



21 Plus Times Spring 2018

*“Meaningful lives for
people with disabilities”*



Message From The Executive Director

Spring is here and there couldn't be a better analogy for 21 Plus, Inc. We have done the ground work and planted the seeds. We are poised to blossom in the coming months as we nurture and see the fruits of our labor of the first quarter of 2018. Almost all of our clients have converted to Medicaid fee for service funding. Families, Guardians, and 21 Plus staff have worked collaboratively with support coordination agencies to ensure a smooth transition. If you or your family member have any questions please don't hesitate to call us; we are delighted to clarify and assist navigating this new system.

21 Plus is expanding our residential services, opening a group home in Clementon Township. We have welcomed back former employees, have promoted staff internally to supervisory positions, and families have been calling to let us know how pleased both they and their family members are with the renewed enthusiasm and attention to person centered services and community outings.

We are grateful for the continued support from service groups and the 21 Plus Foundation. We rely on our relationship with community organizations to ensure we can maintain the curb appeal of our sites in keeping with the character of the neighborhood. This breaks down barriers and helps make connections. We are always looking for community organizations to join in and “adopt a house”. If you belong to a service group or just want to get together with a few friends to do yard clean up, plant some flowers or even paint a room- please reach out! We'd love to have you.

Our 21 Plus staff amaze me with their commitment and dedication to our mission, providing quality services and fostering meaningful lives for people with disabilities. Positivity and teamwork abound! Within sites, across programs, or interdepartmentally- we are truly one agency, one mission. Our efforts have resulted in amazing outcomes. For example, Alice, who lives in a 21 Plus group home, is a member of the Toms River Mayors Advisory Council on Developmental Disabilities. Our Main Street Adult Training Center has added a new customer to their list of crew labor customers.

Representatives from 21 Plus were present in Trenton during State Budget hearings advocating with the DSP (Direct Support Professional) coalition for a living wage and New Jersey Association for Community Providers for Pay Fair for Direct Care. We will be at the state capitol again for DSP wage advocacy day June 21, 2018.

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

Lip Sync Wars Is Back!!

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

Thursday, October 4, 2018

Crystal Point, Point Pleasant, 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 for our second annual Lip Sync Wars and watch your local favorites battle it out! After last years success, expect the competition to be fierce! Enjoy endless cocktail hour, sweet beats and great company!

Contact Wendy for more information – 732-240-3118, x215 or wlubrecht@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.



About 21 Plus Foundation

The 21 Plus Foundation was created in 1999 to assist 21 Plus Inc. with those needs that can't be met by other means. The work of the Foundation focuses on three things: raising money, being fiscally responsible to our donors, and managing the funds to maximize our support to 21 Plus Inc. The long term goal of the Foundation is to increase the fair market value of the investment portfolio to \$2 million. Once that is attained, the Foundation will be able to distribute some of the interest earned to 21 Plus as needed. Until then, we balance the needs of 21 Plus while fund raising for dollars to reach the goal.

There are 9 very savvy trustees on the Foundation board who guide the operation, give of their time, and donate to the Foundation mission: providing for health, social and recreational needs of people with developmental disabilities; physically improving program facilities and residential sites; building a committed core of competent 21 Plus associates through training and education; and promoting public and government awareness to enhance the lives of 21 Plus participants. In addition, Wendy Lubrecht, Sheila Melore, and Mary Norman work part-time and have a combined work-week total of about 30 hours.

Here is an important piece of information and the reason that we always need your help. In 2017, the Foundation granted \$412,000 to 21 Plus as they began their transition into the fee-for-service world. Thank you for your support in the past and the future.

Blue Thongs Clean Up

The Jersey Shore Blue Belles (Toms River chapter of the Blue Thong Society) has been volunteering at our Mizzen Avenue group home for the last seven years. The ladies do the spring cleanup at the house, sprucing up the flower beds, weeding, planting perennials. In fact, there are a number of Blue Belles who come back year after year for this volunteer event.

Chapter Director (aka Top Thong) Nanette McKendrick has brought her dog Molly along on cleanup day for the last three years. Mark, who lives at Mizzen, is always thrilled to see Molly. And Molly is always happy for the attention she receives from Mark, as well as the other guys who live at Mizzen.

Support like this from local volunteer groups is crucial to the success of 21 Plus. Moving from flat funding to fee-for-service has left no money in the budget for beautification of our properties. Making sure our group homes align with the neighborhood aesthetics is just one way for 21 Plus fits into the community.

If you belong to a volunteer group and would like to adopt a 21 Plus group home, please call our administrative office at 732-240-3118.

News From The Board Of Directors

The 21 Plus, Inc. Board of Directors met on May 22nd for their annual reorganization meeting. The following board members were elected to the Executive Committee for the upcoming year:

Christine L. Matus—President

Carol Jones—President-Elect

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 24th: Rick Askoff, Carol Jones, Frank Orawiec, Zev Rosen, and Adrienne Socha, and newly elected board members Patricia A. Christopher and Warren Heiss.

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

NJACP Community Star - Lance Eriksen

On May 1st the New Jersey Association of Community Providers (NJACP) hosted their annual Community Stars Awards Dinner at the Stone Terrace in Hamilton, NJ. One of the award winners was our own Lance Eriksen. Lance's housemates and staff came along for the dinner, cheering for him when he received his award.

The Stars Award is just the next part of Lance's journey. Lance came to live at 21 Plus after he and his father lost their home from Hurricane Sandy and became homeless. Since moving to his home 21 Plus's Sylvan group home, Lance attends ARC Employment Center. He likes AEC, and has been set up for Trial Work Experience. Lance is excited about TWE because he wants to find a job.

Back at Sylvan, Lance works on his independence, enjoying independent time at home and in the community. Lance brought his bike with him, and happily rides in the neighborhood. Recently, Lance went to Wrestle Mania. He has plans to go bowling, to the gym, and out dancing with his girlfriends.

Lance will tell you that his "great personality and sense of humor" are the best things about him. For all that he has accomplished and will accomplish, Lance is surely a Star!



Dallas Guys On The Go

The guys who live in our Dallas Drive group home have sure been busy this spring! They've been out every weekend on outings and day trips. Popcorn Park Zoo, Point Pleasant boardwalk, and Comic-Con, just to name a few. And they're working their way through all of the frozen yogurt places they can find. They even stopped by Insectropolis in Toms River.

The Dallas guys teamed up with their friends who live in our Mizzen group home to go to a Beach Boys concert one night. They had a great time and finished off the night with a bite to eat at Applebee's.

Besides having a great time, going out in the community helps these men work on their social skills and money skills.

It's just the beginning of the summer – we can't wait to see what they come up with next!





*"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 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, and supported employment. For more information go to www.21plus.org or call (732) 240-3118.

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