

Board of Directors 2025

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Friends Aware



Quarterly Newsletter

February 2025

A message from the Board President

After the presents are unwrapped, we are lucky enough to receive another gift: A brand new year.

Each year gives us opportunities to make new memories, learn new things, and celebrate new accomplishments.

The Board of Directors encourages you to join us in supporting the individuals we serve to do all those things and more! You can do so by attending board meetings, donating to fundraisers, or simply telling a friend about Friends Aware.

Community engagement is essential to our mission, so the Board would like to acknowledge everyone who was a part of organizing and/or attending our social events and fundraisers in 2024. Our Baskets and Brews event was one of our most successful to date, thanks to the contributions of generous donors and enthusiastic attendees. We hope to see you all again this year!

Until then, thank you for being a part of Friends Aware. I wish you a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2025.

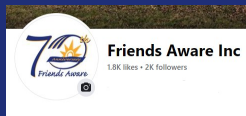
Warm Regards,

Katherine Lynch Speights

Board President



<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsAware>



Follow our facebook page to stay up to date on announcements, events, along with FAI info for individuals, employees, and supporters!

Friends Aware provides the following services in Allegany County!

Respite
Residential
Day Habilitation
Employment Services
Community Development Services
Behavior Supports

If you are interested in any of these services, call us at 301-722-7268!



Employment Services

Friends Aware employment services match individuals to roles and workplaces that are the right fit, taking into account specific skills, learning styles, and accommodation requirements.

This personalized guidance helps to build confidence, independence, and a sense of purpose.

FAI individuals thrive in a wide range of careers and make invaluable contributions to their communities. Ultimately, employment services empower individuals to achieve their full potential, live more independently, and actively participate in the workforce alongside their peers.

Pictured below, Employment Services participant Wally is cleaning windows at Basecamp Coffee while Justin is dusting at the Parrish House.





**Welcome!
New Employees
of Quarter 4**

Substitutes

Amanda Casey	Crystal Dolly
Kevin Jordan	Ciera Kinney
Sabrina Hall	Amanda Casey
Chrystal Winterstine	

Community Development Assistant

Michele Giebel

Community Living Assistant

Raevyn Wolford	Brian Hall
Courtney Smith	Baylee Yaider
Alionda Billings	Paige Thomas
Aidan Griffith	Madeline Williams

Residential Counselor

Kerry Weide

Staff Accountant

Robert Suesse

Maintenance

James Root

Employee Spotlight



Karen Pryor

I have fun here and love my job!
I truly feel good about coming to
work and about what I do!

Friends Aware has wonderful
people to work with especially
the individuals.

- Karen Pryor

Karen has been employed at FAI since 2013. Karen is a bus driver, a bus aide and helps at the front desk.

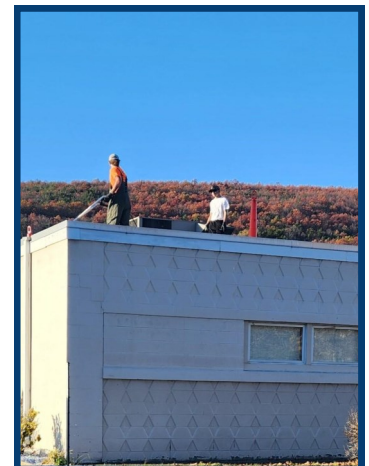
A graduate from Flintstone School, Karen lives in Cumberland with her husband Randy of 35 years.

Karen enjoys trips to Café Mark for coffee and baking.

When Karen transports FAI vehicles to our partners at Rice Tire, she makes sure to take along some of her fresh baked goods to share with the employees there.

Life Enrichment Center (LEC) Roofing Project

**The LEC roof replacement
is underway!**



Employee Anniversaries

42 Years

Sue Buehler

40 Years

Alan McDonald

11 Years

Virginia Georg

10 Years

Joseph Darr
Kimberly Farrall

8 Years

Kimberly Walters
Rachel McMillian
Karen Oster

7 Years

Jessica Bender
Ryan Cuba

4 Years

Henriette Soro

3 Years

Kaila Smith
April Budrecki
Cody Sindy
Taylor Pollock

2 Years

Kellie Abe
Dawn McTaggart
Tracie Suder
Molly Fox
Susan Atkinson
Madilynn Rudd
Tanya Rosenberger
Maggie Smith
Sheriann Mcmillan
Carleanna Antunes

1 Year

Jennifer Brown
James Crouse
Cheyenn Tippet
Trey Bennet
Kyla Rhoads
Connie Griffith
Angel Thomas

Recognition Dinner Winners

Outstanding Leader



Hillary Kerr

Substitute Employee of the Year



Crystal Bickling

Karen Howell

Helping Hand Award



Antony Wagoner

Direct Support Professional of the Year



Nick Graves

Essential Support Staff

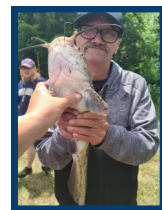
of the Year



Bayleigh DiNicola

Community Partner

of the Year



**Spring Valley Fishing
Lake & Campground**

\$70 for Our 70 Years!

We held a monthly employee drawing through 2024 giving employees a chance to win \$70 each!
Congratulations to our quarter 4 winners!

**John Kelly
Gayle Nicol
Chatia Craze**



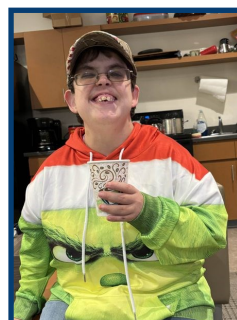
Activities!

We volunteered at the Cumberland Community Church clothing drive.

The Meaningful Day Services Program participated in Cocoa with the PoPo.



Activities



Individual in Service Spotlight

Wayne Wolfe aka-Pappy began services with Friends Aware in 1993. Pappy said that he loves his job and loves the folks he works with. Pappy currently lives with his cat "Kitty". While with FAI, Pappy has worked a number of jobs. Pappy was employed on the Lawn Crew, worked on in-house contracts, assembled handles on buckets for Berry Plastics, quality checked probes for Northrop Grumman and worked at many of the custodial jobsites before landing his job with FAI as one of the custodians of the LEC and Administration buildings.

Pappy is a hard independent worker and a role model for his peers.



Smiling Faces at Friends Aware!



Linda enjoys lunch out with family.



Right, Hollie enjoys time in the Sensory Room.



Below, Kelsey joined the Christmas party with a festive sweater





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www.friendsaware.org

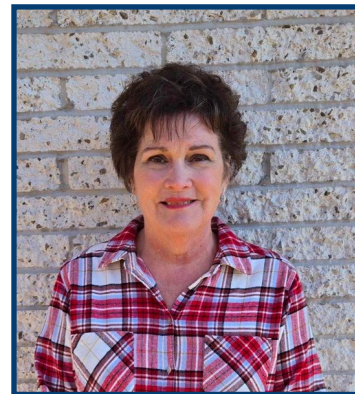
Congratulations to our retirees!

Sue Buehler



**42 years of
service**

Lois Russell



**33 years of
service**



Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date with all of our events and public announcements

You can also [Donate to our Mission](#) through our website at:

Friendsaware.org/donate

Or

Mail a Check to

Friends Aware, Inc.

Attn: Finance Director

1601 Holland Street

Cumberland, MD 21502