



21 Plus Times Fall 2018

“Meaningful lives for people with disabilities”



From The Executive Director—A Season Of Thanksgiving

In our spring newsletter I used the analogy of 21 Plus doing the groundwork and planting the seeds, being poised to blossom. We are ready to harvest the results of our efforts. At this time of year it is tradition to pause and give thanks for the good things in life. We have so much to be thankful for at 21 Plus this year. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to serve our clients and see their growth, develop new relationships with others in the community as well as within their home or workplace.

I am thankful we have successfully had our 14th group home licensed and set to serve 4 additional people in the community. Our Adult Training Centers have added crew labor jobs and have begun serving two additional people since the spring. And Look out! We have begun serving a new Young Set! Right out of high school with high energy and tech savvy! We have modelled our programs to appeal to the next generation, educational games on the computer and gaming systems, getting out to play some hoops, and looking for paid crew labor.

Service groups from local organizations and colleges continue to volunteer their time maintaining curb appeal for our homes. It has been amazing to watch the intergenerational interaction between the college students and our individuals. 21 Plus has also given back to those who support us—for example, walking for Walk To Build for Habitat For Humanity in September.



I am thankful to have the opportunity to meet groups that fundraise for 21 Plus, such as the Knights of Columbus and Renaissance Women’s Group. Alice, who receives services from 21 Plus has been an amazing spokesperson for 21 Plus, speaking to large groups of people expressing her thanks for the support of 21 Plus and its staff to do things she never imagined possible.



My gratitude for our staff is beyond measure. They give their all, giving up time with their families as the holidays approach, making sure everyone has a lovely holiday. As an organization we have been present and engaged, advocating at the State House for FairPay4DirectCare. We have all committed to making 21 Plus, Inc. a great place to work. We have been able to increase the number of positions with benefit packages, we promote from within to provide a career path for employees, a robust training and development program is in place, and focus groups are held monthly where administration asks “How are We Doing?” The teamwork amongst our sites and departments is ongoing and prevalent.

I cannot say enough about the growth and leadership I have had the privilege to observe and have a small part in. Sarah Labore is one example of many, her contribution to the I/DD community was recognized at the Annual Conference for New Jersey Association for Community Providers in Atlantic City. Sarah takes on projects most would run from, and always puts our individuals first. There are countless stories about individuals whose lives have been changed because of Sarah. For example, one person in particular was having a difficult transition moving into her new group home. Sarah was there every step of the way with her, ensuring that her needs were met, comforting her and encouraging her. Their bond transcends a work relationship. This is the essence of who Sarah is. Her compassion, her love, her care, her concern and her willingness to do all she can for people with developmental disabilities, their families, coworkers, and 21 Plus, Inc.

Special thanks to all of our community partners and our volunteer board of directors for their guidance during this time of change and growth. Your support makes it possible for 21 Plus to give our individuals the quality programs they deserve. I wish you all a warm and wonderful holiday season!

For more updates on our progress, please check out our website (www.21plus.org) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/21plusinc/>).

Inside this issue:

<i>21 Plus Foundation</i>	2
<i>Out & About</i>	2
<i>Self-Advocacy</i>	3
<i>Lip Sync Wars—Part Deux</i>	3
<i>Route 70 ATC</i>	3

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.
- Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/21plusinc/>.
- 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.

21 Plus Foundation

Extra, Extra! Read all about the difference Zev Rosen, has made to the lives of people at 21 Plus. Zev and his wife, Fran, were founders of 21 Plus Inc. Zev, never one to shy away from what he believes in, spent 20 years volunteering for positions on the Board of Directors and various committees. He used his community affiliations and influence to assist 21 Plus, donated personal funds for programs, and marketed the agency to everyone in the community.

In 1999, after 20 years of commitment and dedication to 21 Plus Inc., when he could have stepped back and relaxed, he brought together community leaders and established the 21 Plus Foundation. Government funding was dwindling and it was time to think about sustaining 21 Plus's programs in the future. Since then he has spent another 20 years as the Chairperson committed to growing the Foundation to assist 21 Plus. He is one of the Foundation's major donors and has supported every appeal and event since its inception. His influence in the community, in addition to the generosity of his family and friends, has produced a well-respected amount of donations. Because of donors like Zev, the Foundation was able to give 21 Plus \$200,000 to date in 2018.

