

Peaceful Living

Belonging

Spring 2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE
Gratitude
Growth
Engagement



#BelongingStrong

In the heart of Peaceful Living resides Five Core Values:



Culture, Character, Collaboration, Change, and Connection. These values are the bases of our choices, decisions, and ideas to foster Belonging for every person we serve. Belonging is essential to who we are as an organization. I am proud of our entire community for continuing to trust and rely on these Core Values of Belonging as we start another year

of uncertainty and adjustment. The people we support, our team members, and our supportive stakeholders have shown repeatedly they are truly resilient.

We define the Core Value of Change as, "with creativity and passion, we influence our world for good." The pandemic upturned our lives for two years. Through all of it, we remained focused on the people we serve by using our creativity and passions. More than ever, Peaceful Living is focused on our commitment to create Belonging for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Adapting to change will bring new ideas, programs, and services to Peaceful Living as we move into the future.

Reflecting on this past year it is evident to me that our culture of Belonging is alive, and our people matter. You matter. Your generosity, grit, and belief that we can get through anything together is cherished. This crisis will pass. If another challenge comes our way, it is good to know that we will get through it together and emerge with a greater sense of community.

Serving our people is not just a job or duty...it is an honor and privilege.

Please know that your commitment to the mission of Peaceful Living is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mike Czekner
Peaceful Living Interim CEO

Continuing to move forward!

The one thing we can be sure of in this work is change. Another assurance we have witnessed is the ongoing resilience of Peaceful Living team members, families, and individuals. What you will see within these pages are evidence of the ongoing persistence of the community, who provide Belonging, support meaningful programming, and invest in the work of supporting adults with intellectual disabilities.

Peaceful Living team members demonstrate their versatility and agility as the pandemic changes do not stop coming. The Covid19 Response Team has excelled at communicating with families; DSPs provide unmatched care to individuals, whether virtually or in person; and donors and foundations have not stopped finding ways to support emerging needs to provide additional PPE to keep everyone safe.

This work continues to be a team effort and we are collectively grateful to have you as part of the team!

Change will continue into 2022 as the board works alongside Mennonite Health Services to identify the next Peaceful Living CEO.

Thank you for being part of Creating Belonging for the community. We look forward to continuing to move forward together.

Sincerely,

Steve Schwendy
Peaceful Living Board of Directors President



Our Purpose

At Peaceful Living, the people we serve are unique, valuable individuals with special gifts to offer the world. It's our calling to build Belonging for every one of them. We are here to empower the best versions of themselves, and help them discover and realize their unique potential.

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Mike Czekner
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610.287.1200, ext.2061
mczekner@peacefulliving.org

Peaceful Living

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Harleysville, PA 19438
610.287.1200
www.PeacefulLiving.org

ON OUR COVER:

JP takes a break from cleaning up leaves with his HUB group this October. Community Based Services are always looking for new volunteer opportunities and ways to give back.



Our year in numbers



134
EMPLOY-
EES



\$46,125
FUNDS FROM GRANTS



238
ACTIVE DONORS



3
COUNTIES SERVED:
Montgomery,
Bucks, Delaware



158
PEOPLE SERVED



18
NEW ADMISSIONS
served in 2021



300
VIRTUAL
PROGRAMING HOURS



10
NEW HUB
GROUPS



5
STUDENT INTERNS



8
STARR STUDENT
VOLUNTEERS



2021 Celebration of Belonging



There was much to celebrate at this year's Celebration of Belonging. Not only did the community come together in person to enjoy fellowship, Benergy, and a live auction, but they also shared gifts generously to fully fund all of the Fund-A-Need initiatives.

The real gift that night was hearing from Ben Hartranft of Benergy1 talk about his life with autism and his dream to be a public speaker. He left the entire audience in awe with his 'benergy', courage, and commitment to promote Belonging and share hope. Ben shared Peaceful Living's commitment to building a community where everyone knows they belong. Learn more about Ben, his podcast, or how to book him for your school or organization at www.benergy1.com.



