

**Did you know that Monarch folks volunteer thousands of hours every year?**

*John is a person we support who volunteers at the Coltrane LIFE Center. Wade supports him while he volunteers. We received the following email from one of the staff at the Coltrane Center:*

The Coltrane LIFE Center has truly benefited from John and Wade's involvement. They bring joy to every participant in our program. Our participants look forward to their visit every day and start asking early in the morning what time they will be here. John is very involved in most of our programs. He enjoys interacting with participants in activities such as Wii games, various field trips, and even cooking activities. His assigned job everyday is to feed the fish in our fish tank. He helps clean up after meals and lets staff know of other needs participants may have. It is evident in his interaction with our participants that Wade truly cares for others. He takes the time to communicate one on one with our elders truly letting them know that he cares. He is a great role model and mentor to John and you are truly lucky to have him on your staff. In their short time working with us here, I can tell a change in John. He is not as shy and is having more interaction with others. I truly feel this is due to the encouragement that he gets from Wade as well as staff and participants here.



**John is on the left, playing the Wii!**



**Meeting our legislator!**

On February 9, some people supported by Monarch who live at RAGH, attended the Open House for Congressman Larry Kissell in Rockingham. Coincidentally, his office is next door to the Monarch office.

Rodney was very excited to meet the Congressman. While having an interesting conversation with him, Rodney discovered that the Congressman's Wife was his Guidance Counselor while he attended school in Montgomery County. Rodney also found it fascinating that the Congressman taught Mathematics for the county school system.

Randy had a nice conversation with the Congressman about different events in history.

Other people supported, Mike, Dell, Tim and Steve greeted the Congressman with a handshake.

Everyone was excited to meet the Congressman and his staff.