



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

PLUS PERSPECTIVES

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Step into our new building and the first thing you will notice is the friendliness of our staff and clients. Talk to anyone, and you will find how easy it is to become a part of something special. Don't be surprised to find that you will want to come back for more, for you won't find a greater bunch of enthusiastic people. Centrally located in the heart of Nashua, I am thrilled to see so many clients getting more involved. Clients are volunteering, finding jobs, and participating in the community. It is nice to recognize their achievements and see their dreams coming true. We are grateful for these moments, and look forward to working together for many years to come.

~ Kim Shottes

Awards & MORE...

PLUS is pleased to announce the following community support:

\$5,000 from **TD Bank Foundation** for the Music Performance Hour.

\$500 from the **Amherst Junior Women's Club** for the Adult Literacy program.

\$19,896 from the **NH Charitable Foundation** for kitchen upgrades.

Congratulations to PLUS Staff **Juana Abramo** and **Pam Veazie** who received awards this year at the 2011 Direct Support Professionals Award Breakfast at Sky Meadow Country Club in June.

OPEN HOUSE A HUGE SUCCESS!

Over 200 friends, families, and community members showed up for The PLUS Company's Open House on Tuesday, June 21st. The PLUS Company was proud to show off their new home with tours and displays highlighting each department. Many clients were on-hand to show off some of the skills they have learned through the Adult Education program, including a drumming demonstration, a skit, and some singing. Highlighting the evening were speeches by Nashua Mayor Donnalee Lozeau and PLUS Company Client, Jeff Hayward, who both talked about how important the building at 19 Chestnut Street is to those who learn and work here, and to the community. The expanded space will also allow The PLUS Company to add more adult education classes and enrichment programs to an already busy calendar.

To see pictures from the event, please visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pluscompany.



Left to right: PLUS Director of Residential Services Cindy Howard, PLUS Client Edmon Fitzgerald, and PLUS Executive Director Kim Shottes share their pride at the recent Open House.

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THANKING THOSE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Laura with Dave and Pauline Robinson, two PLUS Company providers.

Laura Horowitz, Service Coordinator, retired at the end of June after working at The PLUS Company for eight years. Laura's passion for helping others has inspired so many people at PLUS and in the Nashua community.

"Laura Horowitz has been so nurturing and supportive to everyone at PLUS," stated Leni Hodgins, PLUS Education Director. "She gave so much of herself and so much of her time. I don't know what we're going to do without her."

According to Executive Director Kim Shottes, Laura was an intricate part of PLUS. As a residential service coordinator, Laura developed very strong relationships with the clients, providers and families by regularly visiting them in their homes. "Laura was always there for everyone- being called at all hours of the day, showing up in emergency rooms, advocating for clients needs, or supporting those going through a difficult time. If someone had a need, Laura would be sure to find a way to make things happen for clients. Laura was a great support to families and providers during times when a client had medical issues, for she has such a reassuring presence." Shottes explained.

Kathy Weber, a PLUS client, has personally experienced Laura's compassion over the years. "I will miss Laura," Kathy shared. "Laura is a nice person. She comes over to my apartment and helps me. She asks me how I am doing and how work is. She took me to the Emergency Room when I broke my hand. She cares a lot about me."

"On behalf of PLUS, we are thankful to Laura for her dedication, encouragement, and friendship. She truly made a difference and will be greatly missed by her colleagues and clients," PLUS Executive Director Kim Shottes said.

PLUS is VOLUNTEERING & MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Several PLUS clients volunteer their time in the community. "I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize the following individuals in the Individual Community Resources Department who give back to their community," shared Shawna Sousa, Director of Individual Community Resources.

- Katie Mayo enjoys helping others at the St. Joseph's Birth Center.
- Lauren Bambrick and Richard Messner assist Meals on Wheels.
- Patrick Gallant serves the Nashua Historical Society.
- Julie Guerrette volunteers at the American Red Cross.
- Peter Lapointe volunteers with Meals on Wheels.
- Stephanie "Sam" Freeman provides assistance at a local private in-home afterschool childcare with Sherri Jette and at the PLUS Company Teen Group.
- Lauren Francouer helps with the PLUS Company Teen Group.
- Linda Roy plays the piano during activity times at both the Hunt Community and The Courville Community, and to some of the PLUS Company events and group homes.
- Danielle Poirier volunteered at Marguerite's Place in Nashua.
- Siobhan Fields and Bryan Kearns have taken their love of the outdoors to the UNH Cooperative Extension, Community Gardens in Manchester.
- Jess Maki shares her time at the YMCA in Merrimack.
- John Ohlert volunteers at the Nashua Senior Center's Meals on Wheels.
- Lisa Sauls volunteers at Crestwood Nursing Home in Milford.
- Anna Kelley gives her time at St. Joseph's Hospital in the cafeteria.
- Steph Lessard helps others through Meals on Wheels.

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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*

Executive Director
Kim B. Shottes

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2010 - 2011

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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.

PLUS PRIDE



Track & Field Coach Pam Veazie, PLUS Company board member Bob Cousens, and athlete Shane Burke were all smiles at the Special Olympics Summer Games in June at UNH. Thirteen PLUS Pride athletes participated.

Congratulations to our athletes and volunteers for your great team spirit!

FIRST STRIDE CLASS GRADUATES!

The first class of STRIDE students has officially graduated! Daniel Brien, Tommy Gravel, Fred Purtell, and Joshua Richardson celebrated their achievement on June 29th with family, friends, and staff from Lowell General Hospital.



STRIDE is a 20-week on-the-job training program for adults with disabilities, based completely on the needs and workflows of Sodexo managers. This new 20 week program is comprised of 3 internships, allowing participants to learn skills necessary for competitive employment once they graduate from the program. The graduates will now be looking for employment using the skills they have learned. STRIDE is a unique collaboration between The PLUS Company, Lowell General Hospital, Sodexo, and LinkAbilities. The next class starts at Lowell General Hospital in late July.



PLUS clients recently made birdhouses in the woodworking class. This class meets every Monday at Joe Marshall's workshop and is taught by volunteer Dave Lavoie. The woodworking class is one of many exciting Adult Education Programs offered at PLUS. For a full listing of classes offered, including dates and times, please visit our PLUS Online Calendar.

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PROJECT SEARCH SUCCESS

PLUS client Tim Cleaveland was recognized at the State Rehabilitation Council in June for his advocacy and success in Project SEARCH. The program provides real-life work experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills. Project SEARCH is a school-to-work program for individuals with disabilities in their final year of high school eligibility. St. Joseph Hospital Project SEARCH is a collaborative program, involving the hospital, Nashua School District, The PLUS Company, Gateways Community Services, LinkAbilities, and NH Vocational Rehabilitation.

VOLUNTEER AND BUILD DREAMS

Come and join us at The PLUS Company. Your interests and talents can inspire others to achieve their goals and even make dreams come true.

Save the Date

The 14th Annual Silent Auction and Dinner Dance
Saturday, November 19th • Crowne Plaza Nashua.

For more information: (603)889-0652, PLUSinfo@pluscompany.org, or visit us on Facebook.

Fueling for Good “vote for us” at <http://www.fuelinggood.com/rewardinggood?id=795568>

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