

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's spring and we are finally tying up the last few repairs needed due to Superstorm Sandy. With the help of donors, grants from the community, and insurance dollars, we were able to restore our programs. Kudos to the dedicated employees of 21 Plus who left their homes and families to keep the men and women in 21 Plus group homes safe and comfortable. Everyone was incredibly flexible and even managed to have some fun in the face of disaster.

We are off to a very exciting start in 2013 with three firsts for 21 Plus. Per our business plan and support from the 21 Plus Foundation, we have received approval to open a group home for four women in the Cherry Hill area. It will be the first group home outside of Ocean County for 21 Plus. Another first is the approval of 21 Plus vendorship of supported employment services for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the State of New Jersey. And lastly, we will open our first group home in Brick, New Jersey in a few months.

We are also exploring opportunities for the family support program to partner with a peer agency. In addition, we continue to ready ourselves for a transition to Medicaid billing for specific services that are currently funded through the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). Moving into the fee-for-service arena will require new billing systems and more data collection for the employees.

In closing, a thank you to the 21 Plus Foundation for their support of the 21 Plus Employee Recognition Fund and to the donors for passing on a gift of appreciation to the employees in February

Don't forget to check our website for updates on events at www.21plus.org.

Shirle A. Melus



"Meaningful lives for people with disabilities"

21 PLUS, INC.

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 contact:

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Finance Director
732-240-3118, x24

Visit our website at

www.21plus.org

DID YOU KNOW?

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ONE CALL:
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21 PLUS
732-240-3118, x19

SETTING SAIL



Recently Sharon, who has lived at 21 Plus for 11 years, expressed an interest in going on a cruise. The staff said “Okay, let’s make it happen”. Sharon and the staff checked out cruise options focusing on the particular needs and interests of Sharon. We booked a cruise to the Bahamas. Now we needed to find a staff to go with Sharon. We needed a staff who would be committed to the energy it takes to accommodate Sharon’s needs. In the home there are several staff on shift, but on a cruise it would be the same one person for the entire time. The first to volunteer was Ashley Ortiz. She didn’t hesitate, but her efforts had just begun. She assisted Sharon with choosing excursions, considering all of Sharon’s special needs and interests. She made sure everything that was planned was accessible for Sharon. In addition she worked with the travel agent to make sure the room on the ship could accommodate Sharon’s wheelchair.

On the trip Ashley made sure Sharon was able to enjoy everything. Even when elevators were not available or areas were narrow, she assisted Sharon with walking and going up and down stairs to be able to enjoy the activities. Because of Ashley, Sharon was able to experience a once in a lifetime vacation! That’s not all. Once home Ashley continued to go above and beyond by helping Sharon print out the pictures from the cruise. She helped her put them in picture frames and photo albums. She even helped Sharon put together albums for her siblings.

Ashley deserves a huge round of applause for her hard work, which she portrays as compassion, not work. This seems to come natural to Ashley. Now that’s doing way more than just fulfilling our mission. Ashley is a huge part of a team that helps Sharon fulfill her dreams and live a very meaningful life.



UNITED WAY AWARDS

On February 8, 2013 at their 2013 campaign kick-off, the United Way of Ocean County presented 21 Plus, Inc. with two awards: Best Partner Agency Campaign of the Year and Most Improved Partner Agency Campaign of the Year. The awards recognized generous contributions made by 21 Plus, Inc. employees through payroll deductions and, in 2012, the total contributions exceeded the previous year by 25.3%.

21 Plus, Inc. was also recognized as a 2012 Agency in Good Standing by the UWOC. This recognition program acknowledges certified agency partners that meet the United Way’s annualized partnership requirements in the following key areas:

Transparency & Accountability: 21 Plus, Inc. is in compliance with UWOC’s annual fiscal and program reporting, and document submission requirements;

Community Mobilization & Collaboration: 21 Plus, Inc. is in compliance with UWOC’s requirement to hold an annual employee giving campaign designed to mobilize employees, volunteers, and/or board members to strengthen and support human services in Ocean County.

21 Plus, Inc. is a partner agency of the UWOC and receives funding for the Main Street Adult Training Center. The United Way provides this recognition to thank 21 Plus, Inc. for their commitment to community partnership and working together on behalf of the residents of Ocean County.



ROCKIN’ OUT AT WATERS EDGE

Sitting in the living room at Water’s Edge I could hear something coming from Elizabeth’s bedroom. When I went to her room I discovered that what I heard was the sound of her playing her guitar and singing. I found this extraordinary since Elizabeth has a hearing impairment and is nonverbal. When she realized that I was watching her she immediately stopped. I begged her to let me listen to her play and after a while she reluctantly picked up her guitar and started to play again. I noticed that her laundry hamper was empty so I turned it over and played it like a drum. She got a kick out of this and started singing louder than before! We jammed for about 10 minutes. It really made her day and mine, too.

SAVE THE DATE!
21 Plus Foundation
7th Annual Golf Classic
Monday, July 8th
Greenbrier Oceanaire, Waretown, NJ
Shotgun start at 1pm
\$195 per golfer
Sponsorship opportunities available.
For more information, please contact Wendy at
732-240-3118, x15, or wmoore@21plus.org.

WALK ON STRIDER

Mark R. from Mizzen group home has been horseback riding on Thursdays for the last eight-months. His love of horses is obvious to all.



Typically, Mark is comfortable at a walking gait with Strider. Getting Mark to allow Strider to trot happens infrequently and with a lot of coaxing.

During Mark’s last lesson, his instructor asked Mark if he was ready to try riding with his hands above his head.

To everyone’s surprise, he gave it a try. After several attempts, he found his courage and walked the entire ring with his hands up in the air.

Riding that way is a major milestone in the horse-riding arena and a sure sign of trust and great horsemanship.

Way to go, Mark!



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

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