



*"We provide and support inclusive, life-enriching options through person-centered programs and advocacy."*

## What's Fresh with UDS?

April 2023 | Issue 14

### It's Spring, We're Taking a Hike!



Last year, 33 participants from our CHAMPS seniors program, earned their hiking sticks from Summit Metro Parks by taking on several of the accessible trails. In the above photo, our very own **Cathy Lancianese** (pictured far right) can be seen with several participants. Twice a day, she takes groups of two or three to a different park.

Cathy says, "I discovered trails I had never hiked before by doing this with them. We have so many great parks in this area and it is so nice to go outdoors during the day to enjoy the fresh air and beauty at each one."

UDS has partnered with Summit Metro Parks for years helping test the trails for accessibility. With 16 different parks and over 125 miles of trails, those looking to forge their own path have a lot to explore. Don't forget that the Spree for All begins May 1 and many of our friends can't wait to go back to exploring!

## *UDS Celebrates New Hires and March Employee of the Month: Margaret Jackson-Melton*



**Margaret Jackson-Melton** has been employed with UDS since 2017. Every day she inspects her vehicle, transports adults and children to school and medical appointments, and makes sure that everyone is secure and safe. We really like Margaret for her respectful and friendly attitude! Thank you so much for all you do for UDS and the individuals we serve!

We would also like to welcome two new employees to UDS: **Nick deCourville**, who is our new digital marketing specialist, and **Donald Preston**, our new on-call driver. Nick is a former composition and English instructor, and Donald dedicated 33 years to the Crystal Clinic Orthopaedic Center at St. Thomas Hospital. Welcome to the team!

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### *Kaleidoscope* Interviews Bryan R. Monte for New Podcast

For the next episode of the *Kaleidoscope* podcast, we interview Brian R. Monte (right), a writer, poet and anthropologist residing in the Netherlands. Promoting his new book *On the Level: Poems on Living with Multiple Sclerosis*, we talk to Monte about his work, his ideas and how he manages his condition. Expect episode 3 of *Kaleidoscope* soon! You can also check out the [first two episodes here](#).



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**Spring 2023 *Aspire!* is here!**

The Spring 2023 issue of *Aspire!* is here and there's a lot to see! In this issue, we take a look at the UDS cleaning crew (known as the A-team)



as they work at the Akron-Canton Airport. In addition to being incredibly hardworking, the A-team received an Akron-Canton Airport Award for their fantastic demeanor and work!

Additionally, UDS CEO Brian Thomas gives a message on diversity and inclusion, and we take a look at Christine Donmoyer's new book *Invisible Disability*. Plus, all UDS vehicles are now equipped with onboard cameras further helping to keep our passengers safe.

Visit us [online](#) to download a copy of *Aspire!* and learn more about our programs and services.

## Donations & Grants

We would like to thank the GPD Employees' Foundation for its \$2,500 grant to help support the [Toy & Resource Center](#).

We would also like to thank the Tuscora Park and Health and Wellness Foundation for its \$10,300 grant to support [Transportation Services](#).

Your continued support helps keep UDS moving! Find out [more about donating here!](#)

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