

MOVE PEOPLE TOWARD JOBS!

PROGRESSIVE CONNECTIONS

THE PWAC NEWSLETTER



FROM OUR CEO...

PWAC Friends and Supporters,

Happy Summer! 🍉 We hope you have enjoyed these summer months as much as we have. Summer is a busy time for us: we started off participating in the Armstrong County Community Foundation's annual Week of Giving from May 6-10, which brought in a total of \$25,957.59 in donations from our amazing supporters for the benefit those we serve in our programs! Next, we held our third annual "Grip It & Rip It" Golf Scramble at the Apollo Elks Country Club on June 22, an event that brought us just over \$15,000 for our Client/Employee Activity Fund thanks to our generous golf teams, sponsors, and donors!

And just a few weeks ago, we held our fourth annual Pool Party at the Belmont Complex in Kittanning where we invited our staff, clients, employees, and their families and friends to come together to celebrate the summer season. We are so glad to have had so many wonderful events so far this summer, and as always, we're looking forward to what's ahead!

At the time I am writing this, we are still in the process of opening our second Adult Achievement Center location in Leechburg, PA. We are getting closer and closer to it finally being ready to open; and when it does, the waiting will be worth it! We are so excited for this new development in our organization and cannot wait to see how it impacts the lives of both our current and new clients who will be joining us soon. We will keep you updated!

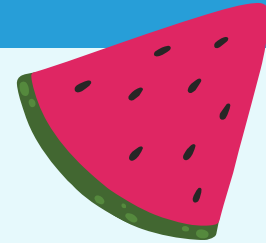
Progressive Wood Works is hard at work on some new projects: custom wedding boards! If you or someone you know is getting married soon, consider gifting them a handmade charcuterie board from Progressive Wood Works! See page 10 of this newsletter to learn more.

Another small announcement: Thanks to a grant from the Armstrong County Community Foundation, we were able to have two professional videos made that tell all about our story and our mission. Check out the "Progressive Workshop" channel on YouTube to watch them!

As always, thank YOU for your incredible support. We would not be able to continue the work of supporting people with disabilities if it weren't for people like you. Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

L. Michelle Reefer, CEO



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EMPLOYEE CELEBRATIONS!



The PWAC Small Group Employment program celebrates employees who have excelled in their work and displayed an admirable, consistent work ethic.

Congratulations to **Laicun** and **Nathan**, who were selected as Small Group Employment Employees of the Month! We are proud of your work and accomplishments!



Here is Laicun working on a job for Butler Technologies, Inc. Thank you to Butler Tech for partnering with us to provide jobs for our employees like Laicun!



Nate frequently works for our Progressive Lawn and Landscaping crews. Here he is push mowing along the street outside the Armstrong County Historical Museum & Genealogical Society in Kittanning!

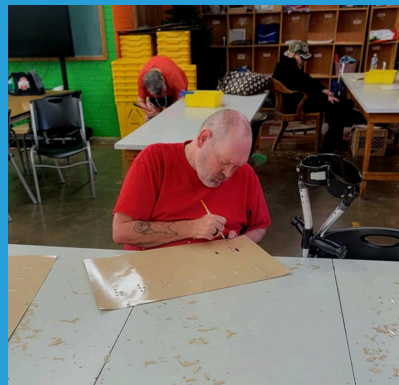
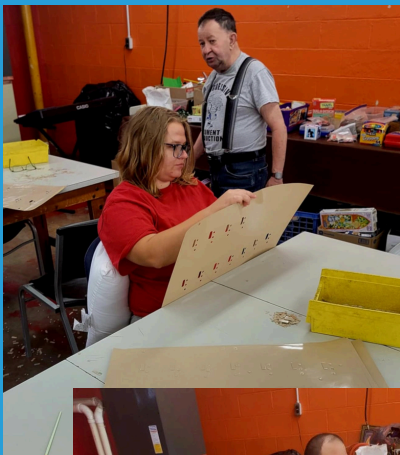
ON THE JOB!



Evan has worked on the Progressive Lawn & Landscaping crews for awhile, but he recently started operating the riding mower!

Progressive Lawn & Landscaping is in high demand! We currently have 50 weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly contracts with local residential and commercial customers, and our waitlist is up to 40 potential customers! Our lawn crews enjoy their work and are happy to provide this service to so many supporters.

Our employees are working on lots of jobs this summer for many of our great local partners. Thank you for your support!



