

PLUS

Perspectives

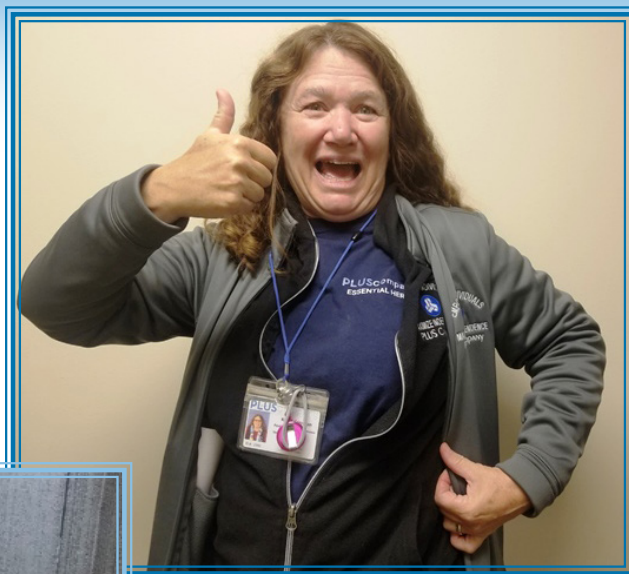
PLUScompany

Fall 2022

"Empower Individuals, Maximize Independence"

PLUS Celebrates Direct Support Professionals

Every September, The PLUS Company pauses for a moment to celebrate the dedicated, innovative people who are the heart and soul of our organization: Direct Support Professionals. These are the people who work with our clients every day, rain or shine, through pandemics, and through all the other ups and downs that life throws at them. They assist our clients to learn skills, to make friends, to volunteer in the community, provide on-the-job training and support, and in keeping up with household chores and errands, while also having quite a bit of fun. This year, our DSP's were celebrated with a day of small gifts, lunch, and a huge "THANK YOU" for all that they do. The PLUS Company would not be here without them.



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The PLUS Company, Inc.

Executive Director
Kim Shottes

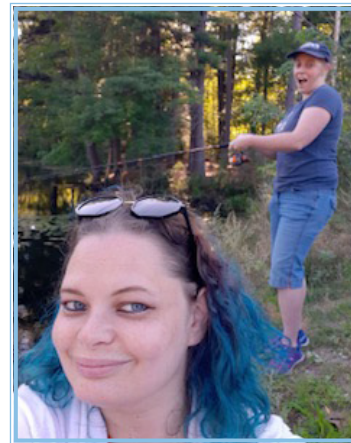
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Out and About with PLUS



Shawna and Cailey accept a donation from Rotary Club of Nashua West.



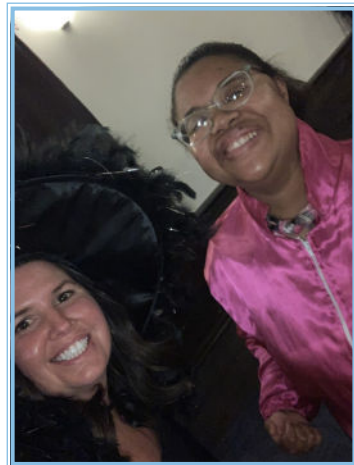
Lauren and Sam go fishing.



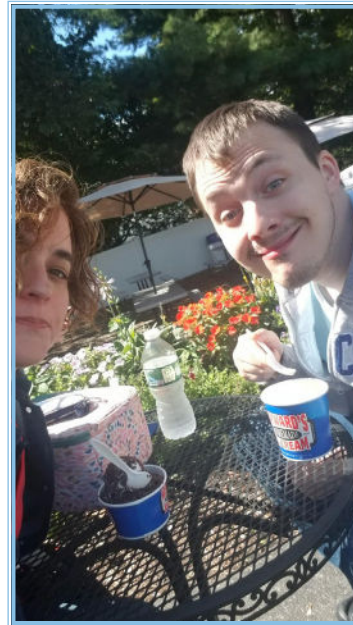
Jennifer and Shannon make breakfast burritos.



