



Meaningful lives for people with disabilities



21 PLUS TIMES FALL 2023

MESSAGE FROM 21 PLUS

Dear Family and Friends,

Transitioning into autumn, with the crisp air and beautiful leaves, we at 21 Plus find ourselves preparing for our own next season. We enjoyed an amazing summer of activities, and continue to be active in the community. I have been busy as well, building connections with members of the community, giving tours of our programs, and finding opportunities to collaborate with other non-profits for staffing opportunities and professional development. As an organization, we have been reviewing our strategic plan, conducting focus groups across our stakeholder groups, and I am excited for a Board Retreat this November.

For the first time since 2019, we returned to an in person Employee Appreciation Luncheon. It was lovely to be together as a 21 Plus community, celebrating the amazing work our staff do each day. Door prizes, awards, letters of appreciation and guest speakers, including Margaret and Joan, individuals we support made the day special. Our new tradition, Trunk or Treat, did not disappoint. Staff brought their children and grandchildren, and several of our group homes came by to see the trunks and get some sweet treats. So many fun and spooky costumes...

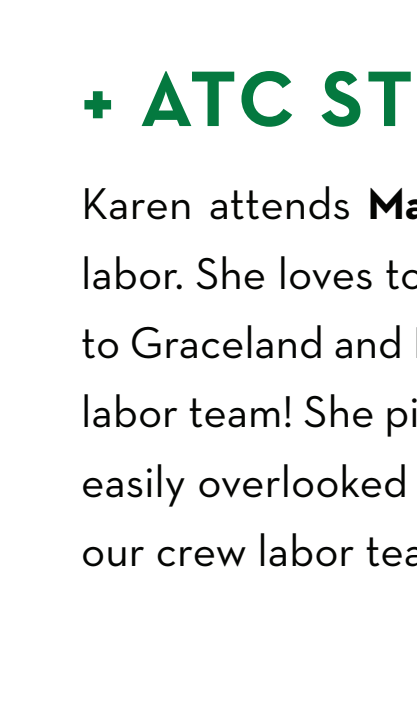
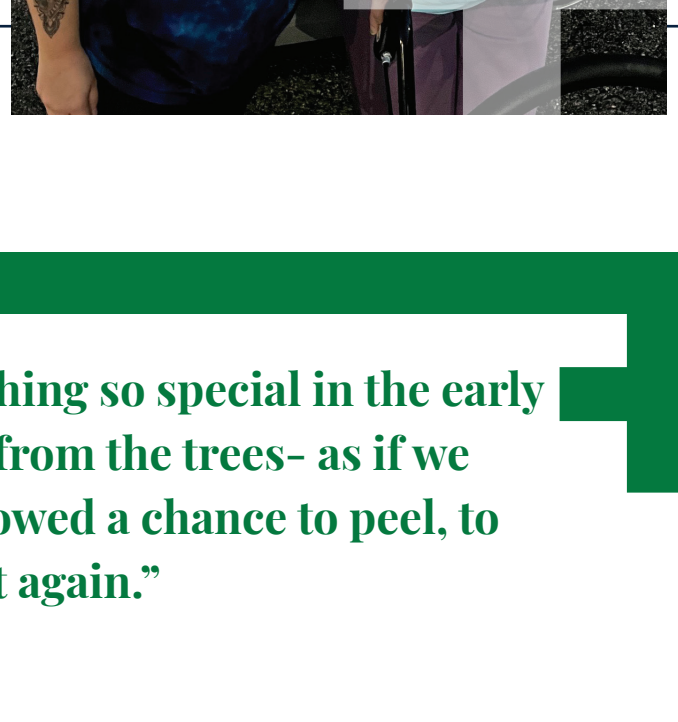
I look forward to preparing for the holiday season with our Holiday Open House, welcoming our 21 Plus community to the office for light refreshments and our traditional friendly administrative staff decorating contest.

We are one agency, one mission.

Sincerely,

Diane Hutton-Rose

Diane Hutton-Rose
Executive Director
21 Plus, Inc.



“There is something so special in the early leaves drifting from the trees- as if we are all to be allowed a chance to peel, to refresh, to start again.”

- Oprah Winfrey

+ ATC STORY

Karen attends **Main Street Adult Training Center**, and recently joined crew labor. She loves to travel, so having the opportunity to earn extra income to go to Graceland and Disney was great. Karen has been a great addition to the crew labor team! She picked up the routine right away, and does an incredible job on easily overlooked details, like dusting baseboards. Karen has raised the bar for our crew labor team. Great job, Karen!

main street greens hydroponic farm

8 weeks of Fresh, Local Produce

Join our CSA today

Featuring weekly recipes and an exclusive tour of the Main Street Greens Hydroponic farm

Your weekly pick up will include a selection of cooking greens, herbs, salad greens and garnish!

A 2-month membership to our CSA is \$120 (\$15/week). Space is limited so sign up today!

