



# Quarterly Newsletter

## October 2023

### Board of Directors 2023

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**Jillian Fradiska**

**Jody Malamis**

**Mark Bittinger**  
Executive Director

As the year is approaching its end, it's important to reflect on the incredible year we have had as an organization.

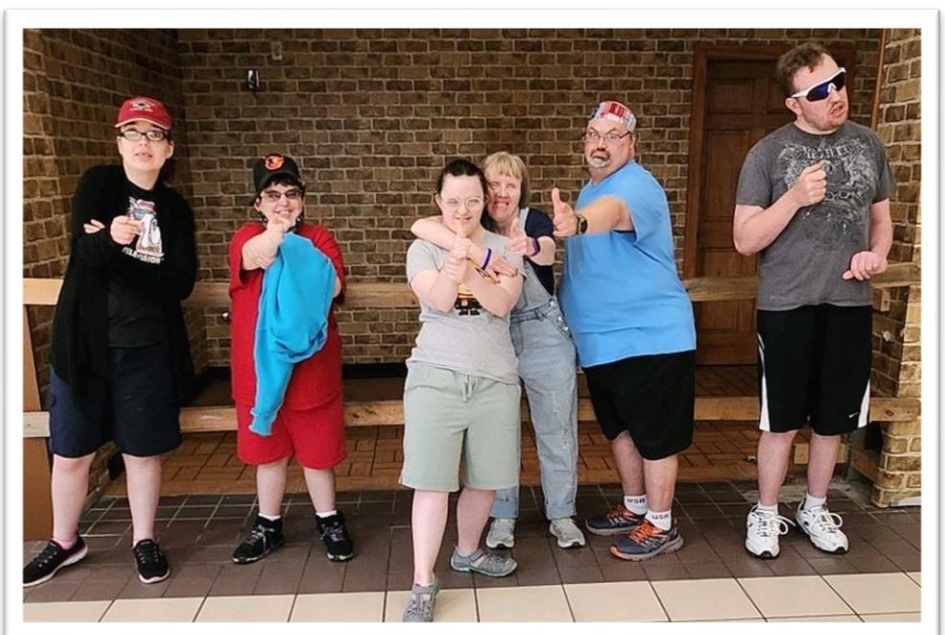
The Meaningful Day Services has grown significantly with a 25% increase in attendance since reopening. Our staff and the individuals have made our Day Program the place to be!

The Residential program took full advantage of the weather by enjoying trips to the ocean, amusement parks, and local fairs and festivals.

We've continued to develop our administration and management teams, adding an Operations Director and a Behavioral Program Manager.

More than anything we must thank the community we serve. Without this community Friends Aware would have never grown from a small school in the 50's to the multiservice agency it is today.

*We appreciate everyone's continued support and we look forward to showing you what we have in store next year for our **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!***



## New Staff from Last Quarter (Jul - Sep)

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**Gail Fazenbaker**

CDS

**Kelci Lare**

CLA

**Terrell McGraw**

Substitute

**Dakota Everett**

Maintenance Technician

**Cathy Wolford**

CDS

**Angela Studli**

Substitute

**Nicholas Graves**

Residential Counselor

**Rebekah Smith**

Substitute

**Brittany Jackson**

Substitute

**Malesia Bunner**

CLA

**Jennifer Roddy**

Substitute

**Gary Steele**

CLA

**Latoya Taylor**

Substitute

**Elizabeth Dolly**

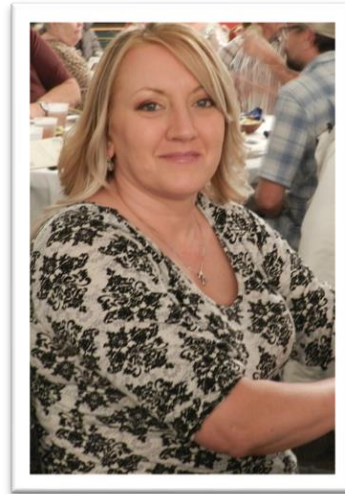
CLA

**Tahira Queen**

Substitute

**Stephanie Clair**

Substitute




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### **Employee Spotlight: Stephanie Parks**

*Position Title: Meaningful Day Services Director*

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Stephanie has worked for Friends Aware for over 13 years in various positions. She started with us as a substitute in 2009 and has ascended through the agency culminating in her accepting the MDS Director position in November of 2022.

