

# From The Director's Desk

Happy Spring, PLUS Company!

The warmer weather is finally here, and our clients are getting out and about to enjoy the sights and sounds of spring. Our partnership with the Beaver Brook Association is up and running. Clients are able to participate in guided walks along the nature trails and learn all about plants and animals. Some of our PLUS Pride Special Olympics team members spent a weekend at Waterville Valley working on team building exercises in preparation for the USA Games in Orlando, Florida. We are especially thrilled to be back onsite at the Currier Museum of Art after a two-year hiatus. Clients in that class are learning about different types of art and how to better express themselves with their own creations. We are also getting out into the community more, walking the trails at Mine Falls, and enjoying more social activities, such as game hour, comic book creation, and drawing. It's a wonderful time.

None of this would be possible without our donors and sponsors. We recently held our 31st Annual Wild Irish Breakfast in person for the first time in two years, and it was a great success. We would like to thank PLUS Company

Client, Nick Koenig, for sharing his story during the event, and all of our sponsors. A special thanks to our Gold Shamrock sponsors: Jim Allard, John Flatley, Gate City Electric, Terry and Linda Robinson, and TD Bank. An extra special tip of the hat to John Flatley and the Flatley Foundation, who granted The PLUS Company \$250,000 for the second year in a row. All of the funds raised at this event go directly towards serving our clients and providing the classes and experiences that help them to become more independent.

I would like to close by reminding everyone that we are in great need of staff. The PLUS Company offers a rewarding job, amazing work/life balance, and the chance to change someone's life for the better. I ask all of you to pause for just a moment and think of anyone you know who might be interested. It is essential that we find more staff in order to provide a full complement of services to our clients.

Have a safe and wonderful spring!

-Kim Shottes

## Thank You To Our 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Wild Irish Breakfast Sponsors!

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# PLUS company SPRING 2022 Perspectives

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## Expression Through Art at The Currier Museum of Art

After a two year hiatus, our art program at the Currier Museum of Art is back in person! Clients learn about different forms of art and how to express themselves through their own creations. Each session focuses on different artists and their particular works of art, and allows students to create their own version of these pieces. The goal is to find new ways to express emotions, while learning about art in all its many forms. "We at the Currier are so happy to have our friends from The PLUS Company back in person to enjoy our galleries and studios," says Corie Lyford, Art Instructor at the Currier. "Their enthusiasm and

joy brings a smile to the faces of staff and visitors alike. The group works on paintings, collages, sculptures and more, inspired by the collection and exhibitions here at the Currier." In the current session, participants are using paint and clay along with collage and

printmaking techniques, to work on projects inspired by two current exhibits featuring the work of Andy Warhol and Arghavan Kosravi.



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"Empower Individuals, Maximize Independence"



# Flatley Foundation Grants The PLUS Company

\$250,000 for Second Year

The PLUS Company is honored to receive a \$250,000 grant from the Flatley Foundation for the second year. The monies will be used to assist The PLUS Company to fulfill our mission of empowering individuals with disabilities to maximize their independence through customized supports and services. Our goal is for every individual to become full, productive members of the community.

"We are so appreciative of John Flatley and the Flatley Foundation," says PLUS Company Executive Director, Kim Shottes. "Mr. Flatley's generosity will make a positive impact on our entire organization. These funds come to us in memory of our friend, Mike Monks, who was a huge advocate for those we serve."



The Flatley Foundation is an independent non-profit private foundation based in Braintree, Massachusetts. Established in 1982 by the late Thomas J. Flatley, who was the Founder of The Flatley Company, a commercial real estate development company in the Northeast. The foundation primarily supports educational organizations, health care, and Roman Catholic organizations. The assets of the foundation are governed by the board of trustees.

## PLUS Pride Sending 8 Team Members to the USA Games

Several PLUS Pride Special Olympics team members recently spent some time at Waterville Valley working on team building exercises and preparing for the USA Games. PLUS Pride will be sending 8 team members to represent NH in the USA Games, which will be held in Orlando in June. Amy Spotts will participate in Track And Field, while Trevor Lavalla, Chris O'Neil, and Tom Dabilis will compete in softball. Chelsea Schultz will be the first female power

lifter to represent NH at the National Games, and Jesse Covill will be the first athlete to participate as an assistant coach for basketball. Jeff Sousa will be an assistant coach to the Team NH Softball team, and Shawna Sousa will be an assistant coach to the Powerlifting Team. Way to go PLUS Pride and Team NH!!



## SPRING at Beaver Brook

Spring has officially sprung at the Beaver Brook Association! PLUS Company clients are enjoying all of the sights and sounds of nature, as they explore the trails with staff during 3 guided walks. As they hike along the 2-mile trails, clients are encouraged to look and listen for signs of spring, such as

budding plants, singing birds, and are taught about the flora and fauna all around them. It's a wonderful way for clients to explore the outdoors, learn about the environment, and get a little exercise at the same time.



## DSP Spotlight: Rahab Kingori

Rahab Kingori started with the PLUS Company in August 2014 and is a key team member at our Lawrence office. Rahab begins her day by greeting everyone with a positive attitude and a big smile. As a Direct Support Professional, she focuses on helping clients navigate and explore their communities. Last year Rahab shared her love of gardening with the clients, teaching them how to plant a garden, how to arrange the plants, and the importance of weeding and watering. They also learned how to tell when fruits and vegetables are ready to be harvested, and were able to take some home to share with their families. All of the clients are very excited that the warmer weather means it is time to start working on this year's garden. Thank you, Rahab, for all you that you do!



## A Sign of the Times – The PLUS Company is Hiring

Have you seen the sign? We are hiring! Please send us anyone you know who would like a fun, rewarding, flexible job working with people with disabilities. Please call the number on the sign below or visit our website at [www.pluscompany.org](http://www.pluscompany.org) if you are interested.



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Kim Shottes

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