



"We provide and support inclusive, life-enriching options through person-centered programs and advocacy."

What's New at UDS?

April 2024 | Issue 25

Providing Support in the Community



Pam Banks
19 years



Courtney Marks
7 years



Sam Dunn
8 years



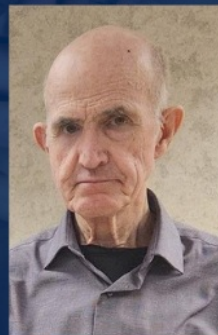
Janice Stewart
16 years



Troy Sutton
8 years



Casandra Roberts
11 years



Rich Williams
19 years



Tambra Hills
1.5 years

While most UDS employees work at our Akron facility, others work in the community helping individuals live independently by assisting them with activities of daily living. Our **consumer outreach specialists** help with everything from laundry and cooking, grocery shopping, medical appointments and even fun community trips.

Community Living Services Supervisor **Kelly Maze** says, "There are many reasons why people choose UDS. Whether for skill building to live independently, recreational

trips in the community, or another service we provide, our staff members go above and beyond to ensure the needs of all our participants are met. I am so appreciative of my staff and the work that they do to keep everyone safe and happy."

In addition to our consumer outreach specialists, UDS also has an individual who provides care in their own home. This **shared living** arrangement provides a safe, stable living environment through an independent contractor.

UDS appreciates the hard work and dedication our consumer outreach specialists put into assisting those who need support and we cannot extend our gratitude enough.

Transportation Services Keeps Us Moving



Without our transportation team, the wheels stop turning at UDS. For many of the people we serve, our drivers are the first and last UDS employees they see every day. To show our gratitude for all they do, UDS celebrated our drivers on Bus Driver Appreciation Day, held on March 18. Thank you to our team of **27 drivers** who safely completed **52,000 passenger trips** while driving **560,000 miles** last year.

If you or someone you know is interested in making a difference in our community, please [visit our Current Openings page](#) to learn more about working for UDS.

UDS Engages with Community Leadership



Members of the **Leadership Akron's Community Relationship Institute (CLI)** for employees of Bridgestone were recently welcomed to UDS to learn more about the services we provide. Members of CLI also took a tour of the sensory bus sponsored by the **Summit County Developmental Disabilities Board** while **ArtSparks** was on hand to help the group experience the joy of music and dance.

The goal of CLI is to combine individual development with community engagement. Each CLI session connects participants with top decision makers and includes access to best-in-class community assets.

If your group is interested in touring UDS contact [Lisa Armstrong](#), director of communications and external relations, for more information..

Welcome to the Team!



UDS is excited to see a new face walking our halls! We'd like to say hello to **Angela Mandarine**, our new employment specialist. Welcome!

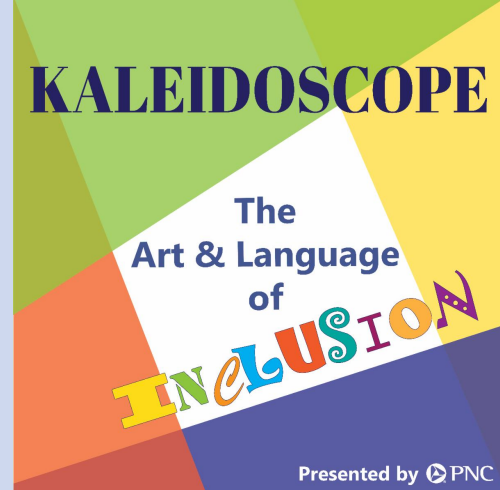
A former employee of the LifeSkills Center of Akron as well as Oriana House, Angela received her bachelor's degree from Kent State University and her master's degree from Walsh College. Angela chose this line of work because of her passion for helping people. A Massillon resident, she enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and her bichon frisé, Mylo. Welcome to the team, Angela!

Episode Six of the *Kaleidoscope* Podcast Now Available

Episode six of the *Kaleidoscope* podcast is

now available on all major streaming platforms! You can also listen to it [directly on our website](#).

This time around, we're exploring the **Art of Living**. Within this two-part episode, host Nichols deCourville guides readers through selections from issue 88 of our magazine. Listen to readings from our contributing authors, including Hareendran Kallinkeel, Carrie Hinton, Aisha Ashraf, Nancy J. Fagan, Stacie Eirich, Tim Campbell, Geri Lipschultz, and Kelsie Bennett.



Download and [listen to part one today](#). Part two will be arriving soon!

Still Shining Bright: UDS Celebrates 75 Years

Join UDS as we celebrate our 75th anniversary! Continue to follow us for all the ways you can help us celebrate this milestone year.



Check us out on social media!



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