



PEP TALK

Programs for Exceptional People's Newsletter

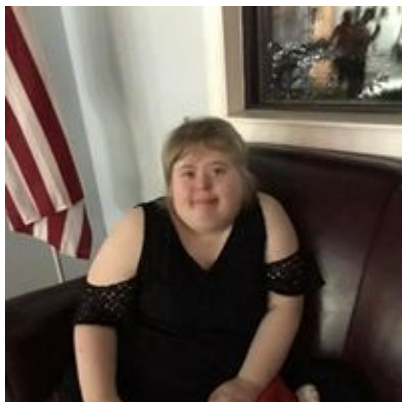
In this issue:

- **January at a Glance**
- **February at a Glance**
- **Get to Know Our Team**
- **PEP Announcements**

Welcome to 2020!. We hope everyone had a great holiday season and are looking forward to what the new year has in store for us here at PEP! We started out the year with a dance and the members had a blast. Everyone was dressed in their best attire and enjoyed the music, dancing with their friends and of course the food.

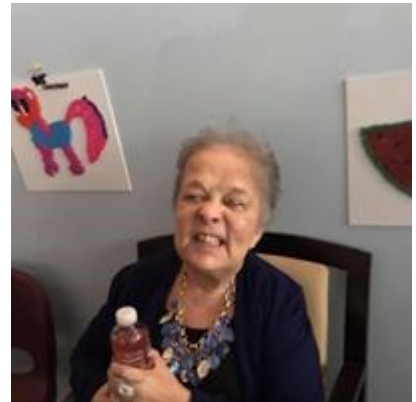
We were so blessed to find Ms. Lori who has been helping us out in the ceramics studio until we hire a new instructor. Read more about her in the Getting to Know our Team page.

We continue to hold court at the Bluffton Farmers Market on Thursdays with the help of a few dedicated parents and members. Our Leisure and Recreation program has been put on hold for the time being so Ms. Jennie can focus her attention on the very popular and successful computer/reading lab and hopefully a new career prep center coming in the next few months. Ms. Mary Jo began taking a group bowling on Mondays to Station 300 and the members are loving it. Ours members are busy out in the community and we are so proud of them and what they are able to accomplish. We have a number of members involved in Special Olympics in bowling, tennis, basketball as well as track and field. We also have a small but mighty group of cheerleaders who compete with the Carolina Dream All Stars. which is owned and operated by our own Ms.Connor Dafler.

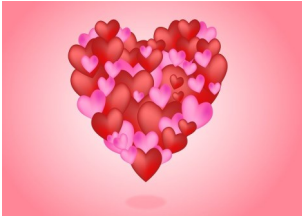


January/February 2020

January At A Glance



February At A Glance



There was a whole lot of love shared throughout the month of February at PEP!. There were crafts and plenty of cards given and received on 2/14. The month also celebrated the annual Tim Tebow Foundation's "Night to Shine Prom"

The event took place on 2/7 and a number of our members were able to attend for an unforgettable night of glamour, music and fun!

Night to Shine is a special **prom night** experience for people with special needs ages 14 and older, hosted by local churches in all 50 states and across the globe.



Get to Know Our Team

Lori Fuller, Ceramic Instructor



The staff and members were so fortunate to have Ms. Lori here with us to help with our Pottery Studio. Please read below to find out more about her.

How did you come to us at PEP?

My husband Bruce and I were coming for a 2 month stay on Hilton Head. I was worried about being bored so I contacted the Hilton Head Christian Academy and asked if I could come in and help out with their art program. Through a mutual acquaintance, I was put in contact with PEP and the rest is history!

Tell us a bit more about your background!

I taught art for 30 years in a Christian School atmosphere as well as homeschool settings for grades K—12. I graduated from Kent State with a Masters in Art Education with an emphasis in ceramics. I retired 3 years ago and currently reside in Ohio. I am married and have two step daughters and three grandchildren. I spend time in my ceramic studio located in my house creating decorative pottery which is showcased and sold at a local art gallery.

What has been most rewarding about working here at PEP?

This was my first time working with special needs adults so I wasn't sure what to expect, but after meeting them and experiencing their genuine kindness and respect I was hooked. The short amount of time I spent here left me with an "amazing providence." The feeling of love and acceptance from the staff and members is the real deal. Watching the members progress towards their goals was just an amazing experience, one I won't forget.

What kinds of activities do you enjoy in your spare time?

Bike riding, hiking, vacationing out west, going to the beach, reading and sewing are just a few of my favorites!

What would your favorite memory be from your time here?

This may sound silly, but one of the members told me a joke on a particularly stressful day and the joke totally lightened my mood and put the world in perspective.

What do you wish people knew about PEP?

Having never worked with the special needs population, I would let people know that they have their own way of communicating even though it may be different and just want to be accepted for who they are. This is truly a special place where people can interact and have a community amongst themselves. I was blown away about how well the staff knows all the members and treats them with such care, love and respect. I will miss my new friends!

PEP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Stephanie has been hard at work with the members making some incredibly amazing creations for purchase. She started with a few Valentines items which then turned into St. Patrick's Day and then Easter! All of the items can be found at our Bluffton location or at the Bluffton Farmers Market on Thursdays. We continue to be an active presence at the farmers market selling our pottery thanks to devoted parents and members. These will make a great addition to what we have to offer. The members truly love being a part of this process from beginning to end. Ms. Stephanie is so very creative and we are honored to have her with us.



A very special Thank You to the following for their generous donations and grants to benefit our program. Words don't seem to be enough to express how much these donations mean to us and the members of PEP.

\$4276.00 Grant from Columbus Hope Foundation

\$3000.00 Grant from The Bargain Box

\$2300.00 Donation from Tom Peebles and the Heritage Classic Foundations Champions
Fore Charity program.

\$1000.00 donation in honor of one of our members

\$250.00 Gift Card from Jill Jauch and Peacock Automotive



Officer John Destasio from the Bluffton Police Department came in on Feb. 25 for a very special visit to talk to our members about community safety and to answer questions they had prepared about police work. A good time was had by all and we learned so much!

