



NEPA Inclusive

2015 Annual Report

MISSION

To help create and support inclusive lives for people with disabilities.

VISION

We envision a society where people with disabilities are fully engaged in their communities.

VALUES

Self Determination
Empowerment
Respect
Personal Choice
Inclusion
Civil Rights

SHOUT OUT TO.....

The David Madiera Show



For hosting NEPA Inclusive on the show. Listen to segments of the show on our website at www.nepainclusive.org

Letter from the Executive Director

NEPA Inclusive was founded by a committed group of people who believe that people with disabilities should have the same chance at living and working in the community as everyone else. This group decided the best way to be able to help people in this regard would be to start an agency that would support a person with a disability in achieving their goals.

Thank you to those who became 'Founding Contributors,' Board Members, or just someone who helped steer the process in the early stages,

Using a 'consultative planning process,' we help the person with a disability set goals for their life and then support them in ways that are meaningful to them.

In a short time, we have accomplished so much. We currently support over 40 individuals with disabilities in competitive employment, transitional employment in high school, and in community living and socialization.

This past year we held three seminars focusing on Special Needs Trusts, Wills,

and Financial Planning—important elements of building an inclusive life for the future. Thank you to McAndrews Law Offices, for speaking on wills and trusts, Rob Touzeau of Mass Mutual Special Needs Division for speaking on financial planning for a person with special needs, and The Advocacy Alliance for speaking on managing special needs trusts.

We are now accepting new clients and growing every day. Look for new services to be added in the near future—one being Supports Brokering - and others in response to client requests.

We need your help. Get involved with NEPA inclusive and help people with disabilities realize their dreams. We are seeking staff and volunteers—and we would love to talk to you about your loved one with a disability to see if we can be of assistance.

Thank you for helping make NEPA Inclusive a reality. I look forward to 2015-2016 being even better year!

Frank Bartoli
Executive Director

Aspiring Artists Jayson and Julia

Recognizing there are people with unique talents, NEPA Inclusive helped two artists showcase and sell their artwork at two different venues this past year. Julia Priest and Jayson Halbersadt were able to show and sell their artwork at the Pittston Artwalk last Fall and Jayson doubled up and held an Art Exhibit at Vgogh Gallery in Kingston. Thank you to the venues for supporting Julia and Jayson. The events were made possible through a grant from the Autism Coalition of Luzerne County. Find more information of the events and the artwork on our Facebook page.

Meet some of the people we serve.....

Jeremy

Jeremy asked us to help him find a job and to support him in some of his social activities. He had previously worked in grocery stores in Florida when he lived here. When he moved here the only option he was offered was a workshop. Jeremy indicated he wanted a job close to where he lives and he would even ride his bike to work if needed! We went to work and found him a job at a local supermarket where he had both an interest and experience. So far so good. He has been offered more hours since the initial hire, has received two customer service recognitions, and reports are that the stores staff and customers really like him!



Kaley

Kaley asked us to help her find a job in the community and to become a companion in her social activities. One of her challenges is that she lives in a pretty remote area so finding a job and getting out and about can be difficult. She has been in her job for more than 9 months now and says she has built some friendships with some of her co-workers. According to her supervisors and co-workers, Kaley is a valued member of the team and works extremely hard at her job. In addition, we provide her with a companion for many of her social activities, making sure she has a chance to get out and about in the community.

*"NEPA inclusive helped me out 100%,
Your wonderful job coaching and a
wonderful support system to me, who has
helped me keep my job for going on almost a
year now".
Kaley*

Susan

Susan lives in her own apartment and was looking for someone to help her get out of the house and socialize more. One of the activities she enjoys is walks in the park, shopping, going to lunch, to festivals, and the movies. Each week her Companion spends time with her doing all of the activities that Susan enjoys.

*"NEPA Inclusive takes me
a lot of places and helps me. I
went to my aunts house and I was
glad to see her, it would be really
hard to visit my aunt without you.
I am happy that I have someone
to help me go out to the bank, go
shopping and for walks. Having
help in the community has made
life better."
Susan*



Chris

Chris needed a job for income as he does not qualify for other types of support. We helped him obtain a job as a Customer Service Representative and Inventory Specialist. He was re-entering the work force after some time off. And had some matters to resolve in transitioning to employment which we helped him overcome. We found him a job at a local store where he has been working for more than 6 months now and reports that his job is a very positive part of his life now.

