

# ISSUE 18 · FALL 2022

# Letter from the CEO

KATHRYN SUSANO-MORRIS

Welcome to our first edition of a new and improved newsletter. We want to bring you more information about your coworkers, friends, and individuals receiving supports. We are also looking for interesting articles and pictures of activities for all yet you'll still be able to see these on Facebook.

During the pandemic the daily operations have had to make significant daily operational

change. We are always looking for ways to improve, please submit a suggestion.

Looking forward to the upcoming holiday and parties. Hoping all enjoy the upcoming months.

Finally, my thank you to everyone for your healing wishes during my recuperation with my broken femur. It's been a very long four months but progress has been made. No more Cotton Eyed Joe dancing.

Happy Holidays!



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# STEWART DAVIS ACCEPTS NEW COACHING POSITION

Many of you know Stu Davis as one of our Allegheny Region Program Specialists, but Stewart Davis is also a well-respected high school basketball coach. Stu served as head coach for the Brownsville boys' basketball team for three seasons, leading them to their first winning season since 2016 last year.

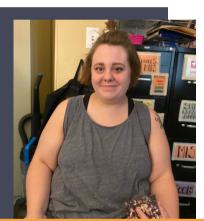
Now Coach Davis is embarking on a new mission as the head coach of the Laurel Highlands girls' basketball team. This new adventure is exciting because Stu will be coaching his daughter, who is entering her senior year as an LH Fillie.

"Obviously, it's the opportunity of a lifetime to coach my daughter," said Davis. "But it's not just about her, it's about the girls collectively."

Stu has shown great leadership in his role as a program specialist, and we cannot wait to see what he can help local youth accomplish this basketball season and beyond.

Many dedicated employees, such as Stewart Davis, are also dedicated community members. They contribute their time to efforts that support youth, our schools, other non-profit providers, and various other causes that support the growth and development of our neighbors and neighborhoods.





# The Road to Success, Supported by DSPs

Weight loss is hard! Many of us resolve at the stroke of midnight on January 1st, every single year, to eat better, exercise, and, hopefully, lose weight. We've all said, "I'll start my diet on Monday." Few of us, unfortunately, succeed but every now and then, one of us gets it all right. Brooke can say that she is succeeding. She has lost 50 lbs. this year with commitment to her goals, hard work, and support. Brooke's supporters include a dedicated team of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who have worked with Brooke and her entire team, including a program specialist and behavior specialist. Together they have created a plan that is seeing Brooke successfully conquer her weight loss goals.



## FRI JOINS THE LITTLE FOOD PANTRY MOVEMENT

Kathryn Susano-Morris, Fayette Resources' President/CEO, has always personally supported organizations and efforts to curtail food insecurity. When she learned of the Mini Pantry Movement, she thought this was a great way to mesh her personal giving with her life-long professional passion for supporting people with disabilities.

"Food insecurity is a great concern to everyone right now, and we thought we could help in some small way to support people in our local communities," Susano-Morris stated. She went on to say, "this is also a good way for our employees and the people we support in our programs to give back to their communities."

Kathy discovered the Mini Pantry Movement in a neighboring community and thought it was something that Fayette Resources, Inc. could support. It was a team effort led by Susano-Morris. The organization's maintenance department built and installed the Mini Pantries. Employees and program participants in each region have worked to stock them with donations of food, hygiene, and paper products.

The Mini Pantry Movement's motto is: "Give what you can. Take what you need." We encourage anyone to take what they need to support their family through tough times. Fayette Resources, Inc. also welcomes support from community members to help keep pantries stocked.

# PAR'S BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR: TIFFANY BREZENSKI

HARRISBURG, Pa. – Tiffany Brezenski, a Behavior Specialist with FRI, was named the PAR 2022 "We Are Worth It" Behavior Support Professional of the Year in September. PAR, which is the Pennsylvania Advocacy and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disability chose Ms. Brezenski out of numerous statewide submissions. Ms. Brezenski accepted the award at the annual awards ceremony held at the Harrisburg Hilton on October 25th.

PA State Representative Brian Smith attended the ceremony to support Tiffany, one of his constituents, as she accepted this honor. Following the award ceremony, Representative Smith presented Tiffany with a citation from the House of Representatives, further honoring her professional commitment.

We are incredibly proud of Tiffany's achievement. Congratulations Tiffany!





# What's Your Sign? Shaun Communication Training Session

Shaun has attended the Uniontown Community Participation Supports (CPS) program for years. His exuberant presence, his smile, and his laughter are contagious.

Shaun has always communicated in his way, developing his version of sign language. He communicates with sounds, gestures, facial expressions, and signs. Shaun developed the signs he uses to communicate with the people in his life. It can be difficult for people to fully

understand Shaun because his signs do not always align with American Sign Language. Employees at the CPS program came up with an idea to help Shaun communicate better.

Shaun's Direct Support Professional, Patrick, worked with Shaun to develop a training session, identifying Shaun's commonly used signs. They arranged a date and time, then invited program participants from the CPS program to attend.

The training was a hit. Shaun was happy to teach his friends his favorite signs. More people who attend the program can now interact with Shaun more effectively and enjoy his great sense of humor.



### Employee Spotlight Heather Wells

Hello! My name is Heather Wells. I am the Human Resources Coordinator for Fayette Resources, Inc. I am located at the Sykesville Office and assist with the DuBois and Indiana Regions. I have been employed with the company since 2017. I began as a Human Resources Clerk assisting Pamela Rake, and upon her retirement moved into the Coordinator position. Before Fayette Resources, I was employed as an insurance agent, and I hold a PA state license in Property & Casualty/ Life, Accident, and Health insurance. I also obtained my Certified Insurance Sales Representative designation.

I also obtained an Associate in Specialized Business Degree as an Executive Assistant through DuBois Business College. I am happily married to my husband Louis for 11 years, and together we have 2 amazing little boys that we love more than anything. Emmett is 6 years old and Geno just turned 10 years old this year. Fayette Resources has been an amazing opportunity for myself, and through this position I have built lasting relationships with some of the best coworkers who have become like family. I have so much respect for this company and the work that is done here for the individuals that we serve. I am happy to have found a home here, and enjoy the work that I do daily.



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