



SUPERNOVA SERVICES

THE STELLAR GAZETTE

APRIL 2026 • VOL. 28

In Loving Memory:

BRITTNI HODINKO - DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING

We ended the month on a very sad note as we remember C.R., who passed peacefully on March 15th surrounded by his loving family. C.R. brought so much light and joy into the lives of everyone who knew him. He had a love for Elvis, enjoyed singing, appreciated a cold Dr. Pepper, and never turned down a good meal shared with others. His personality, sense of humor, and the simple joys he found in life left a lasting impression on both staff and peers. C.R. had a way of making people smile and reminding us all to find happiness in the little things. He will be deeply missed, but his memory will continue to live on in the stories we share and the moments we hold onto. His passing is a meaningful reminder to slow down, appreciate each day, and cherish the time we have with one another. We are grateful to have known him and to have been a part of his life.





APRIL IS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

is a range of conditions affecting social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech, and nonverbal communication.

APRIL IS NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH,

with celebrations to understand this disorder. Here are some facts to learn what autism is and how you can help those who have it.

AWARENESS

- Most obvious signs of autism appear between two and three years old.
- Children may fail to respond to their name or have a reduced interest in people.
- Around one third of people with autism stay nonverbal their whole life.
- Seizures, ADHD, and anxiety frequently accompany autism.



ACTION

- Developmental delay screenings should occur at nine months.
- Autism Spectrum Disorder screenings should be at 18 months.
- Child psychologists and neurologists can help detect autism in your child.

INCLUSION & ACCEPTANCE

- Children with Autism don't get the same sense of inclusion in schools as other children, making them feel excluded and alienated.
- Adults with autism often have trouble getting a job.
- Social inclusion is having access to education, health care, and services.
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states those with autism have the right to be included in their community.



USE THE HASHTAG #LIGHTITUPBLUE ACROSS SOCIAL MEDIA
platforms to share your experiences and help light the world in blue this April!

Job Fairs

AMY STROMBERG - HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

Supernova Services will be attending two job fairs in April!

We are excited to be attending **THE PENN TECH COMMERCIAL BUSINESS AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL JOB FAIR** again this year!

The job fair will take place on Friday, April 10, 2026 from 9:00AM to 12:00PM.

We will also be attending, for the first time, **THE PITTSBURGH JOB FAIR!** This is the largest local job fair with over 2,000 jobseekers expected! The job fair will take place on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at South Hills Village Mall from 10:00AM to 3:00PM.

Supernova is proud to be a sponsor of the **3rd Annual Trinity Color Walk 4 Autism!** The event will be on Saturday, April 25 from 1:00pm-3:30pm at Trinity West Elementary School (rain or shine).

We will also be participating in the 3rd annual ID and Autism Recognition Day! Please see the flyer on the following page for more information.

Please help spread the word and stop by and say hello!



SUPERNOVA SERVICES

WASHINGTON COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH &
DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

FREE EVENT

**3rd Annual Intellectual
Disabilities and Autism
Recognition Day**

April 30, 2026

11:00AM - 7:00PM

5:00PM Meeting conducted by
Pathways of SW PA Self Advocacy & The Arc of
Washington County Self Advocacy

DJ Mode and Raffle Prizes

Lunch and Dinner sponsored by Pathways of SW PA

Visits from "Wild Thing" & Chik-fil-A "Cow"

Presented by Wellness Center

To register for a resource table: <https://forms.office.com/g/J8khJQnLZc>

Chartiers Township Community Center
2013 Community Center Drive
Houston, PA 15342

Sponsored by:



PathWays
Life Long Fulfillment



SUPERNOVA SERVICES

It's Time to Enroll!

**2026 Open Enrollment
Dental & Vision**
April 6-17



DON'T FORGET!

**This is your ONLY chance to
enroll! Don't miss the April
17th deadline!**

OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR DENTAL AND VISION COVERAGE FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES WILL TAKE PLACE FROM APRIL 6, 2026 TO APRIL 17, 2026. COVERAGE WILL BEGIN ON MAY 1, 2026 AND WE WILL BE UTILIZING FLOCK ON PAYCHEX FOR OPEN ENROLLMENT. IF YOU ARE ALREADY ENROLLED IN THE DENTAL AND VISION PLANS AND YOU DO NOT NEED TO MAKE A CHANGE, YOU ARE STILL STILL REQUIRED TO LOG IN AND REVIEW YOUR ELECTIONS ON FLOCK.

IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE AND HAVE NOT YET ENROLLED, OR YOU NEED TO MAKE CHANGES, YOU MAY DO SO DURING OPEN ENROLLMENT.

ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES WILL BE RECEIVING AN EMAIL FROM HR NEXT WEEK WITH DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO ENROLL. PLEASE CONTACT HR DIRECTOR, AMY STROMBERG, WITH ANY QUESTIONS.



Happy Anniversary to our Supernova Employees!

THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO SHINE BRIGHT WITH US!

SASHA PEREZ

MARCH 7TH, 2023

SHERRY GRIM

MARCH 14TH, 2025

EMILY LAURINE

MARCH 21ST, 2023

AARON WRUBLESKI

MARCH 25TH, 2025

SAMANTHA LASCHINSKY

MARCH 26TH, 2025

PAULA PATTERSON

MARCH 27TH, 2024

DAVE HENDERSON

MARCH 29TH, 2022



SUPERNOVA SERVICES

Meet Our New Supernova Staff!



Ashley Oquinn
Employment Specialist

1.) Do you have any hidden talents or hobbies?

N/A

2.) What is your idea of the perfect day?

Sitting on the beach or pool with a drink in my hand!

3.) What is the best concert you've been to?

Matchbox Twenty



Shannon Anderson
Employment Specialist

1.) Do you have any hidden talents or hobbies?

My favorite hobby is diamond painting!

2.) What is your idea of the perfect day?

Sitting on the beach.

3.) What is the best concert you've been to?

Jason Aldean



Scott Chunko
Employment Specialist

1.) Do you have any hidden talents or hobbies?

I am an artist and draw portraits from digital prints!

2.) What is your idea of the perfect day?

A day where you can relax and not have a care in the world!

3.) What is the best concert you've been to?

Phish

**WE ARE HIRING FULL/PART-TIME DSP'S \$18.50
HOURLY. REFER FAMILY/FRIENDS FOR A ONE-
TIME REFERRAL BONUS OF \$100 *NEW STAFF
MUST WORK 3 MONTHS IN ORDER TO RECEIVE
BONUS***



Employment Spotlight: Lone Pine Market

CHAD TAYLOR - PROGRAM COORDINATOR

A staple in the community for almost 30 years, The Lone Pine Market offers up that traditional country store atmosphere. Located at 618 Lone Pine Rd. in Washington, PA, the store just celebrated it's 2nd anniversary on March 10th under new owners Andrew and Amber. The store has that traditional country market feel but with a little twist, including the GOOD Stuff Food Truck parked next to the market that sells hot food items. The market sells homemade items, produce, cold drinks, snacks, milk, bread, grocery essentials and pantry staples. The store is part of that neighborhood. Our employment team has been working with the Market for almost three months now, and you can see the excitement when our individuals know that they are heading out to work at this friendly, community oriented market. Our individuals go out and do whatever they may need us to do, whether it is to sweep and mop the floors, rotate products, or clean and stock shelves. So stop on out, say hi to our hardworking individuals and enjoy something from the store, or something delicious from the GOOD Stuff Truck.



SUPERNOVA SERVICES

Shining a Light On J.S.

1.) What is your favorite TV show?

Barney!

2.) What is your favorite restaurant and what do you like to order?

Eat-N-Park – chili, kielbasa and perogies.

3.) What is something that always makes you laugh?

People dancing and acting silly!

4.) Your birthday is coming up – what would you like to do on your special day?

Go to Eat-N-Park and have soup and salad, and have a birthday cake!



SUPERNOVA SERVICES

Birthday Celebrations!!

MICHELE GRANDE - PROGRAM SPECIALIST/RECREATIONAL THERAPIST

March was full of birthdays at Supernova! This month, we celebrated a belated February birthday for W.B. with a party full of gems, unicorns, and bingo; The clients loved spending time with him and making his day extra special.

We also celebrated A.P., who enjoyed a party at home with his family along with a lunch out with staff; He kept everyone laughing the whole time with his sass and jokes.

R.S. celebrated at Olive Garden, surrounded by not just Supernova friends, but also her boyfriend who she met through Arc; She had such a great time enjoying pasta, cake, and lots of laughs with her favorite people.

R.F. also chose Olive Garden to celebrate; It's a favorite spot for many, and she really came out of her shell—mingling, laughing, and enjoying her favorite meal with friends.

Finally, we celebrated J.S., who wanted to spend her day at Eat'n Park; She laughed the day away with friends, and we sang "Happy Birthday" over chocolate cupcakes with vanilla frosting as she made her wish and blew out her candles.

