



(Pictured above is Diane McPeek, DSP, with program participant, Heather)

All In the Family

Transforming caregiving into caring

September 12th through the 18th is Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week so this edition of **Developments** is dedicated to the wonderful DSPs who are the heart of Prospectus Berco. Throughout the pandemic, we have called upon DSPs to reach beyond their typical roles as caregivers and to expand their skills, adapt schedules, wear PPE, and adopt a new frame of mind to provide 24/7 care for program participants. While we applaud all DSPs for the hard work they have done, and continue to do, we would like to highlight three individuals who changed roles during the pandemic, and in so doing, found themselves with a renewed spirit for serving adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Diane McPeek had been a DSP in the Day Services Programs for 36 years. On March 16, 2020, Diane was told that the Day Services Program was being temporarily closed. At that time we didn't know how long the program would be closed, a few weeks became months. "I had no closure," Diane said. "I didn't get to say goodbye to anyone. It just ended. That, for me, was a little unnerving," she confides.

Diane was one of several DSPs who said they would work in the Residential Services Program. Because while the Day Services program closed, Prospectus Berco had to expand its Residential Services to

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Executive Director's Message Call to Action

"I am using this edition of my Executive Director's Message to promote the advantages of becoming a member of the Prospectus Berco team."

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Mission Statement

**Prospectus Berco
inspires people with
special needs to lead
meaningful lives by
providing innovative supports.**



Mike Young, DSP with Ernesto

"That guy that used to chase me around the neighborhood, I'm now taking care of him."

Mike Young

provide around the clock care for 75 residents. At first, Diane admits she was nervous. But then she found that the home she was assigned to is the home of one of the individuals she served in Day Services. "I get to see the whole her now. I'm part of her personal life at home," she said. "Making her laugh and happy keeps me going," she

Memorials

Tanya Calloway: Tanya passed away on August 24, 2021. Surviving are her husband Anthony and three sons Anthony, Jackson, and Judah of Charlotte, North Carolina. Tanya worked in the Human Resources Department from 2009 to 2012. She was organized and efficient yet always had time for a smile and a kind word. In addition to working at Prospectus Berco for three years, Tanya was a busy wife, mother, and granddaughter. She was also very active in her church as a praise leader and was an accomplished singer. Tanya was a bright light and we all felt fortunate to know her.

Laura E. Mohn: Laura unexpectedly passed away April 29, 2021. She was the loving daughter of Kerry A. and Anne M. (Wanner) Mohn. Laura lived with her parents in Sinking Spring and participated in Adult Training. She loved all genres of music and was happy being with her family and all her friends at Prospectus Berco. Laura brought joy to many and will be missed by all who knew her.

Memorial and Tribute gifts may be made to:

Prospectus Berco

840 William Lane

Reading, PA 19604

Or, donate online through our website

www.prospectusberco.org ■

added. Diane has gained a greater respect and understanding of how both Day and Residential Services can work together to provide better care for individuals.

Mike Young, another DSP who transferred from Day Services to Residential, had a similar experience. When Mike first came to Prospectus Berco he was assigned to Day Services Adult Training Program. "I saw an individual sitting in a wheelchair and he said, "Hey Mike! It's me. It's me." Later, I heard someone call him Ernesto and I realized that it's Ernesto from the neighborhood where I grew up. I've known Ernesto for 30 years. He was fast. He used to run everywhere. Everyone in the neighborhood knew him. And now I see him in a wheelchair, and I am taking care of him. So, when I got reassigned to the Community Home, I walked in the door and who do I see, but Ernesto. I knew then that I am where I should be. That guy that used to chase me around the neighborhood, I'm now taking care of him," Mike said.

In Day Services, individuals come into the program showered and ready for the day. In Residential, DSPs help individuals shower, dress, eat breakfast, pack their lunch, and get them ready for the day. At the end of the day, DSPs welcome the individuals back home; make their supper; and maybe spend a couple hours doing an evening activity before getting them ready for bed. Because of the intimate nature of the home environment, DSPs become like family members to the individuals residing in the Community Homes.

Sandy Stoudt had a few reservations about transitioning from Day Services to Residential. "I used to work a set schedule Monday through Friday. Now, I work 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. seven days in a row, and then I have off for seven," she explained. Her responsibilities are different as well. There is more housework in the Residential Program: house cleaning, shopping, cooking, and laundry. But she notes that there are fun things too, like walks through

the neighborhood, parks, and trips to the local ice cream parlor. As a mother of a son with special needs, Sandy can easily relate to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and likes helping them reach their goals. Sandy admits that she loves working in residential. "I like the family atmosphere. I feel closer to the individuals," she said. Or, as Mike said, "we can truly say we're family."

If you would like to learn more about becoming a Direct Support Professional call Kimberly Alarcon at 610-372-4637, extension 106. ■



Sandy Stoudt, DSP

Executive Director's Message

"...seeking men and women whose motivation is to help others achieve their dreams, to change lives, and to foster meaningful relationships."



