



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

PLUS PERSPECTIVES

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There are many concerns with the current issues of the state budget. Working at PLUS has taught me not to take things for granted, for sometimes opportunities can come from even the most difficult moments. Every day, our consumers are experiencing more good news, success, and personal growth. Our new building, enthusiastic staff, and volunteers are making more opportunities possible for the people we serve. We will continue to focus on empowering individuals with developmental disabilities by providing support and services that maximize independence. If you have ideas which will help us increase our growth, we would like to hear from you. We have the room for more great ideas and programs. I want to thank the staff, volunteers, community, and our continued supporters for helping us reach our mission. I believe the best is yet to come, for we can accomplish anything together.

~ Kim Shottes

Awards & MORE...

The Literacy Program celebrated their 12th year at Rivier College. According to Leni Hodgins, PLUS Education Director, this year's teachers were Kathy Belanger and Susan Nolan. "They have been terrific teachers. PLUS greatly appreciates Dr. Susan Gately for her continued support and guidance. The students had a great year!"



*Ben Demers with
 Rivier College volunteer Nicole Hauswith*

MONEY MANAGEMENT

Everyone who has ever gone grocery shopping knows that it can be a struggle to purchase healthy food on a budget. Luckily, The PLUS Company Money Management class had an expert to give them some tips! Tina Venetos, an employee at TD Bank in Nashua, recently volunteered to help students figure out how to stretch their dollars and still eat healthy. Tina worked with the students to create healthy menus and grocery lists using store fliers. "Tina's enthusiasm and warm personality make her a welcome addition to The PLUS Company. We appreciate Tina for helping the students learn how to eat healthy on a budget," stated Leni Hodgins, PLUS Adult Education Director.



There is much to learn with PLUS Consumer Sam Freeman and Tina Venetos from TD Bank during a recent PLUS Money Management Class.

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THANKING THOSE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

MIKE BONACORSI AND KAREN KEATING



Karen Keating and Mike Bonacorsi make a significant difference at PLUS. Karen Keating is on the Silent Auction Committee and has served on the PLUS Wild Irish Breakfast Committee. They are also actively involved in many PLUS Pride Special Olympics programs.

Karen Keating assists Pride Track and Field and is also a Pride Snowshoe volunteer. "I find it personally rewarding and truly enjoy the connections I've made with the clients," shared Keating.

Mike Bonacorsi volunteers on the PLUS Pride Softball and Basketball teams. He also participates every year in the Penguin Plunge to benefit PLUS Pride and Special Olympics. According to Bonacorsi, one of the greatest things about working with the athletes is the friends he has made. "After participating for the past couple of years, I find I look forward to seeing them and hearing how their week has gone.

They make me smile, the way friends should," explained Bonacorsi.

"Karen and Mike are two terrific volunteers. They both seem to really enjoy their time volunteering at The PLUS Company, whether it's spending time with the athletes or serving on various committees. Our consumers' faces light up when they see Mike and Karen. They're never afraid to roll up their sleeves and pitch in. Furthermore, Karen has perfected the assembly line approach to making dozens of sandwiches at Waterville Valley for our athletes' lunches! I don't know what we'd do without these two remarkable people who truly make a difference," Leni Hodgins, PLUS Education Director stated.

"On behalf of PLUS, thank you Karen and Mike for your generous time and wonderful enthusiasm," said Hodgins.

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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*

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Kim B. Shottes

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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.

CONGRATULATIONS PRIDE ATHLETES!



PLUS Pride Athlete Whitney Brown, Shawna Sousa, Director of Individual Community Resources, and Pride Athlete Nicole Northrup at the 2011 Special Olympics Winter Games held at Waterville Valley on March 6-8th. Seven coaches and volunteers accompanied 15 cross-country ski and snow-shoe athletes.

Despite difficult weather, PLUS Pride brought home 4 gold, 3 silver, and 4 bronze metals. "This was the first time Nicole and Whitney participated in the Winter Games for PLUS Pride. They did such a great job at Waterville. I was so proud of them, especially for the way they braved the elements," shared Sousa.

Bob Purcell, Pride Basketball Coach and Board Member, is all smiles with Pride athlete Mike Smith. It has been a busy season for the Pride Basketball Team who recently played at the state championships in Portsmouth. According to Leni Hodgins, PLUS Education Director, the teams had a great season. "Our athletic programs are a great way to get in shape, have fun, and meet some nice people. There are many programs available now that the warm weather has returned. We're always looking for more team players and volunteers to cheer them on," said Hodgins.



Bob & Mike

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VOLUNTEER AND BUILD DREAMS

If you've ever wondered
how you can make a difference
in the lives of individuals with disabilities,
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

Please Join Us at Our Open House on
Wednesday, June 1st at 4:30 to 7 pm.
Light refreshments will be served.

The PLUS Company's Performing Arts Club will provide entertainment.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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The PLUS COMPANY Inc.

