

# The Many Hands of our Mission

*The Many Hands of our Mission* provides information on Diakon staff members celebrating anniversaries in July, August and September. 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!



## LEXI FOX

DCFCM - Williamsport  
*School-based referral and  
treatment coordinator*  
Years celebrated: 10

### FAVORITE DIAKON MEMORY...

When I first started, they were down to two staff members, and I had just graduated from college. The only employee there at the time said to me, "You are gonna be my new best friend!" Then I realized I had found my work forever home.

### LIKES OUTSIDE OF WORK...

When I am not working, I spend all my time with my kids, husband and dogs.

### MOTIVATION TO FULFILL DIAKON'S MISSION...

Diakon has always kept me on my toes. I have never gotten bored, and when I felt it was time to learn more, my supervisors never hesitated to allow me to take on more responsibility.

### DEFINITION OF SUCCESS...

My definition of success is not like most... my work success means I still love to wake up and go to work every day, even after 10 years.



## BRENDA HENSINGER

The Lutheran Home at Topton  
*Office Manager*  
Years celebrated: 35

### FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR ROLE ... AND WHY...

Every day is different. You never know what is going to happen and what challenges you will face.

### FUN FACT...

In my spare time, I am a member of the National Camp Assessment Team, and I inspect Boy Scout camps all over the East Coast to ensure they are safe and comply with national standards for safety.

### ADVICE FOR NEW COWORKERS...

Take pride in what you do. Treat each person you encounter with compassion and respect. How you treat others is a reflection on your character.

**FAVORITE QUOTE...**In the end, only kindness matters.

### FAVORITE SUMMER ACTIVITY...

Sitting on my patio in my backyard and going for walks in the woods.



### **CARA RHONE**

Cumberland Crossings  
Human Resource Manager  
Years celebrated: 5

**FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR ROLE ... AND WHY...** Meeting and getting to know the employees. I want them to feel appreciated and that we are thankful for the hard work they do every day.

**FUN FACT...** I'm a huge Disney freak (although most people probably know that).

**ADVICE FOR NEW COWORKERS...** Come to work every day with an open, fresh mind. The job that we do is hard, both mentally and physically. You have to take care of yourself before you help others.

**FAVORITE QUOTE...** "Whatever you do, do it well" - Walt Disney

**FAVORITE SUMMER ACTIVITY...** Our annual trip to Disneyworld.

### **CHRISTINE SMITH HOH**

Adoption & Foster Care - Topton  
Recruitment and Family Development  
Specialist  
Years celebrated: 15

**FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR ROLE ... AND WHY...** Helping

families and children on their permanency journey. As an adoptive parent of a special needs child myself, I bring a unique perspective to this experience and feel deep satisfaction when children find safety and families feel complete.

**FUN FACT...** I make pottery and ceramics.

**ADVICE FOR NEW COWORKERS...** Don't be afraid to ask lots of questions.

**FAVORITE QUOTE...** "To live in fear is a life half-lived" - Spanish Proverb

**FAVORITE SUMMER ACTIVITY...** Kayaking.



### **JEREMIAS GARCIA**

Diakon Wilderness Center  
Assistant Administrator  
Years celebrated: 15

**FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR ROLE ... AND WHY...** Being able to impact students and staff in a positive way. Being with them to better ourselves and those around us.

**FUN FACT...** I enjoy playing piano and drums.

**ADVICE FOR NEW COWORKERS...** Be passionate about what you do, and be patient with yourself and others.

**FAVORITE QUOTE...** Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard!

**FAVORITE SUMMER ACTIVITY...** Going to the beach.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS...** I am blessed and honored to be able to have worked for Diakon Wilderness Center for this length of time. This place has given me opportunities to grow, learn and impact others.



### **SAMANTHA NEITZ**

Buffalo Valley Personal Care  
LPN  
Years celebrated: 5

**FAVORITE DIAKON MEMORY...** Seeing the smiles on the residents' faces when they get together for the holiday activities.

**LIKES OUTSIDE OF WORK...** I like to spend time with my three kids and husband, go for hikes, read, garden and cook.

### MOTIVATION TO FULFILL

**DIAKON'S MISSION...** My motivation is the difference I can make to brighten someone's day just by being a listening ear for them.

### DEFINITION OF SUCCESS...

Success to me is being happy and enjoying the work that you are doing.

### FAVORITE SUMMER

**ACTIVITY...** My favorite summer activity is going to the beach with my family.



### MALINDA HOUSEKNECHT

Buffalo Valley  
Business Development Liaison  
Years celebrated: 5

### FAVORITE DIAKON MEMORY...

When I travel, I typically get lost

(always)! Lol! Everyone is happy when I actually arrive at the destination!

### LIKES OUTSIDE OF WORK...

Family time. Reading books. Professional sports events.

### MOTIVATION TO FULFILL

**DIAKON'S MISSION...** Making even a small positive impact on residents, staff and the community I serve.

### DEFINITION OF SUCCESS...

When I lay my head to rest each evening, knowing I'm helping people as a public servant.

### FAVORITE SUMMER ACTIVITY...

Swimming!

## JULY 2022 SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Name	YOS	Program/Community Office	Department	Position
Samantha Neitz	5	Buffalo Valley	Residential / IL Care	LPN (PC/AL)
Laura Yonai	5	Buffalo Valley	Skilled Nursing	Nursing Assistant
Lexi Fox	10	Family Life Services	Counseling & Education Pgm	Referral Treatment Coordinator
Joanne Serfass	15	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Nursing Administration	RNAC
Bonnie Waggoner	20	Cumberland Crossings	Skilled Nursing	Nursing Assistant

## AUGUST 2022 SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Name	YOS	Program/Community Office	Department	Position
Susan Bubb	5	Permanency Services	Adoptions	Permanency Case Manager II
Wendy Cline	5	Cumberland Crossings	Skilled Nursing	LPN (NCC)
Melissa Esch	5	Luther Crest	Sales & Marketing	Patient Experience Specialist
Malinda Houseknecht	5	Buffalo Valley	Sales & Marketing	Senior Business Development Liaison
Mary Miller	5	Luther Crest	Activities	Activities Assistant
Jennifer Nicol	5	Cumberland Crossings	Cumberland Crossings NCC	LPN (NCC)
Taylor Pryce	5	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Skilled Nursing	Nursing Assistant
Briana Sye	5	YouthServices	Weekend Alternative Program	Weekend Alternative Program Counselor II

## AUGUST 2022 SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES *Continued*

Name	YOS	Program/Community Office	Department	Position
Dolores Terrill	5	Community Services	Schuylkill Sr Community Center	Center Assistant
Jeremias Garcia	15	YouthServices	Business Unit Administration	Assistant Administrator (DYS)
Brenda Hensinger	35	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Facility Administration	Office Manager (SLS-Administration)

## SEPTEMBER 2022 SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Name	YOS	Program/Community Office	Department	Position
Cara Rhone	5	Ministry Support	Human Resources	HR Manager
Jeanne Sheetz	5	SWAN	SWAN	Data Analyst I - Child/Family (SWAN)
Michelle McElwee	15	Family Life Services	Family Based MH Prvdr Type 11	Clinical Director (Family Life Services)
Christine Smith-Hoh	15	Permanency Services	Foster Care	Recruitment and Family Dev. Specialist II