

Rhode Island Transition Academy 2023

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

October...*Sweaters, Hot Cocoa, Corn Mazes, Falling Leaves, Crisp Apples & Pumpkins of Course*

RITA EVENTS

- *October's Theme:
Citizenship Month
- *Monthly Featured
Internship: Cloud
House Museum
- *Community Day
Roundup: October
- *Special Guest
Speaker!



October Theme is Citizenship Month at the Transition Academy

The main theme of October is “*Citizenship & Community*” Month at the Transition Academy. Students are encouraged to research their hometown to explore different ways they can become involved with their own community. Also, Students will tour the State House, City Hall, and statewide areas of importance.



(RIGHT) Landon, graduating RITA in June, took the time to assist in tree planting at the expansive grounds of *Cloud Hill House* (East Greenwich). This historical site includes a museum and arboretum (See Page 3).

(LEFT) Our students had the opportunity to support their community by experiencing the local Farmers Market in Warwick. They mingled with local vendors and learned about area agriculture.



This Months Featured Student Internship Partner: Cloud Hill House



(Pictured LEFT) Clouds Hill [Victorian] House is a museum located in East Greenwich RI, on the estate formerly known as Cedar Hill, a country estate built 1871 as a wedding present for Elizabeth Ives Slater Reed by her father, **William Slater**. Adjacent to the main house lies a separate carriage museum with more than 12 carriages, including a gypsy wagon from the mid-1800s. Additionally, the property on which the house sits has been referred to as the West Bay arboretum and is the home to more than 70 species of trees and shrubs.



Overall, the focus of this internship site is for the students to assist the museum manager in maintaining the grounds of property using hand and power tools/equipment. Typical tasks include mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, and lots of raking. With the excessive influx of leaves at this time of the year, instead of rakes our students very much prefer using the power-leaf blowers (Bottom Left Photo).



RTA's Community Day Roundup for the Month of October



(LEFT) Grace/Alexis checking out the beautiful scenery at South County Museum of Narragansett. Our students also experienced authentic colonial life at a Blacksmith/Printing Shop, as well as extensive native american artifacts in the central area of the museum complex. This was the first year the Academy has visited this particular community day site.



(LEFT) Students Jalisse/Marissa and staff traveled to Farmer's Daughter, N. Kingstown, and were treated to a rustic hayride. **(RIGHT)** Also, the perfect Fall weather made traversing the property's Corn Maze ideal. This Community Day was the best Autumn Adventure, according to student feedback. Kizari & Co.



The Transition Academy Welcomes Special Guest Speaker/RITA Alumnus



This month our students had the opportunity to participate in a “*Question and Answer*” session with a former Transition Academy grad named Mike. Mike took time out of his busy day to share his extensive life experiences both, during his time at the Academy as well as his time since he graduated RITA, over 10 years ago.

A couple of topics he covered included:

- *Important independent living, ‘life-skills’ learned while at RITA (cooking/cleaning/budgeting)
- *Social skills he learned that presently help him interact with others

Our students’ favorite topic he covered was his experience at his current job as a costume assistant at Walt Disney World in Florida. He had some great insider information about the amusement park and the characters he helps on a daily basis.