PWAC
Progressive Workshop of Armstrong County

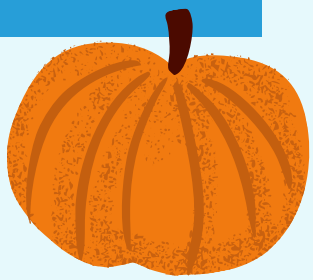
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
FALL 2026

MOVE PEOPLE TOWARD JOBS!

PROGRESSIVE CONNECTIONS

THE PWAC NEWSLETTER





FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear PWAC Friends and Supporters,

Happy Fall from all of us at PWAC! I am glad to write to you again this year as President of the Board of Directors. I would like to provide a little update about what has been happening across our programs this season as the year winds down toward the holidays.

We have had a momentous year with some wonderful developments in 2026. Our programs continue to grow and thrive, our clients and employees are learning new skills and having new experiences all the time, and we continue searching for additional ways to support them in reaching their personal goals for community employment and inclusion. Currently, we serve about 145 adults with disabilities across our five program locations, and we are always accepting more!

From our newly established "Real Life Kitchen" program to our new business partners and the continued success of our Perfect Attendance Incentive awards, we have plenty of both new and continued successes across our agency. These contribute positively to the furthering of our mission. What we are all about is working with every individual who comes through our doors to identify their goals and interests and then producing tangible action plans to support them in reaching those goals. As president of PWAC's Board, I am so proud of the people we serve and so grateful to our 75 staff members who put much time, effort, and personal care into supporting each person served by our programs.

Thank you to our incredible staff and to our wonderful community of supporters for all the ways you help us work toward our mission. From the entire PWAC Board of Directors and me, we appreciate you for being part of our amazing community, and we wish you a warm and joyous upcoming holiday season. Thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,

Lynn Sibley

PWAC Board President

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NEW FOODS, NEW SKILLS:
THE REAL LIFE KITCHEN PROGRAM









On September 17, 2026, we finished up a brand new 8-week program: the Real Life Kitchen program!

Our CEO, Michelle Reefer, and our kitchen staff, Tina and Brittany, were able to put into action a new program idea with great success.

Our kitchen at our main Oak Avenue location has always been a valuable part of PWAC programming. Not only do our kitchen staff provide meals three times per week to the whole building, but they also focus on providing essential kitchen skills training to individuals interested in working for restaurants in commercial kitchens out in the community.

This year, however, we identified a gap in our kitchen programming. While teaching essential work skills is foundational to our mission, we realized that many of our individuals don't even have the knowledge to prepare their own simple meals, even when they have the capability and the equipment at home to do so. To address this need, we began the Real Life Kitchen program, which invited six individuals to come to "cooking class" once a week to learn skills they can put to use in their own lives: trying different foods, learning how to work a microwave and an air fryer, practicing using knives and other kitchen utensils, and even going grocery shopping at local stores to learn about the cost of groceries and how to make simple meals from just a few ingredients.

NEW FOODS, NEW SKILLS:
THE REAL LIFE KITCHEN PROGRAM

During the final session of this 8-week program, the class got together to put their new skills to the test by making a full meal for PWAC's admin staff. The meal included appetizers (buffalo chicken dip and sausage dip), a main course (breakfast sandwiches), and a dessert (chocolate "dirt" cups). Everyone loved the meal! All six individuals received certificates for completing the course and shared what they enjoyed most during the class.

"I liked learning how to use the air fryer," said Blaine. "And my favorite part of the class was our teamwork and the way we all worked together."

"My favorite thing we learned to make was the mug cakes," said Heaven.

"My favorite class was when we went to Dollar General and learned how to budget money to buy ingredients," said Kenny.

Tabitha said her favorite part of the class was taste testing 20+ different foods, many of which she'd never tried before. "My favorite new thing I tried was hummus," she said.

Mark said he enjoyed learning to use different kitchen gadgets, and he really liked making the sausage dip for the final class meal because it was his mother's recipe. Erin said her favorite part of the class was learning how to cook an egg in the microwave and making breakfast sandwiches for everyone.

Finally, to celebrate their "graduation," PWAC kitchen staff Tina made a delicious graduation cake that everyone got to enjoy!

We hope to continue offering this class to interested individuals for many years to come. Having the ability to determine your personal food interests and having the basic skills and tools needed to making your own meals is so vital to our everyday lives, and we are so glad this new Real Life Kitchen program has opened a door for so many of the people we serve to learn the skills to take on that independence for themselves.