Until next year... cheers to a March full of birthdays!!



Residential Updates

BRITTONI HODINKO - DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING

This month was a busy and rewarding one for our residential program. We successfully completed our inspection, and it went very well—something we are incredibly proud of; It reflects the hard work, consistency, and dedication of our entire team as we continue to strengthen our program and enhance the supports we provide each day. We are always looking for ways to grow, and this was a great reminder that our efforts are making a positive impact.

We were also excited to welcome a new individual, B.P., who moved into North Main; We look forward to getting to know him better, building meaningful relationships, and supporting both him and his family as he settles into his new home. Throughout the month, we celebrated several birthdays, creating special moments filled with laughter, cake, and time spent together. Individuals also stayed active and engaged by participating in extracurricular activities, including Special Olympics and adaptive sports, which continue to promote wellness, confidence, and community involvement. Additionally, we were happy to welcome C.L. back from her vacation in Florida. While we certainly missed her, we're sure she didn't miss the cold weather here, and we loved hearing about her time away!



Celebrating Every Step Forward

HEATHER MILLER - DIRECTOR OF BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS

As we move through April, it's important to remember that progress doesn't always come in big, noticeable moments. Often, small steps lead to the most meaningful outcomes. This month, let's focus on:

- Recognizing small wins**
- Offering encouragement**
- Supporting one another**

We are proud to share a wonderful example of R.F.'s progress; She challenged herself to go outside of her comfort zone by creating a storybook and book club, and proudly represented herself boldly!



The Cooking Corner

MICHELE GRANDE - PROGRAM SPECIALIST/RECREATIONAL THERAPIST

Our Cooking Corner stewed up some creamy and savory tomato soup with grilled cheese this month! K.R., S.E.M., A.C., D.H., and W.B. helped us make this delicious dish and now you can enjoy it too!

Ingredients/Seasonings:

- One onion
- Garlic
- Basil
- 2 cups diced tomatoes
- 1 cup vegetable broth
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup heavy cream
- 1 tbsp sugar
- Olive oil
- Oregano
- Salt & Pepper



SUPERNOVA SERVICES



The Cooking Corner (contd.)

*MICHELE GRANDE - PROGRAM
SPECIALIST/RECREATIONAL THERAPIST*

Instructions:

- 1.) Sautee the diced onion with olive oil until tender.
- 2.) Add garlic and sautee until fragrant.
- 3.) Once the onion and garlic are cooked down, add the canned tomatoes, vegetable broth and all the seasonings.
- 4.) Blend with an immersion blender or counter blender - this is very important! If you are blending with a counter blender, make sure to remove the center of the lid to let the steam escape or else the blender will become a volcano erupting hot tomato soup.
- 5.) Mix well and let simmer for 10-15 minutes.
- 6.) Add the heavy cream and stir in.
- 7.) Serve!

While the soup is simmering, make your grilled cheese!!!
Have fun with the grilled cheese, take it a step above
American cheese and white bread. Here are some ideas:

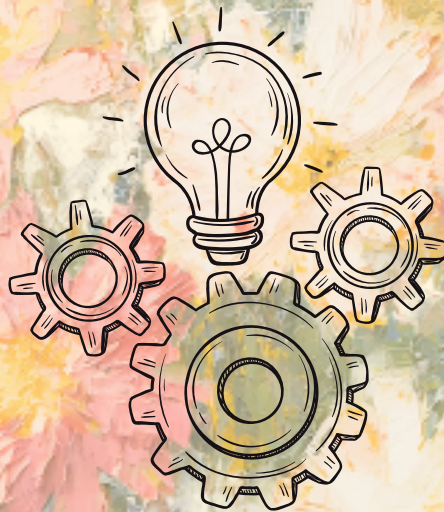
- 1.) Red pesto and mozzarella cheese.
- 2.) Green pesto and pepper jack cheese.
- 3.) Jalapeno Popper - cream cheese, American slices, fresh, sliced jalapeno.
- 4.) Pizza - red sauce, mozzarella cheese, pepperoni.



SUPERNOVA SERVICES

RELIAS

A reminder to all staff to please keep monitoring your Relias accounts for upcoming due dates to ensure that we are in compliance with the 6400 Regulations, for we must acquire 24 hours of training each year. Thank you all for being amazing as always!



Want your ideas featured in the Supernova Newsletter?

Please contact Amy Stromberg, HR Director,
for more info!

amystromberg@supernovaservices.org