BEN HARTRANFT

Fund-A-Need Highlight

Thanks to your support, the 2021 Celebration of Belonging funded the following initiatives:

- \$4,225 to support Exercising Mind and Body with the Family Services department.
- \$5,413 for joint programming for all three Day Program sites.
- \$11,000 to support Residential home mini makeovers.
- \$5,050 to reserve for the opening of the next Residential home.

Together, we raised a total of \$64,230 to make an immediate impact in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Because of you, Peaceful Living is stronger than ever as we create more Belonging in the community.



COB Sponsor and Belonging Society highlight

The Celebration of Belonging Innovator, Animator, Energizer, Sustainer, and Tribute Sponsors deserve special recognition for their continued support of Peaceful Living:

INNOVATOR

Henry and Carol Longacre

ANIMATOR

Marvin Anders
Lacher
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Everence

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Mark and Maria Abissi
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TRIBUTE

Alderfer Glass
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Peaceful Living continues to benefit from the leadership of a special group of donors, the Belonging Society. This group has made a commitment, through a giving circle, to engage with Peaceful Living leaders and other donors through special events and communications that highlight the impact of their philanthropic support.

We are grateful for their support and how their gifts will continue to nurture opportunities for people to create valuable relationships, enjoy a loving and caring home, expand social circles, and build and maintain life-long skills.

For more information or to join a giving circle, contact Peaceful Living at 610.287.1200 or by email at info@peacefulliving.org.



Donor Story

Meet the Heebner family, Belonging Society Community Circle Members

Tell us about your family and what you like doing in your free time?

Josh and I have been married for 17 years and have three children, Anna (14), Jack (12), and Andrew (9). Our kids attend Coventry Christian School and swim for North Penn Aquatic Club, so we get lots of time together as a family. We also serve together at our church, Immanuel Leidy's in Souderton. My husband owns an insurance agency, Element Risk in West Chester, and I am primarily focused on caring for our kids and keeping up with volunteer commitments.

How did you get connected to Peaceful Living?

We found out about Peaceful Living when a member of our church, Alice Krauss, gave a talk about what the organization has provided for her son. My husband was deeply moved by what seems to be a little recognized need for special needs adults to have opportunities to connect.

What other causes are you most passionate about?

We are passionate about causes that provide for individuals' immediate physical and emotional needs, and match that very practical help with a clear emphasis on the good news of Jesus Christ. We feel a strong commitment to helping the vulnerable, as in the case of orphans, special needs individuals, women caught in trafficking, and people whose lives have been devastated by natural disasters.

What is important to you in the world today?

We believe that the greatest need in the world is for people to turn to Jesus and embrace the example of selflessness that he provided in his life and death on the cross. When individuals stop focusing on themselves and instead focus on loving those around them, many of the greatest conflicts and sources of strife can be overcome.

What is your dream family vacation?

While our family enjoys relaxing beach vacations in South Carolina, we are hoping to do a cross-country trip someday, though finding the time to do it will be a challenge. We're also looking forward to doing some international travel—Australia and New Zealand first!—when things open back up again.



With Gratitude

Here, your support creates Belonging.

Every gift you make directly benefits people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We offer gratitude and recognition to the supporters whose contributions were received by Peaceful Living throughout 2021.

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* indicates inaugural member of Belonging Society



"My gift is empowering people to discover their unique potential. That is why I support Peaceful Living's mission with my finances, time, and expertise. Like an intricate piece of art, we can take time to step back and appreciate each person. Together, we create something beautiful."

— GRETCHEN MAYSEK, PEACEFUL LIVING BOARD MEMBER

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In Memory of Dominic Vicoli
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Gifts received after December 31, 2021 will be acknowledged in our next annual report. We have worked hard to ensure the accuracy of this list. If your name has been omitted or misspelled, please contact us at 610.287.1200, ext. 1000 or info@peacefulliving.org.





