

21 PLUS, INC.

21 PLUS TIMES

FALL ISSUE 2011

“Meaningful lives for people with disabilities”

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Thanksgiving holiday reminds us at 21 Plus of all that we have to be thankful for. In our busy lives we often miss the gifts that are right in front of us. 21 Plus has the good fortune of providing its services in a community where service groups once again in 2011 partnered with us to enhance the interior and exterior of our homes. We have new friends who have taken us under their wing to help reconstruct our website, Falco Design, and an anonymous donor who generously replaced a kitchen in one of our older homes. We have a volunteer board of directors who give their time to board committees and our annual golf outing fundraiser. We have employees who strongly advocate for the people who receive services, and donors who remember us year after year. We really are very fortunate and thankful for everyone's support.

Having so many people believe in 21 Plus reinforces just how important it is for 21 Plus to maintain our reputation of high quality in our programs. The board of directors over the years has reinforced this principle by expanding the agency at a healthy pace, and following a prescribed strategic plan. We have completed more than half of that long term plan, and are about to delve into the goals that involve expansion of programs and diversifying our funding sources. The next two years will be very exciting and crucial as we launch the future of 21 Plus, and strive for a stronger financial base in a struggling economy.

We'll need the continued support of friends and families to make it happen. Here are a few ways that you can help. We have \$170,000 worth of home repairs and furniture on our current wish list. Do you have a connection to a local furniture store that would be willing to donate bedroom furniture? Do you know a student or someone who would volunteer to be our "roving reporter" and write a few articles for our website? Maybe someone who would donate a new laptop? Or just help us by spreading the word to friends who have children with disabilities living at home that we can provide fun activities either in or out of their home. Check out our website which is still under reconstruction for more information. www.21plus.org

In closing, I'd like to thank all of the men and women who live in our homes, or participate in our programs for allowing all of us at 21 Plus to be part of their lives.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Shirley A. Melus

ATC CRAFTS FOR SALE

*Call one of our programs and
shop for seasonal crafts!*

*Main Street Adult Training
Center—732-341-0863*

*Lakewood Adult Training
Center—732-364-0555*

21 PLUS FOUNDATION ACCEPTS BEQUESTS

For more information
contact:

Mary Norman
Finance Director
732-240-3118, x24

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website at
www.21plus.org



TASTE OF THE WORLD WITH FAMILY SUPPORT

Want to sample the sultry smells of India or the artistic delights of Japan? If you said "yes", you need to join the "Restaurant Review: Tastes of the World Club". The club will meet on the first Monday of every month to learn about a new culture, its customs, dress and traditions. After all that talk, what could be more fun than to taste the country? The group will journey to a local restaurant and immerse themselves in the culture and food. This is a great way to hang out with friends, maybe make new ones, and taste new foods. The club is available to people with developmental disabilities from the age of 16 and older, and will gather at Main Street Adult Training Center, 310 Main Street, Toms River. The cost per evening is \$55. That includes transportation to the restaurant, food, and staff supervision. Pre-registration is required. Call Loren, Family Support Coordinator, at 732 240 3118 ext. 29 to join.

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THE AWARD GOES TOOCEANFIRST FOUNDATION

Each year at the annual “Employee Appreciation Luncheon”, 21 Plus honors someone in the community who has had a significant impact on our programs. This year we chose the OceanFirst Foundation for their generosity in helping us maintain and beautify our group homes and apartments.

Amazingly, since 2004, 21 Plus has received \$261,000 from the OceanFirst Foundation. If you’re wondering what we did with that money, read on. These monies have resulted in:

- 31 pieces of furniture including sofas, tables, dressers, and dining room tables;
- 74 appliances ranging from toasters and microwaves to stoves and dishwashers;
- Many technological purchases, including computers, printers, software, and alarm systems;
- 3 minivans;
- 112 beautification projects, which include but are not limited to: grounds maintenance, landscaping, linens, windows, and window treatments;

Trying to keep up with the replacement of furniture and home beautification isn’t easy with so many different sites. Our state funding doesn’t cover any of those items which means that keeping up with the neighbors and providing a nicely decorated and well-maintained home is a challenge for 21 Plus. The bottom line is: these things would not have been possible without the support of the OceanFirst Foundation. We are eternally grateful for OceanFirst’s advocacy as well as their ongoing financial support!

Left to right: S Melore 21 Plus Inc; K Durante OFF: A. Socha 21 Plus, Inc. Board Treasurer.



21 PLUS IS A MEMBER OF THE NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY PROVIDERS



Center for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) has accredited 21 Plus, Inc. for its Adult Training Centers and Supported Employment Programs.

BROADWAY BOUND

With the changing color of the leaves, wearing of boots and warm coats, unmistakably it’s autumn and NYC was calling our name! What better way to spend an afternoon in the city than by taking in a Broadway show? And that we did! Family Support, a 21 Plus program that offers activities for people with developmental disabilities, took a trip to 42nd Street, to the New Amsterdam Theater to see a show that can only be described as SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICXPALIDOCIOUS! Yes, that’s right. The Family Support group went to see Mary Poppins on Broadway. After grabbing a bite to eat they headed to the city. Just as everyone grabbed their seats in the packed theater, the lights were dimmed and the dazzling show began. From beginning to end the show could only be described as “Practically perfect, in every way!” Join us for our next adventure by calling Loren at 7732 732 240 3118 ext. 29.

SOMETHING IS BAKING AT DALLAS GROUP HOME

Baking apple pie seems like a pretty easy autumn task. However, Charles at Dallas group home added some special ingredients to help bake the best tasting pie. Besides your basic ingredients such as apples, sugar and flour, Charles added a special touch:

2 armfuls of gentleness

2 cups of joy

1 cup of friendship

3 tablespoons of genuine sweetness



One beautiful afternoon, the clients at Dallas went to an Apple Festival and brought back a few bags of apples. Since Charles loves to bake, he wanted to bake a pie. While his housemates were out, Charles and his staff spent a few hours peeling and slicing apples, mixing dry ingredients, and baking two pies to share with his housemates. During this time, Charles and his staff enjoyed Elvis music that was blasting from his bedroom.

A couple hours passed and the pies were finally done. The house was filled with the pleasant aroma of apples and spices when Charles's housemates arrived home. Everyone enjoyed a slice (or two!) of pie with a scoop of vanilla ice cream. What a great way to kick off the beginning of fall!

BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHER

Dora, who lives at Wayne Avenue group home, has taken up a new hobby— photography. With some staff assistance, she purchased a camera that she takes everywhere she goes on weekends. She loves to show her photos and explain them to staff on Monday mornings. She has now started printing them and displaying them in her room. She has a good eye for taking pictures. Just look at the two beauties below!



**Photos
taken by
Dora**

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