

# DECEMBER 2019



**Diane Bean, CES**  
**Tanya Cook, DSP**  
**Darren Eilers, DSP**  
**Johnna Gleason, SLS**  
**Angelise Gomez, DSP**  
**Xylia Gordon, DSP**  
**Jennifer Halton, RN**  
**Leeora Hart, DSP**

**Alida Helmer, Cashier**  
**Nathan Kemp, DSP**  
**Maria Matias, DSP**  
**Sheela Moore, Sales Associate**  
**Curtis Muffly, DSP**  
**Julie Nicholson, Individual**  
**Marcus Perich, Individual**  
**Amy Toler, CES**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO...

**Submitted by Grant Jackson**

The Holiday Season is upon us! There is plenty of snow in the mountains, it's dry and cool as usual in the Grand Valley and all seems to be right. There has been a hefty amount of merriment around STRIVE in the month of December to say the least! There was the first annual Chili Cook-off (won by Laura Russell and her incredible green chili), the magnificently ugly sweaters worn by so many of you and the many parties at our wonderful residences and programs. It was wonderful to see so many people coming together to celebrate the season and each other.

As we wrap up 2019, take a moment to reflect back on the time you have spent with the ones you care about. Know that the moments that you have created along the way, whether with your family or your work family, are impactful on many levels. The amazing folks we have the pleasure of supporting will remember the good times they have spent with you and will have a lasting impact on their lives. Be proud of what you have chosen to do and remember that a little kindness and compassion goes a long way.

Be well and here's to a great 2020!

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES...

### PR/DEVELOPMENT...

**Submitted by Doug Sorter**

#### PR/Marketing:

#### Presentations/PR/Marketing:

We are well on our way to having the highest number of interviews, guest appearances and scheduled meetings in the 5 plus years I've been involved with the STRIVE organization. It has been a pleasant surprise to have different service clubs and community groups contact us to present our story to them. The list is long and with that list

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the new "BIG CHECK" has caught on and everyone wants to give us a donation and get behind the big check. Merritt & Associates, Western Colorado Community Foundation, Nuclear Care Partners, UPS Grand Junction and Mark Miller/Ed Bozart Chevrolet have all been very generous.



KREX TV has gone above and beyond the call of duty to make sure we have extraordinary access to the local community with their news reporters and anchor teams.

MBC Grand Radio is another wonderful partner with Maggie La Hue leading the charge and finding new and innovative ways to get the STRiVE message to the public. Speaking of Maggie, she has done more than anyone I know to promote, elevate and boast about STRiVE and our commitment to Mesa County, she is a true STRiVE "Champion"!

Then there is the talented news reporters at our own incredible Daily Sentinel News Paper, led by one of our own foundation board members Jay Seaton. The tremendously insightful news' articles they have recently written, have been a Godsend, helping to educate our community on why STRiVE is such a needed and professional organization for the entire community.

Face Book, we now have Cindy Willms. She brings an attitude you can't teach, enthusiastic, energetic and a gigantic amount of initiative. She is the new Director of Community Outreach and has hit the ground in a full sprint.

### **Foundation Board:**

With the help of the Search Committee, we have brought on two new members, Nate Cook a young man who recently moved here and has a great story. Also, we have Kevin McChesney who is with KREX TV. We lost a couple of wonderful board members this year and we wish them good luck, Cameron Reece and Chris Mathews. We are still in the process of adding two additional members who will round out our team and have some prospects on our horizons. This year has clearly been the most productive fundraising year in the history of the STRiVE Foundation Board and it has all been due to a well-connected and Committed Board of Directors. I have no doubt that 2020 will be just as successful with this highly active team of hard working volunteers.

**Grants:**

We are in the process of retooling our grant development. We had a good degree of success this past year with donors and foundations and look to new challenges moving into 2020. With the addition of Alida's Fruit, we are making a huge step in to what type of supports, do we, as an agency, want to supply for the people we serve. The answer is, the kind we can with a social impact business such as Alida's. This approach is cutting edge and offers a greater sense of purpose and self-esteem, by providing real world jobs with real world advancements. Here is where we are going to focus our efforts in the grant arena, developing job opportunities not only in the STRiVE environment, but in Mesa county with coaching, training and job placement. This is exciting on so many levels.

**Vocational Department:**

We have been restructuring the Vocational Department to help meet the new direction that not only STRiVE wants to proceed with, but the State of Colorado. We have some room to improve and are hiring the right leaders to facilitate the vision for both fronts. Keep your eyes on Uniquely Yours, Wood Shop, Botanical Gardens and Alida's for many healthy changes to meet the desires of the people we support. The leaders in this department are so creative and hardworking I can't wait to see the outcomes.

**Transportation:**

Good news!!! Colorado Canyons / Family Health West Hospital donated a nice bus to STRiVE. We are in such need of this type of vehicle and for them to see our need and help fill it shows what a great community partner they are. We continue to struggle with our fleet and are looking at several options.

**Events:**

The Christmas Baskets are over the top this year, sensory Santa is becoming a tradition and we are starting to schedule our 2020 events.

