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Mark Bittinger

Executive Director



Friends Aware's NEW Van!



A grant obtained from the Maryland Rural Council provided partial funding for Friends Aware to purchase a brand new, fully handicap accessible 2025 Ford Transit Van.



Welcome New Employees

Community Development Assistant

Caralynn Beeseck

Amanda Skidmore

Cassandra Wolford

Community Living Assistant

Annie Cespedes

Krystal Duvall

Alfonzo Lee

Dalaysha Loper

Jerald Pastro

Jennifer Purdy

Hunter Ray

Ella Robinson

Kaitlyn Sisler

Substitute

Greyson Ellis

Makayla Pratt

Emilee Siegmyer

Jillian Sudine

Lexa Winters

Employee Spotlight



Matt Kidwell

Maintenance Technician



Matt Kidwell has been part of the FAI Maintenance team for 2 years. He has years of experience in construction, preventive maintenance, and auto mechanics.

Matt resides with his family in Short Gap WV. He enjoys hot rod cars, camping and fiddling around in the garage.

Matt- "I enjoy working at Friends Aware because each day has a different task to tackle. I am humbled by the care that is given by the staff at Friends Aware giving people with disabilities the opportunity to live active and social lives."

From Cyndi Snyder (Maintenance and Transportation Manager)-
"He is always ready and willing to do what is needed without hesitation. There is always a fist bump or handshake with individuals in services."

Allegany College of Maryland Transition Job Fair

Misty Hampton, Employment Support Assistant, and Cory May, Employment Services Manager, attended the Allegany College of Maryland Transition Job Fair.

The job fair was a wonderful opportunity for more than 60 students to learn about future employment possibilities and programs designed to support them as they transition into the workforce.

Friends Aware was excited to meet so many motivated



students. Five students expressed strong interest in the employment services offered through Friends Aware, and one parent even took down our contact information and shared positive feedback about potentially using our services for future employment support.

Overall, the students were very engaged throughout the event, asking questions, interacting with employers, and exploring future opportunities. Friends Aware is proud to be part of events like this that help connect individuals with meaningful employment opportunities and strengthen our community partnerships.

We look forward to continuing to support individuals in reaching their employment goals and building brighter futures within our community!



Employee Anniversaries

43 Years

Sue Buehler

11 Years

Joseph Darr

Kimberly Farrall

8 Years

Ryan Cuba

3 Years

Kellie Abe

Susan Atkinson

Carly Broadwater

Molly Fox

Sheri McMillan

Maggie Smith

Tracie Suder

Dawn West-

McTaggart

1 Year

Crystal Dolly

Aidan Griffith

Brian Hall

Paige Thomas

Kerry Weide

41 Years

Alan McDonald

9 Years

Rachel McMillan

Karen Oster

Kimberly Walters

4 Years

April Budrecki

Taylor Pollock

Cody Sindy

Kaila Smith

2 Years

Trey Bennett

James Crouse

Connie Griffith

Angel Thomas

Trunk or Treat



Smiling Faces





During the Friends and Family event held at Long Horn Steakhouse December 5th-7th, proceeds from the sale of wine, beer and specialty beverages were donated to Friends Aware. In attendance from Friends Aware for the “Lasso” ribbon cutting and Grand opening event on Monday, December 8th, 2025 were David Goad (Community Relations & Resource Development Director), Jennifer Brown (Operations Director) and Erin Arnold (Finance Director) to accept the gracious donation of \$3,500.



Jennifer Brown (FAI Operations Director) & Erin Arnold (FAI Finance Director) visited the WebstaurantStore Distribution Center - Cumberland, MD to accept a generous **donation of \$10,883** to Friends Aware Inc coordinated by Whitney Connely (WEB Recruitment & Community Relations Manager). Thank you, WebstaurantStore, for your incredible generosity! What a thoughtful way to make an impact in our community.



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Mark Bittinger, Executive Director, accepts a donation from the Fort Hill tailgating gang represented by Dennis Bernard and Reva Christopher.



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