

THE REZ GAZETTE

SPIN Residential Services Newsletter



Shante's Lemonade Stand

In 2024 Shante joined the SPIN Family when she moved into her new home. To celebrate, Shante wanted to throw a party but didn't know where to start. Her team brainstormed and came up with the idea to hold a Lemonade Stand outside the SPIN offices. Shante's lemonade stand became more than just a place to enjoy a refreshing drink it transformed into a vibrant gathering space where friends came together to celebrate her journey. While Shante's immediate goal was entrepreneurial, raising funds for a party it also carried a deeper significance, marking another meaningful step in her ongoing growth in confidence, independence, and social connection.

Over the past year, Shante has been dedicated to strengthening her social skills, building friendships, and developing strategies to manage her emotions effectively. The lemonade stand proved to be a wonderful success, offering her the chance to put these abilities into practice while also gaining valuable experience. She learned important lessons in money management, practiced meaningful social interactions with a diverse group of customers, and fully embraced the spirit of entrepreneurship.

Throughout the day, Shante excelled in engaging with a large number of people, earning praise for her warm interactions, professionalism, and positive energy. She confidently promoted her lemonade, handled transactions with responsibility, and demonstrated genuine pride in her work. Despite the busy pace and high volume of activity, Shante navigated the experience with grace and enthusiasm, making the day both rewarding and memorable.

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Holiday Celebrations



Everyone at SPIN had a wonderful holiday season! From enjoying holiday events to opening gifts and spending time with friends and family, the holidays were filled with joy, warmth and memorable moments.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Lorraine celebrates!



Patty celebrated her 75th Birthday with her friends



JB blowing out his candles!



Barb celebrates 66 in style!



Judy at her birthday party!



Kelsey celebrating!



Melissa turns 56!



Kathy celebrated her 63rd Birthday



Harriet celebrated her birthday surrounded by all of her friends



Tom celebrated at the local bowling alley!



Mary celebrated a milestone 85th Birthday!



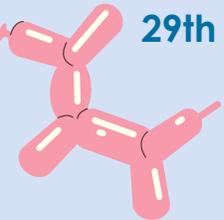
Stephanie celebrated with friends and pizza!

BIRTHDAYS!



September

1st – Willie H
3rd – Shawn K
4th – Renju M
6th – Mark M, John J
9th – John W
10th – Carole R
11th – Omega J
13th – Harriet L
14th – Michael C
16th – Ron W, Jessica E
17th - Marc C, Josh W
19th – Francis K
22nd - Dylan L
29th – Desmond C



December

3rd – Rose V
10th – David W, Connie D
13th – Anthony C
17th – Will C, Gerry M
18th – Martin M
22nd - Frank H
23rd - Shante W
26th – Christine L
27th – Pamela H
28th – Susan G
29th – Johnny C
30th – Ken M
31st – Christine H

October

3rd – Michael V
4th – Sal R
6th – Danielle K
9th - Graynle E
13th – Michael O
15th – Paul T
19th – Sharon L
21st – Samuel D
22nd – James C, Joshua P
23rd – Cynthia S
24th – Debra L, Peter M, Melvin J
25th – Renzo D-V
28th – Max C
29th – Joey R
30th - Karen A, Ricky H

January

3rd – Rosemarie B,
Theresa H
4th – Robert D
7th – Lisa R
8th – Stephanie C
9th – Michael P
11th – Eman M
12th – Angel C, Anthony V
16th – Kareem P, Daniel O
19th – Spencer S
21st – Richard H, Ray M
23rd – Melissa E
25th – Dwayne H
26th – Kendell D
27th – Onyx W
30th – Michael L
31st – Arlene S



November

2nd – Michael S, William W
3rd – Betty Ann M, Lauren N
5th – Lindsay M
8th – Norman J,
William R, Justin M
12th – Ronald Y
13th – Thomas F, Eric B
17th – Eileen R, Ronald W
18th – Dianne G
20th - Steven A, Heather L
21st – David T
22nd – Sean W
23rd – Hampton C
24th – Paul P, Michael M
25th – Kimberly C

February

4th – Fred Q
6th – Bruce S, Priscilla C
9th – Crystal R
10th – Valerie W
11th – Colleen D
12th – Talib M, Sarah S
13th – Raymond J, Arlon C
14th – Lynne M
21st – Alice R, Hannah M
24th – Pamela F



FALL BALL 2025

SPIN's Fall Ball Classic was a success! The SPIN Community gathered at different local parks to play basketball, spend time together and get some footage for the 2025 Fall Ball Video. Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's event.

[Click here](#) to view the Fall Ball 2025 Video!





D R E A M

SPIN'S DREAM TEAM

HEALTHY HOMES

Wildflower

Kimmy & Patty shared how they created sensory bins with water, sand, rice and more! They even used scented play dough for a multi-sensory experience.