Jim Althouse, DSP
Christian

Impacting all industries today is a global workforce crisis. Prospectus Berco not unlike every other human service provider faces significant challenges in our recruiting efforts. The truth is that there are many more Berks County jobs than there are applicants for those jobs. Align that fact with the reality that many of our positions are entry level, caregiver positions with evening and weekend schedules, and the applicant pool becomes even more limited. While we have employed many creative recruitment initiatives, our progress in filling vacancies is slow. Thus, I am using this edition of my Executive Director's Message to promote the advantages of becoming a member of the Prospectus Berco team.

Working here gives employees the opportunity to have a positive impact on the life of another person every single day. Our Direct Support Professionals literally have front row seats to realizing our mission in action. Working as valued members of teams,

employees are given training to support their growth and competence. While we appreciate experience, we welcome candidates interested in starting a career in the field. Prospectus Berco offers an extensive benefit package and competitive pay scale; however, we are really seeking men and women whose motivation is to help others achieve their dreams, to change lives, and to foster meaningful relationships.

So why am I sharing this message with you, our readers—family members of service recipients, corporate volunteers, team members, community business partners, friends of Prospectus Berco? I am making a call to action for you to spread the word about opportunities to join a respected team of professionals dedicated to changing lives. Word of mouth advertising, distinguishing the advantages of working for this organization, as opposed to others competing for applicants, may just be what influences a job seeker to contact Prospectus Berco. ■

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Winners Circle

Closest to the pin winners:

Hole #3 - Mark Fitzgerald
Hole #5 - John Sneeringer
Hole #13 - Carl Sottosanti

Longest Drive on Hole #12:

Men: Kevin Davis
Women: Deb Reed

Straightest Drive on Hole #4:

Shane Stein

First Place Foursome:

Brad Scribner Foursome
Brent Wiley, Joe Fillipini, Dave
Speece, and Bryon Whitman
55 (-15)

Second Place Foursome:

Sweet Street Desserts Foursome
Rick Kirkpatrick, Steve Biddle,
John Adams, and Mark Owens
58 (-12)

Third Place Foursome:

Keller Williams Platinum Realty
Mark Chaknos, Drew Bell, Thad
Gelsing, and Tom Michaels
59 (-11)

**Be sure to defend your record
by playing in 2022!**

CA\$H RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Ca\$h Raffle. Because of YOU we were able to raise thousands of dollars in support of our mission. In case you missed it...the winners are:

\$500 Grand Prize

John Watkins

\$375 Second Prize

Michelle Alleyne

\$250 Third Prize

Kevin Fisk

\$125 Fourth Prize

Ralph Murczek

CONGRATULATIONS!



Michael Billera-Smith, Board Treasurer and Golf Committee Chair, accepts the golfer's gift from volunteer, Chris.



Golfers foursome (left to right): Representing Power Kunkle Benefits Consulting are Mark Kunkle and Andy Schreffler; playing for Paylocity are Deb Reed and Heather Hillman.



Golfers threesome (left to right): Mike Reber (husband of Kate Reber, CFO), Chris and Ken Ritter.

Tournament of Champions

After a year of anticipation, 103 golfers turned out to Moselem Springs Golf Club on July 26th in celebration of the 27th Annual Golf Tournament to benefit Prospectus Berco. It was a great day to celebrate champions, including the top winners of our tournament.

Our many sponsors led the charge in an amazing show of support, generating over \$38,000 in sponsorships. All totaled the tournament raised approximately \$70,000 through sponsorships, golfers, raffle and auction sales:

Supporting Sponsors

Dolan Construction
East Penn Manufacturing
Maggs & Associates
Santander

Tompkins VIST Bank

Golf Cart Sponsors

Benecon

Univest Financial

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Awards Reception Sponsors

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In Memory of Linda Seidel
from Michael DeAntonio
Knies Insurance Group
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Sal's Landscaping
Shurr & Company
Statement Apparel
Suzy Rae Design
Sweet Street Desserts
UGI
Werner Group RE/MAX of Reading
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The day was made even more memorable by the many in-kind contributions that businesses and individuals made to ensure that our golfers had a great experience, while helping Prospectus Berco raise even more money for our programs and services.

Adventure Aquarium
Auman Funeral Home
Berks •Fire •Water • Restorations
Berkshire Country Club
Blackwood Golf Course
Capital BlueCross
Clover Farms
Crayola Experience
Michael & Chris DeAntonio
Delta Dental
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LedgeRock
Mister Car Wash
Moselem Springs Golf Club
Philadelphia Eagles
The Pour House
Reading Country Club
Reading Royals

Santander
Sweet Street Café
Sweet Street Desserts
Sorrelli
Swing Evolution
Univest Financial
Yorgey's Dry Cleaning
Unique Pretzels
Visons Federal Credit Union

We would be remiss not to thank Moselem Springs Golf Club, and especially Brett Nelson, for co-hosting the event with us. The breathtaking views and service made it an enjoyable experience for all. No event can run smoothly without a stellar corps of volunteers. Our sincere gratitude to Prospectus Berco Board of Directors, employees, and the many volunteers who gave of their time and resources.

