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Breaking Ground to Build a Dream

Construction is underway at the front entrance of The PLUS Company! A new portico is being built to shield clients, staff, and visitors from bad weather when entering and exiting the building. The structure will be built in two phases over the next few months.



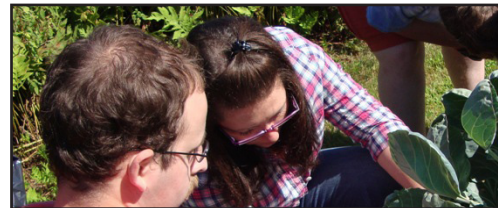
Construction crews broke ground on the first-phase of the portico project on November 7th. Phase one will complete the basic design and construction of a steel roof this fall. Phase two will provide the finish over the basic structure and is targeted to be completed in 2012. This two-pronged approach will allow our clients to be safer during the coming winter, and will allow us to spread out the fundraising needed to undertake such a project.

Of course this very important project would never have come to fruition without the guidance of Don Gingras, President of Gate City Electric. Thanks to Mr. Gingras, plans for the portico were developed and donations were obtained from local businesses in the Nashua and Hudson area in order to move the project forward. Special thanks also go to Jim Allard Contracting for their hard work on this project!

Building the portico is just one step in an even bigger dream to renovate parts of The PLUS Company's building at 19 Chestnut Street to improve and update the space. "Building Dreams: Creating the Reality" is The PLUS Company's new building campaign that you will be hearing more about in the coming months. In addition to the portico, The PLUS Company has also been able to completely renovate the kitchen to add more cooking and teaching space thanks to a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (see page 3 for more information). There is much more work to be done, so stay tuned for updates!

PLUS Company Clients Give Back to the Community

Brian Vargus is just one The PLUS Company Clients who volunteers his time on a regular basis. Recently, Brian spent some time cleaning up around the library, raking leaves and debris from the mulch beds, weeding, trimming shrubs and bushes, and sweeping the walkway. Brian also picked up litter along the trail by the river. The PLUS Company proudly encourages staff and clients to volunteer with numerous community organizations, including the UNH Cooperative Extension, where clients grow and harvest vegetables for the New Hampshire Foodbank. The PLUS Company "Go Green" Club also works to beautify the community, conducting clean-ups along the Heritage Rail trail and in other heavily traveled spots.



The PLUS Company

"Empower Individuals,
Maximize Independence"

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Save the Date!

The 21st Annual Wild Irish Breakfast will take place on Friday, March 16, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza in Nashua!

News from the Residential Department

Greetings from the PLUS Company Residential Department!

We are all eagerly awaiting the upcoming Holiday season! Consumers and staff alike are busy preparing and decorating in anticipation.

Although we know that snow must fall, the recent snow makes us rethink our love of winter. Luckily, despite power outages and travel headaches, our group homes all made it through safely with our generators chugging along!

Many clients from our group homes attended The PLUS Company sponsored Halloween Party held at the Elks Club.

The creativity of the costumes is always amazing and a great chance for consumers and staff to eat, dance and laugh together.

In upcoming issues of PLUS perspectives, we hope to spotlight the lives and activities of individuals living in our residences and in our Adult Foster Care environments. We also would like to spotlight our residential staff; the dedicated people who makes the enrichment of our consumers lives their highest priority. Anyone with story suggestions is welcome to contact us with ideas. We wish to share our joys and accomplishments with our extended PLUS Company family.

We wish everyone a safe and joyous Holiday Season!

~The PLUS Company Residential Department



Dinner Dance Raises Money for Adult Education, Honors St. Joseph Hospital

About 200 friends, family, and supporters danced the night away on November 19, at the 14th Annual Silent Auction and Dinner Dance. Funds from the Silent Auction and Dinner Dance are used to support The PLUS Company's Adult Education programs. Last year approximately \$60,000 was raised to enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities through classes such as art and music therapy, adult literacy, life skills, and self-advocacy training. These programs encourage independence for people with developmental disabilities and are funded by donations. Special thanks to event sponsors, USI and Gate City Electric, along with the numerous other businesses who support The PLUS Company's mission of "Empowering Individuals, Maximizing Independence."

A highlight of the evening was the recognition of St. Joseph Hospital as the Corporate Citizen of Year. According to Director Kim Shottes, "The PLUS Company's partnership with St. Joseph Hospital is one that truly exemplifies our mission of empowering individuals with developmental disabilities to maximize their independence. St. Joseph Hospital has shown incredible dedication and leadership as the first hospital in New England to host Project SEARCH,

a 9-month employment training program for individuals with disabilities set entirely within the hospital. Thanks to their leadership, young adults are not only learning the skills they need to become employed, but are also learning that anything can be achieved with the proper training and support. We would like to thank St. Joseph Hospital for all they have done for our clients and the community of Nashua."

The numbers are still being tallied for the event, but early estimates indicate that money raised at this year's event may have exceeded last year. This success can be attributed to the hard-working Silent Auction Committee, and to The PLUS Company's good friends, Carl and Robin Hefflefinger. The Hefflefinger's hosted the first "Cocktails for a Cause" at their home a few weeks earlier, accepting donations from those who were unable to attend on November 19. The success of these events ensures that The PLUS Company can continue offering valuable Adult Education programs that teach clients the skills they need to be more independent.

"Snowtober" Can't Ruin IRC's Fall Fun & Festivities

Despite a fall snowstorm, the clients served by ICR didn't let Mother Nature's Snowtober ruin the fun! Everyone took a break from their daily lives to enjoy the October festivities before the snow arrived!



Richard Brown and Shane Burke both payed homage to their wrestling Idol John Cena (above). While Peggy Hardy tried being "witchy" for the evening (below).



Once the storm hit The PLUS Company staff worked to make sure everyone was safe, warm and had food. Since many had the day off from work or volunteering due to the storm, everyone took the

opportunity to relax at The PLUS Company. Some staff and clients even used the time to practice their skills and work on projects.



While Sam Freeman and Siobahn Fields enjoyed the heat and comraderie together (above), John Ohlert and Robbie Belcher discovered there's nothing like quilting to keep their fingers warm in the chilly weather (below).



Building Dreams: Creating the Reality

Cooking Up Dreams in the New Kitchen

Thanks to a grant from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and the the excellent leadership of Board Member Joe Marshall, The PLUS Company kitchen has been fully renovated! New counter-top space, refrigerators, cabinets, and stoves allow for cooking classes to be even bigger and better then before. It is also easier for clients in wheelchairs to use the space. Cooking students are now providing food and snacks for residential facilities, small events, and

meetings that take place at The PLUS Company. Students in the healthy living and nutrition classes are also grateful for the expanded space and facilities!



From the Director's Desk

So much is happening at The PLUS Company we can't even fit everything into the newsletter! Between the updates to the building, the numerous client activities, and the community events, we are all constantly on the move, and we wouldn't have it any other way! As 2011 starts to wind down, we look around and see all that we have accomplished over the past year: moving into 19 Chesnut Street, renovating the kitchen and lobby, beginning construction of the portico, adding new Adult Education classes, finding employment opportunities for our clients, and simply ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to reach for their dreams.

I would like this opportunity to thank all of you for all your hard work and efforts over 2011. The PLUS Company is fortunate to have wonderful hard-working staff, caring board members, involved families and clients, and dedicated community members who volunteer their time and efforts to ensuring The PLUS Company is the best we can be. To all of you, I want to say "Thank you" and wish you a wonderful holiday season. 2012 is coming quickly, and with your continued support, we all know that the best is yet to come!