



Quarterly Newsletter

July 2023

Summer is in full swing!

Friends Aware has been busy in the last few months with the first ever Summer Sizzle event, the Day of Caring and Sharing, and so much more. However, we don't plan on slowing down!

This coming October we are holding our annual Baskets & Brews fundraising event at the 1812 Brewery. We'll be raffling off baskets filled with prizes!

Join the fun on October 1st!

It's important to note that our mission at Friends Aware is to provide people with diverse abilities the opportunities and support to live their best lives as valued members of the community. This effort would not be possible without the hard work of our Direct Support Staff. This upcoming September, Friends Aware is celebrating Direct Support Professionals week on the 11th through the 15th. Throughout that week FAI will be celebrating our DSP staff every day.



On Friday of DSP WEEK 2022 Admin served food from Oscar's to Direct Support Staff

Join us in celebrating DSPs and their amazing work!

Board of Directors 2023

Laryn Puddy
President

Jennifer Hendershot
Vice-President

Bradford Nixon
Secretary

Joan Jackson
Treasurer

Lisa Hout

Shelly Minnigh

Kathleen Blados

Dawn Smith

Christina M. Ujcic

Carrie McDonald

Andrea Lowery

Katherine Lynch

Jillian Fradiska

Jody Malamis

Mark Bittinger
Executive Director

New Staff from Last Quarter (Apr - Jun)

Carlie Durst

CDS

Ashley Robey

CDA

Taylor Shelbi

CDA

Quintessa Williams

Substitute

Olivia Teresi

Substitute

Tanisha Grant

CLA

Kayla Briner

Substitute

Catherine Morton

Substitute

Mary Houck

CDA

Renee Bean

Substitute



Employee Spotlight: Susan Atkinson

Position Title: MDS Activities Coordinator

In November 2022, Friends Aware hired Susan Atkinson as Meaningful Day Services Activities Coordinator.

Susan has 10 years of Activities experience in the Health Care field. This coincides with her experience as a CNA and work in Developmental Services in West Virginia.

“I love my job and the feeling of fulfillment I feel with knowing you can work with individuals who touch your heart and bring a smile to your face.”

Susan grew up in Cumberland and lives with her boyfriend Brian and their three kids. Susan also shares her home with her family dog and guinea pig. She enjoys family time, watching movies and playing board games. She’s also an avid baker and loves listening to music.

Friends Aware is fortunate to have Susan as our Activities Coordinator!

Event Showcase:

SUMMER SIZZLE

Nothing is better than a summer evening spent with music, food, beer, and friends!

On June 16th Friends Aware held the inaugural Summer Sizzle event at the Allegany County Fairgrounds. Previously known as the Ox Roast, our reimagined event was a smashing success. The Summer Sizzle provided gaming, local vendors, and live music for people to enjoy with friends. Everyone had a blast!

*Mark your calendars for June 21, 2024. We cannot wait until next year to make the Summer Sizzle even bigger and better!

WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!

Thanks to all of our sponsors and supporters!

We'd like to shout out everyone who made this event happen:

**Steve Keith & the Lost River Boys (Opening Act), Appalachian Road Show (Main Act)
T&T Kernels (Vendor), Mountain Momma Donuts (Vendor), Frankfort Athletic
Boosters (Vendor), B Rads Food Truck (Vendor), Lost Mountain BBQ (Vendor) and our
very own staff and Board volunteers!**



Their Spring!

Industrial Ballroom Dance Fridays

MDS participants go line dancing at the Industrial Ball Room on Fridays.

Spring Fling April 22nd

We had a dress up dinner and dance held at the Baltimore Pike Volunteer Fire Company for all past and present Friends Aware participants.

Fort Ashby Historical Outing May 5th

Individuals visited historical Fort Ashby. They observed musket firing and colonial clothes washing demonstrations.

Day of Caring and Sharing May 22nd

Volunteers and individuals worked on beautifying the outdoors of our locations.

Fishing Trip June 7th

Individuals went fishing at Spring Valley in Oldtown, Maryland.

Donut Basics June 7th

Staff member Ryan Cuba guided individuals on how to make donuts

Residential House Vacation June 5th– 8th

Individuals from one of our Residential homes went to Ocean City for a fun getaway.

The Live United Grant

Our MDS program was awarded a grant from County United Way to expand our creative art program. MDS participants will be busy crafting and designing their pieces of art for our Fall Art Show in October!

Smiling People

This summer has been packed with activities from fishing, cornhole, dancing, vacations, tours and so much more fun stuff. Individuals have been involved in the community more than ever and we plan to have more fun out there. The people of Friends Aware are a vital part of the community and they are often volunteering in the area.

We Love to See Happy Faces!



Employee Anniversaries

April - June

1 Year

Ryan Dillon

Kelli Lipscomb

Anna Mattero

Christopher McDonald

Krista McDonald

Dwayne Mongold

Samantha Mullineaux

Karen Pryor

Christina Robison

Kali Schoenadel

Joy Sheldon

Steven Shultz

Linda Skelley

Cameron Thomas

Frank Vandivier

2 Years

Amanda Rodriguez

Megan Wetzel

Susan Willison

4 years

Susan McDonald

5 years

Carla Lambert

6 years

Chad Garber
Rebecca Rank

7 years

Carolyn Epps
Jennifer Price

8 years

Nikita Hall

9 years

Gary Gaither

Cynthia Snyder

10 years

Alexa Moses

Troy Oster

14 years

Lisa Williams

16 years

Kelly Bakari

19 years

Angela Rudd

23 years

Dianne Dorsey

24 years

Wannetta Huff

31 years

Gayle Nicol

42 years

Jane Eaton

Staff Quarterly Giveaway Winners:

David Goad, Dawn West-McTaggart, and
Susan McDonald

Congratulations!

Organization and Staff News

Friends Aware is growing and our staff are invaluable!

In April MDS Manager Leona McTaggart and Residential Manager Chastity Taylor represented Friends Aware in the Transition Fair at Allegany College. Students in the Transitional Program at AC had the opportunity to meet representatives from different agencies that provide DDA services.



This summer some of our staff have been going to the individuals' homes weekly to spruce up their yards.

We're privileged to have such great staff!

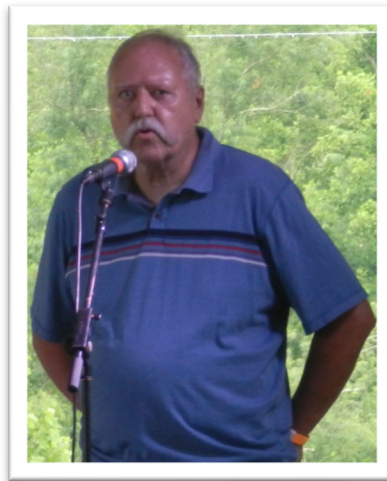




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*We are honored to have received a generous donation from
Jo Edda Rosskamp in memory of her brother Peter Rosskamp.*



*Robert Cowden (close friend of Peter)
announcing the donation at the
Summer Sizzle.*



Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date with all of our events and public announcements

You can also Donate to our Mission through our website at:

Friendsaware.org/donate

Or

Mail Check to

Friends Aware, Inc.

Attn: Finance Director

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