Yahna, Stan, Dan, Cindy, and Sam at the Mystic Aquarium.



Jill and Siobhan at the Halloween Party.



Laura and Matt enjoy ice cream.



The PLUS Company's frightfully fun Halloween party made its post-pandemic return on Thursday, October 27. Ghosts and goblins filled the VFW in Merrimack, enjoying socializing with friends they may not have seen in a while. The highlight of the night was the costume contest, where prizes were awarded for creepy and creative costumes. Frightful fun was had by all!



Wishing Teri a Happy Retirement

The PLUS Company is wishing a very happy retirement to one of our long-term team members, Teri Smaha, R.N. Teri has been with PLUS for over 16 years! Teri will be missed by staff, clients, and families, and she provided countless hours of medical guidance and support to staff. Executive Director, Kim Shottes, says, "We have been so fortunate to have Teri a part of the PLUS family. I for one will miss her sense of humor, willingness to do whatever it takes to ensure the wellbeing of our clients, and most importantly her ability to remain calm during moments of chaos and challenge." Thank you, Teri, for your dedication over the last 16 years, for guiding us through the pandemic, and for being a trusted friend to all of our staff and clients.



PLUS Pride Takes to the Field and the (Bowling) Lanes

PLUS Pride Special Olympics teams are back and ready for competition! The PLUS Prides softball team recently won the silver medal at the Special Olympics NH State Softball Competition. A huge shout out to coaches, Shawna and Jeff Sousa and to all the partners that helped along the way. Now that softball is over, and the colder weather is moving in, PLUS Pride is hitting the lanes for bowling. Athletes are practicing their strikes in preparation for the state competition on November 12. Go PLUS Pride!



DSP Spotlight: Bishnu Lama

Bishnu has been part of The PLUS Company for many years, first as a provider and now as a Direct Support Professional. Currently, Bishnu works in one of our staffed residences. Bishnu displays the essential qualities inherent in an exceptional employee. His attention to detail, as well as his ability to see the bigger picture, allows for him to prepare for and meet the needs of his clients. His calm and encouraging demeanor creates a safe and relaxed atmosphere for everyone, and allows clients to work towards their full potential. Bishnu doesn't wait to be asked to do something. If something needs to be done, he does it without missing a beat. Thank you, Bishnu, for your amazing attitude, your passion for helping your clients to learn and grow, and for referring other staff members who have also become valued employees.



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DSP Spotlight: Bishnu Lama

Welcome to Fall at The PLUS Company!

This is one of the busiest times of year for us, as we start up new classes and activities, celebrate our Direct Support Professionals, prepare and hold our Annual Silent Auction and Dinner Dance, and have a whole lot of fun!

This fall, we are marking the return of events that we have not been able to hold since before the pandemic began. Our Halloween party is back this year, and clients could not have been more excited to dress up and spend some time socializing together. Our PLUS Pride Special Olympics teams are working on their bowling skills in preparation for the state tournament, and we continue to add more in-person/hybrid classes to our Adult Education calendar. Plans for our “Golden Gala” celebrating the 50th anniversary of PLUS Company are also in full swing after a two-year hiatus. This year will be our 24th Annual Silent Auction and Dinner Dance, and we are all looking forward to a fun night raising money for our classes and programs. It’s amazing to be together in person once again, and we are not taking one minute of this time for granted.

On September 30th we celebrated the people that keep

The PLUS Company running – our Direct Support Professionals! These are the men and women who are truly the heart of PLUS, supporting our clients and teaching them skills. It was a nice day with lunch and some appreciation gifts to say “thank you” for all they do for our organization. They are all amazing people.

We also said goodbye to one of our long-time employees, as she headed off into retirement. Teri Smaha, R.N., has been with PLUS for 16 years and was integral to our response to the pandemic. Teri even delayed her retirement to ensure that PLUS was well supported during these times. During her tenure, she has provided countless hours of medical guidance and support to staff, families, and most importantly, the individuals supported by PLUS. We wish Teri all the best in her retirement and will miss her tremendously.

Happy Fall everyone!

-Kim



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