

UNIQUESource®

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

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Charese Hill, editor

SAVE THE DATE

UNIQUESOURCE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

2016 EMBRACE THE ABILITIES DINNER * JUNE 13, 2016



It is our 60th Anniversary! As we enter our 60th year of service, we proudly acknowledge all of our members and friends who have helped us reach this milestone.

From the beginning, our mission of UniqueSource Products & Services has always been to provide products manufactured and services performed by professionals with disabilities.

It has been our pleasure to serve the Pennsylvania community for 60 years, and we thank you for your membership. We will be celebrating all year long, and we ask you to join us on this very special occasion.

The UniqueSource Achievement Awards will be presented at the 2016 Embrace the Abilities Dinner (formerly Nettie Mann Achievement Award Banquet), we are looking to have 60 award winners to coincide with our big celebration.

On behalf of UniqueSource Products & Services, we say thank you!

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



What a season of “storms”!

In the Harrisburg area, we had an unprecedented, legitimate, 36 inches of snowfall within 24 hours. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been unsuccessful with negotiating a budget that has negatively affected schools, nonprofit organizations including UniqueSource Members, small and large companies, and citizens of the Commonwealth.

On the national front, draft regulations associated with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) potentially threaten the future of organizations that are affirmative employers of people with disabilities, certain work settings, and the special minimum wage available for appropriately qualified and deserving individuals with disabilities.

All of these “storms” remind me of the movie from 2000, *The Perfect Storm*. Needless to say, these “storms” are far from perfect. The impact of the problematic budget process in the Commonwealth is measurable in lost hours of employment and jobs for professionals with disabilities. The draft WIOA regulations have the potential to take away the choice of employment alternatives for individuals with disabilities across the country. As for the snow, I certainly had some sore muscles.

The ramifications of the three “storms” are very different. My sore muscles recuperated quickly. The budget impasse has left scars on the lives of some Pennsylvanians with disabilities and affected them financially, and in some cases has taken their jobs away, but hopefully over time the scars will heal. The potential impact of the draft regulations, however, could create irreversible damage and may permanently change the landscape for future employment options and alternatives for individuals with disabilities.

UniqueSource is positioned and prepared to work hard now, and in the future, to sell products and services that will help to recover and create additional hours of employment and jobs for our Member organizations to employ professionals with disabilities. Pennsylvanians with disabilities, however, need your help by sending messages to federal and state legislators to redirect the Federal Departments of Education and Labor to:

- Remove the sub-definition of “Work Unit” from Competitive Integrated Employment and use the definition established by Congress.
- Further clarify what is and is not prohibited for contracting purposes so youth with disabilities and local and state education agencies aren't stripped of their ability to access necessary services.
- Delay the implementation of the regulations until more long-term understanding and data of outcomes in early adopter states can be analyzed so data driven recommendations can be made.

If you have a reason to be concerned about the future of employment choice for individuals with disabilities across the country, I encourage you to connect with your federal and state legislators to share the above concerns and recommendations. Write a letter, make a phone call, or better yet visit in person with your legislators or their staff in their district offices to share your concern and encourage them to ask the tough questions on the direction, intent, and the anticipated results of the draft regulations. Request that your legislator encourage the regulators to assess the real impact of the regulations before they are passed and perhaps negatively affect individuals with disabilities.

As always, please feel free to connect directly with me at vloose@UniqueSource.com if you have any questions, need any additional information to connect with your legislators, or would like to find ways that you can make a lasting difference by promoting employment opportunities for professionals with disabilities in Pennsylvania.

Vincent M. Loose
President, CEO

OUR NEWEST EMPLOYEES



MARLA LANGLEY

Marla Langley has spent more than 25 years in human services in Pennsylvania; most of that time was spent in non-profit agencies that served and maintained state contracts for services. Many of those years were spent dealing with at-risk youth and families as a Family Service Worker, and later as a Family Advocate contracted by state and local agencies to provide in home services. For the last five years she has worked as an Employment Specialist helping professionals with a disability obtain and maintain employment.

