



Meaningful lives for  
people with disabilities

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 /21PlusInc

21 PLUS TIMES  
SUMMER 2021

Meaningful  
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## Upcoming Events

**August 5th:**  
**21 Plus Foundation 9 & Dine**

Toms River Country Club

For more information, please call us at **732-240-3118, x215** or email [info@21plus.org](mailto:info@21plus.org)

**October 6th:**  
**21 Plus Foundation Cocktail Party**

Martell's Water's Edge in Bayville



## MESSAGE FROM 21 PLUS

### Greetings!

It's hard to believe 2021 is halfway behind us already. 21 Plus, Inc. has been very active, and in the first 6 months of the year we accomplished some amazing things. We celebrated our NJACP Star recipient Robin and held a stellar viewing party. After the DSP crisis stipend expired, we were able to give raises to our Direct Support Professionals and Assistant Program Administrators. Our Board is growing! Six new Board Members have joined us from families of those we provide supports and community leaders.

There is so much to look forward to for the second half of 2021. Our Adult Training Centers (ATC) have reopened and we look forward to increasing our numbers throughout the summer. We will be volunteering at JBJ Soul Kitchen (stop in for lunch!). We have hit the road promoting ATC cleaning crews to increase our customer base. We're looking to start a hydroponics system, where we'll grow greens to sell to local restaurants.

Innovative recruitment initiatives such as partnerships with Ocean County College and community non-profits as well as outdoor job fairs are expanding our pool of new hire candidates. We appreciate the outstanding work our employees do day in and day out, and by collaborating with our wellness program we have enjoyed sending token appreciation gifts.

We are focused on ways to instill a culture of excellence in services we provide, while ensuring there is fun in the workplace. This newsletter highlights our staff getting out in the community with the individuals we provide services to. We are seeking fun ways to engage our employees with activities like a 21 Plus game night and maybe even a book club! We are well on our way in planning our virtual Employee Appreciation Luncheon, scheduled for September 22, 2021.

My favorite season is upon us, and after all the stress and tension of the last 16 + months, is it me or does it seem everyone is super excited about Summer 2021? We continue to ride our wave of optimism, promoting a culture of excellence and innovation with an ongoing attitude of gratitude.

**We are one agency, one mission.**

Sincerely,

**Diane Hutton-Rose**  
Executive Director  
21 Plus, Inc.

**“We continue to ride our wave of  
optimism, promoting a culture of  
excellence and innovation with an  
ongoing attitude of gratitude.”**

- Diane Hutton-Rose, Executive Director, 21 Plus, Inc.







## + WHO ARE WE?

21 Plus, Inc. is a non-profit organization that provides community-based programs for individuals over the age of 21 with developmental disabilities. Our mission is to enable individuals with disabilities to lead fulfilling lives working in partnership with families and communities.

## + WHY ARE WE HERE?

In 1979, a small group of families had a need. Their sons and daughters (who had developmental disabilities) were graduating from high school at age 21 and did not have a program, training or a job to look forward to. How would they spend their days? How would they socialize with friends? What did they have to look forward to? These families came together to form 21 Plus, Inc. Today, our services have grown to include residential services, adult training centers and employment support throughout Ocean and Camden Counties. Over the past 40 years, we have expanded into 12 group homes, four apartments, an employment program and two Adult Training Centers.

## + WHAT PROGRAMS DO WE OFFER?

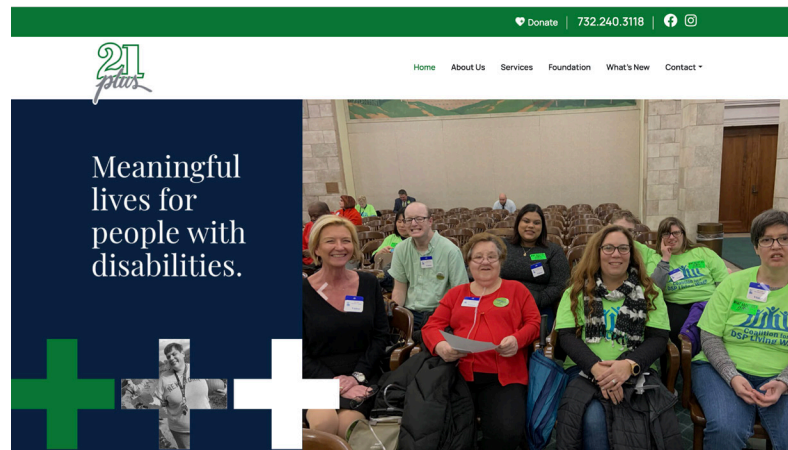
**Residential**  
Apartments  
Group homes