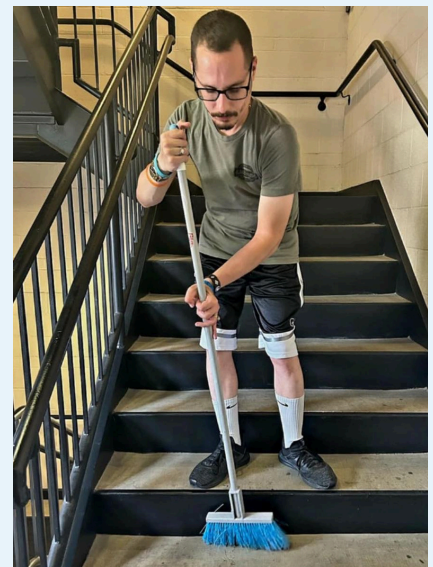
WORK WORK WORK



Bailey and Pat shredding paper for
Progressive Document Destruction



Rachel and Tim cleaning at
Engage Martial Arts in
Kittanning and
Klingensmith's Drug Store in
Ford City for Progressive
Commercial Cleaning





Thank you!

**THE ARMSTRONG COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
HELD ITS ANNUAL
WEEK OF GIVING FROM
MAY 6-10!**

**Thanks to our generous
supporters and community
members, PWAC received a
grand total of \$25,957.59 in
donations during the
Week of Giving!**

All donated funding is used to
benefit the quality experiences
we provide to our clients and
employees. Donations are used
to purchase equipment,
uniforms, memberships for
community outings, or to meet
other needs across our
programs.

*We can't wait to use these
donations to support those we
serve in all the best ways.*

**Thank you for generously
supporting us!**



View the full list of
donors on our
[website!](#)



PWAC'S 3RD ANNUAL "GRIP IT & RIP IT" GOLF SCRAMBLE WAS A SUCCESS!



Thank you to everyone who sponsored, donated to, participated in, or volunteered for our third annual "Grip It & Rip It" Golf Scramble on Saturday, June 22!

It was a great day out on the golf course that raised just over \$15,000 for our Client/Employee Activity Fund! We are so grateful to our amazing supporters for helping to make this event the great success that it was; thank you for donating your time, funding, and the 80+ prizes that were auctioned off during our basket raffle! The funds raised will be used to address a variety of needs across all our programs for the benefit of our clients and employees.

We can't wait for next year's outing on June 28, 2025 at a new location: The Links at Spring Church golf course in Apollo, PA!

See more photos from the outing on our [website](#).



THANK YOU

to our golf sponsors and donors!

**"HOLE IN
ONE"
SPONSOR**

The logo for Cook Medical, featuring the word "COOK" in large white serif font on a red background, with "MEDICAL" in smaller white sans-serif font on a dark red background below it.

COOK[®]
MEDICAL

"BIRDIE" SPONSORS



**ROSEBUD MINING
COMPANY**

The logo for Edward Jones, featuring the name "Edward Jones" in a dark blue serif font on a yellow background.

Edward Jones[®]



"PAR" SPONSORS



Lithuanian Club
East Vandergrift, PA



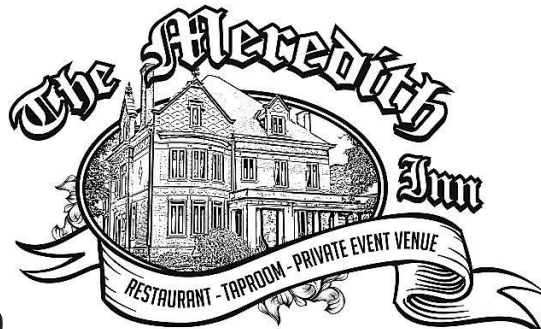
412-826-1000
www.thermotwin.com



BEVERAGE CART SPONSORS

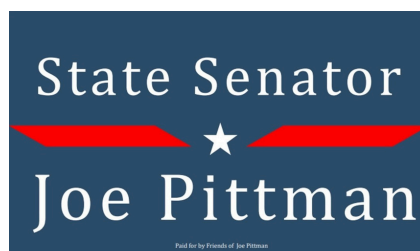


Mantini Funeral Home Inc.



412-826-1000
www.thermotwin.com

POLISH FALCONS NEST 159



Woodside Plumbing, LLC



ANONYMOUS SPONSOR



HOLE SPONSORS



Steiner Sacco Law

MaherDuessel



Latin American Beneficial Society
Italian Club



CHARITY SCRAMBLE INTEGRITY INC.