Without Zev and the Rosen family, where would 21 Plus be today? Zev has left his mark on 21 Plus through the sacrifice of time, generosity and the belief that what he was doing was important to the lives of others. Thank you Zev from all who have benefitted from your kindness!

Checking Out Local Attractions



The individuals who live in our group homes spent the summer of 2018 out about and about seeing what NJ has to offer!

The ladies who live at Wayne Avenue took a day trip to Smithville and spent the day shopping and trying out restaurants.

Rosie and Mark from Sapling Court headed down to Atlantic City. After walking the boardwalk and spending some time in the Tropicana, they enjoyed dinner at PF Changs where they enjoyed the fireworks while they ate.



The Prospect Drive ladies signed up for Lifelong Learning classes with ARC of Gloucester, taking canvas painting, craft making, and music.

Twin Oaks group home took a day trip out to Johnson's Farm in Medford where the ladies were able to enjoy a handicap accessible hayride. After the hayride, the ladies got to pick out pumpkins and picked up a pie.



The Sylvan group home guys have barely been home at all! From BlueClaws games and food festivals to Cape May Zoo and Hurricane Harbor the guys made the most of their summer.



Alice Meets A Fellow Advocate

While in Atlantic City for a conference, Alice, who lives in a 21 Plus group home, got to meet Donna Thornton, whose life the movie *Profoundly Normal* is based on.

Donna was in the forefront of self-advocacy in the 1980's. Alice has taken incredible steps in her own self-advocacy journey this year, making this meeting a wonderful opportunity.

Alice and Donna spent about 20 minutes talking about their lives and experiences.

Alice attended the conference with staff to attend sessions about self-advocacy, including how to form self-advocacy groups and the Governmental Affairs Ambassador Program, which teaches people with disabilities how to vote.



Lip Sync Wars—Part Deux

21 Plus Foundation hosted their second Lip Sync Wars on Thursday, October 4th at Crystal Point in Point Pleasant. The fun filled night showcased local celebrities showing off their lip sync skills—including Jeremy Grunin as Axl Rose performing *Welcome To The Jungle*, Brian Klohn as Dee Snyder performing *We're Not Gonna Take It*, and Shawn Michaels as Bert from *Sesame Street* performing the bath time classic *Rubber Ducky*. Board member and event co-chair Anne Kraljic surprised everyone with her rendition of Bruno Mars *Up-town Funk!* 21 Plus, Inc. Executive Director Diane Hutton-Rose and her husband Guy put out the event winning act as Ike and Tina Turner performing *Proud Mary*.

Thank you to our sponsors who help make this event possible—

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A big thank you to Lisa Bierly for taking photos at the event!

We are always looking for new talent! If you'd like to perform in next years Lip Sync Wars, please call 732-240-3118 or email info@21plus.org.

Big Changes at Route 70 ATC

Route 70 Adult Training Center has added an impressive 12 new participants since March 2018! 7 of those participants came to 21 Plus, Inc. as they graduated from high school. Peter, Sam, Africa, Onessia, Vincent, Andrew, and Heather came to Route 70 ATC to work on their vocational skills. They are learning how to write their resumes, and are working in the computer center to work on their computer skills and how to use the internet to find jobs. Another 2 participants will be joining the ranks sometime this month.

It can't all be work and no play, so Route 70 also added an air hockey table and a Wii system so that participants can enjoy recreation and some physical fitness time.

Ace cleaning crew Maryann, Mark, Holly, Joyce, Michael and Michelle landed a new paying crew labor job with Hope Presbyterian Church. A new paying job means a bigger paycheck for Route 70 participants. Way to go!

This growth is not possible without the tireless efforts of the ATC staff. If you have an individual who could benefit from coming to an Adult Training Center, please call us at 732-240-3118.



*"Meaningful lives for people
with disabilities"*

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

21 Plus, Inc., located in Manchester, NJ, 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, and supported employment. For more information go to www.21plus.org or call (732) 240-3118.

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