



**June Employee Birthdays**

- 1 Kara D Oman 17
- 2 Kendra Bailey Tompkins 18
- 3 Ellen L Byars 19
- 4 Tekeya R. Drew-Reed 19
- 5 Tiffany J Ledyard 20
- 6 Yomaira Medina 21
- 7 Maryanne K Shaffer 21
- 8 Edwin A Cruz 21
- 9 Yvonne D Perkins 21
- 10 Trini L Infante 21
- 11 Seerojnie Devi Persaud 23
- 12 Jacqueline M. Reina 23
- 13 Doron Schy 23
- 14 Marquita A Bent 23
- 15 Marguerite Jane Heyward 23
- 16 Karen K Hine 23
- 17 Lori-Jean Ruckel 23
- 18 Margarita Soto 23
- 19 Margaret M. Whyte 24
- 20 Sabrina Wilson 25
- 21 Lisa E Levy 26
- 22 Gretchen L. Todd 27
- 23 Lynette M Fulton 27
- 24 Vanessa R. James 27
- 25 Jessica Leigh McCavanagh 28
- 26 Angelica M Macaraeg 28
- 27 Andre D Laird 28
- 28 Desmond B Allen 29
- 29 Robert J Layok 29
- 30 Christopher R Norlander 29
- 31 Antoine M Spencer 29
- 32 Margo A Eldridge 30
- 33 Hector A Suero 30
- 34 Amy J Brown 30
- 35 Rene Martinez 30
- 36 Peter V Pannizzo 30
- 37 Paul Wasserman 30
- 38 Colleen M Correa 30

**July Employee Birthdays**

- 1 Chantell Detress Paris 18
- 2 Kimani Adams 18
- 3 Serrin X Jackson 18
- 4 Kimberly A Clements-Hudson 19
- 5 Stacey L Didato 19
- 6 Lynda K Klewicki 19
- 7 Sashauna S Riley 19
- 8 Marileia D West 20
- 9 David N. Bryant Jr. 21
- 10 Jamie V Rodrigues 21
- 11 Katherine A. Cebik 22
- 12 Cory M Porter 22
- 13 Kerri A Rogers 23
- 14 John Sikorjak 23
- 15 Iris E Bartone 24
- 16 Lisa Marie Colon 24
- 17 Jamie W Ambrogio 25
- 18 Jared R Carter 25
- 19 Kerry R Ervin 26
- 20 Anna M Reinhardt 27
- 21 Jennifer A Baskay 28
- 22 Crystal M Faucher 28
- 23 Sara E Lovett 28
- 24 Christine M. Shypski 28
- 25 Glen C Riley 28
- 26 Randy B Rosario 28
- 27 Ato K. Fosu 30
- 28 Ruben Guevarez Jr 30
- 29 Ryan L Gentile 30
- 30 Richard H Houle 30
- 31 Gean Ann Murphy 30
- 32 Jennifer W Smith 30
- 33 Beatriz A. Torres 30
- 34 Tamar N. Guthrie 30
- 35 Mark R Marsh 30
- 36 Kathleen M Travis 30
- 37 Vernon L Blash 30
- 38 Mayerlin A Castro 30
- 39 Erica J. Golden 30

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Additional offices located in Mount Kisco, NY with sites throughout Westchester & Putnam counties in NY and Western CT.

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**The Reflections Gala raises over \$570,000!**



Independence, understanding, dedication, generosity and love; these are just some of the words that served as decorations at Ability Beyond Disability's annual gala and resonated throughout the evening as over 550 donors, friends, family members, staff and consumers rallied behind the organization and helped raise over \$570,000 - a record-breaking number - in support of people with disabilities.

"The Reflections Gala... Celebrating the Promise of Tomorrow" was held at the Amber Room Colonnade in Danbury, CT on April 25, 2009 and raised over \$100,000 more than last year, making it the most successful event in our history. Money raised from the gala is critical for the over 1,000 people who need our help to be independent in their communities.

The evening was co-chaired by long time supporter and new Board of Trustee member David Cappiello and his wife Christine. The evening also honored Mike and Lynn Ryer with the Robert S. Young Humanitarian Award for over twenty years of contributions to Ability Beyond Disability and the community.



