

A Message from Dr. TaraColleen Macatee, Kaleidoscope Executive Director:

First, I want to wish all of you a very happy and healthy holiday. Whatever you celebrate, please know that we are there with you in spirit, friendship, strength, and most importantly, hope. This has certainly been a challenging year in many ways. Being able to find ways to celebrate, albeit unique in our own ways and traditions will hopefully bring us back to what matters the most. Kaleidoscope's Vision Statement this month brings us in full circle back to our overall mission to enable those we service to act independently while moving towards meaningful lives. Really, independence and meaning can apply to all of us when evaluating our lives, the things we cherish and those we love.

To continue, as an agency we are committed to being proactive and reactive during this pandemic. While some of our individuals continue to utilize in-person services, many choose to participate in our extensive virtual programming widely available in both group and individual models. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any suggestions or concerns during this time. I have an open door policy with my staff, families, community partners and anyone that is a part of our Kaleidoscope family. I know I say this a lot, but I feel it warrants repeating. We are here for you now and always. Please take some time to find the gratitude this holiday season. When I sit down with my family, which I imagine will be a combination of zoom and my dining room table; I will celebrate my gratitude for you.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.





Zach did a great job on this creative gingerbread house!



Enjoy a few photos from art and drawing classes!















Mission Monday

Mission Monday is our place to honor those providers from each region who exceeded expectations this month.

Thank you for all that you do!

WPA

Rebecca Jennelle is a true team player and greatly cares about her individuals. She immediately offered to work a Thanksgiving shift with someone so they wouldn't be alone during the holiday. Rebecca was even able to be flexible with hours when asked.

Jeremy Perry is a WPA Behavioral Support Specialist who tirelessly supports his individuals and their teams. Jeremy guides and trains his team to provide the best support they can to the individuals they support. Jeremy goes above and beyond his duties to ensure he supports his individuals in increasing their independence and progress made towards their goals.

Lancaster

Justin Zakovitch has been working without pause during COVID and has been a constant support for all of the individuals that he supports. He has been able to support the individuals during this uncertain time.

EPA

Kadiatu Conteh has been very consistent and engaging in supporting individuals with their services. She is active in groups, is a calming presence in challenging situations, and always encourages the individuals to work towards their goals. Kadiatu's willingness to sing happy birthday, create and share her drawings and celebrate everyone she supports is contagious.

Tom Fissinger recently started a new case and is doing a great job. He is helping his individual engage in community outings such as walking, biking, etc.

NEPA

Alex Fruhwirth has been getting great reviews from Julia and Eric's family for her dedicated work with them.

Shawn Keller has been so helpful with Brian on his new apartment hunt. He has been working very hard on applications with Brian and taking him for apartment tours. He has also been keeping excellent contact with all team members.



















Cook with Us!



Working on hand-eye coordination: Jesse using safety pins to attach leaves for our fall walk; Cristian is learning to weave; and Darla is practicing the keyboard. Great job!

Holiday Tree Brownies



Ingredients:

1 box (16 oz) Betty Crocker™ Supreme original brownie mix, water, vegetable oil and egg called for on brownie mix box Miniature candy canes (2 inch), unwrapped

1 or 2 drops green food color

1/3 cup Betty Crocker™ Rich & Creamy vanilla frosting (from 16-oz container)

Betty CrockerTM Decorating Decors red and green candy sprinkles or miniature candy-coated chocolate baking bits

Steps:

- 1. Heat oven to 350°F (325°F for dark or nonstick pan). Line 9-inch square pan with foil, allowing some to hang over edges of pan. Grease bottom and sides of foil with shortening or cooking spray. Make brownie mix batter as directed on box. Spread in pan.
- 2. Bake 28 to 31 minutes or until toothpick inserted 2 inches from side of pan comes out almost clean. Cool completely on cooling rack, about 1 1/2 hours. Freeze in pan 15 minutes. Using foil to lift, remove brownies from pan, and peel foil away. To cut brownie into triangles, cut into 3 rows. Cut each row into 5 triangles. Set aside leftover pieces for snacking.
- 3. Break off curved end of candy cane; insert straight piece into bottoms of triangles to make tree trunks.
- 4. Stir food color into frosting. Spoon frosting into small resealable food-storage plastic bag; partially seal bag. Cut off tiny bottom corner of bag. Squeeze bag to pipe frosting over brownies. Sprinkle with decors.

https://www.bettycrocker.com/recipes/holiday-tree-brownies/058237a7-ae5c-435e-b9cc-b01af1d412e7







Praise for Kaleidoscope

We are so appreciative for Kaleidoscope who came through for an individual who needed extra support during the holidays. Thank you for always coming through in good times and when a challenge arises.

-- Jayde Hajnos from the Community Guidance Center

Kevin, a new individual we support in WPA, is very thankful for our quick response with staffing his case. He really enjoys the dedication and personized service he is receiving from his KFS direct support staff.

--Danielle Collavo, WPA Program Director

Alan's mom thanked Kaleidoscope for the great communication and motivation shown by his new direct service provider.

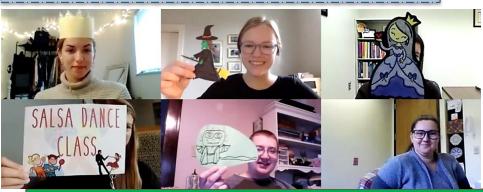
--Mary Kate Grosse, State Director



Congratulations are in Order!

- Devin moved into an apartment with his sister and started working at a new Wawa location!
- Padraic is attending social groups independently and is moving to his own apartment soon!
- Stephen moved out of his house and into his own place!
- Brianna started training to volunteer at Goodwill!
- Thomas is making great progress towards his goals! His productivity at work has improved since returning from the shutdown.
- Micayla successfully got her son into a new school!
- Sarah's sister had a beautiful baby girl!
- Jessica made chocolate chip cookies in her back yard brick oven!
- Dallas has been so great at helping her little sister with school work during the pandemic!
- Jenna made chocolate covered pretzel gifts for the holiday to give to family and friends!
- Rachel was able to independently make potato pancakes for dinner!
- Jesse has been staying fit by going to the Y every day!
- India took the time to clean out her clothing so she could give a donation to Good Will!
- Sara is keeping her commitment to leading a healthier lifestyle by meeting online with a nutritionist!
- Bette was really excited because her mom let her help cook Thanksgiving dinner. She said that she got to open all of the cans of veggies and cranberry sauce by herself!

Kelsey and Jack have been participating in Pitt OT sessions for 10 weeks now. They have spent the past few sessions preparing for a little show that Jack put on where he narrated a story with hand-made props, including a musical intro of Jack playing the piano. Jack worked really hard and everyone was super proud of him for completing it. Attached is a picture of one of the scenes – don't miss our very own Christi in the bottom, right corner.















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