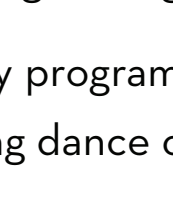


Meaningful lives for people with disabilities

21 PLUS TIMES

FALL 2022



MESSAGE FROM 21 PLUS

Autumn!

The weather turns cooler, the year is winding down, and I'm working on the 2023 budget. While I'm planning for the future of 21 Plus, I'm looking back on how much happened over the last few months.

Our residential programs were super busy this summer, celebrating birthdays, gardening, having barbeques and going to baseball games.

Our day programs began a Saturday Recreation program over the summer, featuring dance classes, music classes, and day trips.

Main Street Greens hydroponic farm sold produce at the Toms River Farmers Market. As the season changes and farmers markets wind down, Main Street Greens has launched Community Supported Agriculture, a monthly membership beginning in November 2022 where members will receive fresh produce weekly. For more information, please contact Sarah LaBore at latc@21plus.org or 732-341-0863.

September was a special month for us as we celebrated National DSP Recognition Week with cookie deliveries and all kinds of goodies. We celebrated our NJACP DSP Hero, Allison Cortese, with a viewing party. Our annual Employee Appreciation Event was a fun afternoon of lunch and awards.

Our mission – to enable individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities to lead fulfilling lives in partnership with families and community – is a daily demonstration of our collective commitment and dedication. By giving our best today, we are creating a better, brighter, and more bountiful future.

We are one agency, one mission.

Sincerely,

Diane Hutton-Rose

Executive Director

21 Plus, Inc.



“By giving our best today, we are creating a better, brighter, and more bountiful future.”

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

Applause, Please!

We are proud to announce that 21 Plus, Inc. has been chosen as Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce 2022 Nonprofit of the Year.

The Annual Awards Reception will take place on Thursday, October 20 from 6pm-9pm at the Days Hotel by Wyndham, 290 Route 37 East, Toms River.

We would love for you to join us! To learn more, call Wendy at **732-240-3118**.

Locally grown. Community driven.

21 Plus, Inc. unveils Main Street Greens, a self-contained hydroponic farm designed to benefit individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

To learn more about Main Street Greens, visit MainStreetGreens.org.



+ EVENT RECAPS

21 Plus Foundation, Inc. hosted its 1st Annual Fall Festival

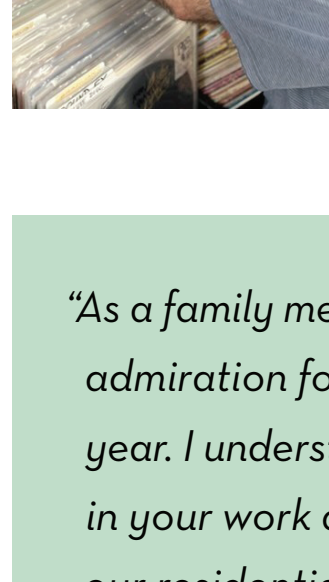
We had an amazing day at the 21 Plus Foundation Fall Festival! The weather was great, and the food was delicious. Shorty Long and The Jersey Horns did not disappoint! The Wild Irish Acres Dancers performed and gave Irish dance lessons. Mayhem Cornhole ran an amazing Cornhole tournament.

We had kids activities and vendors selling all kinds of things from paintings to homemade soap. Riders with Disabilities made a run to the festival and presented us with a donation. One of our direct support professionals, Robert, won the 50/50. And longtime 21 Plus supporter Gary Cremeans won the e-bike.



+ EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Allison Cortese, NJACP Hero



When we think of what a DSP Hero is, we immediately think of Allison Cortese. Allison came to 21 Plus about two years ago. Allison is ALWAYS there, whether she is offering to fill in for coverage at one of our sites, or to take time out of her day to pick up birthday decorations to make those we serve feel special on their big day. Allison takes such pride in her work, and it is evident in the way she communicates

with clients. When Allison is not working, the clients are asking when she will return. When she is working, the individuals that she provides supports to want to be around her for her whole shift. She is the most selfless staff member that 21 Plus has had the honor of training and we are so excited to see where the road will take her in this field. Allison Cortese possesses all the characteristics of the best DSP, and most importantly a DSP Hero, and there is no one more deserving of this award than she!

21 PLUS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2022 COMMUNITY EVENT SPONSORS

21 Plus Foundation, Inc. thanks its current event sponsors:

Community Champion:

Zev & Fran Rosen

Community Partner:

Terrance O'Grady

Community Advocate:

Targeted Technologies, LLC

+ EXPLORING ALL THE GREATEST HITS!

Dallas Group Home had a great time going through some old records.



“As a family member and board member, I would like to express my thanks and admiration for the excellent work you and the staff have done over the past year. I understand you have faced (and continue to face) extreme challenges in your work due to COVID-19. Despite this, I have been pleased to see that our residential and day program clients have been well cared for and have been kept as safe and secure as possible. In particular, I'd like to thank the staff at the Sylvan group home for their dedication and excellent work this year. Danielle, Susan and Jennifer have been amazing! They have provided a stable and supportive environment for my son Jason and his housemates all year. They are creative in coming up with activities for the residents despite limited resources. Simply put, they are a joy to work with and I am grateful for their presence in Jason's life. I sincerely hope that working conditions continue to improve for 21 Plus in the coming year. Please let all the employees know that, as family members, we greatly appreciate their work on behalf of our loved ones in these difficult times.”

– Rick Askoff, Parent and Board Member

21 Plus & Jersey BlueClaws 2022 Partnership



+ BARBECUES, BIRTHDAYS, ADVENTURES AND CAKE!

Sylvan Group home had a wonderful summer celebrating birthdays, barbecues, adventure outings and more!



+ THE GARDEN IS BOUNTIFUL!

Lance is so happy to show off how his garden is growing! Northern Ocean Habitat for Humanity came out earlier this year to build raised garden beds for Lance, and he raced to get planting. His tomato plants are really growing fast! Save some veggies for us!

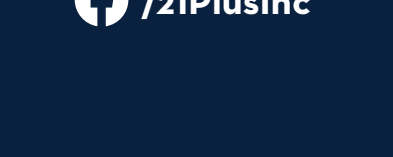


+ MAKING STRIDES!

Twin Oaks Group Home resident Sarah has been making amazing strides with physical therapy. With the help of her physician therapist Brian, Sarah broke her record this summer, walking further than she has ever walked. She even topped the day off with a game of cornhole! We are so proud of you, Sarah!



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.



Meaningful lives for people with disabilities

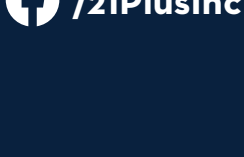
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