Marla has been married to her husband Dave for 32 years. They have two sons Joshua (31), and Jacob (29). When she is not working she enjoys making memories with her friends and family and then collecting those memories in one of the dozens of scrapbooks in her scrapbook room.



DONNA CIFARELLI

Donna Cifarelli began her career as a sales associate and worked her way up to a store manager in NYC by age 22. Continued her journey with Macy's Herald Square as a Merchandise Team Manager in 2000. Throughout her career she gained a wealth of information through the people she met and was able to strengthen and develop her leadership skills as well. Donna is married with 2 daughters and 1 son.

She enjoys time with her family during the summers up north on the coast of New England and on the beaches of Long Island, NY. Donna is a living kidney donor and tries to promote the importance of signing up for organ donation whenever she can.

She is an active volunteer at her son's school in Pen Argyl, PA and donates time when she can to AWSOM, the Animal Welfare Society of Monroe County. Donna looks forward to meeting all of you and is eager to begin her role as the DM for the NorthEast.



TANYA CLARK

"I may look as though I'm under the age of 20 but I can assure you that I've passed my 29 birthday" says Tanya. She was employed with Sapp Bros for seventeen years where she worked her way up from Office Assistant to General Manager for five years. She then was Assistant Manager for a convenience store chain from Feb- October 2014. From there she went to work for a family owned business that was having financial issues where she was able to help them get their business back on track, she was there from October 2014 until she came to UniqueSource.

Tanya enjoys spending time with her husband and 3 children. They enjoy getting groups of teenagers together to go canoeing and fishing down the Susquehanna River.



SAM FAHRINGER

Sam is originally from Hanover, PA and moved to Mansfield, PA to attend college. After college he stayed in the Mansfield area to work in the oil and natural gas field for four years, primarily as a Water Transfer Division Manager. He took a job as the Carpentry Superintendent at a local apartment complex just under two years ago and moved to the Harrisburg area.

Sam enjoys powerlifting, Atlanta Falcons football, and working on his recently acquired dream car, a 1969 Nova. He also enjoys Stephen King novels and riding his hybrid bicycle on the local Greenbelt trail.

Please welcome our new employees to the UniqueSource team!



Brian's House was founded in 1976 by Dave Tuttle to provide essential services for people with disabilities including his son "Brian".

In 1996 Brian's House became affiliated with Woods Services which enabled the organization to expand with the addition of 32 community homes that expand throughout Chester County. In 1998 the establishment of Brian's House Enterprises (BHE) a vocational program and ATF (Adult Training facility) was formed.

In this resource we help people maximize their success in the world of work. Based in Exton Pa, BHE provides employment training to adults with various disabilities.

Some of the services provided are as follows:

- Comprehensive Vocational Assessment.
- Supportive, competency-based pre-vocational, vocational, and psychosocial skill development.
- On site employment in cooperation with the local business community.
- Community-based supported employment.
- Temporary work crews.

Based upon the needs and choices of an individual, BHE services may include Job Development, and Job skill training, all overseen by a work adjustment coaching staff.

For more information Please call:

James Kelly

Brian's House Enterprises

757 Springdale Drive, Exton, Pa. 19341

Tel: (610) 873-3500

<http://www.brianshouse.org>

NEWS FROM OUR SALES DEPARTMENT

It's time to think about your spring cleaning needs!!! UniqueSource offers the following to help you with your work.



BioRenewable Glass Cleaner is an 81% biobased product designed to clean mirrors, glass and Plexiglass surfaces. The product incorporates a state-of-the-art surfactant system offering excellent wetting agents with emulsification abilities, through the use of biodegradable chemistries. These chemistries allow the end user to use less product with superior results.

Produced by VisionCorps



Leaf Rake with a 70" fiberglass handle with a cushioned grip is built to last! Leaves won't stand a chance!

Produced by Keystone Blind Association



Clamp Style Mop Handle with a plastic head and 54" wooden handle, is universal for all cloth style mop heads. It is perfect for those spring cleaning chores.

Produced by Cambria County Association for the Blind and Handicapped

Please contact our Sales teams for more information or visit our website at:
www.uniquesource.com

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