



The **PLUS COMPANY** Inc.
People • Learning • Useful • Skills

PLUS PERSPECTIVES

What's Inside

From the Director's Desk
Page 1

Awards & More
Page 1

Thanking Those Who Make a Difference
Page 2

Thanksgiving at PLUS
Page 2

PLUS Company Volunteer Appreciation
Pages 3

PLUS Consumers Help Children Smile
Page 3

Anything is Possible!
Page 4

PLUS PRIDE
Page 4

Penguin Plunge
Page 4



One thing I have learned working at PLUS is that anything is possible. Consumers and staff continue to amaze me by going beyond my expectations. The generosity from our volunteers, board members and the community makes so much possible for the people we serve. Whether it is finding the best job, donating a piano, providing funding for learning materials, or locating the perfect chair for a first

apartment- anything is possible.

Our consumers have represented PLUS in such positive ways and help me believe anything really is possible. Linda Roy performs for many of our social functions and her dream was to own a piano. Her love for music inspired the generous donation of a piano from a Silent Auction Dinner guest, Deb Der-Manoogian, and her family.

Then there is the story of Trever Bowley who received a standing ovation for his speech to the Rotary

Club of Nashua West for their grant award. I have heard wonderful things from our staff and members of the community who were there to witness it.

I am surrounded by inspiration and good news every day. This insight is constantly renewed when I come to work, and I know I am not the only one who experiences this. Thank you for continuing to make so much possible for our consumers and their families. May the New Year bring you many wonderful possibilities.

~ Kim Shottes

Awards & MORE...

Community Grant Awards...

The Rotary Club of Nashua West awarded \$1000 to the Adult Literacy Program. PLUS consumer Trever Bowley graciously accepted the award on behalf of The PLUS Company and inspired much positive feedback.



Cindy Howard, Director of Residential Services, received the Moving Mountains award at the annual meeting of Gateways Community Services and The PLUS Company. Howard began her career at PLUS as a direct care worker in 1992. She is now responsible for overseeing six group homes and sixty-five Adult Family Care placements.



Cindy Howard is Moving Mountains

"Cindy truly represents what The PLUS Company is all about. She is committed to doing whatever it takes to improve the quality of life for those we serve. Congratulations to Cindy for setting the bar high for all of us," Executive Director Kim Shottes said.

Photo: PLUS Executive Director Kim Shottes was presented a check for \$500 from the Knights of Columbus Reverend Robert Faucher of Council 5162 for adult education activities in December.

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THANKING THOSE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



*Pride Team Player Sean Corcoran
with Volunteer Karen Rodgers*

Karen Rodgers came to PLUS as an intern through her classes at Nashua Community College. She has stayed on as a volunteer in the literacy program, PLUS Pride Special Olympics (track and field, basketball, soccer, softball, and volleyball) and the performing arts club. Karen said she feels like she's "a part of the family here" and loves helping people. She also just finished an internship at Gateways Community Services in the Parent to Child program assisting families with children with autism. Karen will graduate from Nashua Community College in May and hopes to find employment with The PLUS Company. No matter where her career takes her, Karen plans to stay with the PLUS Pride Special Olympics program.

THANKSGIVING AT PLUS

Direct Support Professional Julie Sprague just celebrated her tenth year working at PLUS. For the past five years, Sprague has made Thanksgiving dinner special for PLUS consumers.

"It made me sad to know that there were consumers that listened to many others talk about having a big meal and having fun with friends and family, and they didn't have any place to go. I inquired about having a dinner at the Progress Center and the rest is history! I can't wait for next year because I have finally mastered it," Sprague said proudly.

According to Sprague, it took some practice to master this special meal and this year she successfully baked a 26 pound turkey with all the trimmings and dessert.

"Julie does a wonderful job cooking for everyone and making everyone feel welcome. She dedicates her whole day to people who would otherwise be alone. Julie typically goes above and beyond but this is way above that," Shawna Sousa, Director of Individual Community Resources, shared.

PLUS PERSPECTIVES

is a quarterly publication of The PLUS Company, Inc. We welcome your input and story suggestions. Please call us if you would like to add a name to our mailing list.

~ *Susanna Hargreaves, Editor*

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Kim B. Shottes

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PLUS COMPANY OFFICES

Main Office

240 Main Dunstable Road
Nashua, NH 03062
603-889-0652 Fax 603-880-8938

151 Hampshire Street
Lawrence, MA 01840
978-689-8829 Fax 978-689-9311

885 Main Street
Tewksbury, MA 01876
978-640-3936 Fax 978-640-0302

The PLUS Company, Inc. is a non-profit agency dedicated to providing and maintaining the highest quality, most innovative programs and services to enhance the potential for social, vocational and financial independence for people with disabilities in the Southern New Hampshire and Northern Massachusetts areas.

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PLUS COMPANY VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

The Life-Enhancement Program and Vocational Services held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on November 17th at the Crossway Activity Center (CAC) in Nashua. Consumers also received recognition and awards, including Downtown Dollars from merchants of the *Great American Downtown* for their volunteer contributions in helping to keep the downtown area clean and attractive for shoppers and city residents.

Those receiving various awards included:

Michael Infantino
 Sarah Marshall
 Kate Boerem
 Ian Arsenault
 Missy Prairie
 Chris Michaud
 Tim Duffy
 Moe Gagnon
 Jeff Strand
 Glenn Totman
 Kerry Smith
 Brandon Worster
 Ramona Figueroa

PLUS CONSUMERS Help CHILDREN Smile



*Lauren Bambrick and Sam Freeman
 share their holiday cheer!*

The Together Self Advocacy Group brought in toys for Toys for Tots. According to Shawna Sousa, Director of Individual Community Resources, the group decided to contribute to this great cause instead of exchanging gifts at their holiday party this year.

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PLUS PRIDE VOLLEYBALL TEAM WINS!



Coach Andy and Danielle

PLUS Pride finished the season with a silver medal. Thank you to Volunteer Volleyball Coach Andy Chace. He said his focus for the year was to have as much fun as possible! “I believe we succeeded. Another focus was improving teamwork on the court. As the season went on, you could see the communication improve and the support the athletes had for each other was memorable,” explained Chace.

Anything is Possible!



Linda (center) with the DerManoogians

PLUS Consumer Linda Roy loves the piano. She enthusiastically volunteers her talent at many PLUS events and has always wished for a piano of her own. Silent Auction Dinner guest Deb DerManoogian and her family generously donated their piano and helped make her dream come true.



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LENI HODGINS 603-821-7408
OR lhodgins@pluscompany.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The PLUS COMPANY Inc.
240 Main Dunstable Road
Nashua, NH 03062

