



Multicultural Community Services of the Pioneer Valley Inc.

Spring 2024
Issue 12

BRUNCH

Caregivers are invited to the K of C in Chicopee on April 24th for a brunch and presentation by the authors of the book, "Shut Up About Your Perfect Kid". Space is extremely limited and is close to capacity. Call Kristal at 200-7845 to register.

HIGH MEADOW

MCS is pleased to offer another High Meadow event! All are welcome on Friday, July 12th from 5:00—10:00 p.m. Flyer on the way with additional information!

SEMI-FORMAL DANCE

It's back!! MCS is once again offering the semi-formal dance for people 15 and up. The theme is Enchanted Garden. Our consumers and one guest may attend for free, and additional guests are \$25. The dance will be held on Friday, June 21st at the Castle of the Knights in Chicopee (at the rotary) from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. Keep an eye out for the flyer!

FISCAL YEAR—Just a reminder that our fiscal year (FY) runs from July 1st to June 30th. All of our contracts and budgets are based on this schedule. Please be sure to utilize your current allocations before the next fiscal year begins. Resources do NOT carry over from one fiscal year to the next. Also, be aware that supports do not necessarily renew every year. Services and allocations are dependent upon the funding MCS receives from DDS each year. Right now FY25 is looking uncertain. We will keep you updated as the budget process proceeds, and might need your support to speak with legislators to advocate for funding for services.

Meet the team...

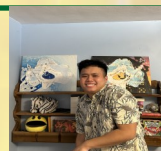
Oksana Kosoviat



Oksana joined the team of Family Support in November 2023. Her career path has taken her in many directions, including the Ukrainian Credit Union, the US Treasury Department, a property management company, and teaching English at a refugee organization. She also served in Asia as a missionary helping women to find purpose and learn to support their families. Oksana and her husband volunteered together in Ukraine working with individuals with disabilities. Oksana and her husband are blessed with a precious daughter who is 2 1/2 years old and growing fast. She enjoys being her mother, and living an active life, and hopes to have more time for art in the future. Oksana's passion is working alongside families to support them in reaching their goals for their loved ones with special needs.

HIGHLIGHT

Jimmy Tran is a multi-media artist whose primary interest is painting. Until now, he has never displayed his work anywhere beside his own home studio. Jimmy is interested in improving his painting skills so he can begin selling his paintings on ebay.



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(413) 534-3299

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mcsnet.org

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DDS Assistive Technology Fair

DDS Central West is pleased to bring you an opportunity to explore innovations in Assistive Technology on Thursday, May 30th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at The Springfield College Field House (263 Alden Street, Springfield, MA).

Assistive products help people maintain or improve their functioning and independence, promoting well-being. The Assistive Technology Fair is a chance to explore adaptive innovations in Smart Home Technology, Health, Employment Tools, Recreation, Leisure, Mental Wellness, Communication, Mobility, Executive Functioning, Remote Supports and Monitoring, Sexual Wellness, and more!

We invite you to experience a variety of assistive technology products through exhibits, demonstrations, and presentations -- all at no cost. Registration is encouraged.

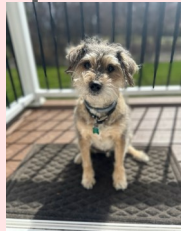


← Register using the QR Code



This newsletter is dedicated
to the memory of
Omar Zaitoun
We wish peace and comfort
to his family and friends

Meet the Pets...



Meet Tommy. You can't tell from this picture but Tommy turned sweet 16 this year. He is the canine companion of Joe Pirro, our Group Respite Coordinator. Tommy, AKA "Goon", is half beagle and half schnoodle. Tommy is named after Joe's Uncle Tommy since they share the same birthday. Joe describes Tommy as goofy and silly. He is also his cooking partner who cleans up the floor like no one else can.

GUARDIANSHIP vs. HEALTH CARE PROXY with BETSY JOHNSON

Join us on Wednesday, April 17th at 6:00 p.m. for a virtual presentation by Betsy Johnson from DDS on the topic of Guardianship and Alternative Options. Betsy is the Medical Ethicist for DDS and has years of experience seeing the difference in Health Care Proxy documents and Guardianships in medical settings.

Join us on Zoom:

Meeting ID: 817 1885 3189

Passcode: 123456

MCS, ConexionesLatinX-MA and Community Legal Aid will be holding an Educational Advocacy Clinic on 5/3/24. Attorneys will consult with families regarding any questions they have about special education and services for their children. There will be limited 1/2 hour slots available between 11am-4pm. First come first serve. Please contact Joanne Cruz or Samantha Michelli-Rivera at 413-301-7390 to register.

MCS Family Support staff enjoyed the eclipse on April 8th. Safety precautions were taken by all, including little Otis!

Familias estan invitadas a participar en este entrenamiento donde podran adquirir tecnicas y estrategias de planificacion e organizacion para mejorar su calidad de vida:



MAPA de CUIDADOS es un proceso que ayuda a las familias y profesionales a planear y colaborar de manera efectiva para lograr resultados de salud optimos de su ser querido e integracion comunitaria.

FECHA: el 9, 16, 23 de mayo **HORA:** 6:30 a 8:00 p.m.

Llame a (413) 419-8008 para mas informacion