- April 11<sup>th</sup> - Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Enstrom
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> - RoseCap Tulips & Juleps Derby Viewing
- May 21<sup>st</sup> - JUCO Picnic
- June concert???? - Dubious Brothers
- July 31<sup>st</sup> - Boys of Summer concert
- August concert - Oxymoron or ????

***VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS...*****2850 Chipeta**

***Submitted by: Peggy Gordon***

Creative Creations has had an artistic month! They have completed Christmas ornaments for Uniquely Yours and for the Craft fair held at the Botanical Gardens.

Snowman lawn decorations have been made and placed at each group home to add some holiday cheer to the residents and the neighborhoods. They continue to create new items and designs that are being sold at Uniquely Yours and the Botanical Gardens.



Woodshop was asked to create a Santa Sleigh bench and they delivered! With the Sensory Christmas upon us we added a bench to the event that allows Santa, Mrs. Clause and kiddos to sit on. This is just one of the creative ways the wood workers are able to do with an idea given. If you have an idea that you would like to see the wood shop create, please call 244-5541

### 508 Fruitvale

**Submitted by: Kelly Luppo**

#### Wellness and Active Wellness

Individuals were offered the opportunity to go on outings to the Art Center, Mesa Mall to look at MSU Football set up and had lunch in the food court, and a drive to pick up food for Thanksgiving. We also hosted a Thanksgiving Lunch that individuals helped plan decorations and food for. Uniquely Yours staff and individuals joined us in the Celebration.



#### Uniquely Yours

Uniquely Yours started prepping for the holiday season, decorating a winter wonderland window and multiple displays. We have a new display with Mountaineer Roasters and have delicious coffee options just in time for Christmas.

### ***HUMAN RESOURCES...***

**Submitted by: Adele Avolio**

#### Planning for your Future

Chris Munger of Mutual of America, our 403(b) provider is anxious to meet as many as possible this January. Please try to attend one of the meetings to plan for your future. The information is important!

The following meetings are set:

January 7<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 AM - 790 Wellington – Presentation  
01:00 PM - 390 Kava Way



03:30 PM – 790 Wellington – Please contact HR for one on one meeting with Chris.

January 8<sup>th</sup> – 09:00 AM to Noon – 790 Wellington – Please contact HR for one on one meeting with Chris.

02:00 PM – 2746 Olson Avenue – Presentation

03:30 PM – open – 790 Wellington Ave. – Please contact HR for one on one meeting with Chris.

### ***FINANCES...***

#### ***Submitted by Chris Bergquist:***

- We completed the GP dynamics annual upgrade and all went well.
- We had Mutual of America on site to review the 403b plan and all went well.

### ***MDS RESOURCE COORDINATION...***

#### ***Submitted by Kayla Purdy***

- For the month of November 4 SIS's were completed. We continue working on getting more and more individuals enrolled into services each month.
- This month the Case Management Department wants to recognize Kathryn Heuschkel. Kathryn is a wonderful part of our team and has just recently stepped into the role of being a Case Manager. She previously worked as one of our Monitoring Specialist. Kathryn was nominated for balancing both the Monitoring Specialist position and her new Case Management position while new staff is being trained for her old position. She is also always so willing to learn new things! We are so thankful for all of Kathryn's hard work and positive attitude! Thank you Kathryn and keep up the awesome work! Kathryn does a wonderful job at supporting the individuals she serves.
- The Case Management Department would like to nominate Khristina Kukus and Shelby Neuhaus for volunteering to pick up an individual in crisis who was several hours away and bringing them back to GJ safely. Also, we would like to nominate the Strive Host Home Department, overall, for ensuring the individual's safety and going above and beyond to provide residential support and staff. There have been additional Strive staff members that have volunteered to staff her at the location she is staying and we also want to applaud their efforts and supporting the individual during this time. They have done an exceptional job and have worked very well as a team throughout all of this!



<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	
<b>DAY</b>	<b>STAFF</b>
1	Marcia Jeppesen
2	Aston Walsh
3	Peggy James
5	Mary Carman, Rapp Carter, Joseph Hedges, Trenton Hose
6	Lance Kenner,
8	Caitlin Moody
11	Kristen Dravage-Smith,
12	Kailey Lewis,
13	Ana Morris
14	Grant Jackson, Jimmie Moore
15	Luke Rogers
17	Robert Herrera
18	Jennifer, Kolb, Jessica Mulvey, Mary Techera
19	Sarah Bonnell,
20	Meagan Duncan,
21	Tiffani Pollock
22	Connie Benson
23	Nancy, Gardner, David Jeffery
24	Holly Moffett
27	Dennis Burnette
28	Sean Beard, Holly Nelson
29	Johnna Gleason
30	Chrissy Romatske, Jessica Soule

<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>	
<b>YEAR</b>	<b>STAFF</b>
1	Michelle Estep, Andrew Lindbach, Lou Nesbit, Teri Summers, Ani Wood
2-4	Sandra Eagan, Dayche Hannum, David Jeffery, Jeanne Sargent, Beth Will
5	Emmilie Anderson
6 - 9	Tammy Pomeroy, Mary Thompson, Eddy Willison
14	Janet Martinez