**Vocational**  
Adult training centers  
Supported employment

## The 21 Plus website is live!

Our new website will help us further our mission of providing community-based programs in Ocean and Camden Counties for individuals over the age of 21 with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Check it out here! [21plus.org](https://21plus.org)**



## + WELCOME HOME, TRICIA!

After staying with her parents for over a year during the pandemic, Tricia came home to Annex group home. To make the celebration complete, Tricia's parents ordered a fabulous dinner from Cuzzin's for everyone.

While Tricia was in North Carolina, she stayed in touch with her New Jersey friends with phone calls and Zoom meetings, and attended her day program virtually.

Tricia's housemates and staff are thrilled to have her home, and she's back to her 21 Plus routine, including going to her day program at Main Street Adult Training Center, enjoying playing cards and going on walks with her friends, and watching her favorite soap opera, General Hospital.



## + EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

**Neil L. | Group Home Assistant - 21 Plus, Inc.**

If you ask his coworkers, Sapling Program Administrator Neil is a big ball of sunshine (yes, that's an actual quote!). He's the kind of coworker/peer/supervisor everyone would like to have.

Neil will jump in and help wherever he's needed, whether it means helping another house with transportation, maneuvering himself and his staff to assist with coverage, or being available to staff at another house so the manager can take time off.

Neil's positivity is contagious! It's impossible to have a bad day around him. He makes the most mundane activities fun and adventurous for both the individuals who live at Sapling group home and the staff.

Speaking of the individuals who live at Sapling group home...Neil goes the extra mile with new employees, making sure they know exactly how to communicate with everyone, which is vital when working with people who have different disabilities.

**Thank you for being a rock star, Neil!**



## NEWS FROM THE BOARD

At the annual Board reorganization meeting our 2021 officers were elected.

**Richard Askoff**  
*President*

**Frank Orawiec**  
*Treasurer*

**Russell Corby**  
*Vice President*

**Warren Heiss**  
*Secretary*

The Board of Directors appointed **Ed Frankman, John Kane, Zev Rosen, and Adrienne Socha** to Board Emeritus status.

In the first half of 2021, the following new members have joined the 21 Plus Board of Directors:  
**Jan Kirsten, Lynette Whiteman, Gerard O'Sullivan, Warren Sherard, and Judy Ligus.**

21 Plus thanks all of the volunteer board members for their dedication to furthering the mission!

## + A SPECIAL THANKS TO...

Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity and its Women's Build Week team RWJBarnabas Health and Kearny Bank for transforming our Dallas Group home backyard. New lattice rails on the deck and new fencing is exactly the refresh we needed!



## + BEAUTIFUL SPRING CLEAN-UPS

Thank you for supporting 21 Plus!



*Volunteers from the Kiwanis Club of Jackson came out to Onyx Group Home to do a spring cleanup.*

*Sapling Group Home was happy to have members from Wellspring Church do a spring cleanup in the yard!*

## + PET THERAPY IS BACK!

Pet Therapy is back at our Main Street Adult Training Center!

Our participants were beyond excited to have a visit from Baby! A big thank you to Dale for bringing your furbaby!



## + A TRIP TO THE PHILADELPHIA ZOO

Our Sylvan Group home recently took a day trip to the Philadelphia Zoo. Look at what a great day they had!



## + CONGRATULATIONS, ROBIN!

Our very own Robin received the New Jersey Association of Community Providers - NJACP STAR Award! The event was held virtually, but that didn't stop Robin's staff and housemates from making it a special day. When Robin's name was announced, her housemates showered her with confetti and toasted her with sparkling mocktails. Robin, we are all so proud of you!

