Message from Dr. Tara Macatee:

It’s a new year; and what I like the best is the chance at “a new beginning.” January is the time of year that encourages me to reflect on my personal life, Kaleidoscope as an agency and the goals and objectives that make the most sense for both. I may want to achieve certain things, yet reality has to play a part in goal setting as well. I think that’s the biggest challenge for some of us entering the New Year…we have grand aspirations without the means to execute the necessary plans to be successful. So, my advice to myself and all of you is to first, breathe; then take a moment to really evaluate our plans – are we setting ourselves up for disappointment? It’s at this moment that we can regroup, maybe chuckle a bit, and decide to rewrite our 2018 story. Perhaps we are able to achieve it all; perhaps not. What I do know is that it feels super nice to have lots of options. Stay warm!
Mission Monday

Each month the Kaleidoscope team recognizes providers who give exceptional service!

- Adrienne Sharp helped an individual find a place to volunteer, goes above and beyond, and helps out with sub shifts!
- Ernesto Torres clearly shows that he loves his job, has great rapport with parents and individuals, and is always on time or early to shifts!
- Mike Gallagher was a terrific help with the recent audit!
- Maddy Churico jumped in to help out with a meet and greet!
- Rachel Williams is very compassionate about her job and her individuals. She always has a positive attitude, is very consistent and willing to help out!
- Diana Swavely for stepping in to help out with Allen. She always communicates so effectively on all her cases and is willing to work hard for all her individuals!
- Carol Taylor for helping out with sub shifts lately!
- Kanyan Kear has been so helpful with covering shifts. His dedication to Kareem is amazing and Kareem’s family appreciates him!
- Areej Kuttab subbed on short notice, and when the weather prevented her from making it one day, she showed up the next day with fresh-made doughnuts!
- Tenisha Thompson is so great with Leon and manages to work on all of his objectives with only 15 hours per week (he has about 6 objectives).
- Hawa Camara has been amazing working with Alicia. The family is very impressed with her connection to Alicia and how well she works with her.
- Rhonye Burris for subbing with Marquis in a time of need!
- Hazel Robinson for changing her schedule and jumping back on after a break to help her individuals! She is truly appreciated by the families.
- Erin Walker Simpson for helping Bobby become more organized and scheduled!
- Taylor Keough for providing a great introduction!
- Kevin Troung for just for being the amazing Kevin that he is!
- Christine Mason for taking on additional hours to support Maurine!
- Michael Sopp for his detailed and appropriate progress. It was evident throughout his documentation that he provides a high level of service to Christina!
- Jaimee Scott for helping Ivy get a volunteer position as Last Chance Ranch!
- Shawn Keller helped Bryn learn appropriate exercise and gym routines!
- Erica Lentz is consistent every week and works well with Stephanie!
- Tina Marzigliano does a great job with Lisa and Jeffrey. They both have made a lot of progress. Tina helps them get to their medical appointments.
- Chip Williams is always willing to fill in for sub shifts with Ed!

Great Reads!

“RULES” by Cynthia Lord is a heartwarming story about feeling different and finding acceptance. Depicting the challenges of maneuvering life with a brother who has autism, the main character learns that “normal” can take on many meanings.

“The Man Who Loved Clowns” by June Rae Wood shares the unforgettable story of a thirteen year old who learns love and acceptance through her deep love of an uncle with Down’s Syndrome.
Our peer support group meets every Tuesday in Bryn Mawr! Just this month we made vision boards, baked holiday cookies, completed gift ornaments and created a group gratitude banner! Whew, we are exhausted!

Happy holidays from the whole WPA crew! A great time at the holiday party was had by all!

Praise for Kaleidoscope

Ryan is more communicative and vocal due to the support from his Kaleidoscope BSC and habilitation provider. He and his parents have noticed a tremendous difference.

-- Submitted by Amanda Sanabria, Program Director

I wanted to pass some great news along that I received. Emily has found a job!!! She has been working hard with her habilitation provider and job coaching services and will be working with a wedding and special event facility and with a caterer. Emily and her family are very excited and are very pleased with all the support Emily has received. We will be continuing to support Emily through this journey and we can’t be more excited!

-- Submitted by Jenelle Eshleman, Clinical Coordinator

“I just want Kaleidoscope to know how much I appreciate the work you guys do. You are all true professionals and I am always confident that the individuals I serve are in good hands when they work with Kaleidoscope. I wish you all a very happy holiday and wonderful new years.”

-- Chelsea Martin, Navigation Support Coordination
Chinese Chicken Fried Rice

**Ingredients**
- 1/2 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1 onion
- 1 1/2 pounds cooked, cubed chicken meat
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 large carrots, diced
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 large red bell pepper, diced
- 3/4 cup fresh pea pods, halved
- 1/2 large green bell pepper, diced
- 6 cups cooked white rice
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 cup soy sauce

**Directions**: Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onion and saute until soft, then add chicken and 2 tablespoons soy sauce and stir-fry for 5 to 6 minutes. Stir in carrots, celery, red bell pepper, and pea pods and green bell pepper and stir-fry another 5 minutes. Add rice and stir thoroughly. Stir in scrambled eggs and 1/3 cup soy sauce, heat through and serve.

**Congratulations Are in Order …**
- Tony just accepted a job at Acme and will be starting after the 1st of the year!
- Meredith had a job interview with the Tamaqua Area School District!
- Great job Pete for securing an internship doing animation!
- Jacob is taking the initiative to pick up extra shifts at TJ Maxx during the busy holiday season, is making use of his natural supports, and generally doing an awesome job at work and getting out in the community.
- Emily got a new job at a wedding and special event facility with a caterer!
- Trevor got a new job at Acme Markets!
- Kyle got his hours increased at work!
- Patti worked tons of overtime to help Steve’s Sewing and Vacuum move to a brand new location!
- Allie made homemade candles as Christmas presents!
- Ivy got a new volunteer position as Last Chance Ranch!

**A True Success Story …**
Meredith called her Kaleidoscope Clinical Coordinator yesterday to share about how far she has come with the help of her therapist. She used to get frustrated easily and now she is better able to understand how this affects people. She said writing in her journal helps with these emotions and continuing to see her therapist and talk about her emotions helps her stay on track.

**You're Invited**

**Kaleidoscope Family Solutions Winter Snowball Gala**

**Thursday, January 25**

**Location:**
Church at the Mall I Plymouth Meeting Mall
500 W. Germantown Pike
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

**Primp & Prep**
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
Reservations Required

**Gala Event**
4:30 pm – 7:00 pm
Formal Attire Preferred

Yoga anyone? Allentown peer support group in action!