D R E A M

SPIN'S DREAM TEAM

Drink water • Relax and be mindful • Eat healthy food
Awareness of health risks • Move your body





Where to Get Assistive Technology Evaluations & Funding

Getting started is easier with support. Your SPIN Program Specialist is here to guide you—whether you need help with technology assessments, accessing services, or exploring resources for the people you support and their family.

TechOWL at Temple University

- Pennsylvania's Assistive Technology Act program
- Device loans, demos, assessments, reuse, funding help
- Contact: 800-204-7428 | techowl@temple.edu | techowlpa.org

Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF)

- 0% & low-interest loans for assistive tech
- Covers tablets, smart-home tech, mobility devices & more
- Website: patf.us

Medical Insurance & Medicaid

- Covers medically necessary AT with documentation
- Requires evaluation, prescription, and Letter of Medical Necessity

Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) Waivers

- Covers AT, training, and home/vehicle adaptations
- Request through your Supports Coordinator

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

- Provides AT for employment-related needs
- Request AT in your Individualized Plan for Employment
- Speak with your OVR counselor or apply at: <https://www.pa.gov/services/dli/apply-for-vocational-rehabilitation-services>



HIGHLIGHTS



Sharon, Theresa and their DSPs spent a beautiful afternoon at DiDonato's Family Fun Center



Art enjoying himself and relaxing at home



Melissa won first place in a horseback riding show



A group of friends met for fun fall festivities at Shady Brook Farm!



Peter, Ricky, John, Tom, Richard, and Renzo having a barbecue



Priscilla and DSP Jerecka spent the day at the Morris Arboretum at the University of Pennsylvania



Shante recently had a great time on her trip to Hershey Park!



Renzo, John and Peter trying out a new art class



Jason apple picking at a local farm in the Lehigh Valley!

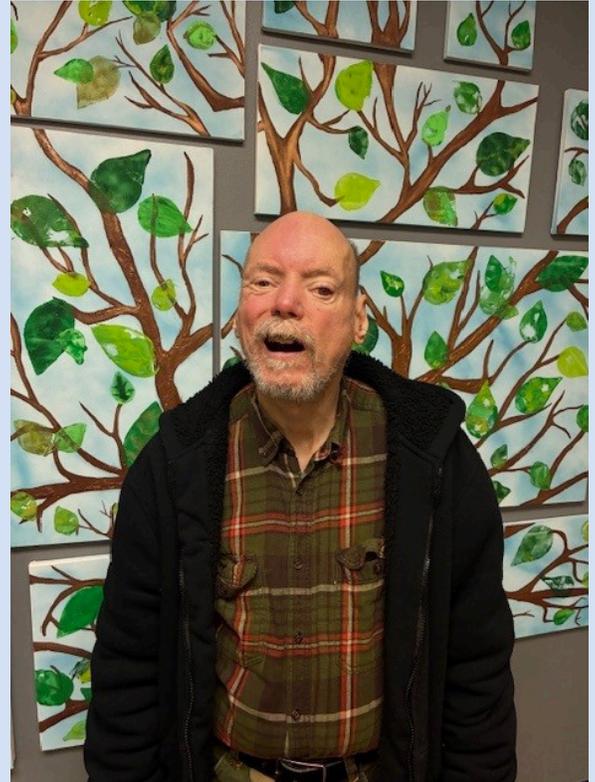
GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Ricky has had a relationship with SPIN dating back to 2013! Our Lehigh Employment team supported him at various jobs between 2013-2018. Recently we reconnected with Ricky and he ended up moving into a home in Lehigh in April! He has been a wonderful addition to the Lehigh SPIN family and quickly created a strong bond with his team.

Ricky attends a day program five days a week and loves to be out and about. Attending parades, going shopping, going for coffee and meeting his girlfriend for lunch are a few of his preferred outings. He likes to be helpful around his house by putting dishes in the dishwasher and wiping down the table after meals. His independence is very important to him and he loves watching horror movies and listening to music. He can play any instrument imaginable!

MEET RICKY!



MEET ANTHONY!



If you've ever met Anthony, you know he's a die-hard Philadelphia Eagles fan. During football season, he's usually decked out in Eagles gear and always ready to talk about "The Birds." Anthony loves his job at PJP Marketplace, where he's earned multiple awards for his strong work ethic. Whether pushing carts or stacking shelves in any weather, Anthony brings dedication and pride to everything he does.

What many may not know is that Anthony also has a heart of gold. For the past two years, he has chosen to give back instead of receiving a holiday gift—purchasing essential items for people experiencing homelessness last year and a holiday gift for someone in a SPIN home this year. His generosity and selflessness are inspiring. So if you see Anthony, be sure to say "Go Birds!"—his smile will say it all.

