

The Many Hands of our Mission

The Many Hands of our Mission provides information on Diakon staff members celebrating anniversaries in January, February and March. A list of all staff members celebrating work milestones is shown at the end of this online publication. Everyone celebrating an anniversary is asked to provide additional information by answering a brief survey, along with submitting a photograph. Those who responded are listed below. Please congratulate everyone celebrating work anniversaries. Thank you for your continuing service and commitment to our ministries and to those we serve!



MARY LOUISE DROSDAK

Luther Crest
Marketing Manager
Years celebrated: 35

FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR ROLE... AND WHY...I love helping older adults find that perfect retirement lifestyle to enhance their lives and maintain their independence.

ADVICE FOR NEW COWORKERS...Take extra time to spend with residents...they can share so many wonderful stories.

FAVORITE QUOTE...It is what it is...

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS...Being part of Luther Crest for so long, and both my daughters (who are now grown) volunteered and worked in the dining room in high school. We all consider the Luther Crest residents our second family!

MANDI SNYDER

Buffalo Valley
Scheduler
Years celebrated: 5

LIKES OUTSIDE OF WORK...When I am not working, I love spending time with husband, two daughters and son. We enjoy camping, sports, watching movies together and playing any types of games. My family is my whole world.

MOTIVATION TO FULFILL DIAKON'S MISSION...The compassion that all our staff have for the residents and the care that they provide motivates me.

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS...Success means reaching a goal, accomplishing a task and making sure I fulfill my role to my best ability.



TEDD ROTHFUS

Diakon Wilderness Center
Maintenance specialist
Years celebrated: 5

FAVORITE DIAKON MEMORY...Working with groups on the ropes course.

LIKES OUTSIDE OF WORK...Spending time with my family and doing short trips with them. Hikes and being outside are some other things that I enjoy.

MOTIVATION TO FULFILL DIAKON'S MISSION...I enjoy working with my hands and spending time with teens, so this is a good fit with these two areas.

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS...Being able to meet the goals that you have set for yourself.



SUSAN LONG

Diakon Community Services
Director
Years celebrated: 20

FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR ROLE... AND WHY...Working with a devoted, supportive and caring team who share a common goal by working together to make a difference in the lives of Schuylkill County older adults.

FUN FACT...I love fishing. It's not about catching; sometimes, fishing is just an excuse to get away from everyday life.

ADVICE FOR NEW COWORKERS...Working in our field may be unpredictable at times; embrace it, learn from it, believe in yourself and do not be afraid to ask for help.

FAVORITE QUOTE...Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass it's learning to dance in the rain.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION...I love what I do! Every day is a new

adventure! It is very rewarding to help people enrich their lives in so many ways - from delivering a meal to a homebound senior to watching strangers become friends in a Living & Learning class. I truly enjoy Living & Learning with Diakon every day.



CASANDRA DRY

Diakon Adoption & Foster Care-
Topton-DCFCM
Manager of Family Recruitment
Years celebrated: 5

FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR ROLE... AND WHY...I love supporting my staff in their successes and in working with families to become resource parents. There are a lot of moving parts to this job and each one has its perks. Seeing the excitement at recruitment events and working to find new families to work with, watching families learn through training, supporting staff through getting to know their families personally and then approving families and seeing them grow as a family through foster care and adoption. It's amazing and, in the end, we are finding families to help children forever be a part of!

FUN FACT...When I have the chance, I really enjoy crafting and trying new DIY type things.

ADVICE FOR NEW COWORKERS...Have an open mind to learning, take lots of notes, be prepared for change, be prepared for gray areas and know that not one person is an expert... we are all experts in our own way. Trust your instincts and keep lines of communication open.

FAVORITE QUOTE...I have a favorite Bible verse that has been with me for the past few years now: "Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7.



MELISSA STANTON

Cumberland Crossings
Sales & Marketing Manager
Years celebrated: 10

FAVORITE DIAKON MEMORY...Selling my first cottage!

