutritional Food Services and Housekeeping.**



## Continuous Improvement...Model Fidelity

The interns received the opportunity to meet Susie Rutkowski, co-founder of Project SEARCH, and Michael Zivsak, Michigan Statewide co-director for Project SEARCH on Thursday, October 30, 2025, along with the collaborative team members for the Henry Ford West Bloomfield site, which included Henry Ford Health Business Liaison – Christina Trivett, Michigan Rehabilitation Counselor – Eva Xhelilaj, New Horizon’s Director of Evaluation and Employment Manager – Michelle Janness, New Horizon’s Director of Vocational Rehabilitation – Angela Pena, and Skills Trainer – Karen Palmer for the walk through review. Susie was impressed with the team and their synergistic collaborative mission which has contributed to the overall employment rate of 81% since 2011. \* *The program employment rate for Project SEARCH globally is approximately 70%. The overall employment rate in the United States for individuals with disabilities is 25.1% according to the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP).* \*



## Check – Call – Care

Awareness of one’s surroundings could be a lifesaver. The intern’s learned Hands- Only CPR from nurse educator Alex. They also learned how to use an AED and when to call 911. These important skills are essential and could one day save a life.





## Congratulations to the Intern of the Year 2025



Ope Obiri was recognized on Thursday, October 9, 2025 at the New Horizon's 61st Annual Awards Ceremony and Banquet for her outstanding achievement as Project SEARCH Intern of the Year at the Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital site.

*The collaborative Project SEARCH team at Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital was unanimous in this year's Intern of the Year selection.*

*Have you ever closed your eyes, and walked the same path you take each day for 10 steps, whether at home, work, climbing stairs or while shopping? Try navigating the nucleus of a hospital on the ground floor, with carts coming and going to reach your destination to a unit floor. When this path was shared with administrators from the intern's home district, they were truly amazed.*

*This year's Intern of the year, spends her life looking up, is present for others, and has incredible grit. Her pure humility allows her to trust and ask others for an assist to reach her destination. If anyone has perfect vision for perseverance, positivity and making an inspiring impact, it is Ope. Ope not only lights the paths for others with her presence, but her spirit provides the oil to keep the lights glowing.*

*Ope you model wonder and awe each day in your zest for life. It has been an incredible privilege to have you participate in Project SEARCH. You have left your mark on each of our hearts. Congratulations!*

At the program completion ceremony last June, Ope shared her favorite moments at Project SEARCH were the random discussions that turned into life lessons. "Those were the moments that changed my thinking." "As Project SEARCH Interns, we would like to be remembered as adults who have persevered and were kind to others. One thing we have learned is that we are in charge of our own actions and the words we use, and we choose our attitude."

## Journey to Work

It was an honor for the interns to listen to 2020-2021 Project SEARCH alumna, Carlie Suris, as she told her story of searching for competitive employment in the real world, and how her experience in Project SEARCH taught her to be more independent, confident, and trusting while discovering her voice and her purpose. Carlie shared her inspiring journey, including the struggles she encountered along the path of employment, and the growth she has experienced along the way as she persevered and advocated for herself to get the type of work she desired. Carlie's work goals included working with kids, and she is currently working for the YMCA as a school site assistant. We are so proud of you! BRAVO!



**Happy Holidays!!!**

May your joyous glow shine brightly throughout the holiday's and during the new year. May the joy you choose brighten your path and bring promise and peace for the adventure ahead.