To sign up, contact Sarah LaBore at slabore@21plus.org or 732-341-0863

All Main Street Greens produce is grown soil free and pesticide free, using 90% less water than plants grown in soil.

Our produce is a premium selection of hydroponic greens grown and harvested year round by the members of 21 Plus in Toms River, New Jersey.

Learn more about Main Street Greens at mainstreetgreens.org

Salad Greens: Salandova Whole Head Lettuce Premium Asian Greens Mix Babyleaf Kale Mix Springleaf Salad Mix	Cooking Greens: Bok Choy Curly Red, & Dinosaur Kale Swiss Chard Escarole	Herbs: Genovese Basil Cilantro Dill Sage Garlic Chives Thyme	Garnishes: Red Veined Sorrel Wasabi Spicy Mustard Green Watercress Endive
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+ FOUNDATION UPDATE

The second annual 21 Plus Foundation Fall Festival was a wash-out, thanks to a tropical depression that moved in. It was a hard decision to cancel the event but the 40 mile-an-hour wind gusts assured us that we made the right decision! Thank you to everyone who put their time and effort into our event, especially our Event Sponsors!

The Foundation is looking forward to hosting our first Casino Night, on Friday, January 19, 2024, 6pm-10pm, at B2 Bistro in Bayville. For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, please call us at **732-240-3118** or email us at **info@21plus.org**.

+ RESIDENTIAL STORY

Our ladies "out west" have been busy! Lillian, Clairene and Marella were happy to take over planning summer and fall activities for the house. Elsie has joined them, enjoying going out in the community, going to Camden Aquarium, the movies, local markets and pumpkin picking.

Patty has been going out in the community as well, going to Fire Me Up Ceramics, joining the trip to the aquarium, and taking a trip to Atlantic City.



+ NJACP HERO AWARD

21 Plus is excited to announce that Teresa Viglione, Sapling Court Assistant Program Administrator, was awarded the NJACP 2023 Hero Award. She was honored at a viewing party in September with coworkers, friends, and family.

Senior Program Administrator Neil Luli submitted the following in support of Terry. "Teresa started with 21 Plus, Inc. 2 years ago. Since joining our team, Teresa never ceased to amaze any of us in her daily routine as a DSP, and so it came as no surprise when she was promoted to Assistant Program Administrator at our Sapling group home. To be sure, no matter what her role here has been, one thing is for certain - Terry's passion, dedication and care for the individuals she provides services to is always put at the forefront of everything. I had the pleasure of having Terry as a substitute DSP for a few shifts back in 2021, and knew at that moment that I had to do whatever I could to get her to become a dedicated Sapling group home staff! Terry worked more shifts at Sapling, getting to know the individuals and staff and building relationships with everyone, and soon enough, she became a part-time DSP at the Sapling group home. Very recently Terry was promoted to Assistant Program Administrator. Although fairly new in her administrative role, Terry has hit the ground running, always eager to learn and continuing to do so until she is able to complete management tasks totally independently! She goes above and beyond not just for the individuals she is serving, but the staff at her site, and others! Terry is amazingly flexible and supportive of her co-workers, adjusting her schedule to loan the site van to another in need, offering to work an extra shift, either at her home site or for someone else in order to assist with coverage, coming in whenever necessary to complete an appointment, just to name a few. Terry is continuously making herself available to the benefit of the agency, her peers, and most importantly, the individuals she provides her exceptional services to.

The best part? Terry comes to work each day with a huge smile on her face. She brightens the room wherever she is. She makes the best out of difficult times, and is a support to all. Her energy and positivity is contagious to anyone around her and is a magnet for the individuals she cares for each and every day.

Teresa is everything (and more) that entails what a DSP Hero is. Her work with the individuals she serves is top notch, and her leadership of her equally passionate team is superb. All of us at 21 Plus are lucky to have Terry."