Lastly, we would like to thank the 2020/2021 Golf Committee for their diligent service behind the scenes strategizing to raise funds for Prospectus Berco throughout the past two years. We are indebted to you for your longstanding commitment and service. Thank you Michael Billera-Smith (Chair), Kevin Davis, Chris DeAntonio, Eric Fabrizio, Kristen Fisk, Sara Gdowik, Susan Kolb, Mark Maggs, Jennifer Matten, Laura Murga, Jessica Penchard, Peter Rowley (Co-chair), Brandon Shurr, Joseph Sigle, Jody Wagner, and John Watkins.

Of course, the real champions of the tournament are the hundreds of individuals who benefit from Prospectus Berco programs to live, work, and play in a community that embraces the unique abilities of each person.

**Thank you for being a champion
for adults with disabilities
living and working
in Berks County!**

New CFO

Welcome Kate Reber



Prospectus Berco introduces Kate Reber as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the Corporation. Kate hales from Pottsville where she grew up prior to moving to the Washington DC area. She received a BA from Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, NC, with an accounting concentration before earning her MBA from Strayer University in Washington DC, also with an accounting concentration

Kate has over 10 years' experience working in real estate management and development in the DC area and was the CFO of a construction company in the DC area. In 2001, she moved back to Pennsylvania to be closer to her parents. She was a Controller of a manufacturing firm in the Philadelphia area, then worked for Boscov's as the Treasury Manager for over 13 years.

Her greatest role model has always been her father. She admires him because he paid his way through college and law school. "He always stressed the importance of being honest and giving 110% to everything you do," she said. Perhaps the greatest inspiration is that he is still working at the age of 93. Kate said, one of his core values is to "never stop learning."

Kate lives in Lake Wynonah with her husband Mike and two Doberman Pinchers, Baine and Kenna. Kate's hobby is renovating homes; she especially loves construction, painting, and tiling. When she doesn't have a hammer in her hand, she can be found in the kitchen cooking and baking. She also enjoys paddle boarding.

Please join us in welcoming Kate to the Prospectus Berco team. ■

Compassion

Proving you're never too old to volunteer, program participant, Frances, went through her closet to donate clothing to a friend who lost her personal items in a fire.



Summer Fun

Prospectus Berco employee, Susan, read a book with Tonya (below), a program participant from the comfort of her home on a hot summer day. Eloise (left) took advantage of the sunny weather to make a trip to Knoebel's.



Residents enjoy a summer picnic with backyard games. Above left is Melvin, center is employee Dania with Steven, and right are employees Dania, Shannon Tennant, and Analys playing a fishing game with Sandy and Lori.



Warm Reception

After the tournament golfers, sponsors and volunteers enjoy refreshments while learning more about Prospectus Berco and its mission. Photo on the left are representatives of

Univest Financial and Benecon (left to right) David Guarnaccia, Mario Cevero, Kate Reber (Prospectus Berco CFO), and Kevin Davis. Center photo are representatives of the Steve Reed Contractors foursome: Ken Haupt, Steve Reed, Diana Noecker, and Brian Noecker. Photo on the right is Peter Rowley of Tompkins Vist Bank and Co-chair of the Golf Committee with volunteers Kyle and Jeff.

Tea Time & Biscuits

Bewley's Irish Imports partnered with Prospectus Berco to thank businesses that sponsored the 27th Annual Golf Tournament by donating boxes of tea for us to package with a thank you message for businesses to enjoy "Tee Time on Us." Program participants made cards and tied ribbons around the boxes to prepare them for delivery. Employees and program participants delivered the packages to sponsors; call it a labor of love.

Bewley's Irish Imports is one of several businesses that contracts with Prospectus Berco to fulfill its packaging needs, while providing employment opportunities to adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Pictured left is Griffey who is employed by Prospectus Berco as one of our Vocational Production Workers.

Kyle and Jeff were two of several program participants who volunteered to deliver packages to sponsors. Pictured left to right are representatives of ComfortPro, Clover Farms Dairy, CrossKeys Insurance, and Office Service Company.





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EVENTS

HARMONY WALK

October 23, 2021

Santander Arena

Co-hosted by Reading Royals and Santander Arena

1:30 - 3:00 p.m. Walk
Come dressed as your favorite Super Hero

3:30 - 6:00 p.m. Block Party

7:00 p.m. Reading Royals Season Opener

Register at www.prospectusberco.org

Click on the "Events" Tab

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BENEFIT EVENT FOR PROSPECTUS BERCO
 840 William Lane, Reading, PA 19604