The highlight of the event was a video presentation which featured Mac and Mark, residents of one of our homes in New York. The video portrayed the transition from their family homes into the community and the difference that the staff have made in their lives. After the video, Mac and Mark were escorted onto the dance floor with Miss International, Jayna Altman... and they received a standing ovation from the crowd.

Broadway star and two-time Tony nominee Christine Andreas performed "When You Wish Upon a Star". She is Mac's mother.

"The money raised from this event will do so much to help my son and the thousands more served by Ability Beyond Disability to achieve independence in the community," she said.



During the live auction, a piece of artwork was auctioned off by Lillian, who receives services from Career Development. Her drawing titled "Helping Hands, Helping Hearts" was custom-made for the Reflections Gala. It featured the tracings of hands from Ability Beyond Disability staff and consumers. The piece sold for \$3,000! Lillian had also donated a smaller piece called "Tarrywile Park" which sold for \$1,500... her generosity helped contribute \$4,500 to the evening's grand total.



The night ended with dinner and dancing and the comfort in knowing that Ability Beyond Disability will be able to continue provide the critical supports needed by the people it serves because of the continued generosity from the community. Thank you to everyone who was a part of making this evening so special and so successful... thank you for helping us celebrate the promise of tomorrow.

A monthly update for our employees

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A HUGE HIT!

**and much more!**

## Employee engagement a top priority

We know we need our employees to be engaged and informed in order to meet the goals of Vision 2013...but we recognized that we needed to do a better job of communicating with our workforce.

Fortunate for Ability Beyond Disability, a company named Mercer donated consulting services to help us enhance employee engagement. Through a number of focus groups, leadership interviews, site visits and an extensive communications audit, they developed a report outlining their research findings and recommendations. We are now in the process of putting together a taskforce consisting of members from across our workforce to help sort through the recommendations and draft a plan that will better engage all of our employees.

One of the recommendations was to revamp Connections so that it will be used solely as a way to communicate to our employees. The newsletter will be redesigned in the coming months and a new and improved Connections will be rolled out in September...so keep an eye out for it!

## Jenn : Employment Idol Winner

**Where do you work?** In the Mail Room at Boehringer Ingelheim

**How long have you been working there?** I have been working at Boehringer Ingelheim for 5 ½ years

**What are your job responsibilities?** I help sort the mail. My job consists of entering the last 3 letters of the employee's name into the computer so that I know where their mail should be delivered

**What do you like most about your job?** I like that I can meet friends at my job and I like getting a paycheck.

**Explain why you deserve to be the Employment Idol.** I think I was selected for the employment idol because despite my physical disability I can function at a higher level due to advances in technology!



## Changing lives spotlight

Lucy



Before coming to Ability Beyond Disability Lucy hadn't had many opportunities to be a part of the community or to build friendships with others.

We helped Lucy to get a job in the community and this had made all the difference for her. After just a few months of working Lucy developed friendships, built self esteem and began working independently of her job coach. In fact, Lucy no longer requires staff support to perform her job and has requested to work in a more independent environment.

Lucy has grown so much through her job at Sealed Air and with the help of Ability Beyond Disability she will continue to become more independent with each passing day!

## We have a new Vice President of Development!



Paul Dunne recently joined the Ability Beyond Disability team as the Vice President of Development and comes to us with a wide range of fund raising experience. Most recently he has served as the Vice President of Fund Development and Marketing with the North Hawaii Community Hospital. Prior to that, Paul headed the fund raising departments for the Inner City Health Center and the Rescue Mission in Denver, Colorado.

Paul will be instrumental in leading our fundraising efforts, especially as we pursue the growth of our organization through Vision 2013. His enthusiasm for our mission is contagious and ensures that he will be a great fit. We welcome him to the Ability Beyond Disability family!

## Health & Wellness Benefits Fair a huge hit!



Over 300 employees turned out on March 25th for Ability Beyond Disability's 4th Annual Benefits, Wellness and Education Fair...our largest turnout ever! A wide variety of vendors provided something for everyone. Our many benefits providers were available to discuss financial and insurance matters. Representatives from eight colleges spoke with employees about educational opportunities in Connecticut and New York, particularly those geared towards working adults. Local healthcare providers were here to share information about health and wellness. Our own dietary team greeted everyone with valuable tools and

information about food and nutrition and their homemade snacks were really delicious! There was even a yoga class!