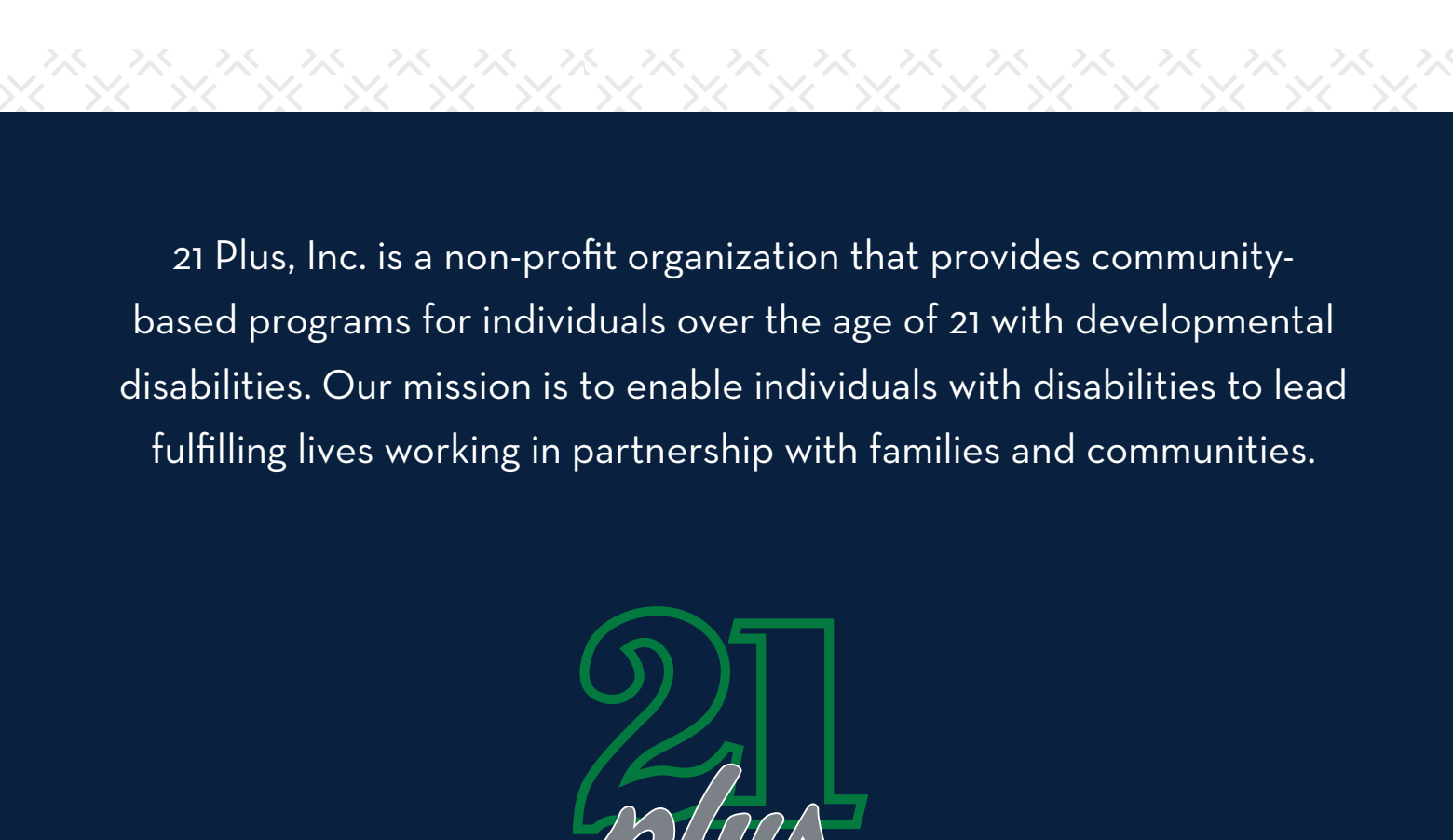
+ EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION

Our **Employee Appreciation Luncheon** was held on September 20th at East Dover Banquet Hall in Toms River. The event was sponsored by our Event Sponsor, 21 Plus Foundation, and Employee Gift Sponsor, OceanFirst Foundation.

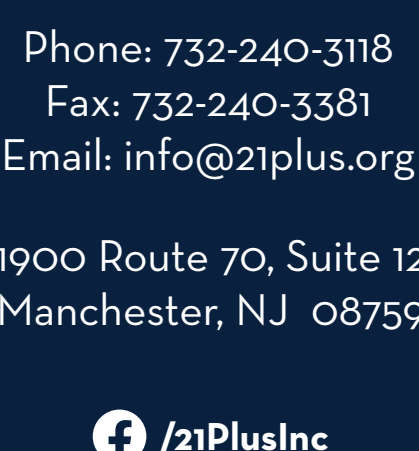
Above and Beyond Awards were given out to staff who work over their slotted hours, and Service Awards were given out to staff who have reached milestones at 21 Plus. Six staff received All Star Awards, an award given to staff who are nominated by their peers for their dedication.

Craig Birbaum received the 2023 Community Partner Award. Craig is the President and CEO of Ultimate Protection Group, a total solutions risk management company committed to Life Safety. For two years Craig has exceeded our expectations, providing a first-class CPR and Safety First Aid training program. The knowledge and experience he shares with our staff is only a small representation of his extensive education and training. Craig's commitment to providing 21 Plus, Inc. exceptional emergency response training every month is second to none. He is beyond dependable, ethical, honest and incredibly flexible while managing an unbelievable commitment to numerous other engagements, professional employment responsibilities, a multitude of volunteer offerings, and dedicated business ventures. The partnership the agency has built with Craig is invaluable, making him the perfect choice for us to have honored him this year.

The event concluded with our employee's favorite part of the day - raffling off gift baskets. This year, thanks to the generosity of the community's donations, every employee who attended received a basket.



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

21Plus.org

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