Stephanie grew up in Oldtown, Maryland and attended school at the Center for Career and Technical Education. After high school, she worked at the Hills Department Store and then Ames for many years before finding her niche at Friends Aware.

*“I have worked at Friends Aware in multiple positions for 13 years. In my role as the Meaningful Day Services Director, I hope to develop the Day Service Programs in a way that allows for growth of the programs, integration into the community and empowerment for the individuals we serve.”*

Stephanie now lives in Flintstone with her husband Marc and son Thomas along with her dogs Luna and Baby. Outside of Friends Aware she spends quality time with family, attending church at Cumberland Community Church, and participating in community activities such as the Special Classic Sports and rock painting.

**We could not have a better person at the helm of our  
Meaningful Day Services!**

Feel free to connect with me regarding the programs at  
[sparks@friendsaware.org](mailto:sparks@friendsaware.org)

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## Event Showcase:

# Baskets & Brews

We started October with our annual Baskets & Brews event, held at 1812 Brewery on a beautiful day. The event was a hit with all who came. We raffled off 97 gift baskets, a beach trip, and a 50/50 cash prize!

Everyone also enjoyed the various vendors, music, drinks, and food.

Win or lose, it was still a great time!

Shout out to everyone who made this event a success:  
1812 Brewery, Lost Mountain BBQ, Mise En Place, The Fitted Joint, Leave Me Bee Farms, D'Atri's and all other vendors!



Oh, and let's not forget the volunteers who made the event possible!



## This Season!

### Helicopter Ride

July 16th

Annette faced her fear of heights and went on a helicopter ride in Myrtle Beach

### 50's Day

July 28th

The MDS traveled back in time to the 1950's with everyone wearing classic attire

### Show and Tell

August 2nd

The Day Program held a day for everyone to show off some of their favorite items

### Hotel Gunter Tour

August 9th

We took a field trip to Frostburg and toured Hotel Gunter

### Hoedown Day

August 18th

Everyone dressed up in the Day Program as cowboys and cowgirls. YEEHAW!!

### Fishing Trip

August 31st

A group of individuals went fishing in OldTown

### Heritage Days

September 9th

Rachel and RC Lisa went to Heritage Days to enjoy the festival

### 9/11 Memorial Trip

September 14th

Staff took individuals on a trip to the 9/11 Memorial in Somerset, Pennsylvania.

## Smiling People

*These past 3 months have been busy for the individuals. They were on a mission to make the end of summer the best.*

*They caught some fish, danced a little, went on road trips, and even took flight!*

*We're looking forward to finishing out the year with even more fun!*



## Employee Anniversaries July - September

### 1 Year

Tara Moessner

Devin Johnson

Bayleigh Dinicola

David Goad

Jay Collins

Summer Harris

Brianna Ketterman

Miracle Wilson

Wayne Wolfe

Joshua Suder

### 2 Years

Jeri Haagenson

Bethany Stemple

Linda Garlitz

David Ujic

### 3 years

Cathy Blizzard

### 4 years

Savanah Mellon

Shae Livengood

Katherine Geiger

Elissa  
Washington

Joshua Jacobs

### 5 years

Hannah Merlavage

Gabriel Snyder

Valerie Trent

Tiffany Shook

### 6 years

Edward McGreevy

### 8 years

Tremaina Bullett

### 9 years

Mark Bittinger

### 10 years

Rebecca Adams

### 11 years

Haley Fitzpatrick

### 12 years

Jaclyn Abe  
Christina Blume

### 15 years

Lester Mullenax

### 16 years

Donald Boyer

### 17 years

Philip Merrill

### 20 years

Rita Crites

### 37 years

Susan Heavner

### Staff Quarterly

#### Giveaway Winners:

Donald Boyer, Alexa Moses,  
Lester Mullenax, and Susan Kirkpatrick

**Congratulations!**

## Organization and Staff News

### *Friends Aware is nothing without our fantastic staff!*

In September, we celebrated our direct support staff for Direct Support Professionals Week.

On the 11th we served our staff food from Oscar's and on the 15th Kona Ice stopped by to hand out snow cones to staff.



Our celebration was just a small gesture to show appreciation for our amazing staff!





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