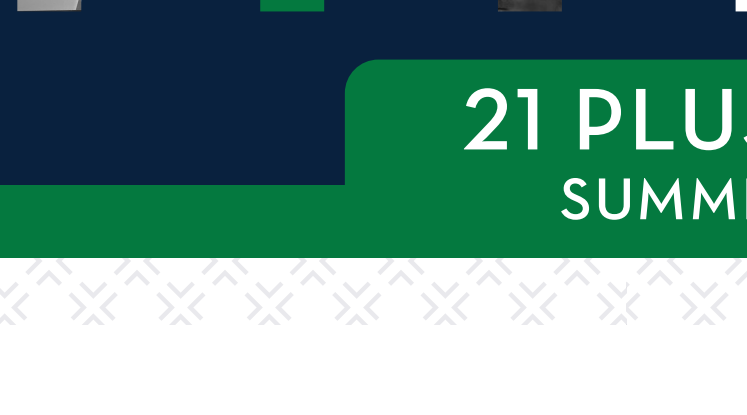
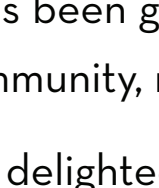




# Meaningful lives for people with disabilities



## 21 PLUS TIMES SUMMER 2023



### MESSAGE FROM 21 PLUS

Dear Family and Friends,

Summer is in full swing, and while many people take this time to slow down, relax, and rejuvenate, we are heating things up as an organization! Our Adult Training Centers continue to provide outstanding customer service with our Cleaning Crew cleaning local offices and businesses. Our Main Street Greens CSA has been gaining new customers. Our Residential programs are out in the community, making the most of the summer.

We are delighted to introduce our leadership team: Nicole Bauer, Director of Quality Management [nbauer@21plus.org](mailto:nbauer@21plus.org), Thomas Bowker, Director of Residential Services [tbowker@21plus.org](mailto:tbowker@21plus.org), Joanne Hanson, Finance Director [jhanson@21plus.org](mailto:jhanson@21plus.org), Melanie McAteer, Director of Human Resources [mmcateer@21plus.org](mailto:mmcateer@21plus.org).

You can find 21 Plus in the community as active members of the Greater Toms River Chamber of Commerce as well as Southern n New Jersey Chamber of Commerce, affording us the opportunity to form partnerships with other nonprofits, businesses and legislators.

We are proud partners with Jersey Shore Blue Claws! You can support 21 Plus by purchasing tickets to the July 27th and August 31st games. You will see 21 Plus promotional signs, videos, and slide shows throughout the stadium. Stop by and say hello at our resource table. A 21 Plus participant will throw out the first pitch, and we'll be interviewed live at the top of the 3rd inning!

Our Board of Directors continue to be engaged, attending events, and participating in board development opportunities through the Grunin Foundation Catapult Academy.

**“We strive to be mission first and people always; committed to a culture of excellence...”**

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

We're excited to announce that Grunin Foundation selected 21 Plus to participate in Building Blocks for Change. Building Blocks for Change is an assessment tool created to help nonprofit organizations develop the foundational capacity needed to foster more race equity in their workplace. The assessment process aims to deepen nonprofit organizations' understanding of the changes necessary to become more inclusive and racially equitable.

Our mission to enable individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities lead fulfilling lives in partnership with families and community is ever present and in the forefront of our day to day thoughts, actions, and decisions. We strive to be mission first and people always; committed to a culture of excellence in services we provide, opportunities for the people we support to engage in innovative programs and create a fun atmosphere in the workplace.