'NEPA Inclusive is doing great work in developing student centered work skills so that our students can obtain the types of jobs they are interested in when they graduate'

Transitional Employment

Working closely with Carbondale Area School District Special Education Department, NEPA Inclusive works with students ages 14 and older who list competitive employment as a goal upon graduation. Each student has an individualized plan developed based upon their interests and abilities. All jobs are open for planning based on the interest of the student. The program includes work assessments, resume building, electronic portfolio development, work site experience, and internships—all designed to prepare the student for employment post graduation.

Angela Geyer
Director of
Special
Education
Carbondale Area
School District

A unique element of the program includes pre-planning for the 'aging out' process of high school where NEPA Inclusive can establish a work site and an employment contract with OVR prior to graduation—making the process of employment a seamless transition from high school to the adult system. NEPA Inclusive can also blend other services, such as Companion Services or Home and Community Habilitation to adequately support the person with a disability once they obtain employment.

WORK *inclusive*

NEPA Inclusive believes people with disabilities should work where they want and for the same wage as everyone else. To that end, we focus on finding the right job for each individual client, in the community, near where they live, and where there are natural supports to help them. We do this in a variety of ways. We can start the process as early as age 14 in a school based Transitional Employment Program, through our contract with the PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), and/or through their ID Waiver for service. We believe everyone who wants to work can and should be able to find a unique job based on their interests and abilities. So far, we have placed individuals in shipping and receiving, at grocery stores, in food service, and in customer service settings. The best part of this success has been these are the jobs the person with a disability requested!



LIVE *inclusive*

"Inclusion works to the advantage of everyone.

We all have things to learn and we all have something to teach."

-- Helen Henderson

Where someone lives is a very personal choice. Our interest lies in helping support the person with a disability to live where they want and with the supports they need to remain inclusive in their community. We offer Companion Services and Home and Community Habilitation Services designed to help them achieve their goals and the social life they desire. We know we can do more. We have our sights set on more services to help people live inclusively in their community. Over time we will develop those services when we have clients seeking them.

We believe inclusive living also requires long range planning so that transitioning from living with your parents and family to an apartment or supported living arrangement takes time and planning. We want to be there every step of the way to ensure that the person with a disability is always supported in the living arrangement of their choice.

NEPA Inclusive

2014-2015 Financial Report

Program Office

36 S. Washington Street
3rd Floor
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 964
Pittston, PA 18640

Phone: 570-947-NEPA (6372)

Email: info@nepainclusive.org

Revenue

Direct Public Support	\$ 1,175.29
Program Income	\$62,979.83
Total Revenue	\$64,155.12

Expense

Operations	\$11,251.53
Staffing	\$49,275.62
Total Expense	\$60,527.15

Net \$ 3,627.97

*Unaudited financial statements

www.NEPAINclusive.org

Find us on



NEPA Inclusive is a provider of services for people with disabilities who have a 'Waiver for Service' through the Pennsylvania Office of Developmental Programs, Luzerne/Wyoming County Office of Mental Health and Developmental Services and Lackawanna County Office of Behavioral Health/Intellectual Disability/Early Intervention.

NEPA Inclusive is also a vendor with the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation for Job Finding, Job Coaching, and Community Based Work Assessments.

Founding Members

Thank you to those who found the mission and vision of NEPA Inclusive important enough to make an early pledge to help start the agency so that people with disabilities can realize their dreams.

Frank Bartoli, Eileen Bartoli, Erin Linnen Berlew, Elena Berzins, Rita Cheskiewicz, Lucille Colson, Dr. Rebecca Spirito Dalgin, Cheryl DeHaut, Edythe Duenke, Richard Drust, Sue Landes, Michelle Mckitish, Michelle Mikolosko, Christina Murakami, Pamela Oliveira, Patsy Olson, Ryan Plaza, Odessa Robbins, Chris Schwenk, Greg Spence, Lisa Staros, Michael Tierney, Allison Walker, Pamela Zotynia

And our **Community Partners**

AJ Lupas Insurance Agency * Weiss Markets
Geisinger * Walmart
Mountain Top Senior Care & Rehabilitation

Board of Directors

Richard Drust, President
Ryan Plaza, Treasurer
Lisa Staros, Secretary
Rita Cheskiewicz
Rebecca Spirito Dalgin, PhD., CRC, CPRP
Bob Price

Management Staff

Frank Bartoli, CESP— Executive Director
Vanessa Girman — Business Manager
Christine Creegan — Program Supervisor

NEPA Inclusive is a locally organized private non-profit organization.
The organization has filed a 501c3 charitable application with the IRS and is awaiting approval.
