

DIRECTIONS

IN INDEPENDENT LIVING

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE • WINTER 2022-23 ISSUE



TRANSITIONS
HOLIDAY PARTY
2022



Contents

04	05
First New Year's Baby	Staff Holiday Party
06	07
Employee of the Quarter	Cattaraugus Gives Event
08	10
Transitions Holiday Party	Featured Consumer
12	
New Employee	



2nd Annual DIL Scramble

Directions in Independent Living



June 9
Friday | 2023

\$75
Per Player

\$300
Foursome

**Allegany Hills
Golf Course**

9622 Hardys Corners Rd, Cuba

Includes: Greens Fee, Cart Fee, 18 Holes of Golf, Hot Dog at the Turn, Dinner to Follow

Prizes & Contests
50/50
Basket Raffles
Longest Drive
Closest to the Pin
Longest Putt
Shortest Drive

Sponsorships
Bronze \$100
Silver \$200
Gold \$300
Platinum \$500
Diamond \$1000

REGISTRATION	8:00AM
SHOTGUN START	9:00AM
LIVE MUSIC	2:00PM



For more information, please contact Caitlin Metler at
585-933-0140 or cmetler@oleanilc.org

All proceeds will go to Directions in Independent Living.

First OGH Baby Of the New Year



We at Directions in Independent Living are proud to announce the birth of Ares Johnson, son of our Stepping Out to Independence Dance Program instructor, Skye Johnson, and her husband Jonathan. Ares was the first baby born at the Olean General Hospital on New Years 2023, weighing 7 pounds, 9.6 ounces. He joins his older sibling Essence at home, and we send our warmest congratulations to the growing family.

Skye is an essential part of our Stepping Out to Independence Dance Program, where she works as an instructor alongside qualified volunteer dance partners. This therapeutic dance/movement program is designed for individuals with developmental, physical, and intellectual disabilities, providing them with a safe and non-threatening environment to grow and develop their personal potential.

Through the program, Skye and her team focus on teaching the fundamentals of movement and technical form in classical and contemporary dance styles. With Skye's guidance, participants are encouraged to explore their creativity and express themselves through dance, building confidence and self-esteem.

We are grateful for Skye's dedication to the Stepping Out to Independence Dance Program and to our community at large. She is an inspiration to us all and a shining example of the impact that one person can have on the lives of others. We wish Skye and her family all the best as they embark on this new and exciting journey together.

Once again, congratulations to Skye and Jonathan on the arrival of their beautiful baby boy, Ares. We look forward to watching him grow and thrive in the years to come.

Staff Advance Holiday Party

For our Holiday Party for this year we had an amazing time at Goodtimes Olean

On December 14th, Directions in Independent Living brought our staff together for their annual Holiday Party at Goodtimes in Olean. The festive event was filled with food, fun, and lots of reindeer games, creating a cheerful atmosphere that was enjoyed by all.

The party featured a variety of activities, including the popular game show Family Feud, which had everyone on the edge of their seats. Attendees also participated in an ugly sweater/best festive costume contest, which showcased the creativity and holiday spirit of the staff. The photo booth and backdrop provided a fun way for guests to capture memories and enjoy the festivities.

The amazing luncheon served at the event was a highlight, with a delicious spread of holiday favorites and treats that satisfied everyone's taste buds. It was a great opportunity to mingle with co-workers, share stories, and create new memories.

One of the special moments of the event was when Howard Cornwall was awarded his Employee of the Quarter trophy. It was a well-deserved recognition of his hard work and dedication to Directions in Independent Living.

The holiday party was a perfect way to celebrate the season with friends and loved ones, and everyone had a blast. Directions in Independent Living was proud to host such a fun and meaningful event and we look forward to many more in the future. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the festive atmosphere, making this year's holiday party a truly unforgettable experience.





Employee of the Quarter Howard Cornwall

Directions in Independent Living is proud to announce that Howard Cornwall has been nominated as our employee of the quarter. Howard has been an integral part of our team for 34 years, having started in transportation and now serving as Facilities Manager/Accessibility Consultant. In this interview, Howard provides insight into his work at Directions, his motivations, and his contributions to the team.

Howard's favorite project at Directions has been converting all files to digital, which has allowed for greater efficiency and accessibility in our workflow. When asked how he motivates himself at work,

Howard explains that it comes naturally to him, but he does enjoy a good cup of coffee to start his day.