Great work, everyone! And a special thank-you to the Snee-Reinhardt Charitable Foundation for supporting this new program idea and providing us with a grant to help get it started. We look forward to many more Real Life Kitchen classes to come!



happy AUTUMN









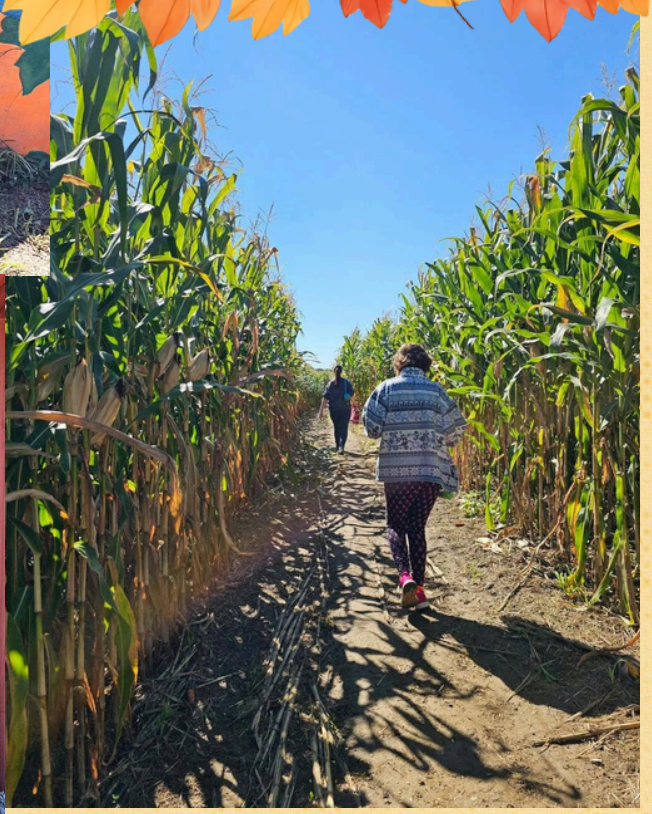


Visits to local pumpkin patches and animal farms make for great fall community activities!









Halloween

October 30 was a great day of Halloween fun for everyone at all our program locations! Clients, employees, and staff all enjoyed games, snacks, prizes, getting their pictures taken, and of course, dressing up!

































SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS:

Tees-n-Tops

Tees-n-Tops is a family-owned business in Vandergrift, PA that provides a range of services for screen-printed and embroidered clothing as well as customized promotional items. For five years now, Tees-n-Tops has partnered with PWAC to receive additional production assistance during the busy holiday season. Each year starting in the fall, one of our individuals, Tracy, has worked part-time at Tees-n-Tops helping to count and fold shirts after they are printed.

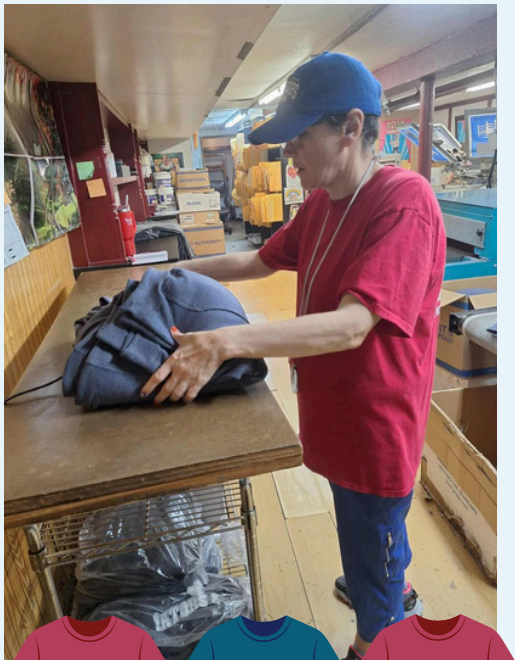
"We absolutely love Tracy," said Autumn from Tees-n-Tops. "She is the definition of joy, she lights up every room she walks into...her kindness, positivity, and genuine heart are an example of how we should all strive to treat others. This program is an amazing opportunity to work with the members from PWAC...we are so grateful to work with such an amazing organization and an incredible woman!"

The staff at Tees-n-Tops are passionate about PWAC's mission of guiding people with disabilities to work toward community employment and inclusion, and we are so glad to have their partnership.

If you or your business are in need of custom T-shirts or promotional items, be sure to reach out to Tees-n-Tops to learn how they can help!







ORDER YOUR PLANTER BOX!



