

# From The Director's Desk

## Happy Anniversary PLUS Company!

This year, The PLUS Company is celebrating 50 years of assisting individuals with disabilities to become more independent. It is an amazing milestone for any nonprofit to reach this point, and we owe all of our success to the dedication of our staff, the support of our families and community partners, and all of our volunteers and sponsors who donate time and money to ensure PLUS can provide quality services to individuals with disabilities. Most of all, we need to recognize our clients who work tirelessly day after day to improve their skills, find jobs, and live as independently as possible. You are truly an inspiration and the reason we have been able to adapt and improve over the past 50 years.

To celebrate our 50th Anniversary, The PLUS Company will be holding a "Golden Gala" on Saturday, November 12 at the Courtyard Marriott in Nashua. We are looking for sponsors and unique and fun items for the auction, so please visit

<http://PLUSilentAuction.org> for more details or to purchase tickets to attend.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that we are always looking for staff! If you know of anyone who might be interested in a rewarding job with great benefits, please send them our way. We currently have openings during all shifts and every day of the week.

Enjoy these last weeks of summer!

*-Kim Shottes*

# PLUS PLUSCompany

SUMMER 2022

# Perspectives

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## PLUS Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The PLUS Company is celebrating our golden anniversary this year! The organization was established in 1972 to focus on meeting the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families. Over the years, the focus of PLUS has evolved to provide adult education, independent living, and vocational skills, along with supportive living environments, but our mission of Empowering Individuals and Maximizing Independence has remained essentially the same.

PLUS would not be where it is today if not for the efforts of our staff over the last 50 years. Throughout our history we have positively impacted the lives of thousands of individuals and their families. This would not have been possible without the dedication of our staff, the support of our families and partners, and the hard work of our clients to gain skills and become involved members of the community. PLUS will be celebrating our 50 years of service to the community at our "Golden Gala" on Saturday, November 12, 2022, at the Courtyard Marriott. If you are interested in attending, sponsoring, or donating an item, please visit <https://PlusSilentAuction.org> for more information.



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"Empower Individuals, Maximize Independence"

# PLUS Grows a Community Partnership

PLUS Company clients in Massachusetts have spent quite a bit of time in the garden this summer. It all started when PLUS Company Massachusetts Director, Missy, spoke to PLUS Company client, Ryan's mother, Valerie. Valerie shared how much her family loved to garden together, and offered to donate plants to PLUS for use in the community garden. PLUS staff member, Fideris, and her crew Amy, Liz, Kristen and Missy B. began to plant their veggies. Once the plants were all planted the group would go daily to water and pull weeds. During the growing period, the crew got to see a few animals who were also enjoying their garden. The group grew zucchini, broccoli, tomatoes, peppers, squash, and cabbage. Thank you to the Carey family for your generosity!



## PLUS on the Farm



PLUS Company clients have been volunteering at the Legacy Farm in Hollis on Thursdays and Fridays this summer. The farm, which also serves as an animal rescue, is a collaboration between the McGovern Family, Grow Nashua, community volunteers, and a contingent of African refugees. Volunteers have the opportunity to learn about farming and animal care, while being active outside. Clients enjoy visiting the goats, sheep, chickens, pig, and rescue dogs, along with watering and weeding the vegetable gardens. Clients are looking forward to the end of the summer barbecue after all their hard work, and are already making plans to resume their duties next year!

## Project SEARCH Graduates Class of 2022

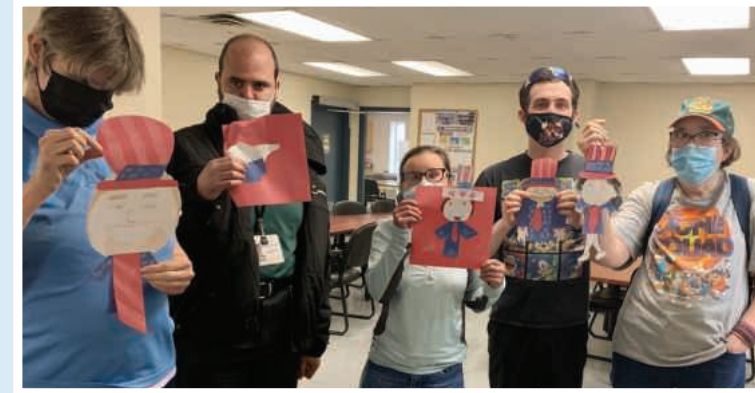
The Project SEARCH Class of 2022 Graduated on June 23rd in a ceremony held at the St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing. Five of the six members of the class were in attendance and all had speaking roles during the ceremony. The graduation featured a commencement address given by St. Joseph Hospital President John Jurczyk and words of encouragement from Project SEARCH Alumni and St. Joseph Hospital Employee, Justin Richards. The event was highlighted with an announcement that all six members of the Project SEARCH Class of 2022 are employed! CONGRATULATIONS to the Project SEARCH Class of 2022.



## SUMMER SNAPSHOTS



Edmon Picking Cherries



4th of July art projects



Sameer and Scott hiking Purgatory Falls



Kristina finds something fishy



Satori keeping her eye on the ball

## PLUS COMPANY HOSTS "Fighting For Yes!" Fundraiser and Book Launch

The PLUS Company was honored to host a fundraiser and virtual book launch for "Fighting for Yes!" on August 9th. Author Maryann Cocca-Leffler read and discussed this new book about Disability Rights Activist Judith Heumann, who made it her mission to fight for "yes" with Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Illustrator Vivien Mildemberger also joined us to demonstrate how she created the pictures for the book. Toadstool books is donating 20% of book sales to The PLUS Company.



PLUS was especially honored to host this event, not only because it talks about the fight for rights for people with disabilities, but also because the author is a member of The PLUS Company family. Maryann's daughter Janine has been a client of The PLUS Company since 2010, and has taken dozens of our Adult Education and Enrichment programs, participated in social activities, and is now employed by The PLUS Company. If you are interested in ordering "Fighting for Yes" or any of Maryann's other books, please go to [toadstoolbooks.com](http://toadstoolbooks.com).

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*"Empower Individuals  
Maximize Independence"*

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