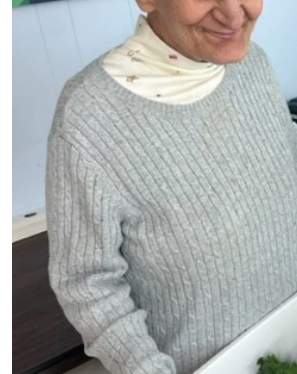
**We are one agency, one mission.**

Sincerely,

**Diane Hutton-Rose**

Executive Director

21 Plus, Inc.



**“Know what sparks the light in you. Then use that light to illuminate the world.”**

- Oprah Winfrey



### + MAIN STREET GREENS

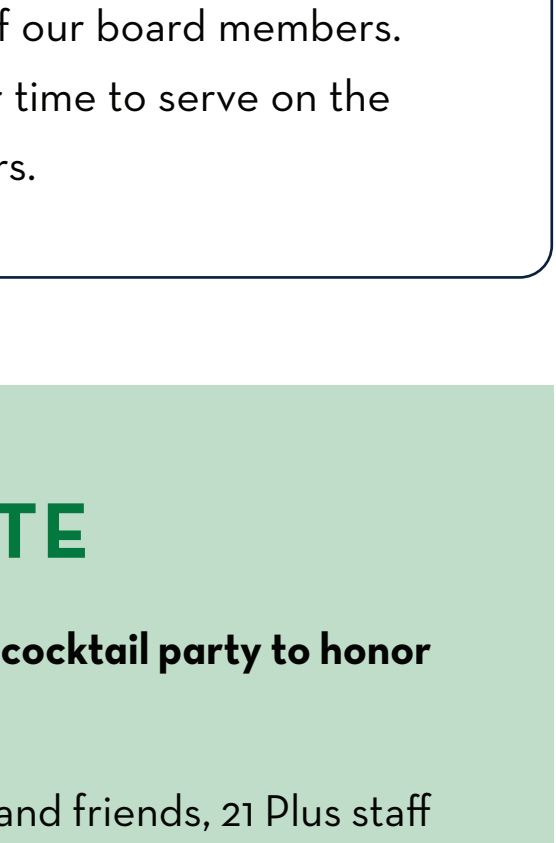
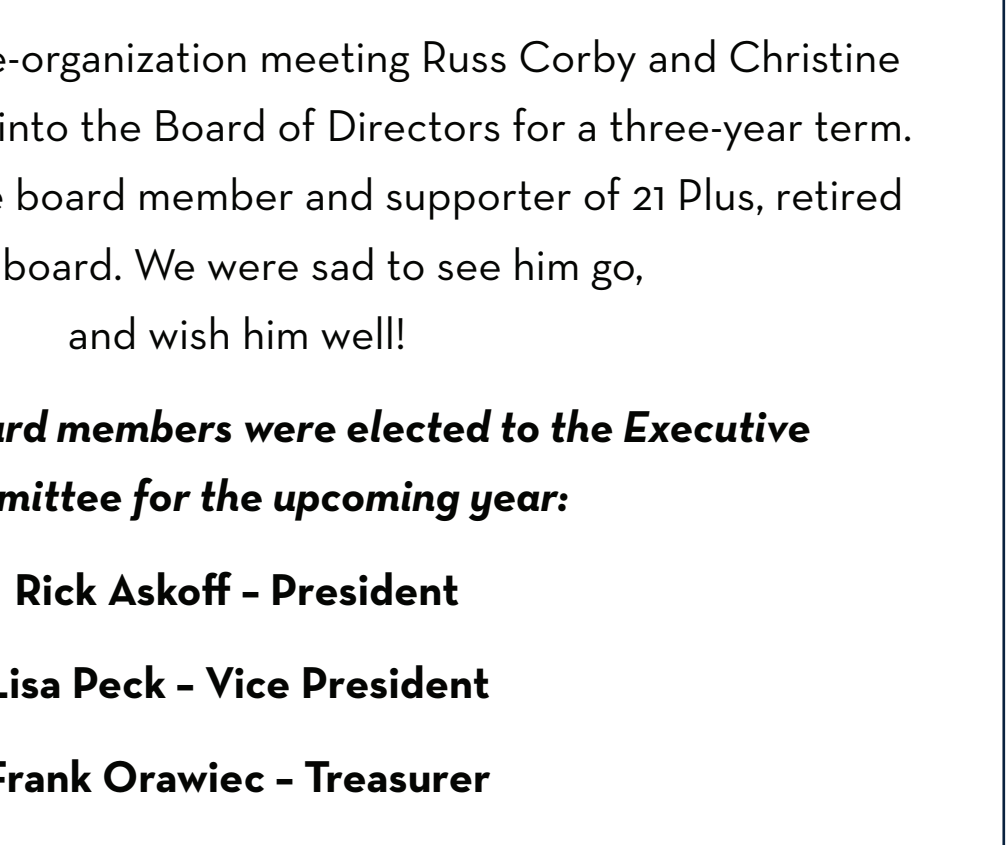
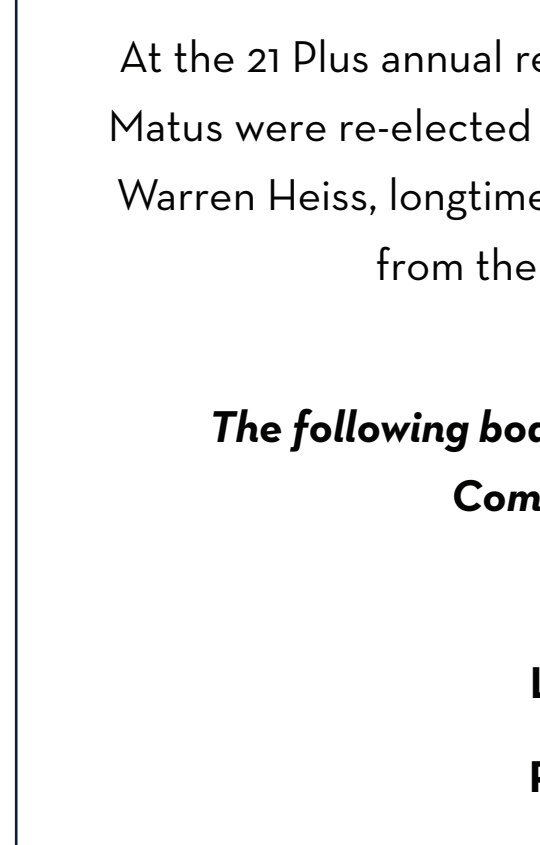
**Main Street Greens launched their Community Supported Agriculture program, and has 9 members!**



Each week, CSA members receive bags of salad greens, cooking greens, and herbs. Diane Hutton-Rose, Executive Director, and Sarah LaBore, Senior Vocational Program Administrator, have been attending networking events promoting the CSA.

