



Allaire Village

Everyone History for children and adults with special needs and developmental disabilities

www.allairevillage.org

Who We Are

Founded in 1957, Allaire Village is New Jersey's premiere living history museum with 12 original structures from the 18th-19th centuries and 40 acres of land. Our mission is to energize current and future generations in their understanding of local history through immersive experiences that make history accessible to all.

The Program

Everyone History focuses on children and adults living with autism, Down's syndrome and cognitive, communication, sensory, emotional and social challenges. We've learned from caregivers that they seek educational, stimulating, outdoor settings for recreation, especially as their children with special needs grow into adults with special needs. Buses from special education programs arrive at Allaire Village weekly. Teachers asked us for a structured educational program, and we delivered! Everyone History is our direct response to these specific community needs. We created Everyone History to offer interactive experiences for people of all ages living with developmental challenges. The program takes place in and around our Blacksmith & Tin Shop, Carpenter Shop, Bakery, General Store, Chapel, Library, Allaire Mansion, Enameling Building and Row House. Activities include Village Life Tours and Games on the Green, introducing life from the 1830s and games from that period. For those with sensory issues, we have no loud noises during the tours. Soothing music in the Chapel and delicious smells in the Bakery welcome our guests. Participants tell us they "feel like everyone else" while shopping in our General Store. Everyone History welcomes exceptional people with all abilities to our village family, creating inclusion instead of isolation.

Alignment with Impact's Funding Priorities

This is our 5th time applying to Impact100. We're thrilled to be a finalist for the second year in a row! Everyone History aligns with your focus on underserved populations and unmet needs. The program addresses the serious need for outdoor recreation and education for children - and especially adults - with developmental disabilities. Over the past year, 300 people with special needs and 182 teachers/family members participated in Everyone History. This includes participants from more than 30 special-needs programs in Monmouth and Ocean Counties. This grant will be transformational for Allaire Village and Everyone History. We'll hire a full-time program director with a special education background who's entirely focused on the program, add 5 tour guides and 3 historic interpreters and conduct staff/volunteer training. Thanks to this grant, we'll also be able to subsidize the per-person cost of the program for special-needs families with financial need.