



PEP TALK

Programs for Exceptional People's Monthly Newsletter

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Executive Director*
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July was quite a month for PEP! We received overwhelming support at our grand opening celebration and ribbon cutting ceremony on July 24. Read more about it and check out pictures from the event on page two. We welcomed our new Executive Director, Marielena DiMatteo, to PEP on July 15—you can learn more about her on pages three and four. Our monthly Aktion Club meeting was held on July 25 and we had a special guest speaker from The Island Packet (page four). The annual gala is very quickly approaching on September 10 and we are still accepting sponsorships for the event (page five). The RSVP deadline for gala tickets is August 16. If you're interested in volunteering at PEP, opportunities are listed on page five. Take a look at page six to view all of the news coverage PEP received in July.

To submit any comments, ideas for future newsletters, or to write a letter to the editor, please email taylor.sullivan@pephhi.org.



Bookmobile Visit



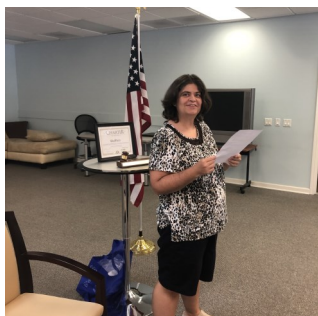
Yoga Class



Ready for Fourth of July



Lizzie Comfort Dog Visit



Aktion Club Meeting



Mr. Charlie's Birthday



Music Class



Contract Work for the Fire Dept.



Grand Opening

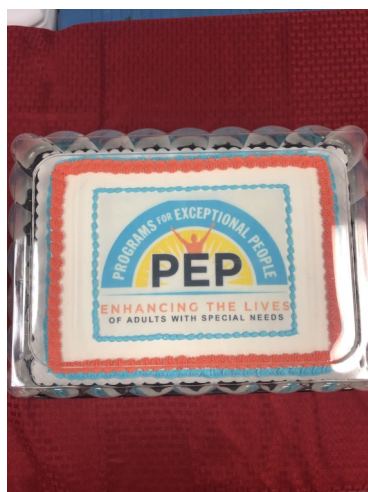
PEP's Grand Opening

July 24, 2019

The grand opening of PEP's new facility in Bluffton, held on Wednesday, July 24, was a huge success! We could not be more grateful for all of the individuals who attended the grand opening to show their support of PEP and help us celebrate our beautiful new building. We were absolutely thrilled about the impressive turn out from community members and supporters.

A very special thank you goes out to Mayor Lisa Sulka for attending and speaking at the event, along with the Greater Bluffton Chamber of Commerce for conducting the ribbon cutting ceremony and officially welcoming us into the Bluffton community. This event would not have been possible without the hard work of PEP's incredible staff, board, and volunteers. Thank you, also, to Island Bagel & Deli and Which Wich, both in Bluffton, for donating the delicious food, and to Sam's Club in Bluffton for the donation of the fabulous PEP cake.

We felt so incredibly supported and welcomed into our new community, and are excited about growing here for many years. PEP has a bright future in Bluffton!



Get to Know Our Team

Marielena DiMatteo, Executive Director



We are thrilled to introduce PEP's new Executive Director, Marielena DiMatteo. Marielena has an extensive background in non-profit leadership and HR, and also has experience as a lead teacher in a classroom with high functioning disabled adults. She officially started at PEP on Monday, July 15. Please make sure to give Marielena a warm welcome to PEP and feel free to stop by to meet her. Read on to learn more about Marielena....

What made you interested in the position of Executive Director at PEP?

I have a passion for helping others. Working with disabled adults is really close to my heart.

Tell me about some of the work you have done in the past before coming to PEP.

I was the Executive Director for the Ronald McDonald House for eight years. I have worked in education and hospitality, I was a church administrator and have worked at several other non-profit organizations.

What is your educational background?

I have a bachelor's degree in psychology from Fordham University.

What do you enjoy most about working with the population we serve at PEP?

Their smiles and their positive energy. I love watching them accomplish a goal and seeing the pleasure they get from the simple things in life.

Tell me about yourself—where you're from, your family, etc.

I'm from New York. I moved south four years ago for a more simple life. I live here with my eight year old son, Evan, and my American Bulldog, Roxy. I have a 26 year old daughter, Amanda, who still lives in New York.

What are some of your hobbies or things you like to do when you're not working?

The beach. One of the key factors in moving south was to be close to the beach. I love coastal living, and I love being outdoors, even when it's hot!