Describing his team, Howard keeps it simple: "They are all good workers." Howard also has high praise for our leadership team, stating that they are the best we have ever had. Howard identifies with our purpose of helping those in need and has contributed significantly to our team by being a well-balanced role model with a Christian upbringing.

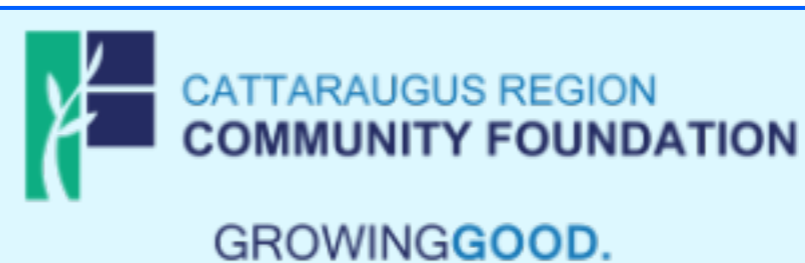
In terms of professional advancement, Howard has advanced through trainings

and has used technology to streamline our workflow. If he could choose any mentor, he would select his pastor at church, as he admires his ability to "walk the walk."

We spoke to Howard's nominator to gain insight into why he was chosen for this honor. DJ Moore praised Howard's dedication to his job, co-workers, and to our consumers as the primary reason for his nomination. He goes above and beyond in everything he does and has demonstrated outstanding commitment and professionalism in the way he handles difficult situations and crisis intervention.



Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation Golden Hour Ticket Prize



Established in 1994, the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation is a public 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that is growing good by connecting donors to the causes they care about most in our region. Grants from the foundation support many areas including education, scholarships, health care, the arts, community development, human service and youth development.

The Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation has been the area's supportive, responsive and trusted Community Foundation for 25 years.

The Cattaraugus Gives event, sponsored by the Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation, was a huge success, with over 2,200 gifts from 1,252 donors, raising \$272,174. This year, 75 nonprofits received a donation, setting a new record.

Congratulations to all the prize recipients and thanks to area businesses for making them possible, especially Hedley Brook for sponsoring the Golden Hour Ticket Prize, which Directions in Independent Living won.

Krissy Wagner, the Executive Director of Directions, expressed gratitude for the generosity of the community and for the opportunity to be a part of the event, which celebrates the spirit of giving and supports the community's future through philanthropy.



Transitions Program Holiday Party



The holiday season is all about joy and celebration, and the Transitions program at Directions in Independent Living made sure to spread that spirit with their annual Holiday Party. On December 13th, the OPWDD youth had a fantastic time playing games, crafting, and enjoying delicious food. The party even had a line dancing program tutor leading the way in some dance moves!

All of the consumers brought their holiday best with their favorite Christmas costumes and sweaters, making the event even more fun and festive. The Transitions Program at Directions provides vital services for young adults aged 14–25 with developmental disabilities to learn important life skills for greater independence.

Thanks to the generous support of the Dr. Lyle Renodin Foundation and United Way, the Transitions Program was able to make this special event possible. We are grateful for their continued partnership and dedication to our cause. Here's to another successful year of spreading joy and celebrating together!





Featured Consumer Kurt Stadler

"Spuds" Stadler: Consumer of the Quarter. Meet Kurt, a cowboy enthusiast with a love for puzzles, animals, and budgeting goals. Let's celebrate his achievements!

Meet Kurt Stadler, an enthusiastic and passionate individual, lovingly known as Spuds by his friends and family. As the recipient of our Consumer of the Quarter award, we are thrilled to share Kurt's inspiring story and celebrate his achievements. Kurt hails from Olean, where he lives with his supportive family, including his parents, two sisters, and a brother.

Growing up, Kurt had always dreamed of being a cowboy, and to this day, he remains fascinated by horses and the great outdoors. One of Kurt's favorite pastimes is spending time in the game room and solving puzzles, while his favorite travel destination is visiting his grandmother in Bradford.

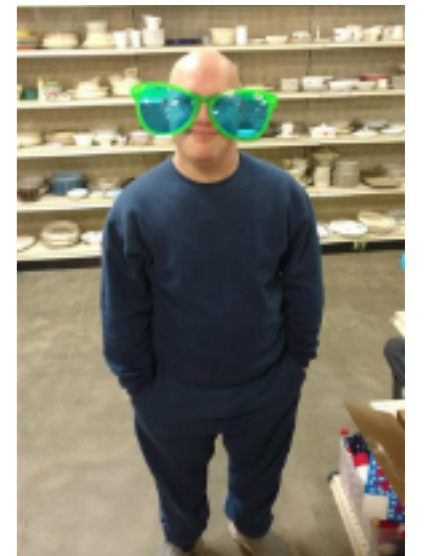
A proud pet owner, Kurt shares his home with Moose, a chocolate lab that brings joy to everyone around him. As an avid sports fan, Kurt roots for the Seattle Seahawks and the New York Mets.