Celebrating SPIN Direct Support Professionals

Every September Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are recognized nationally for all they do to support people with disability. This year SPIN held multiple celebrations throughout the week giving everyone a chance to thank DSPs. From large celebrations at SPIN Community & Fitness and the SPIN Lehigh offices, to phone calls to every home to thank DSPs for all they do, SPIN was sure to honor all the Direct Support Professionals for their dedication to supporting a Life of Possibilities for all.



SPIN DSP'S ARE THE
best

Community Participation Supports

In October, Steven and his DSP Jaymes visited Elmwood Park Zoo together! Steven and Jaymes borrowed a membership pass from SCF so that they could experience this fun and engaging place. His Activity Specialist Heather planned the day with Steven's interested in mind and Steven loved every second of it!

Steven enjoyed exploring the zoo with Jaymes and saw various types of animals including goats, birds, alpacas, pandas, giraffes and more. Steven particularly enjoyed petting the goats.

As Steven and Jaymes walked around, they enjoyed all of the Elmwood Zoo exhibits in addition to petting the goats. Steven worked on CPS skills such as expanding interests and hobbies, community engagement, sensory experiences, socialization, educational enrichment, mobility and exercise, and more while connecting with other people and animals at the Elmwood Park Zoo that day.



Points of Transformation



We were excited to celebrate the members of the SPIN Community who were honored at the 25th Annual Points of Transformation Awards given by the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services! The SPIN Choir opened the ceremony by sharing their talents, and Mikki Kornegay sang "Its All About Community" during the Awards presentation. Congratulations to everyone who won an award or received honorable mention!



Celebrating SPIN honorees:

- Judy Dotzman, Dedicated Leadership Award
- Caitlin Breen & Chelsea Titlow, Communication Connection Award
- Jacqueline Berrian, LifeSharing Award
- Derricka Lawal, Residential Award
- Michelle Toughill, Treatment Staff Award
- Shannon Dwyer, Honorable Mention
- Ryan Hollenden, Honorable Mention
- Glen Toland, Honorable Mention

Spotlight on Staff



Bethany

Bethany Waters is a DSP in Lehigh at our Hanoverville home. Bethany joined our SPIN family in August of 2024, and immediately formed a very strong bond with the individuals she supports. She goes above and beyond for Elsie Mae (pictured on the left) and Carol, and takes great pride

in her work. Bethany takes it upon herself to collaborate with her team to discover new ways to encourage the ladies in their everyday lives. We are so lucky to have her!



Latesia

Lateshia Giddings, DSP, has been monumental in the care that Colleen receives and deserves. Lateshia joined the team at Vandike during a difficult time and brought love, patience and kindness to every aspect of her job. Not only is she a great advocate for Colleen,

she brings a level of care that is admirable and heartwarming to witness.

Employment Spotlight

Tom, McDonalds



Tom works at McDonald's and takes great pride in keeping the dining area clean, neat, and welcoming for everyone who walks in. His big smile says it all; you can see just how much he enjoys what he does!

Tom loves chatting with customers and getting to know the regulars.

He's also working hard and saving up for a big family vacation. Way to go, Tom!

Pam, Kieran McKenna Flooring



Pam just celebrated 15 years working at Kieran McKenna Flooring. Pam has been a valued part of their team and takes great pride in her work, keeping the showroom spotless and welcoming. Pam truly enjoys coming to work, brings a positive attitude, and enjoys spending time with her coworkers and manager.

Over the years, Pam has been a model of consistency, hard work, and skill. Her fun personality and dependable nature make her a joy to be around. Congratulations, Pam!

SPIN FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

On Saturday, October 4th, SPIN hosted its very first annual Family Fall Festival! The day was truly wonderful, brimming with opportunities for connection, delicious food, crafty autumn activities, and the chance to make new friends, all while connecting attendees to essential SPIN services & resources for children and adults.





Please provide your feedback and complete SPIN's Adult Services Family and Caregiver Survey. Your input is so important.

LINK:

[HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/R/EAWMAR5IZE](https://forms.office.com/r/EAWMAR5IZE)

OR SCAN HERE



Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

THE REZ GAZETTE

SPIN Events:

February 20, 2026 - SPIN Live

August 23, 2026 - Partners for Possibilities

Learn more at spininc.org/events or by contacting Caitlyn Diviny at cdiviny@spininc.org

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Judy Dotzman,
President & CEO

Check out SPIN's updated website
spininc.org

General inquiries or suggestions?

Contact Jamie Garrity
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[Become a SPIN member](#)



SPIN'S MISSION

SPIN provides the highest quality people-first services and supports for children and adults with intellectual developmental, and autism spectrum disabilities so that each may achieve and enjoy a life of possibilities.



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