



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

PLUS PERSPECTIVES

What's Inside

From the
 Director's Desk
Page 1

Awards & More
Page 1

PLUS is Home
Page 2

Thanking Those
 Who Make a
 Difference
Page 2

Education News
Pages 3

PLUS
 PRIDE
Page 3

Volunteer
Page 4

Save the Date
Page 4

Wild Irish
 Breakfast
Page 4



Generous contributions, hard work, and continued faith have helped PLUS achieve big dreams for the great people we serve. Our new home at 19 Chestnut Street is proof of years of dedication and generosity. On behalf of PLUS, I want to express my gratitude to our staff, volunteers, supporters, and caring community members who helped make this building become a reality. Now is the time for new goals, bigger dreams, and better opportunities for our consumers. Whatever your dreams, may your year be filled with happiness, too. ~ *Kim Shottes*

MIKE MONKS NAMED THE PLUS COMPANY 2010 CORPORATE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Each year, The PLUS Company recognizes an individual or corporation who has made a significant impact in the lives of people with disabilities as the Corporate Citizen of the Year. This year, The PLUS Company is honored to present the 2010 Corporate Citizen of the Year award to someone who truly embodies the theme of "Building Dreams," Mike Monks, for assisting The PLUS Company with the purchase of 19 Chestnut Street as the organization's new home.

Mr. Monks has been on the board of Directors at The PLUS Company for over 25 years. For the past five years he has been working diligently on behalf of PLUS to find suitable space for purchase. According to Kim Shottes, PLUS Executive Director, Mr. Monks

has truly left an indelible impression on the organization. "I will remember the day when I said to Mike, 'You find us a building and you will forever leave a legacy to The PLUS Company and its clients,'" she recalled.

"Every day when I walk into the new building and see the joy on our clients' and staff's faces, I thank Mike. He not only spent countless hours working on the building deal, but also made the first significant contribution to our building campaign."

AWARDS & MORE...

The PLUS Company had a record silent auction year. Over \$65,000 was raised to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. The Nashua Rotary West awarded \$750 to the PLUS Performing Arts Program, which offers consumers the opportunity to experience drama, music, and dance by participating in stage productions. The Arthur Getz Foundation awarded \$4800 for new library and lobby furniture. "The generosity of such organizations makes so much possible for the people we serve," shared Executive Director Kim Shottes. "We are extremely grateful for the continued support."



PLUS Executive Director Kim Shottes with Mike Monks in front of new building at 19 Chestnut Street in Nashua.

The PLUS Company would like to thank Mr. Monks for all of his generous efforts over the years, and for his help making The PLUS Company the organization it is today. Thank you for making this dream come true and for setting the foundation for PLUS to build more dreams in the future.

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PLUS is HOME

After nearly 40 years spent building the dreams of individuals with disabilities, The PLUS Company, Inc. is proud to announce one dream has finally become a reality: the dream of buying a new building. Now it is official, PLUS has moved to their new home at 19 Chestnut Street in Nashua. Staff, volunteers, consumers, and their family have expressed much enthusiasm. To thank all who helped make this possible, here are recent quotes from consumers and staff about the new building:

Whitney Brown, "It's so big, but I can finally find my way around!"

Peggy Hardy, "It's big and has more room. There is more room for our quilting class and art projects."

Siobhan Fields, "We have room for arts and crafts stuff. This place is big!

The kitchen is big and we can have lunch in there. We can all fit in the kitchen now for cooking class."

Helen Indorf, "I love it here. I think it's great that we have enough room for all of the activities. I love having more than two bathrooms, too, and everything is so clean!"

Kerry Smith, "I love the building. It's nice and warm in here and it's easy to get around."

Shannon Purple, "There's a lot more room and a lot more people come in everyday. I like being busy and this place is definitely busier!"

Lisa Monbleau, "I like the kitchen! It's very spacious. I like the separate bathrooms for men and women too."

