



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

What's New at UDS?

March 2025 | Issue 36

#UDSIncludes



#IncludeMe

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, a time to spread awareness

about the inclusion of people with disabilities from all walks of life. Often, individuals with disabilities face challenges connecting to the communities in which they live. This is where UDS comes in.

At UDS, we support inclusion and diversity in every facet of life. We provide support to the individuals we serve through employment, volunteer opportunities, socialization, shared living environments, recreation, entertainment and community involvement. We believe everyone, of all abilities, should have the opportunity to explore, engage and excel.

Throughout the first week of March, United Disability Services embraced the spirit of inclusion across the agency. We kicked off with a vibrant spirit week, proudly wearing orange on Inclusion Day, March 3. From there, we kept the momentum going with lots of fun activities showcasing UDS's commitment to inclusion every single day.

Thank you to everyone who supported Inclusion Day, and to all who encourage and celebrate inclusion all year-round.

Stark State Takes Notes from UDS



Students from the Stark State College occupational therapy program stopped by recently to learn more about UDS and what they might expect from a career working with individuals with disabilities.

During their visit, students had the opportunity to see our programs in action by touring BraVo!, CHAMPS, Prevocational Services and the **Toy & Resource Center**.

Additionally, [Low Vision Services](#), [Community Employment Services](#) and [Community Living Services](#) provided information on other services offered here at UDS.

Thank you to Stark State for joining us for this opportunity. If you or a community group is interested in touring or volunteering with UDS, contact [Lisa Armstrong](#), director of communications and external relations.

Welcome to the Team!



UDS welcomes Executive Assistant **Paula Brahler** to the team!

Paula has a passion for assisting families and helping them find additional resources for their needs. She has been employed as a qualified mental health specialist and most recently was a program coordinator for Canton City Schools. Paula is married and has three adult children and six grandchildren.

If you'd like to join the UDS team, take a look at our [available job openings](#) today.

Spring Cleaning for UDS

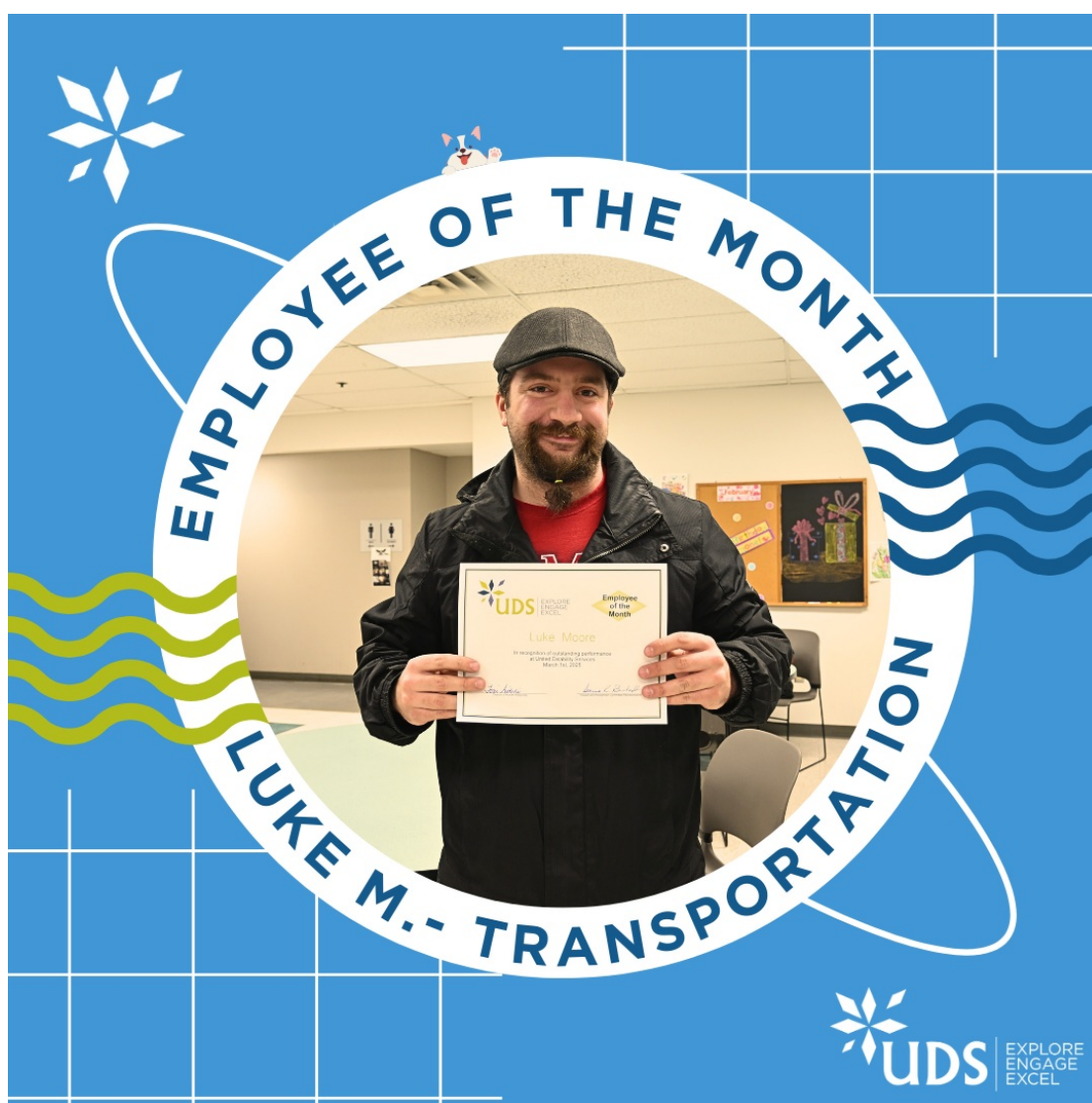
Have you started your spring cleaning yet? At UDS, we're staying spotless thanks to our dedicated Prevocational Services team!