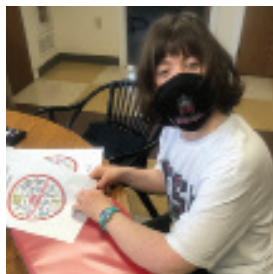
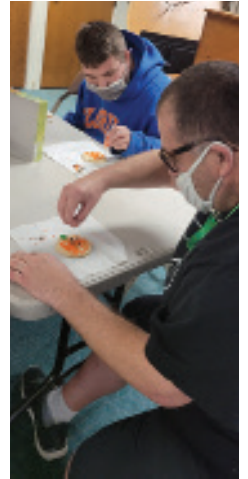
Community Based Services

Community Based Services (CBS) is a new Peaceful Living service umbrella that combined existing and new programs. Day Programs, HUBs, 1:1 Habilitation, and Employment Services have one common goal: enhanced community involvement! Despite the ongoing pandemic, individuals have largely remained healthy, allowing programs to focus attention on meaningful community engagement. Our friends have had a blast going to places like Longwood Gardens, "Please Touch" Museum, Disney on Ice, Christkindlmarkt, Wings of Freedom, and the Elmwood Park Zoo. We also continue to partner with community churches that have graciously accommodated us with space to craft, cook,

and volunteer.

Community Based Services has a new leadership structure comprised of competent, strong managers that have increased teamwork and communication for employees, families, community partners, and those we support.

Coming up in 2022, Community Based Services plan to expand their 1:1 HAB services, serve people in the new Supported Employment Services program, and create additional HUB groups that are in the community 100% of their day.





Residential Services



Residential Services welcomed five new individuals to our homes. With these bright additions, all homes are full and thriving!

Peaceful Living also welcomed the new director of Residential Services, Chris Rick, who has been diligently focused on training, accountability, and programming, all of which support the mission of creating high-quality Belonging.

Early in 2021, a vaccine clinic was offered to provide every person living or working at Peaceful Living an opportunity to receive the Covid vaccine. These clinics were a big success thanks to the collaborative work of multiple Peaceful Living departments.

Meaningful Belonging continued throughout the year as summer allowed for outdoor visits to destinations like Merrymead Farm. Individuals also enjoyed fellowship with friends and family at the Celebration of Belonging. Several homes celebrated further with Trunk or Treat activities and a Christmas house decorating contest.





Mission Engagement

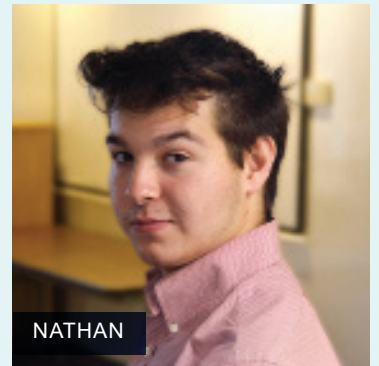
In 2021, Mission Engagement Department focused on local student outreach throughout the year. The educational workshop, "Mapping the Future", reached over 73 students and their families from districts across Montgomery, Bucks, and Delaware Counties. This workshop aims to assist transition-age students prepare for adult life by covering an array of topics from supports coordination, funding and guardianship, and services available after graduation. The STARR students of Souderton Area High School volunteered to hand-deliver workbooks for "Mapping the Future" to over 30 households.

Throughout the summer and fall, Souderton's STARR students continued their volunteer and job-skills training by completing landscaping and cleaning at different Peaceful Living sites. The STARR students always bring smiles to individuals in our programs and employees alike.

The Mission Engagement department hosted two student interns during the summer months from Montco Works Now. Nathan and Ashley spent their summer learning about recruitment, admissions, and marketing, and providing programming support. Ashley is now a part-time DSP for our HUB groups while she is attending college locally.



ASHLEY



NATHAN



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