Cigna, our new health insurance provider, sponsored the day and offered \$50 gift cards to employees who completed an online health assessment with them. The assessment allows them to customize health and wellness information to an individual's needs and is one of the many valuable tools that they offer.

It was a fun and informative day that also provided an opportunity for people to visit and share with coworkers. Plans for next year are already in the works and we look forward to seeing you at the fair!



## Save the Date!



ABILITY BEYOND DISABILITY

GREATER WESTCHESTER  
GOLF CHALLENGE

SAVE THE DATE  
August 3, 2009

Waccabuc Country Club  
Waccabuc, New York

Contact Ability Beyond Disability  
at 203.826.3171 for more information.



## Bravo!

Congratulations to the teams at Poundsweet for achieving a programmatic cite free ICF inspection for the third year in a row...a first in our history!

The ICF inspector complimented the great support from staff and the quality of the programs.

Special thanks to Sarah Pullen, residential coordinator and Michelle Alterisio, service manager for their leadership in assuring quality programming for consumers and for building such a strong team.

And thank you to all of the staff and IDT members for supporting the consumers each and every day!

## We did it!

The Ability Beyond Disability family came together as a team to make our new agricultural employment program for individuals on the Autism Spectrum, Roses for Autism, a reality. Over the past few weeks many people have worked incredibly hard with the cleaning, preparing and moving of thousands, yes thousands (14,000 to be exact) of rose bushes!

Since all of the rose bushes are in place, they are starting to grow; our first harvest will be ready in July. Within the next couple of weeks we will be getting the retail space up to par to be ready to greet and sell to our customers. We will keep you updated on our progress! Check out photos on [www.rosesforautism.com](http://www.rosesforautism.com)

## LOOK WHO'S JOINED OUR TEAM!

Ability Beyond Disability would like to welcome new additions to our team for the months of April and May:

Blaine, Pamela J., Life Skills Instructor  
Boahene, Tina A., Life Skills Instructor  
Boehn, Kristen T., Life Skills Instructor  
Bogholtz, Brian H., Life Skills Instructor  
Brennan, Rachel J., Life Skills Instructor  
Burte, Clifton W., Residential Assistant  
Canfield, Kathleen U., Life Skills Instructor  
Caraballo, Miguel A., Life Skills Instructor  
Carbone, Frank E., Life Skills Instructor  
Casella, Lisa T., Staff Scheduler  
Castro, Mayerlin A., Life Skills Instructor  
Charette, Stacy L., Life Skills Instructor  
Crianza, Maria G., Life Skills Instructor  
Dair, Sharon J., Life Skills Instructor  
Drew-Reed, Tekeya R., Life Skills Instructor

Dunne, Paul A., Vice President of Development  
Evans, Shishana, Client Accounts Representative I  
Farrison, Yuri, First Response Technician  
Gage, April L., Life Skills Instructor  
Green, Ranisha M., Life Skills Instructor  
Hamilton, Nafeesah A., Life Skills Instructor  
Hardy, Melinda M., Life Skills Instructor  
Hill, Chauntress E., Life Skills Instructor  
Hull, Kimberly E., Life Skills Instructor  
Inserra, Madlyn A., Employment Specialist I  
Johnson, Ti'Amber F., Life Skills Instructor  
Jones, Melissa A., Life Skills Instructor  
Kaucher, Teresa J., Driver  
Lathrop, Katie Marie, Life Skills Instructor  
Layok, Robert J., Life Skills Instructor

McKenna, Stephanie V., Life Skills Instructor  
McKinnon, Zachary I., Residential Nurse - LPN  
Merchan, Luis A., Life Skills Instructor  
Penny, Lawrence, Life Skills Instructor  
Perry, Nicole, Life Skills Instructor  
Person, Shannon A., Life Skills Instructor  
Rumble, Shannon R., Life Skills Instructor  
Schiavo, Shari S., Life Skills Instructor  
Sears, Emily J., Life Skills Instructor  
Soto, Ana I., Life Skills Instructor  
Spear, Laura A., Life Skills Instructor  
Stein, Kelly A., Services Manager  
Tibbitts, Sean G., Life Skills Instructor  
Vanasse, Betsy L., Life Skills Instructor  
Whyte, Susan M., Life Skills Instructor

With diverse backgrounds (including many in the human services field), all of our new hires will be great additions to our organization!