- 16 1/2" x 16 1/2" x 6" deep, $45 each + $10 for customization
- Made from untreated oak wood and sealed

Call PWAC at 724-548-5664 or visit Progressive Wood Works online at www.pwacprogressivewoodworks.com to order yours!









STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

Each September, we celebrate Staff Appreciation Week to recognize and thank our staff members who work to serve our clients and employees every day. From our management team and our program specialists and assistants to our direct support professionals, facilities management, and everyone in between, we are so glad to have this amazing PWAC team that makes our mission possible! **(see all our staff members on page 9!)**

To our staff:

"To each and every one of our staff members, I want to personally and sincerely thank you for the time and effort each of you put in to working toward our mission of guiding people with disabilities toward their personal goals for community employment and inclusion. Your passion for those we serve reminds me every day why our mission matters so much.

Your dedication to PWAC and to each individual we serve does not go unnoticed and is highly appreciated. Thank you for all you do, all year long, to make a difference in the lives of our clients and employees. I am so proud to work alongside each of you."

With gratitude,
Michelle
PWAC CEO




Not pictured: Amy, Tim, Craig, Ian, Shawn, Sydney, Cristen, Kenith, Sarah, Haylie

PWAC's 2nd Annual

Soup&Sing KARAOKE For a Cause!

Join PWAC for a night of karaoke and a homemade soup dinner as we raise funds to support our programs for adults with disabilities!



SAVE THE DATE!
SAT 6TH FEBRUARY, 2027

6-10 pm
@VFW Post 4843

2125 Bailey Avenue
Ford City, PA 16226

Please note the change in location!

Tickets are $10 to attend and include a dinner of homemade soup, bread, and dessert. Event will offer a cash bar, side raffles, and 50/50 drawing.

Tickets will be available soon!

Dear PWAC Supporter,

The Progressive Workshop of Armstrong County (PWAC) invites you to join us for a fun evening at our second annual "Soup & Sing For a Cause" Fundraiser on Saturday, February 6, 2027, at 6:00 PM at the VFW Post 4843 at 2125 Bailey Avenue in Ford City, PA!

Tickets to attend this lively karaoke-style event are only $10 and include a homemade dinner of soup, bread, and dessert, plus an evening of entertainment, community spirit, and singing! Aside from eating and singing (if you like!), attendees can also take advantage of the cash bar and participate in side raffles and a 50/50 drawing. All proceeds benefit PWAC's programs that provide employment and community inclusion opportunities for adults with intellectual disabilities.

In addition, we are offering a unique way for community members and businesses to show their support by choosing to "Sponsor a Song" during Soup & Sing. For a donation of $20 per song, you can sponsor one or more songs during the event for anybody to sing. Your sponsorship will include:

- Your name or business name displayed at the event during the performance of your sponsored song(s)
- Recognition on PWAC's Facebook page and website as a valued event supporter

Every song you sponsor helps PWAC continue to create inclusive work environments, promote independence, and celebrate the talents of those we serve.

If you would like to sponsor a song, please visit our website at www.progressiveworkshop.org/karaoke and fill out the sponsorship form, or contact us at info@progressiveworkshop.org or 724-548-5664. And if you would like to attend this event, tickets will be available for purchase at our main office at 301 Oak Avenue in Kittanning! Stop by to get yours, or call us to reserve them. Thank you for helping us make a difference, one song at a time!

With appreciation,

L. Michelle Reefer
PWAC Chief Executive Officer



OTHER PWAC HAPPENINGS





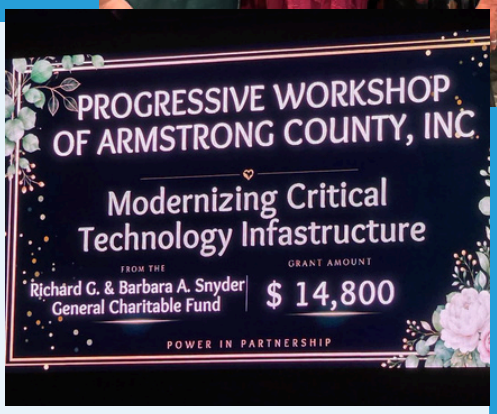
AAC Leechburg has been finding new opportunities to volunteer left and right...recently, they helped distribute emergency food boxes at WIN-Spirations in Creighton! The purpose of WIN-Spirations is "to reduce poverty and build gender equity by providing networking, professional mentoring, and education to men & women experiencing economic hardship."
We're proud to form this new partnership and support a great mission!



PWAC was awarded a generous grant from the Armstrong County Community Foundation's Richard G. & Barbara A. Snyder General Charitable Fund!



