

SUPERNOVA SERVICES

THE STELLAR GAZETTE


APRIL 2025 • VOL. 16

AUTISM
AWARENESS
MONTH



Autism Awareness Month

Light It Up Blue!

On April 2nd, in honor of **World Autism Awareness Day** we will be wearing blue to help support and spread the word for this global initiative. Continue to spread kindness and increase autism awareness, join us in wearing blue tomorrow! 

What is April Autism Awareness Month?

History Fact #1: Autism Awareness Month started in April of 1970 and was founded by Bernard Rimland, Ph. D., a psychologist and autism researcher; He chose the month of April to coincide with his son's birthday as well as the start of spring - a time for new beginnings.

History Fact #2: President Ronald Reagan was the first to Issue an Official Presidential Proclamation Regarding Autism. In April of 1988, President Ronald Reagan issued the first presidential proclamation declaring April as National Autism Awareness Month; This was significant progress and began a new era of awareness which opened opportunities for people with autism to live fuller and more productive lives.



Autism Awareness Month

History Fact #3: The Puzzle Piece has become an internationally recognized symbol of power, strength, hope, and unity for those affected by autism spectrum disorders (ASDs). The puzzle piece was first introduced in 1963 by the National Autistic Society as part of their logo. The Puzzle Piece symbolizes the complexity of ASDs and reminds us that we are all interconnected.

History Fact #4: Autism Speaks is a global organization that works tirelessly to educate and support individuals living with autism. In 2004, they launched the “Light It Up Blue” campaign to bring awareness to autism. The goal was simple: to get everyone worldwide, from businesses and schools to homes and public places, to light up blue in honor of Autism Awareness Month.

History Fact #5: In recent years, Autism Awareness Month has become an international event. More countries are joining the cause to raise Autism Awareness and increase the acceptance of individuals with ASDs; This is a powerful step forward in creating a brighter future for children living with autism worldwide!

****Supernova will be participating in the event featured on the next page, so please stop by and show your support!****



WASHINGTON COUNTY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

2nd Annual Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Recognition Day

April 23, 2025
10:00AM – 7:00PM

5:00PM – 6:30PM Self Advocacy Meeting conducted by
Pathways of SW PA & Arc of Washington County

Resource Tables, Presentations,
Face Painting, Photo Booth,
Music, Dancing, Lunch & Dinner

Enjoy a visit & photo with the
Pittsburgh Penguins Iceburgh!!!
Time TBD



Please register for this free event: <https://forms.office.com/g/PQFWvssPHW>

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

Sponsored by:



PathWays
Life Long Fulfillment



Happy Anniversary to our Supernova Employees!

THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO SHINE BRIGHT WITH US!

SASHA PEREZ

MARCH 7TH, 2023

JALEESA WADE

MARCH 15TH, 2021

EMILY LAURINE

MARCH 21ST, 2023

PAULA PATTERSON

MARCH 27TH, 2024

DAVE HENDERSON

MARCH 29TH, 2022



SUPERNOVA SERVICES

SUPERNOVA STARS

**CASEY
BYERLY**

Thank you for creating wonderful relationships with our clients and helping them through their tough times; they are lucky to have you!

**STEPHANIE
MADRID**

Thank you for being flexible and stepping up at the Jeffersons!

**SHYANNE
CRAWFORD**

Thank you for helping with the March move!

**MALAYA
THOMAS**

Thank you for helping with the March move!



SUPERNOVA SERVICES

Open Enrollment for Medical Insurance

AMY STROMBERG - HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

Open enrollment for Medical Insurance will take place the last 2-weeks of April 2025; more information to follow in the next week(s)!

Washington County Job Fair

AMY STROMBERG - HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

Supernova will be attending the **PA Career Link Washington County and Penn Commercial Job Fair** on April 11, 2025 from 9:30am to 1:30pm.

Location: Penn Commercial Business and Technical School
242 Oak Spring Road
Washington, PA

Hiring DSP's, so please help spread the word!

Meet Our New Supernova Staff!



Sherry Grim
DSP

1.) What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to crochet, paint, read, watch movies and spend time with my grand babies!

2.) What is your favorite movie?

Alice in Wonderland

3.) If you could visit any country in the world, where would it be?

Paris!

Samantha Laschinsky
DSP

1.) What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to crochet - I have a blanket obsession!

