

Adair County SB40 Developmental Disability Board October 2026 Spotlight Award Recipient Oaklyn Atchley – Kids Leadership/Volunteer Award



Oaklyn Atchley of Kirksville has been selected as the October Kids Leadership/Volunteer Award Recipient by Adair County SB40 following her nomination by Cheyane Attebery and Angela Hawes with Adair SB40 at the Community Learning Center. Cheyane, Community Engagement Specialist, shared:

"I truly cannot say enough wonderful things about Oaklyn Atchley and the impact she has made at our Community Learning Center this year! It has been such a joy to watch her give her time, share her talents, and build connections with the individuals we serve. Oaklyn has gone above and beyond as a volunteer, whether she is teaching classes, helping individuals create something special during craft time, or volunteering during bingo to make sure everyone is included, smiling, and having a good time. She brings such a kind heart and a willingness to help wherever she is needed, and those little moments of kindness can make the biggest difference in someone's day.

One of the things that makes Oaklyn so special is that her kindness doesn't stop when she leaves the CLC. She took it upon herself to grow flowers at home, pick them herself, and deliver them to local nursing homes to brighten the days of residents in our community. To me, that speaks volumes about the kind of person Oaklyn is. She sees opportunities to make others smile and chooses to act on them simply because she wants to make a difference. That is something truly special, and I hope she knows how much those thoughtful gestures mean to the people receiving them.

As someone who has had the opportunity to work with Oaklyn and see her heart for others firsthand, I am incredibly proud of the time and care she has given to our CLC and the community around her. It is inspiring to see a young person who is so willing to give back, make connections, and bring happiness to others in so many different ways. Oaklyn is a wonderful reminder that you don't have to do something big or grand to make a meaningful impact. Sometimes, it is the simple things, like helping someone with a craft, cheering someone on during bingo, or delivering a bouquet of homegrown flowers, that leave the biggest impression. We are so lucky to have Oaklyn as part of our CLC family, and I am excited to see all the wonderful things she continues to do. Thank you, Oaklyn, for sharing your time, your talents, and your beautiful heart with us!"

If you would like to nominate a great candidate for a monthly Spotlight Award, Adair County SB40 is accepting nominations. Anyone can make a nomination. Nominations can be made in any of the four following categories:

- Kids Inclusion Spotlight Award for children in kindergarten - 8th grade
- Youth Leadership Spotlight Award for youth in grades 9-12
 - Community Volunteer Spotlight Award (any age)
 - Entrepreneur or Employee Spotlight Award (any age)

In January 2027, a Spotlight Award of the Year winners will be selected from all of the monthly winners. Nominations can be made throughout the year by visiting the Adair County SB40 website or by contacting a SB40 staff member to assist you at (660) 665 - 9400. You can also find more information about the four nomination categories by visiting Adair County SB40's website, <https://www.sb40life.org>

Middle picture from left back, Cheyane Attebery and Sean Jacob, in front Oaklyn Atchley