

# The Many Hands of our Mission

*The Many Hands of our Mission* provides information on Diakon staff members celebrating anniversaries in April, May and June. 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!



## KELLY FEGLEY

Adoption & Foster Care-Topton  
Permanency Services Supervisor  
Years celebrated: 15

### FAVORITE DIAKON MEMORY...

My favorite memories are when we would have gatherings and picnics for our foster and adoptive families. It is always so wonderful to see the families that have been created.

### LIKES OUTSIDE OF WORK...

enjoy trips to the beach, kayaking and hiking with my children and husband.

### MOTIVATION TO FULFILL

**DIAKON'S MISSION...**My current

role is to ensure children are placed in a safe home with a kinship resource. The goal is always to preserve the safety, security and comfort of a child involved in the foster care system. If that can be achieved by placing the child with a relative or someone else who is known to them, it provides great benefit.

### DEFINITION OF SUCCESS...

Success results from a knowledgeable and dedicated team of people working towards a common goal!



## SUSAN KARPOVICH

Luther Crest  
Receptionist  
Years celebrated: 5

### FAVORITE DIAKON MEMORY...

The joy of the residents when they were able to eat together in the dining room amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

### LIKES OUTSIDE OF WORK...

I like hiking, fishing, spending time with my grandchildren and, recently, I've taken up watercolor painting and learning Spanish.

### MOTIVATION TO FULFILL

**DIAKON'S MISSION...**My own mother is in her mid-80s and while she does not live in a CCRC, my goal is to treat all the residents like I hope my mom would be treated if she lived there.

### DEFINITION OF SUCCESS...

Success for me is keeping my mind open enough to try new activities, foods, and experiences, being respectful and open to others' points of view, and living peacefully with all creation.



### **JOAN BAXTER**

Meals on Wheels-Pottsville  
*Meals on Wheels Services Assistant*  
Years celebrated: 20

#### **FAVORITE DIAKON MEMORY...**

I think my favorite work memory would have to be the days when my son accompanied me delivering Meals on Wheels almost 20 years ago. Clients always love to have children visit and he enjoyed meeting the clients too. He still remembers the different people we visited and how interesting they were.

#### **LIKES OUTSIDE OF WORK...**

I love being with my family. We are spread out right now, so any chance of getting together is great. I am expecting my first grandson soon and am very excited about that. I also really enjoy being around animals; I have a dog and two cats and like meeting all the animals in my neighborhood.

#### **MOTIVATION TO FULFILL**

**DIAKON'S MISSION...** I work with an amazing group of people in our office and senior centers. Knowing that we are all working towards the same goal, helping our senior population stay healthy and happy, motivates me to come to work each day. I enjoy our clients and being there to help make them smile...in turn, they make me smile.

#### **DEFINITION OF SUCCESS...**

Success is knowing that I have given my best to the people I care for.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION...**

I really enjoy my job and think that even when I retire, I will probably volunteer in some way with our office.

### **DARLA EAGER**

Ministry Support Office  
*Accounts Payable and Payroll*  
Manager  
Years celebrated: 5

#### **FAVORITE DIAKON MEMORY...**

Holiday potlucks - Those days felt relaxed, calm and fun to interact with one another while we ate good food and mingled throughout the day with our team. Covid took that away from us, so I'm hopeful for it to return soon!

#### **LIKES OUTSIDE OF WORK...**

I love spending time with my family! Whether it's a friendly sports competition (basketball, volleyball, cornhole, ping pong) or just a simple movie night, my life revolves around them. All three of my children play basketball and it's my absolute favorite sport to watch! I also love to bake - I find it therapeutic and relaxing.

#### **MOTIVATION TO FULFILL**

**DIAKON'S MISSION...** It's rewarding to help others and knowing I'm a small part of that big (Diakon) picture, is a good feeling!

#### **DEFINITION OF SUCCESS...**

Success is setting goals, reaching them and, even if it's not a perfect outcome, knowing that you did your very best to get there!

### **SHARON RUHF**

Luther Crest  
*Medical Supply Clerk*  
Years celebrated: 35

**LIKES OUTSIDE OF WORK...** Playing with my dog and gardening.

**MOTIVATION TO FULFILL DIAKON'S MISSION...** The residents!

**DEFINITION OF SUCCESS...** Doing the best you can at any job.



### **PEGGY MCFARLAND**

SWAN  
*Fiscal Manager*  
Years celebrated: 30

**FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR ROLE...AND WHY...** I am honored if I can push numbers around and somehow make a difference in someone's life. It truly is a place I'm proud to be a part of and grateful for the opportunity to serve in Christ's name.

**FUN FACT...** I climbed the Alpine Tower at the Wilderness Center!

**ADVICE FOR NEW COWORKERS...** Give yourself and coworkers some grace. Do your best and keep smiling.

**FAVORITE QUOTE...** You are responsible for your own happiness.



### WANDA FARLEY

The Lutheran Home at Topton  
*Scheduler*  
Years celebrated: 15

**FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR ROLE ... AND WHY...**Working with staff and the everyday challenges of getting staff for the schedule.

