



21 Plus Times Spring 2017

*“Meaningful lives for
people with disabilities”*



Message From The Executive Director

My one year anniversary as Executive Director snuck up on me faster than I expected. Even though it was a blur I believe we accomplished quite a bit since our last newsletter. For example:

- We changed the internal qualifications for our Program Administrator and Assistant Program Administrator positions. This is vital to give our employees who stay with us and do great work an actual career path. Someone can begin working at 21 Plus in an entry level position and within a reasonable amount time move into management. It is important to retain great employees who wish to grow with the agency. This resulted in the promotion of 8 employees advancing into management.
- We created quarterly business meetings. Every 3 months Directors, Program Administrators and Assistant Program Administrators meet to discuss issues, review policy, and enhance communication and to “De-mystify” the perception of just what everyone does. This has done wonders to remove communication gaps as well enhancing the status of site supervisors now working hand in hand with Directors.
- We purchased a home to serve 4 women from the Vineland Developmental Center in Clementon, NJ. This home will provide a great service to 4 women who wish to live in the community, as well as augment 21 Plus’ footprint in the Camden County area, bringing a sister home to our home located in Voorhees. We hope to open this home by Labor Day 2017.
- Our employment program successfully passed several audits from DDD. Our residential programs had a successful licensing inspection as well as a successful Medicaid audit. Our Adult Trainings Centers and Employment programs were successful in obtaining their 4th straight three year CARF accreditation. Kudos to everyone who made all of this year’s audits/inspections a huge success.
- Our Lakewood Adult Training Center started a lunch time delivery service to the students of Bayhead Elementary school. 3 days per week our individuals pick up the food at the local high school, deliver it and serve it with a smile to the children of Bayhead Elementary.
- We continually look to modify and renovate our group homes, increasing accessibility in terms of new bathrooms, entryways as well as adding bedrooms so no one has to share a bedroom anymore. These enhancements are vital to the lives of the people living in our group homes as these adaptations allow everyone to age in place and stay in a home they know and love for many years.
- Last but not least, with Medicaid finally giving DDD the go ahead, greenlighting Fee for Service in all service types, 21 Plus has begun implementation of our Electronic Health Record (NetSmart MyEvolve). The implementation team has been deployed and is in full operation completing our online learning, passing tests and building our system so when we are billing Medicaid for services in the very near future, we will do so accurately, timely and electronically.

This is just a snap shot of what can take place in 6 months time. I would like to thank everyone who has helped me learn the details of my new job and who has supported me during my first year.

Save The Date For Our New Event!!

21 Plus Foundation, Inc. presents—Lip Sync Wars!

Friday, September 15, 2017

Sawmill Seaside Park, NJ

7pm-10pm

Admission: \$50/per person—first drink is on us!

Sponsorship Opportunities are available and volunteers are needed. Can you lend a hand?

Join us and DJ Nico Santoriello as your local favorites battle it out at Lip Sync Wars! Enjoy endless cocktail hour, sweet beats and great company!

Contact Wendy for more information – 732-240-3118, x215 or wmoore@21plus.org

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DID YOU KNOW?

- 21 Plus is a non-profit, tax exempt organization registered with the State of New Jersey and the US Department of the Treasury classified 501(c)(3).
- 21 Plus Foundation accepts bequests. For more information call us at 732-240-3118, x310.
- Visit our website at www.21plus.org.
- For more information about services for your loved one call Division of Developmental Disabilities at 732-863-4500.
- 21 Plus is a member of the New Jersey Association of Community Providers.



Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities has accredited 21 Plus, Inc. for its Adult Training Centers and Supported Employment Programs.

Supervisor Training Series

When Nicole Bauer became Director of Residential Services, one of her first ideas was to begin Supervisor Training to make sure Program Administrators and Assistant Program Administrators were up to date on DDD and agency policies.

To make the trainings less tedious, Nicole found a phone app to make testing fun, Kahoot. Training attendees, aka “players”, use their cell phones to log into the game and answer questions related to the training. Answering correctly and quickly is the key to winning. The app locks in answers and assigns a point value. After each question the leader board is displayed. One of the perks about the app is that it gives the instructor stats for each player, what they got right and wrong, which helps determine which topics need more training.

Everyone gets into it. Staff move around the training space, standing by windows, standing on chairs, looking for the best phone service so they can lock in quickly. There are choruses of groans when people buzz in too soon without reading all the answers or accidentally hit the wrong one. The competition is fierce and entertaining!

