DECEMBER ALL-STAFF MEETING

On Friday, December 6th, all of our staff from across the state came to our Johnstown office for a quarterly Service Coordination meeting. The day was full of agency updates, socializing with fellow coworkers, and a special presentation from motivational speaker Jeff Corle from Windber, PA (pictured top right). We also recognized 6 staff members for their one-year anniversary (pictured bottom right) and celebrated the holidays with an Ugly Christmas sweater contest and games.

A special thank you to our staff for their hard work and dedication to their participants! We appreciate all you do for the agency!

STAFF HIGHLIGHT - DONNA STRAUSE

Our staff highlight for January is Donna Strause, one of the Service Coordinators who transitioned over to our agency from UCP Connections to Independence about 8 months ago. She lives and works in Selinsgrove, PA area, but is originally from Middleburg, PA. At the age of 52 she proudly graduated from Albright College with a degree in Applied Psychology with a 3.80 GPA (way to go Donna!)

Donna often finds herself surrounded by family and pets! She is a mother, a grandmother of three (ages 15, 12, and 9; pictured bottom right), and a foster mom to many animals through SOAR Rescue. She says her family is her heartbeat and frequents her grandchildren’s sporting events cheering them on! Outside of her family, Donna loves to workout, scrapbooking, and she makes it a goal to read each night before going to sleep. She is a vegan and prides herself on never eating another sentient being again.

Her biggest goal in life is to retire which she is looking forward to doing in a little over 3 years. Although we’ll be sad to see her go, we’re excited for whatever comes next. Donna says that if she weren’t a Service Coordinator she would teach daycare or pre-school, perhaps even get her Graduate degree in Counseling for at risk children and children with mental health issues.

Donna has been a Service Coordinator now for over six years. Currently, she serves Northumberland, Snyder, and Union Counties. Visiting her consumers is what she likes most about working at AUCP and the most challenging part is the paperwork that accompanies the job. We are so glad that Donna joined us in 2019 with her skill and expertise. Anyone that meets Donna will find out very quickly that she is compassionate and kind.

BLOOD DRIVE 1.14.20

Help save a life.
Schedule your blood donation appointment today.

Sign-up to donate blood with us January 14th 2020! Contact Jocelyn Hartman (jhartman@scalucp.org) to secure your donor time or go to: https://www.redcrossblood.org and search "15904" and search Tuesday, January 14th at AUCP.
HOLIDAY BLESSINGS 2019

Alleghenies United Cerebral Palsy (AUCP) celebrates the holidays by sponsoring a Holiday Blessings initiative to help individuals in our local communities and our participants. Each year our service coordinators and members of our community are invited to submit applications for families that may be in need of extra assistance during the holiday season.

It was our pleasure to be able to sponsor each of the four families that were nominated this year. AUCP provide financial assistance paying towards utility bills and purchasing gift cards for each of the four families of up to $1,000 per family. Additionally, gifts were presented to the families that were purchased by our staff members through a Giving Tree system.

One of the recipients, a single dad to two young daughters, could not believe that he was nominated and chosen. He wasn’t able to buy many Christmas gifts for his girls this year and he felt like a “weight was lifted” and was so relieved that his daughters won’t be disappointed in “Santa” this year.

Another family was nominated by their Service Coordinator because she could see that they were going through a hard time this year, both physically and financially. When presented with their blessing neither mom nor dad could believe it and their three year-old was so excited about all his gifts!

Having the opportunity to spread a little holiday cheer to our community brings us so much joy and seeing the response of families when they receive their gifts is truly a blessing to us. We would like to thank each individual and agency that has provided any type of support to our Community Fund and our staff that purchased gifts for the families. It is because of you that we are able to bless our community in these ways.

DECEMBER ALL-STAFF MEETING

Alleghenies United Cerebral Palsy is excited to be participating in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community 2020 on two different dates and locations:
• Saturday, May 9th, 2020 at Stage AE in Pittsburgh
• Saturday, June 6, 2020 at the Altoona Curve Stadium in Altoona

Starting on February 1st we will be kicking off the 2020 Highmark Walk by recruiting walkers, creating teams, and raising funds.

Can we count on your support in 2020?

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Our RE-USE IT program redistributes and accepts donations of medical equipment and assistive technology.

The UCP ELSE S. BELLOWS FUND is a national program that provides funds to individuals with disabilities for the purchase of assistive technology.

AUCP’s SCHOLARSHIP FUND granted to two high school seniors who are pursuing a degree in the human services field each Spring.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE ABOVE PROGRAMS, PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICES TODAY AT (844) 819-4455.