

Amherst Bee Lifestyles

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

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People Inc., a locally based multi-specialty nonprofit organization, concluded celebrating its 50th year anniversary milestone at the end of last year, highlighting the agency's evolution.

People Inc. was founded on Aug. 14, 1970, by a small group of parents and professionals who were concerned and passionate about addressing the needs of people with intellectual disabilities.

Fifty years later, the nonprofit has remained forward-thinking, while expanding its mission to include a wider variety of supports that address the needs of those with developmental disabilities, families, older adults and the general public.

With over 200 locations in Western New York and the Greater Rochester region, from group homes and day programs to apartment buildings and administrative offices, the agency offers a variety of services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, such as: Residential, Child and Young Adult Services, Community Habilitation, Day Services, Vocational Services and Supported Employment, Family Supports, Respite and Self-Directed Services. Additionally, a variety of supports are provided for the general public, including health services like rehabilitative therapies and counseling at its new People Inc. Health Services Building in North Buffalo, home health care, services for older adults, Senior Living and Affordable Apartments for people who meet age and income eligibility, along with various Business Solutions.

Often times, people supported by the agency can benefit from more than one service offering. For example, Nicholas Feeterman receives Community Habilitation and Supported Employment from the agency, plus lives at the People Inc. Highland Apartments in Tonawanda. His parents can happily attest to the innovative services the agency offers. "People Inc. has been a great resource for Nick over the years. He has benefitted tremendously from their services and they have helped him to live and work more independently in the community. Nick has met many friends, including reliable staff, through his services," shared Julie and Mark Tuskes.

As the COVID-19 global pandemic impacted the region, People Inc. staff stepped up to ensure the highest quality supports were available. The agency's established and experienced Emergency Management Team led the way by promoting continued safety for people supported and its staff.



People Inc

Remains Forward Thinking

for Five decades and Beyond

by Sarah Schreiber, reporter

These efforts continue. "[Our staff] did and continues to do an incredible job at keeping the people our agency supports safe," explained People Inc. president and CEO Rhonda Frederick. "They are amazing at what they did prior to the pandemic, but during this ongoing pandemic, they continue to go above and beyond."

As for community members wanting to support People Inc., Frederick explained there are a few different ways people can support the organization.

"One of the best things is recommending people to us for employment," Frederick said. With nearly 4,000 employees and 200 locations, the agency is currently seeking direct support professionals, RNs, LPNs, behavior technicians, Respite staff and medical liaisons, to name a few of the multiple career opportunities. People Inc. offers employees comprehensive paid training and an outstanding benefits package, along with consistent/flexible schedules and tuition reimbursement.

Frederick also explained that business owners can sign up to be a part of its Supported Employment Program, where they can hire people with disabilities who People Inc. supports. Frederick added this is a great way for people with disabilities to share their skills, gain experience and helps to make the workplace more diverse. She added that one way businesses can succeed is when they adapt their workplace environment to accommodate people with disabilities. "If you want to create a culture of inclusivity, hire someone with a developmental disability," said Frederick.

Through collaborative innovation and help from the community, People Inc. continues to support people of all abilities and ages, 50 years later. Their values of improving lives, respect, integrity, relentless pursuit of excellence, diversity and inclusion, flexibility and creativity are what makes this company stand out from others, and will carry their values and ideals for another 50 years to

come, according to People Inc.

To learn more about People Inc., visit www.people-inc.org or call 1-888-7PEOPLE. For information pertaining to the nonprofit organization's programs and services, call 716-880-3700 or email admissions@people-inc.org.