In the beginning there were worries that the Program Administrators would have an advantage over the Assistant Program Administrators, but that hasn’t always been the case. APA Sam Ortiz was recently an overall winner, and she won a Wawa giftcard for her efforts - 38 out of 40 correct answers!

Thanks to Nicole’s creativity our staff are looking forward to the next Supervisor Training session!



Community Service Day at Dallas Group Home

On April 22nd, volunteers from One Voice Life Group of Church of Grace and Peace adopted the Dallas Drive group home for their community service day. Trimming, weeding, raking, mulching and serving in love. The men who live at Dallas group home were thrilled to pitch in, and before too long the yard was ready for spring.



21 Plus is so fortunate to have volunteers like Church of Grace and Peace donating their time and talents at our group homes. If you belong to a group or know a group that would be interested in adopting a 21 Plus group home, please call us at 732-240-3118.

News From The Board Of Directors

The 21 Plus, Inc. Board of Directors met on May 23rd for their annual reorganization meeting. The following board members were elected to the Executive Committee for the upcoming year:

Christine L. Matus—President

Richard Askoff—Treasurer

Adrienne Socha—Secretary

Re-elected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term at the Annual Meeting held on April 25th: Russ Corby, Ed Frankman, Anne Kraljic, Christine Matus, Senator John F. Russo, Sr., Michael York.



Thank you to all who volunteer their time to serve on the 21 Plus Board of Directors.

NJACP Community Star - Douglas Batzel

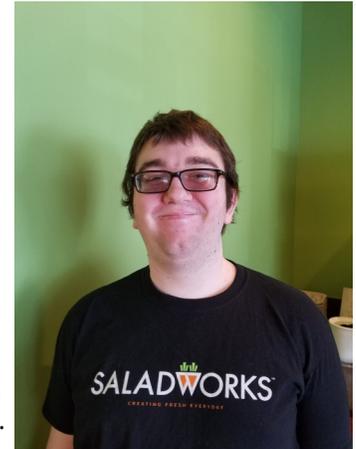
21 Plus is excited to announce that our very own Douglas Batzel is a 2017 New Jersey Association of Community Providers Stars Award winner.

Douglas first came to 21 Plus through Trial Work Experience (TWE), a program that would determine if he was ready for competitive employment. Douglas handled this program with ease, asking questions, staying on topic, and eager to try new things.

Douglas impressed everyone with his determination and ability to multitask. He went above and beyond during his time in TWE, willing to help any customer who asked. He did so well that Saladworks hired him! Colleen Mading, Saladworks store owner, said "Douglas is pleasant and a joy to work with. He's a very hard worker and he's great with customers. Everyone here loves him."

Prior to this program, Douglas had not held a job. Thanks to Trial Work Experience and Saladworks, Douglas has learned several new tasks. He is excited about working and wears his uniform proudly. He has made friends and gained experience that will last a lifetime. His Employment Specialist, Alaire, says "Douglas is motivated and a hard working individual. Anything that he puts his mind to he excels in. He is always looking to learn new things."

The supported employment staff at 21 Plus is proud of Douglas and his accomplishments. Douglas's next step is the Long Term Follow Along phase. He is a prime example of if you believe in something it can come true with a little hard work.



Guys Night Out

Mike R. is a huge music fan who loves going to see his favorite performers when they tour. Back in February, Mike found out that Olivia Newton-John would be performing at the Count Basie Theater in Red Bank. Mike invited his friend and housemate Mark to go along. The tickets were purchased, the calendar was marked, and the waiting began. Mike was really looking forward to this concert.

When the day of the concert finally came, the guys decided to get a bite to eat before going to the theater. They had a nice dinner at Chili's, and walked around downtown Red Bank for a while before the show started.

Finally it was time for the concert to start. Mike and Mark found their seats and waited for Olivia Newton-John to take the stage. When she came out on stage Mike and Mark had huge smiles on their faces. They both sang along to her songs, and they really enjoyed her encore, a cover of Over the Rainbow. After the concert both went to the merchandise table where Mike purchased a program and Mark purchased a t-shirt., and headed home knowing it was a night to remember.





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For more information
visit our website at
www.21plus.org

21 Plus, Inc., located in Toms River, was founded in 1979 and provides meaningful lives for people with disabilities. All services ensure dignity and respect, promote optimal physical and mental well-being, are designed based on individual needs, and promote personal growth. Available services include day programs, group homes, employment and family support. For more information go to www.21plus.org or call (732) 240-3118.

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