KITTANNING MOOSE LODGE 137

SCHAEFFER'S TIRES



Dr. Nancy Kennedy



"An Extraordinary Advantage"



Elks Care - Elks Share
Kittanning Lodge #203



Christ Rupp
Lutheran Church
Member of the KITTANNING LUTHERAN CHURCH



Rural Valley, PA



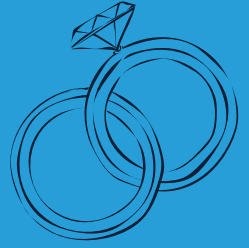
ARMSTRONG
EYE CARE
Associates



Fraternal Order
of Eagles
Aerie #896



FROM PROGRESSIVE WOOD WORKS... CUSTOM WEDDING BOARDS



If you haven't heard, we're taking orders for custom cutting boards! It's wedding season, and if you're attending one soon, consider ordering a very special wedding gift: **a board that can be customized with the bride and groom's names and wedding date.**

These boards are beautifully handcrafted by our employees, and they would love to make you one! All designs are engraved using our CNC machine.

If you decide to purchase a board, please call our office at 724-548-5664! Since this is a custom item, we want to be sure to speak with you personally to get the details just right at the time your order is placed.



There have been plenty of projects to work on in the woodshop lately...add your new custom board to Progressive Wood Works' list of orders!



MORE FROM PROGRESSIVE WOOD WORKS...

THE STORY OF OUR HANDMADE BOARDS



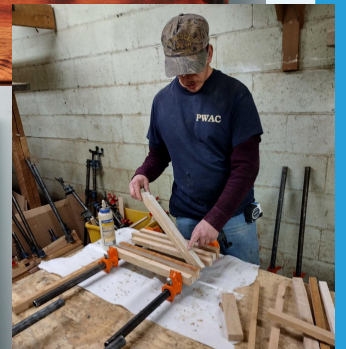
Steve Bardall and Chris Yanoff

Have you ever wondered how PWAC's Progressive Wood Works got its start making cutting boards and charcuterie boards? These handmade products are beautifully crafted by PWAC staff and employees, and they are loved by many customers from around the country as far as Alaska! But for a long time, Progressive Wood Works sold primarily wooden stakes and firewood. It wasn't until PWAC board member **Chris Yanoff** was talking with a friend, **Steve Bardall**, that he realized the woodshop was missing a potential opportunity to craft and sell handmade boards.

Steve Bardall owns Whiskey Joe's Reclaimed Wood, a small business where he sells his handmade furniture and accessories that are made mostly from old barn wood. His craftsmanship breathes new life into old, used wood to create something beautiful and new. The past three years, Steve has crafted flight and whiskey shooter boards that have been donated as prizes for PWAC's annual Golf Scramble basket raffle.

One day while they were out at Steve's cabin at his family's farm in Tippecanoe, Ohio, Steve, knowing that PWAC's woodshop sold wooden stakes and firewood, suggested to Chris that the woodshop start crafting handmade boards as well. Chris liked the idea and suggested it to PWAC CEO, Michelle. While she was skeptical at first that this would be the right move for the woodshop, eventually she agreed after Steve made three cutting boards as examples to show her. PWAC woodshop staff began working with the employees to craft cutting boards, and then later, they started making different sizes and attaching handles to make charcuterie boards. "The Woodshop" sub-business was officially renamed "Progressive Wood Works" in 2021, and they now sell a variety of handmade and customizable boards, seasonal decorations, garden boxes, and even picnic tables. The employees learn a variety of valuable skills and enjoy the work as well!

Thanks to Steve and Chris for originally planting this idea at PWAC! This is just another great example of how PWAC supporters can truly make a difference in our agency through their ideas, contributions, and desire to support our mission and those we serve.



Visit pwacprogressivewoodworks.com!

SUMMER HAPPENINGS AT PWAC



Staff and clients from AAC Kittanning went blueberry picking!

We have a fun tradition of bringing the local ice cream truck to our locations at the end of June each year to celebrate the end of one fiscal year and the start of another!



Progressive Wood Works had a Sidewalk Sale at Klingensmith's Drug Store!



We had our annual Pool Party for our clients, employees, staff, and their families on July 19 at the Belmont Complex in Kittanning!



Check us out on YouTube!

Thanks to a grant from the Armstrong County Community Foundation, we had two professional videos made that are all about who we are and what we do. Take a few moments to watch them on our [YouTube channel](#)!

STAFF ANNIVERSARIES!

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

Happy "Workiversary"!