What accomplishment are you most proud of professionally and/or personally?

Opening and leading the Ronald McDonald House is definitely my most proud moment professionally. During the eight years there, I established programs, hired staff, created policies and procedures, and raised funds. The house is a very successful house within the Ronald McDonald House organization. Personally, I'm most proud of raising really good kids!

Get to Know Our Team

Marielena DiMatteo, Executive Director

What are some of your goals for PEP for the rest of 2019?

I'd like to establish more programs for our members, build more relationships within our community, and increase our growth.

What do you envision for the future of PEP?

I envision PEP as a staple in the community, a leader in services to the disabled, and doubling our size with members and staff.

Do you have a favorite quote or motto you live by?

"Life is short, make it sweet" is one of them. And the other one I really like is "When you focus on problems, you'll have more problems. When you focus on possibilities, you'll have more opportunities."



PEP Aktion Club

July Meeting

The PEP Aktion Club met for the fourth time on June 25. An Aktion Club is a service club made up of adults with disabilities, and it's under the umbrella of the Kiwanis Club. Their mission is "to provide adults living with disabilities an opportunity to develop initiative, leadership skills and to serve their communities." At the July meeting we were lucky enough to have David Lauderdale, Columnist and Senior Editor at The Island Packet, as our guest speaker. He had a lot of interesting things to talk to our members about, including his job, what he has learned from reporting over the years, the importance of reading and writing as much as possible, and lots of facts and history about our community. The members loved hearing his stories. Also in attendance were several members from the Kiwanis Club of Bluffton.

The Aktion Club has decided their first service project will be collecting school supplies to donate to Bluffton Self Help. Details to follow later this month.

At each Aktion Club meeting, we would like to have a guest speaker from the community come in and do an informal 20 to 30 minute presentation for our members. If you are interested in speaking at one of the meetings, please contact Taylor Sullivan, PEP's community relations coordinator, at 843-681-8023 or taylor.sullivan@pephhi.org.



PEP Announcements

Ways to Help—Gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure

The annual gala is quickly approaching on Tuesday, September 10 at Sea Pines Country Club. Tickets are now on sale through August 16, so get yours today!

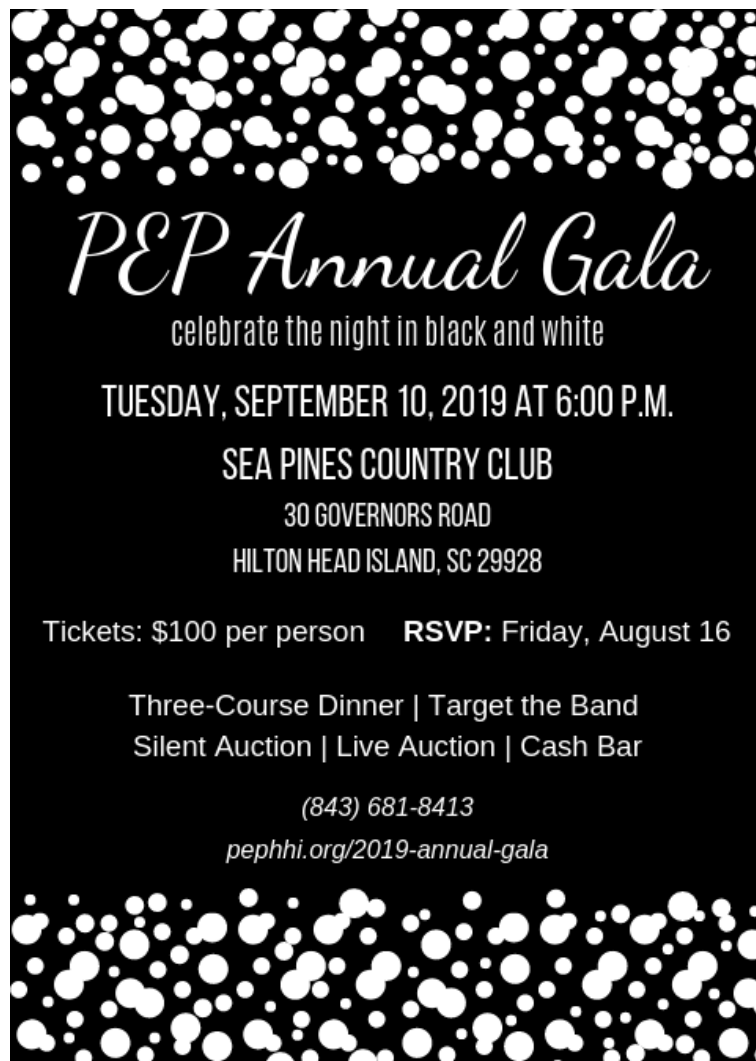
The gala is PEP's biggest fundraiser of the year. The night will include a three-course dinner, a silent auction, a live auction, and dancing with Target the Band.

