



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

PLUS PERSPECTIVES

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AWARDS & MORE...

Community Grants... Citizens Bank Foundation awarded PLUS \$3500 in support of the Wild Irish Breakfast. "We are grateful to Citizens Bank for helping make this annual event another success for the people we serve," shared Executive Director Kim Shottes.

PLUS Consumer Wins...

John Oehlert (center) was all smiles with Director of Communications Fred Neergaard of New Hampshire Motor Speedway, WGAM Radio (ESPN Radio) Host Pete Tarrier and a WGAM Radio intern, after winning the GRAND prize of a NHMS 20th Anniversary Season Ticket package at the Daytona 500 Viewing Party held at Chunky's Cinema in Nashua. He won two tickets to both NASCAR races at Loudon this year. Johnny O. is a big NASCAR fan and a member of the PLUS NASCAR Club which meets on the last Wednesday of every month.



Promoting Self-Advocacy and PLUS Programs...

Trever Bowley, a PLUS consumer, spoke on behalf of The PLUS Company at the 19th Annual Wild Irish Breakfast at the Nashua Radisson Hotel. In the audience were New Hampshire Governor John Lynch, Nashua Mayor Donnalee Lozeau, NH State Senator Peggy Gilmour, NH Democratic Party Chairman Ray Buckley, NH Republican Party Chairman Governor John H. Sununu, Father Bob Guillemette of the Immaculate Conception Church in Nashua, Blarney Master Bernie O'Streeter, and Dan Chan, legendary and honorary Irishman for the Day. Trever Bowley is an avid student in several programs offered at PLUS. One program of interest is a Public Speaking class taught by Bob Purcell, PLUS Board Member. The goal of the class is to empower consumers and help promote the mission of the organization.



Working at PLUS has given me the opportunity to meet some truly remarkable people. It is wonderful to see how our consumers continue to make a significant difference in our community. Our new Go Green Club is a great example of how consumers help make Nashua beautiful. And it isn't just our consumers; our staff, volunteers and community continue to inspire me. The PLUS Company appreciates the generosity of many local businesses and our NH community for their continued support and sponsorship of the Wild Irish Breakfast and our other community programs. We are grateful for our remarkable staff, volunteers, and community in helping us celebrate the spirit of our mission.

~ Kim Shottes

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THANKING THOSE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Bob Olsen Made a Difference and Will Be Missed



PLUS Consumer Heidi Partridge wishes Bob Olsen congratulations at his retirement party.

PLUS Vocational Director Bob Olsen recently retired. For more than twenty years, Bob Olsen made a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families in the greater Nashua area. He earned much admiration and friendship from the people he served over the years. To staff, he will be remembered for his calm and reassuring manner.

“Bob was my supervisor for almost 20 years and it was a pleasure to work with him. He was a master of creative thinking and often came up with solutions to difficult problems. Throughout the years, I watched him patiently interact with challenging consumers, giving them the time and understanding they needed and deserved,” shared Ellen Greten, PLUS Manager of Business Services.

According to PLUS Executive Director Kim Shottes, Bob Olsen was devoted to the PLUS mission and will be greatly missed.

“Bob Olsen is a strong believer that all people no matter what their disabilities can be productive citizens in the workplace. Bob worked tirelessly to help hundred of consumers and their families achieve their goals. He helped us build a strong foundation for the future of PLUS. On behalf of PLUS, we are grateful to Bob Olsen for making PLUS what it is today,” Kim Shottes explained.

Go PLUS PRIDE Sports



PLUS had forty-five athletes and volunteers on four teams at the basketball competition on April 10th! It is going to be a great season! For more information contact Adult Education Director Leni Hodgins at 821-7408.

Photo, from Left: Pride team players Trever, Sean, and Sam are ready to play.

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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JOIN GO GREEN AND BE GREEN



Left to right: Greer Bodmer, Shane Burke, Corey Dion, Jeff Hayward, and Josh Conroy

Want to be a part of something remarkable and help improve the environment? The PLUS Go Green Club welcomes new members. The purpose of the club is to be environmentally friendly and to teach others how they can help the environment. Adult Education Director Leni Hodgins said she came up with the idea after attending a Go Green workshop,

and is happy to see the enthusiasm from staff and consumers.

Jeff Hayward, a PLUS consumer, took over as president soon after the club was formed in September 2009. "He is very knowledgeable about the environment and always comes to the meetings prepared and with a well thought-out agenda," Leni Hodgins shared.

Jeff Hayward said he is proud to be a part of something positive, explaining that "The Go Green Club is important because we all can learn to be more earth-friendly and we all should do our part to keep our planet clean. Right now we are trying to recruit more people to join the club and members have taken pledges on how to do our part to be more environmentally earth-friendly."

The Go Green Club meets on the last Wednesday of every month from 3-4 PM at the Progress Center. If you are interested in joining the Go Green Club, please contact one of the following members:

Jeff Hayward, President; Greer Bodmer; Whitney Brown; Shane Burke; Josh Conroy; Corey Dion; Leni Hodgins, or Michelle Soucy.

WOOD-WORKING WONDERS

The PLUS Adult Education Program started a weekly woodworking class. Dave Lavoie, a father of a PLUS consumer, has volunteered to instruct students in the art of making birdhouses.

"It's a very popular class and the goal is to eventually sell such great décor to our local bird and garden lovers," shared Leni Hodgins, Director of Adult Education. For more information on this program contact Leni Hodgins at 821-7408.



JR's Birdhouse

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SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, April 21st

Annual Spring Dance
Nashua Elks Club

Wednesday, September 29th

PLUS /Gateways Annual Meeting
Sky Meadow Country Club

Saturday, November 20th

The 13th Annual Silent Auction and Dinner Dance
Crowne Plaza



The PLUS COMPANY Inc.

240 Main Dunstable Road
Nashua, NH 03062

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