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

JUNE

Wes Higgins	6-4-2018
Amy Foringer	6-6-2023
Mariah Blattner	6-6-2023
Shannon Savoie	6-11-2018
Dominic Adams	6-11-2024
Linda Dillard	6-11-2024
Molly Rowan	6-20-2022
Brittany Bryan	6-24-2024



JULY

Martha Bowser	7-5-2016
Dean Waugaman	7-8-2019
Kayla Haye	7-8-2019
Maya Hoffman	7-8-2019
Andie Martin (not pictured)	7-15-2024
Michelle Reefer	7-20-2015
Nicole Sabatula	7-27-2020
Pam McKendree	7-27-2021
Rachel Blosnick	7-29-2024



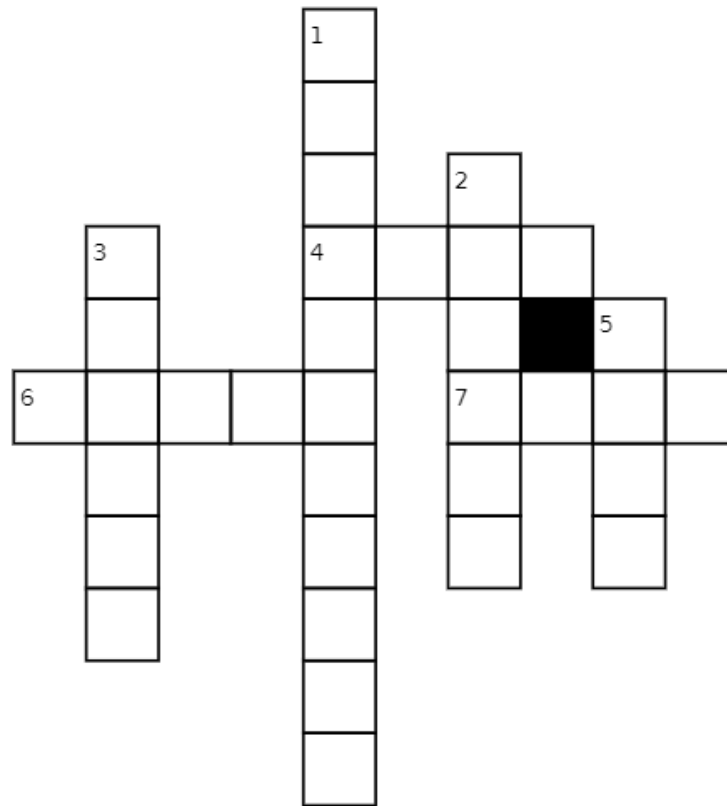
AUGUST

Kim Savoie	8-3-2016
Kelly Ballock	8-6-2019
Cearra Strothers	8-9-2019
Christy Moore	8-14-2018
Jack Crawford	8-19-2019
Lisa Kuchta	8-20-2012
Jenn Goughler	8-28-2017
Dan Moyer	8-31-2020
Harry Nelson	8-31-2022





Crossword Puzzle



Down:

1. The fruit that staff and clients from AAC Kittanning went picking this summer.
2. Our female Employee of the Month
3. Our male Employee of the Month
5. The sport we played at our recent summer fundraiser on June 22

Across:

4. He recently started operating the riding mower for Progressive Lawn & Landscaping
6. The name of Chris Yanoff's friend who inspired PWAC to start producing handmade boards.
7. The name of our top "Hole in One" sponsor for the golf outing.

THE PWAC TEAM

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lynn Sibley (President)
Rob Watt (Vice President)
Chris Yanoff (Secretary)
Sonie Mervis (Treasurer)
Ted Breuer (Emeritus)
LuAnne Frerotte

Linda Kuruc
Lee Walker
Gene Hughes
Justin Snow
Jill McMeekin

James Swast
Amy Ford
Joe Felschow
Nancy Kennedy
Chris Evans

OUR MANAGEMENT

L. Michelle Reefer
Kim Smith
Jennifer Goughler
Bogie Goughler
Kim C. Savoie
Kim Leone
Christin Pierce
Jennifer Wingard
Bob Reesman
Pam Cromie
Maria Emili

Chief Executive Officer
Chief Fiscal Officer
Vice President of Administration and Development
Vice President of Production and Community Based Services
Vice President of Programs and Compliance
Director of Benefits and Finance
Director of Community Based Services
Director of Compliance
Director of Operations
Director of Adult Achievement Center Kittanning
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

AAC Leechburg

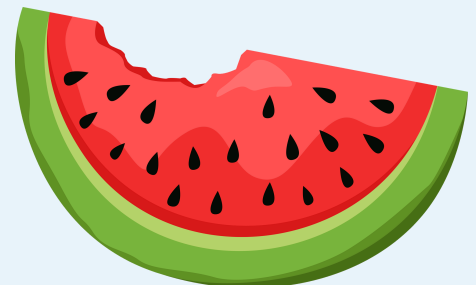
Coming soon!

Adult Achievement Center

368 Butler Road
Kittanning, PA 16201
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.



Move People Toward Jobs!