Many spectacular auction items are up for grabs, including restaurant gift cards, gym memberships, salon and spa packages, shopping gift cards, yoga classes, water sport activities, Vagabond cruises, movie tickets, zipline adventures, Segway tours, and dog grooming packages.

We are still accepting more sponsors for the event at the following levels:

- ◆ Presenting—\$2,500 (includes 10 tickets)
- ◆ Platinum—\$1,500 (includes 8 tickets)
- ◆ Gold—\$1,000 (includes 6 tickets)
- ◆ Silver—\$500 (includes 4 tickets)

Please email Taylor Sullivan, community relations coordinator, at taylor.sullivan@pephhi.org if you would like to be a sponsor. It is a great way to promote your business while supporting a wonderful cause.



PEP Annual Gala
celebrate the night in black and white
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 AT 6:00 P.M.
SEA PINES COUNTRY CLUB
30 GOVERNORS ROAD
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC 29928
Tickets: \$100 per person **RSVP: Friday, August 16**
Three-Course Dinner | Target the Band
Silent Auction | Live Auction | Cash Bar
(843) 681-8413
pephhi.org/2019-annual-gala

PEP Volunteering Opportunities

Ergonomics Product Manufacturer

Assist with cutting carpet and sawing cardboard tubes for our ergonomics product manufacturing micro-business

Exercise Instructor

Lead an instructive and interactive exercise class, such as Yoga, Zumba, Jazzercise, or Pilates

Class Instructor

Lead an instructive and interactive class for members on a topic of your choice and expertise

Fundraising and Development

Assist staff and board with PEP's annual gala, annual appeal, and continuous fundraising and development opportunities

Music Instructor

Play music interactively with members and/or give music lessons

Recreation Assistant

Assist with after-hours recreation activities like bowling, golfing, movies, sporting events, concerts, etc.

Staff Assistant

Assist staff at lunchtime and with buses in the morning and in the afternoon

Please fill out the volunteer interest form on our website:
<https://www.pephhi.org/volunteer-application>

PEP In The News

News Coverage from the Grand Opening

Click each picture to view the story



ISLANDPACKET.COM

Bluffton gains new resource for adults with disabilities, a bigger place to work and play.



WSAV.COM

Bluffton non-profit Programs for Exceptional People opens new facility



BLUFFTONTODAY.COM

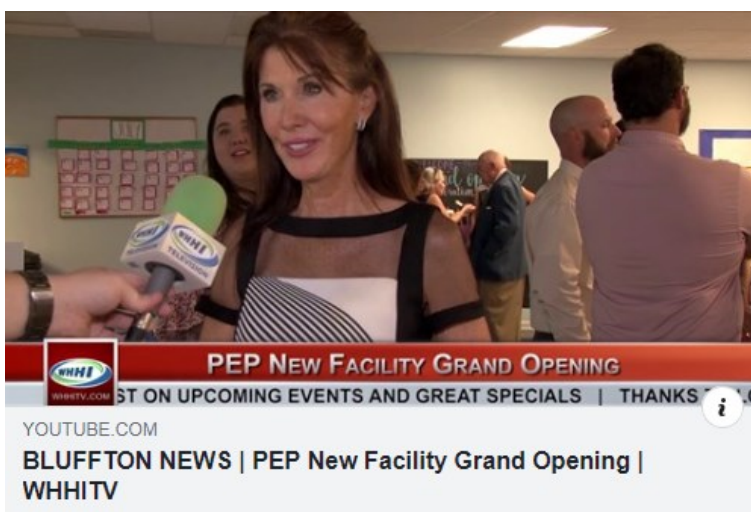
Programs for Exceptional People opens Bluffton facility

Programs for Exceptional People, a 23-year-old nonprofit that provides...



WTOG.COM

Organization for adults with intellectual disabilities opening new building in Bluffton



PEP New Facility Grand Opening

STAY ON UPCOMING EVENTS AND GREAT SPECIALS | THANKS

YOUTUBE.COM

BLUFFTON NEWS | PEP New Facility Grand Opening | WHHITV