



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

What's New at UDS?

January 2025 | Issue 34

UDS Celebrates Carrie Roseberry Day



Last month, President and CEO **Brian Thomas** proclaimed December 17 to be *Carrie Roseberry Day* at UDS. A dedicated volunteer to our community, Carrie (far right) is being celebrated for having 500 hours of service with SociAbilities. It's the

same amount of time as 60 work days or watching 250 movies!

To help celebrate, members of the inclusive orchestra **Hearts For Music** (inset photo) played and sang "Happy Carrie Roseberry Day" to the tune of "Happy Birthday" upon her arrival. Additionally, Director of Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs Lisa Mascellino and Manager of Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs Tessa Engelhart from **VANTAGE Aging**, the organization that connected Carrie to UDS, were present to award her with a congratulatory certificate. Carrie also received gifts from UDS and SociAbilities.

A special thank you to everyone who helped celebrate this day with us and a special thank you to Carrie Roseberry for her selfless dedication to the individuals we serve!

Issue 90 of *Kaleidoscope* Now Available



Issue 90 of ***Kaleidoscope: Exploring the Experience of Disability through Literature and the Fine Arts*** is available online. For this issue, we're taking *A Closer Look* in our own backyard. With *Kaleidoscope* recently celebrating its forty-fifth anniversary, it seemed fitting to take a moment to consider how we started. Originally published in-house through our parent agency, *Kaleidoscope* began in 1979 to highlight the creativity of adults with disabilities who participated in our programs. Since the genesis of our magazine featured those in the Akron area, we decided to take a closer look at local artists, including two visual artists, a ballet dancer and an inclusive orchestra.

This issue includes contributions from Bonnie Ruane Wheeler, Gail Brown, Mimi Eagar, Mio Aoki-Sherwood, **Brenda Beardsley**, **Diane Bell**, **Meg Eden**, **Katharine Yusuf**, Lisa Zimmerman, **Hearts For Music**, **Lily Sargent**, Heather Wicks, **Elliott Gorski**, Anne Mikusinski, **Tim Murphy**, Dixie L. Partridge, Roselyn Perez, Val Valdez, Zach Pietrafetta, Linseigh Green, **Mary Harwell Sayler**, Gabriel Hull, **Virginia Isaacs Cover**, **Elly Katz**, Philip Andrew Lisi, M.S. Marquart, H. McCrystal and **Mia Herman**.

Issue 90 of ***Kaleidoscope*** is available at no cost on our website. A **screen reader version** is also available.

Additionally, episode 10 of the *Kaleidoscope* podcast is available. In this episode, we further explore readings from issue 89 of our magazine. You can listen to episode 10 **on our website** or your favorite streaming service.

Welcome to the Team!



UDS welcomes **Steven Hightower** our new full-time driver with Transportation!

Steven lives in Akron and is a retiree after 30 years of working at FedEx. He has three sons, one daughter and is engaged. In his free time, he enjoys basketball and coaching.

Glad to have you at UDS!

Driver and Passenger Safety is Priority One



Driver and passenger safety is the number one priority for our Transportation team, which is why the department began implementing new technology to help assist drivers with their safety needs. Starting in February 2024, all buses at UDS were equipped with Motive cameras. These cameras help drivers monitor their driving habits by starting each driver with a base safety score and deducting points for hard braking, accelerating and cornering, speeding and idle time.

Implementing these cameras has increased overall driver safety. By helping drivers stay safe on the road, the aim has been to avoid potential accidents. Since implementing these cameras, drivers have increased their overall safety score by sixty percent. "It's really helped drivers become safer on the road by creating more

awareness of individual driving habits," says Director of Transportation **Jim Acton**. "These measures not only help assist drivers stay safe, but it also provides significant annual cost savings as well."

Thanks to monitoring how long the drivers allow the vehicle to idle, decreasing these times has saved our Transportation Services \$27,408 in 2024. Despite our team driving 5,000 more miles in 2024 versus 2023, these new safety measures have allowed the department to save 9,200 gallons of gas.

There's also a monthly incentive to keep things fun for our drivers. At the end of the month, the driver with the best score receives a \$25 gift card. Congratulations to our recent winners: December 2024 winner **Pam Guinther**, November 2024 winner **Barb Bryant**, and October 2024 winner **Elijah Kareem**.

Thank you to all of our drivers and Transportation team for keeping our passengers, drivers and roads safe!

UDS Stays Thankful in 2025



Anyone who has been in Ohio long enough knows how wild our winters can be. That's why we're so thankful to North Hill Needle Crafters for helping us stay warm by donating several hand made blankets to UDS!

We would also like to take a moment to thank **RePlay for Kids** as well as Lynne Came and her Sisterhood for their fantastic donations to the Toy & Resource Center. We cannot thank you enough for your generous contributions!

Check us out on social media!



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