Leni Hodgins, "I love it here! There is so much more classroom and office space. In our old building, you had to

walk through my office to get to the bathroom so there were constant interruptions. Everyone just seems so much happier here and I love the fact that we're so close to downtown, too."

Kelli White, "I love the sensory room. There's also so much more room for Jordan to walk around now, too."

Donna Hughes, "We are thankful to have so much space. It seems like there are fewer distractions too."

Norma Nadeau, "It's nice here. I like the kitchen because it's big and there's lots of room to bake."

Michelle Soucy, "The new building promotes a feeling of togetherness and brings different departments together. I'm meeting a lot of new people now!"

Lynne Kupchick, "I love it here. It's bigger and there's more privacy for teaching and less noise."

THANKING THOSE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

PLUS DREAM BUILDERS



Scott and Gail

Scott Congdon didn't set out to be a dream builder. In fact, he describes the series of events that led to becoming a home provider for Gail Roebuck as an accident. Yet, over thirteen years later, Gail is still living with Scott as part of his family, and, in his words, has "found home" with the Congdon family. This story began when Scott stopped by The PLUS Company to visit Gail many years ago. He had come to know Gail through her previous provider who was unable to care for her any longer. On a whim, Scott decided to pay her a quick visit and see how she was doing. The result of that visit was a phone call to his mother, Claire, who agreed to move in with him. Together, they decided to make Gail a member of their close-knit family, something that Scott believes Gail dreamed about and needed to make her

feel secure and help her grow as an independent person. It was a move that has changed all of their lives and one that rewarded them in ways that they couldn't have previously imagined.

"Gail constantly surprises us," says Scott. "She is still learning new things and nothing keeps her down. She is a real fighter. The most rewarding part has been seeing her happy and seeing her blossom. It's also rewarding to make a home that gives an individual with a developmental disability a chance to live their own lives."

The PLUS Company would like to thank the Congdon family: Scott, Bill, and Claire, for making Gail's dreams come true. You truly are dream builders, and we are proud to work with you!

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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.

EDUCATION NEWS

The PLUS Company Book Club led by Nashua Public Library's Linda Walker just completed reading their fifth Harry Potter Book. Audio copies were provided to consumers who have difficulty reading the printed book. The entire group decided to attend the Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows movie with Linda. "This is a very popular program and we are thankful for Linda's enthusiasm and time. The book club members had an enjoyable time," shared Leni Hodgins, PLUS Adult Education Director.

The first Public Speaking class led by Bob Purcell, PLUS Board Chairperson, will graduate in January. Six students met monthly at Brevan Electronics since early spring. The class helped make public speaking a positive experience. Students learned how to incorporate techniques to deliver their message effectively and maintain the audience's interest. "In November, Kathy Weber, a student in the class, delivered a moving speech at both the annual Silent Auction and Dinner Dance and the Nashua Rotary Club West. She did a wonderful job and is an inspiration," stated Hodgins. "This month she addressed our guests at the first annual **Dream Builder Appreciation Night** and she was a huge hit. Kathy is already busy working on her speech for our 20th Annual Wild Irish Breakfast to be held in March."



PLUS Consumer Kathy Weber shares her gratitude at a recent Nashua Rotary West luncheon. Weber thanked the Nashua Rotary West for their continued support and for helping make her dreams come true.

PLUS PRIDE

PLUS Pride is gearing up for their 6th season of SONH Winter Games in snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. The games will be held at Waterville Valley in early March. These games are made possible because of the generous dedication of our volunteers and coaches. According to Leni Hodgins, PLUS Adult Education Director, this program is almost entirely funded by our FAN (Fund-a-Need) Club members and our Penguin Plunge team. "We need more plungers (or "chickens" for the chicken coop for those too afraid to go in the water)! The event will be held on Sunday, February 6th," explained Hodgins.



Photo: Jennifer Gagnon

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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 developmental 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

February 6, 2011
Penguin Plunge
Hampton Beach

March 17, 2011
Annual Wild Irish Breakfast
Nashua Radisson

For more information: (603) 889-0652,
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