LIKES OUTSIDE OF WORK...I love to spend time with my family. I recently started doing CrossFit and really enjoy it.

MOTIVATION TO FULFILL DIAKON'S MISSION...Knowing that I am truly helping others.

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS... Seeing how people's lives change that move to our community and how happy they are that they've done so.



DANIELLE VUCETICH

Diakon Wilderness Center-
Weekend Alternative Program
*Administrative and Health
Informatics Coordinator*
Years celebrated: 10

FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR ROLE... AND WHY...I love getting to hear feedback from parents and guardians about the ways that their youth have been positively impacted by our program. For example, hearing how they felt cared for and seen by our staff and that they now realize their worth and potential. Also hearing former students tell us of the success they are now having in their homes and communities, and how Diakon played a large role in helping them turn things around for themselves. Just knowing that we are having an impact on the youth and families in our communities means so much to me. It is a reminder that you cannot always know the impact you may be having on the vulnerable population we work with.

FUN FACT...I love to play the piano, sing and play all manner

of sports. I have a bit of a competitive side when it comes to games of any kind.

ADVICE FOR NEW COWORKERS... Take advantage of the trainings and higher education opportunities that Diakon provides. There is always something more you can learn, and you never know where that knowledge gained may help you and others in the future.

FAVORITE QUOTE...Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7

JANUARY 2022 SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Name	YOS	Program/Community Office	Department	Position
Gwen Albert	5	Permanency Services	Foster Care	Recruitment and Family Dev. Specialist II
Kathleen Burkit	5	Luther Crest	Skilled Nursing	Nursing Assistant
Beverly Eppley	5	Buffalo Valley	Skilled Nursing	Nursing Assistant
Amanda Estrada	5	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Nursing Administration	RNAC
Jessica Heimbach	5	Buffalo Valley	Skilled Nursing	Nursing Assistant
Tedd Rothfus	5	YouthServices	Center Point Day Program	Maintenance Specialist
Mandi Snyder	5	Buffalo Valley	Nursing Support	Scheduler
Melissa Stanton	10	Cumberland Crossings	Sales & Marketing	Sales & Marketing Manager I
Deborah Ann Brown	15	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Skilled Nursing	LPN (NCC)
Doreeka Hickerson	20	SWAN	SWAN	Accounting Clerk (SWAN)
Anna Smith	20	Cumberland Crossings	Residential / IL Care	Medication Technician
Sandra Corali	35	Luther Crest	Skilled Nursing	LPN-Preceptor (NCC)

FEBRUARY 2022 SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Name	YOS	Program/Community Office	Department	Position
Nancy Bennick	5	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Skilled Nursing	RN (NCC)
Casandra Dry	5	Permanency Services	Foster Care	Manager of Family Recruitment
Kelly Mead	5	Luther Crest	Facility Administration	Clinical Services Manager
Bethsaida Saint Clair	5	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Skilled Nursing	Nursing Assistant
Sarah Reiss	10	Permanency Services	Adoptions	Child Specific Recruitment Specialist
Danielle Vucetich	10	YouthServices	Business Unit Administration	Admin. & Health Informatics Coord.
Maria Ramos	15	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Skilled Nursing	Nursing Assistant

MARCH 2022 SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Name	YOS	Program/Community Office	Department	Position
Ashley Deegan	5	Buffalo Valley	Skilled Nursing	LPN (NCC)
Jenna Girio	5	Buffalo Valley	Skilled Nursing	Nursing Assistant
Christopher Heiney	5	Luther Crest	Plant Operations	Maintenance Specialist
Darrin Pearsall	5	YouthServices	Bridge Program	Case Manager I (Bridge Program)
Susan Long	20	Community Services	Schuylkill Meals on Wheels	Director, Community Services
Walter Davis	25	YouthServices	Bridge Program	Executive Dir., Diakon Youth Services
Mary Drosdak	35	Luther Crest	Sales & Marketing	Sales & Marketing Manager I