2.) What is your favorite movie?

All horror movies - I have a Chuckie collection.

3.) If you could visit any country in the world, where would it be?

Hawaii



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*

Residential Updates

BRITTNI HODINKO - DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING

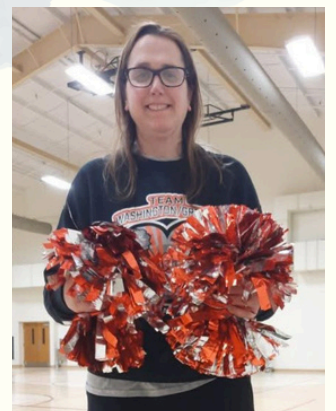
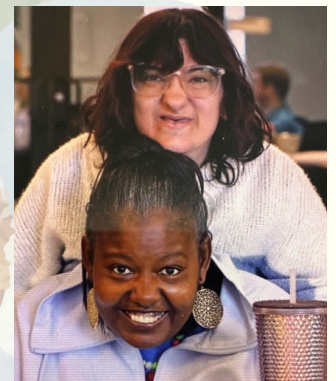
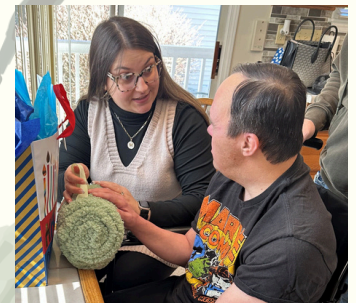
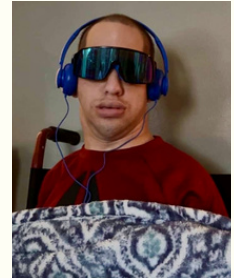
March has been a busy month for birthdays in the Supernova family! We celebrated RS on March 11th, AP on March 12th, EA on March 19th, JS on March 21st, and RF on March 28th. Wishing you all a very happy belated birthday, and we hope you enjoyed your celebrations!

In other news, Supernova is excited to welcome a new individual to our team on April 1st; Please be sure to introduce yourself at our next gathering as she is excited yet nervous to move in!

Additionally, the Supernova Leadership Team completed the submission for **Performance Based Contracting** in March; This initiative aims to ensure the highest quality of services for the individuals and families we support. By focusing on various performance measures, we can drive continuous improvement in our care; I was thrilled to be part of this process as it provided an opportunity to deeply examine our program and the comprehensive support Supernova provides. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented team!

Lastly, I would like to provide an update on Behavior Supports. Supernova Services now offers Sensory Assessments using the **Pearson Adolescent/Adult Sensory Profile**; These assessments evaluate how an individual processes sensory information from their environment using a range of tests to measure different aspects of sensory functioning such as touch, taste, smell, hearing, and vision.

By offering Sensory Assessments, Supernova Services aims to empower individuals and build a supportive network around them. We are so thankful for Sam Okel for becoming trained and fluent in providing these assessments for Supernova Services. Thank you, Sam!



SUPERNOVA SERVICES

Residential Updates

BRITTNI HODINKO - DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING

In March we celebrated KH's 3-Year Anniversary with Supernova!



Shining a Light on S.E.M.

1.) Can you tell us about the “Spirit Stick” that you recently won at your Cheerleading competition?

I was nominated by my team and coach to help them with the cheer because I was confident in bringing up the team spirit! I am also captain, and this was my first spirit stick!

2.) What is a valuable lesson that you have learned?

I have learned not to be aggressive and it has made me a whole different person.

3.) If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

I would turn myself into a Unicorn!

4.) What is your favorite song/movie/TV show?

Song: Love Story

Movie: Moana 2

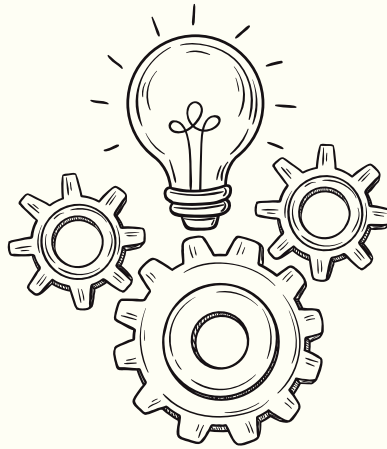
TV Show: Cops



SUPERNOVA SERVICES



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