Some of his primary goals in life include improving his walking and budgeting skills. When it comes to causes that he's passionate about, Kurt has a soft spot for animals, volunteering at the SPCA to help make a difference in their lives.

Kurt's life has been positively impacted by an influential figure named Jeb, a Community Habilitation Specialist (CHS) from Directions. Jeb's dedication and support have been instrumental in helping Kurt work on budgeting and pursuing his interests.

Thanks to Directions, Kurt has been able to better concentrate on his goals. He particularly enjoys hanging out with his CHS, building a strong bond that goes beyond the typical support relationship.

When asked about his one wish, Kurt expressed a desire to do more line dancing, showcasing his love for music and dance. Looking ahead, he envisions himself working with horses and riding in ten years, fulfilling his childhood dream of becoming a cowboy.



Introducing Brittany: DIL's New Transitions Support Specialist

We are thrilled to introduce our newest team member, Brittany, as the Transitions Support Specialist here at Directions in Independent Living. Brittany joins us with a wealth of experience in residential group home care, having worked in the field for four years. Her passion for working with individuals with disabilities and making a positive impact in their lives makes her an invaluable addition to our team.

Brittany is also a dedicated mother and stepmother, and spending time with her family brings her immense joy. She resides in Bolivar, NY with her fiancé Rudy, their two-year-old daughter Logan, and their beloved dogs, Moonshine and Amara.

As the Transitions Support Specialist, Brittany will be working closely with individuals with disabilities to help them transition into more independent living situations. Her expertise and compassionate nature will be instrumental in guiding and supporting our clients in achieving their goals.

We are thrilled to have Brittany on board, and we know that she will make a positive impact on our clients' lives. Please join us in welcoming Brittany to the team!



DIRECTIONS in INDEPENDENT LIVING

Presents

\$35 Per Person
TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED PRIOR TO EVENT

Located in Historic Downtown Olean NY in the Union Street Area!

Registration table will be located in Lincoln Park by the sign. Pick up your bracelets and passports there at 12:30pm. No wine will be served until 1pm.

2nd Annual WINE WALK May 20th, 2023 1-4 pm

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
716-379-8670 x8833
wadkins@oleanilc.org
www.oleanilc.org

REGISTER HERE



About our Agency

Directions in Independent Living is a non profit organization with locations in Olean and Wellsville New York. Directions helps people with disabilities live more independent lives. We have over 20 individual programs that specialize in many different areas or needs that these individuals may struggle with in their daily lives. The Directions organization has been described by its consumers as “understanding, supportive, accommodating, and family oriented.”

Every year, more than 1 in 5 New Yorkers has symptoms of a mental disorder, are stricken with poverty, or on the verge of homelessness. Moreover, in any year, 1 in 10 adults and children experience mental health challenges serious enough to affect functioning in work, family and school life. Also, nearly a quarter of veterans (22 percent) in New York state, were found to have a probable diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder and/or major depression. Compared to similar individuals in the general population, the veterans studied were at an eight-fold greater risk of probable PTSD and a two- to four-fold greater risk of major depression.

While many services are available to those in need, more than 40 percent of those in need of services or help report being unaware of what help is available or uncertain about how to navigate the systems that provide assistance. Outreach to connect these individuals with services and better coordination among government and community agencies is needed. We need a more combined effort put into connecting consumers with care coordinators who can provide personalized assistance across a range of service sectors. The existing system often misses those people most in need of outreach or those who have not yet connected with any assistance organizations.

That is why Directions in Independent Living was founded over 30 years ago. It is only through the generosity of people like you, that we are able to continue to serve, assist, and help our friends, neighbors, and veterans that are in need.

If you would, please consider making a donation, referring someone that might be in need of our services, or even volunteer yourself as a helper for one of our programs.



Directions
In Independent Living, Inc.

Helping those with disabilities live more productive lives.

ACCEPT INCLUDE EMPOWER

OLEAN: 716-373-4602 | OLEAN HOLIDAY PARK: 716-379-8670 | WELLSVILLE: 585-296-3408

Serving Allegeny and Cattaraugus Counties in WNY, and limited areas of Chautauqua Cty as well as McKean and Potter Ctys in PA