Some of the participants at Main Street Adult Training Center have really enjoyed being part of the program. Although she spends a lot of time checking on the greens, Sally particularly loves harvest day, and is happy to help out. Lizzy's favorite part of the program is packaging, taking pride in making sure the product and packaging looks professional.

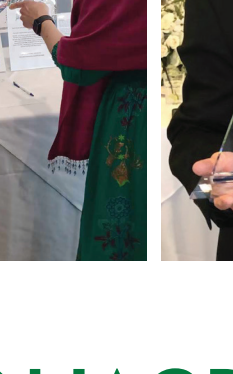
For more information about how you can become a member, please visit [mainstreetgreens.org](http://mainstreetgreens.org).



### What do you like about 21 Plus?

**“It's good! Main Street Greens - I like talking to people, talking to customers. I like my housemates, my bedroom is big and I like decorating it.”**

- Margaret, participant



### NEWS FROM THE BOARD

At the 21 Plus annual re-organization meeting Russ Corby and Christine Matus were re-elected into the Board of Directors for a three-year term.

Warren Heiss, longtime board member and supporter of 21 Plus, retired from the board. We were sad to see him go, and wish him well!

**The following board members were elected to the Executive Committee for the upcoming year:**

**Rick Askoff - President**

**Lisa Peck - Vice President**

**Frank Orawiec - Treasurer**

**Dr. Teri Kubiel - Secretary**

We appreciate the support and leadership of our board members.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time to serve on the 21 Plus Board of Directors.

### + FOUNDATION UPDATE

**On June 22, 2023, 21 Plus Foundation held a cocktail party to honor outgoing Foundation Trustee Rick Askoff.**

It was a lovely event attended by Rick's family and friends, 21 Plus staff and board members, and longtime supporters of 21 Plus. Rick's friend Julia Muench, a textile artist, generously donated a few pieces of her artwork to include in the silent auction.

The 2nd Annual 21 Plus Foundation Fall Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 23rd, from noon - 4pm at Veteran's Park in Bayville. Asbury Fever will play for the afternoon that includes a Cornhole competition, craft vendors, food and a beer truck. Riders With Disabilities is doing a bike run to the park again, and the Foundation will raffle off an eBike. For more information about our Festival, please call 732-240-3118, or email [info@21plus.org](mailto:info@21plus.org).

Finally, 21 Plus Foundation is excited to announce that as of April 28th, Wendy Lubrecht has been named Executive Director of the Foundation. Wendy has worked for the Foundation for over 20 year, most recently as the Development Coordinator. Wendy is excited for this next chapter and the opportunity to continue to generate financial support to enhance the mission of 21 Plus, Inc.

### + 2023 NJACP STARS

**21 Plus was excited to celebrate Elizabeth Sauer receiving the 2023 NJACP STARS award with a viewing party at Main Street Adult Training Center.**

Elizabeth faced some major obstacles as a result of the pandemic and worked hard to get used to her new normal. When day programs shut down, this was a challenging adjustment for Lizzy as she loved her routine. As time went on, a new routine was formed, so as day programs began to reopen a new challenge would emerge: her day program was not going to reopen. Not only was Lizzy faced with going back to program, it was not going to be the same one she knew with staff and friends she knew before. As she waited to know what program she would attend, she learned that she was going to need to move to a new home! Changing jobs and moving would be enough stress for anyone, but Lizzy stepped up to the challenge and began to find a new routine for herself. Despite early setbacks, she took it one day at a time to find joy with her new housemates, new activities and in having her own room!

As her relationships with her peers developed, it was a morning that they had to carpool to work together (instead of going it alone) that changed it all. Lizzy joined her peers at program and was given space to join on her own time. Slowly she went from sitting alone to joining the work groups, and interacting with everyone. With time, Lizzy began to enjoy all her new environments, signing and communicating her happiness with her staff, making eye contact, advocating for herself and even finding her place at Main Street Greens where she could earn a paycheck for her work in the Hydroponic Farm! Crafting and painting is also a favorite for Lizzy, using her artistic eye when it comes to creativity and making a design outside the box!

At home she is also spending more time with her peers and hanging out with them in the common areas of the home, instead of spending time alone. Lizzy has become more independent than ever before in managing her personal care and has even become a bit of a prankster! It has been so amazing to see the personal growth in Lizzy this past year and can't wait to see just how far she can go!



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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