We're so proud of Joey! He works for our Progressive Lawn & Landscaping crews, but only recently did he decide he was ready to take the step of learning to operate the riding mower too. Great work, Joey!







This fall, Progressive Document Destruction participated in two local shred events hosted by PA State Rep. Josh Bashline, PA State Rep. Abby Major, and Senator Joe Pittman! Thank you to everyone who attended and brought old documents to be securely shredded by our crews. We're glad to provide our shredding services and to partner with our region's leaders to put on these events!

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER

Happy "Workiversary"!

Congratulations to our staff members who are celebrating a work anniversary this fall, as well as our new staff who just started this season! We appreciate all you do!

SEPTEMBER

Terri John	9-9-1999
Stacy Patton	9-14-2022
Cecilia Righi	9-15-2025
Chip Thayer (not pictured)	9-15-2026
Benny Matarrese (not pictured)	9-15-2026
Lindsay Moore	9-18-2023
Wanda Ellis	9-22-2015
Craig Klukan (not pictured)	9-29-2025





OCTOBER

Beckie Vallies	10-9-2020
Kim Leone	10-23-2018
Tina Miller	10-24-2022
Jessica Tuttle	10-30-2023
Cameron Hanna	10-31-2022



NOVEMBER

Christin Pierce	11-16-2017
Sara DeVore (not pictured)	11-17-2025

FALL PUZZLE

W	M	E	L	L	T	L	N	W	W	G	T	I	E
H	E	A	U	P	T	S	E	I	R	S	S	O	S
N	A	A	E	R	M	U	G	O	K	N	T	U	G
E	I	L	G	I	G	U	N	T	F	S	E	N	N
E	E	P	G	E	C	U	A	E	E	O	K	F	I
W	E	P	G	A	O	E	R	O	A	N	O	O	V
O	U	K	C	O	L	S	O	U	P	L	N	N	I
L	G	I	O	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	I	S	G
L	C	T	S	A	E	E	I	A	E	E	U	G	S
A	I	A	T	U	H	U	G	L	M	I	G	F	K
H	D	I	U	T	S	E	H	O	F	M	P	A	N
A	E	P	M	U	M	E	S	A	G	W	I	E	A
U	R	N	E	M	U	E	F	N	U	I	D	L	H
E	P	V	O	N	I	P	T	A	P	R	K	I	T

FOLIAGE
ORANGE
COSTUME
THANKSGIVING
AUTUMN
CIDER
PUMPKIN
LEAF
HALLOWEEN
SOUP

THE PWAC TEAM

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lynn Sibley (President)
Rob Watt (Vice President)
Chris Yanoff (Secretary)
Sonie Mervis (Treasurer)
LuAnne Frerotte
Linda Kuruc
Gene Hughes
Justin Snow
Joe Felschow
Dina Blake
James Swast
Ricki Evans
Amy Ford
Nancy Kennedy
Chris Evans
Ted Breuer, Emeritus (In Memoriam)

OUR MANAGEMENT

L. Michelle Reefer	Chief Executive Officer
Kim Smith	Chief Fiscal Officer
Jennifer Goughler	Vice President of Administration and Development
Bogie Goughler	Vice President of Production and Community Based Services
Kim C. Savoie	Vice President of Programs
Jennifer Wingard	Vice President of Compliance
Kim Leone	Director of Benefits and Finance
Christin Pierce	Director of Community Based Services
Bob Reesman	Director of Operations
Pam Cromie	Director of Adult Achievement Center Kittanning
Maria Emili	Director of Adult Achievement Center Leechburg

OUR LOCATIONS

Oak Avenue (Main Office)
301 Oak Avenue
Kittanning, PA 16201
Phone: 724-548-5664
Fax: 724-545-2088

Leonard M. Meneely Industrial Center
1340 North Water Street
Kittanning, PA 16201
Phone: 724-548-5664
Fax: 724-545-2088

Adult Achievement Center - Kittanning
368 Butler Road
Kittanning, PA 16201
Phone: 724-548-5664

Adult Achievement Center - Leechburg
128 Market Street
Leechburg, PA 15656
Phone: 724-548-5664

PWAC Shelocta
9561 Route 422 W
Shelocta, PA 15774
Phone: 724-548-5664



STAY CONNECTED!

Be sure to visit us at **www.progressiveworkshop.org** and check us out on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Flickr! Email us at **info@progressiveworkshop.org** with referrals and general inquiries.

PWAC

Progressive Workshop of Armstrong County

Thank you for supporting us as we "Move People Toward Jobs"!