Under the supervision of **Gary Cremeans**, our building maintenance technician, team members take on tasks like vacuuming and learning how to maintain a clean work environment. Not only do they develop valuable, practical work skills to be able to one day work in the community, they also earn a paycheck!

Thank you for all you do. Keep up the great work!



March Employee of the Month



Congratulations to Luke Moore for being named UDS March Employee of the Month! If you've ever met Luke, you know his enthusiasm as a driver for UDS Transportation Services shines through every day. "I am a huge fan of buses. I absolutely love transporting my people," he says.

In addition to his work in Transportation, Luke volunteers weekly at the Ronald McDonald House. He also works part-time providing non-emergency medical transportation on the weekends. Before joining UDS, Luke was a van driver and transportation coordinator for SarahCare Adult Day Health Centers.

Nominated by his peers, Luke embodies the core values of UDS—Serving People, Teamwork, Respect, Inclusion, Dignity and Excellence. He is always quick to volunteer, connects personally with the individuals we serve and their families and does whatever he can to make everyone at UDS feel like they belong.

Thank you for your hard work Luke and congratulations!

Winter/Spring 2025 *Aspire!* Now Available

Check out our first community newsletter of the year! Stay updated with the latest news at UDS, discover

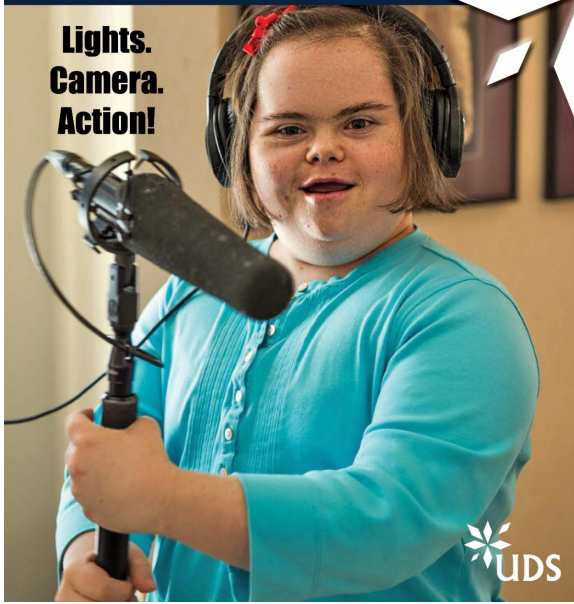
ASPIRE!

"Labels can only confine. Aspire to be undefinable."
- Colin Wright

A publication of United Disability Services

WINTER/SPRING 2025

**Lights.
Camera.
Action!**



more about our services and get an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at how we engage, explore and excel every day.

[Read the latest Aspire! here.](#)

Our *Aspire!* publication is for consumers, caregivers and anyone who serves individuals with disabilities. If you would like to receive a hard copy of this publication, [contact us today](#) to be added to our mailing list.

Check us out on social media!



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