

From The Director's Desk

FALL IS QUICKLY COMING TO AN END, and we are making plans to settle in for the cold winter months. While it might be more difficult to go outside or to be together this year, we remain committed to keeping our clients safe and engaged. Many of our clients, along with staff, families, providers, and community supporters joined us for our first virtual Annual Meeting. The theme was "Stronger Together" and our 3 client speakers demonstrated this theme far better than I ever could. Jess, Katie, and Bryan all spoke about their time at PLUS, the goals they have accomplished, and how meaningful the support of PLUS staff has been in their lives. It was a truly inspirational night, and I have received notes from so many who attended and enjoyed hearing these stories. It's events like these that remind me just how special our PLUS Company community is, and that no matter what challenges we face, we will come out stronger by working together. I would like to thank all of our sponsors for this night, especially our event sponsors: Gate City Electric and Terry and Linda Robinson.

I also have some sad news to report. Long-time Board member Mike Monks passed away recently. Mike was a true friend to PLUS, helping us with real estate needs, looking for employment opportunities for clients, and bringing his exacting standards to the event he co-founded, the Wild Irish Breakfast. Mike really cared about PLUS Company clients and gave hundreds of hours of his time to this organization. We will truly miss him.

As always, I want to thank all of our staff, families, and providers for their continued support. The next few months may be some of the toughest we have had to face yet, but we will face it together with strength, determination, and hope. Thank you all. 🙏

-Kim Shottes

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PLUS Fall 2020 Perspectives

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this issue

- Stronger Together
- DSP Spotlight
- Annual Meeting Sponsors Thank You
- St. Joseph Hospital Project SEARCH Wins National Award
- Remembering Mike

PLUS Company Holds Annual Meeting: "Stronger Together"

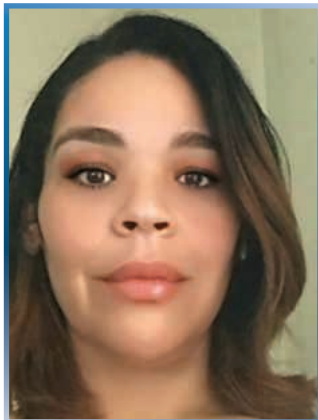
ON OCTOBER 22 clients, staff, families, providers, and community supporters gathered together via Zoom for The PLUS Company's 2020 Annual Meeting. After a brief welcome from PLUS Board Chair, Jim Allard,

Executive Director, Kim Shottes, gave a brief recap of the year, including the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the organization. The main event of the evening were speeches given by clients: Jess, Katie, and Bryan. All three discussed their lives prior to joining PLUS and the huge impact the support of staff has had on them as they worked towards their goals. "At first, I was not interested in any of the employment training programs PLUS offered, but the staff encouraged me and I applied to the Retail Training Program," said Katie. "I now work at Marshalls and none of that would have happened without the support of PLUS staff." Jess talked about how she was nervous to move into a new living situation, but thanks to the encouragement she received, she couldn't be happier. "I want to thank The PLUS Company for helping me stay active and become more independent," Jess told us. "I couldn't have done it without the support of staff who believe in me." Bryan talked about how thankful he is to stay in touch with his friends by taking classes via Zoom saying, "Despite COVID, I continue to stay in touch with my friends at PLUS through weekly Zoom classes. I like all the classes I take but Health Matters and Life Skills are two of my favorites. I feel so grateful to The PLUS Company for how they have helped me. They have made a big difference in my life." Thank you to everyone who joined us for this amazing night, especially Katie, Jess, and Bryan. You prove that we are truly stronger together. 🙏



"Empower Individuals, Maximize Independence"

DSP Spotlight: Christine Teixeira and Jenissa Esmurria



CHRISTINE TEIXERIA AND JENISSA ESMURRIA are superstars who support PLLUS Company clients in Massachusetts. Christine runs the retail internship program and works with clients to learn employment skills at Marshalls. Her day consists of classroom time along with teaching the students the different job task at Marshalls. Christine is a dedicated member of the Massachusetts Career trainer group and is always willing to help wherever necessary. Christine brings a sense of excitement and positivity to everything she does.

Jenissa has shown much dedication to the individuals that she is serving through this pandemic. She has always been very flexible and willing to

take on whatever tasks are necessary to support her clients. Jenissa takes safety and sanitization procedures very seriously, and goes above and beyond to keep her clients safe. Recently, she stepped outside of her comfort zone to start a virtual Spanish class, which her clients love and look forward to every week. Thank you both for all your hard work and dedication! 🙌

St. Joseph Hospital Project SEARCH Wins National Award

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL for winning the 2020 Model Fidelity Host Business Excellence Award at the national Project SEARCH virtual conference! The award celebrates a business that has embraced the Project SEARCH school-to-work model with their own unique style, passion, and initiative. A special thank you to Michele Canto and everyone at SJH for all they do to support this program and our clients, as they learn the skills necessary for employment. 🙌



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*"Empower Individuals
Maximize Independence"*



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Remembering Mike

THE PLUS COMPANY IS MOURNING the loss of our good friend, Mike Monks, who passed away after a brief illness. Mike was a long-time Board member and one of the founders of the Wild Irish Breakfast. Mike was key in our purchase of 19 Chestnut Street. He was also the lead in securing our other leased properties both here in NH and MA. As a board member, Mike was very passionate about our mission. He genuinely cared about our clients and was always looking for employment opportunities on their behalf. Mike worked tirelessly for PLUS and was instrumental in shaping who we are today. His legacy will live on. 🙌



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