**FUN FACT...**I love to bake and craft. Also, I love to travel and explore new areas of the east coast.

**ADVICE FOR NEW COWORKERS...** This is a really good place to work. It is challenging some days, but in the end it is about caring for our residents.

**FAVORITE QUOTE...**“From dust we arose to dust we shall return.”



### SCOTT ADAM

The Lutheran Home at Topton  
*Maintenance Specialist*  
Years celebrated: 45

**FUN FACT...**I have been a volunteer firefighter with the Topton Volunteer Fire Company for over 47 years. I have been married to a wonderful woman for 41 years. I have a son Joshua, daughter, Jana, and 4 grandchildren - Cailey, Colton, Jase and Liam. I enjoy hunting, camping and spending time with my family.

**ADVICE FOR NEW COWORKERS...** Every day can be a challenge, just do your best and it will all work out in the end.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION...**I have always treated and will continue to treat the residents as family.



### HEATHER HAUSER

Adoption & Foster Care/  
Development, Topton  
*Administrative Specialist*  
Years celebrated: 5

**FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR ROLE ... AND WHY...**Adoption-being a ‘behind the scenes’ support in helping to grow families. Development-getting to know some of the senior residents and working with contacts at all of the Diakon facilities.

**FUN FACT...**My husband and I are avid Harley riders. We go to Bike Weeks and we ride most weekends. Watch for Motorcycles, please!!

**ADVICE FOR NEW COWORKERS...** No question is a dumb question, even if you’ve asked it already! You’re learning a lot, it’s hard to remember everything at once.



### JASON BRODE

Diakon Wilderness Center  
*Executive Director Diakon Youth Services Central Region*  
Years celebrated: 30

**FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR ROLE ... AND WHY...**For 30 years I have been able to be a part of a culture that is focused on changing lives... what could be more favorable than that?

**ADVICE FOR NEW COWORKERS...** It’s all about relationships and affirming people...as long as you lead with that in mind you can learn the other keys to supporting change and growth.

**FAVORITE QUOTE...**“You must be the change you wish to see in the world...”

## APRIL 2022 SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Name	YOS	Program/Community Office	Department	Position
Martha Elvin	5	YouthServices	Weekend Alternative Program	Weekend Alt. Program Counselor II
Susan Karpovich	5	Luther Crest	Facility Administration	Receptionist (SLS-Administration)
Robert Kortze	5	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Plant Operations	Maintenance Technician
Lionel Matias	5	YouthServices	Bridge	Program Manager (Bridge Program)
Joseph Rosario	5	Luther Crest	Plant Operations	Maintenance Specialist
Heather Wetzell	5	Buffalo Valley	Skilled Nursing	LPN (NCC)
Laura Crowell	15	SWAN	SWAN	Data Analyst II - Child/Family (SWAN)
Kelly Fegley	15	Permanency Services	Foster Care	Permanency Services Supervisor
Joan Baxter	20	Community Services	Schuylkill Meals on Wheels	Services Assistant
Sharon Ruhf	35	Luther Crest	Nursing Support	Medical Supply Clerk

## MAY 2022 SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Name	YOS	Program/Community Office	Department	Position
Darla Eager	5	Ministry Support	Finance	Accounts Payable and Payroll Manager
Maura Fisher	5	Buffalo Valley	Nursing Administration	Director of Nursing
Kendall Wilson	5	YouthServices	Bridge Program	Case Manager I (Bridge Program)
Joan Kibet	10	Cumberland Crossings	Skilled Nursing	Nursing Supervisor
Dorcas Bomberger	15	Buffalo Valley	Residential / IL Care	Medication Technician
Jabreel Michael	15	Youth Services	Youth Services	Program Manager
Jane Ritter	25	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Skilled Nursing	LPN (NCC)
Lori Kline	30	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Facility Administration	Administrative Asst. (SLS-Administration)

## JUNE 2022 SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Name	YOS	Program/Community Office	Department	Position
Maria Figueroa	5	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Skilled Nursing	Nursing Assistant
Nancy Girard	5	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Skilled Nursing	LPN (NCC)
Natasha Goodhart	5	YouthServices	Center Point Day Program	Center Point Day Program Counselor I
Heather Hauser	5	Permanency Services	Adoptions	Administrative Specialist
Kimberly Jennings	5	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Skilled Nursing	Nursing Assistant
Wanda Farley	15	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Nursing Support	Scheduler
Jason Brode	30	YouthServices	Center Point Day Program	Executive Dir., Diakon Youth Services
Peggy McFarland	30	SWAN	SWAN	SWAN Fiscal Manager
Kristin Weary	30	YouthServices	Business Unit Administration	Administrative Asst. (Center Administration)
Scott Adam	45	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Plant Operations	Maintenance Specialist