



## *Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative*

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative Executive Advisory Board

FROM: Marianne Fidishin, PhD, Executive Director

DATE: October 4, 2017

RE: Transition Program Microbusiness Update

Six (6) years ago, the Mid Valley Special Education Cooperative S.A.I.L. Transition Program established a microbusiness designed to provide vocational experiences for students 18-22 years of age. For those six (6) years, the Shelby Building, located at 210 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, St, Charles, housed the microbusiness. However, most recently, Baker Memorial United Methodist Church located at 307 Cedar Avenue, St. Charles, has generously opened its doors to the microbusiness providing additional workspace to improve to meet the needs of increased number of students and provide a greater number of opportunities to learn about business. Due to the number of students utilizing that facility for functional life skill development, the Shelby Building prohibited microbusiness expansion due limited physical space. The Baker Memorial location microbusiness began serving students from New Directions, SAIL, and 12+ programs on September 18, 2017. Further, microbusiness students will participate in the weekly Baker Memorial Indoor Farmer's Market on Friday mornings beginning November, 2017, developing and expanding their entrepreneurship skills. Although the current number of participating students is 33, the new location allows an expansion of up to 50 students.