

A Celebration of Community

Kuhn kicked off the New Year in a meaningful and memorable way through a wonderful collaboration between its Middletown and Rushford-based programs. Held in the welcoming Hubbard Room of the Middletown Library, the celebration brought together approximately 35 individuals from across several programs, creating an atmosphere filled with connection, laughter, and shared experiences.

The event featured something for everyone. Guests enjoyed delicious food from Mondo Pizza and sweet treats from Alyssa's Cakery, adding to the festive spirit of the day. Creative expression was on full display with arts and crafts activities, including decorating tote bags that participants could take home and use, offering both a fun experience and a practical keepsake.

One of the highlights of the day was a lively game of "Guess the Song," which had everyone engaged, singing along, and cheering each other on. The energy in the room was contagious, reinforcing the power of group activities in building connections and creating joy.

Each attendee also received thoughtfully prepared gift bags adding a personal and supportive touch, ensuring that everyone left feeling valued and appreciated. This celebration was a true testament to what can be accomplished when programs come together with a shared purpose. By creating opportunities for social engagement, creativity, and fun, Kuhn continues to enhance the lives of the individuals it serves while strengthening the bonds within its community.

As the year begins, events like this set the tone for continued collaboration, growth, and meaningful experiences for all.



Nonprofit Legislative Breakfast: Advocacy in Action



Kuhn was proud to recently stand alongside fellow community partners, Gilead Community Services, Adelbrook, IMPACT, Middlesex United Way, and The Alliance, for a powerful Legislative Breakfast that brought together more than 135 advocates, providers, and supporters of Connecticut's nonprofit sector. The event created an important space for meaningful dialogue between community organizations and policymakers, all united by a shared commitment to strengthening services for those who rely on them most.

Attendees had the opportunity to hear directly about the realities facing nonprofits across the state. Discussions highlighted the disproportionate funding challenges that impact every region of Connecticut, placing increasing strain on agencies working tirelessly to meet growing needs. Conversations also underscored the significant ripple effects of federal funding cuts, which directly impact local programs and, ultimately, the individuals and families who depend on them. It was made clear that inadequate funding does not exist in isolation, it affects families in every corner of Connecticut, limiting access to essential supports and services.

A key message throughout the morning was that the Connecticut Legislature has both the capacity and responsibility to help secure the future of nonprofit service agencies. With thoughtful investment and prioritization, Connecticut can continue to uphold its commitment to caring for its most vulnerable residents while ensuring providers have the resources needed to deliver high-quality, consistent support.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the legislators who joined us, listened thoughtfully, and engaged in meaningful discussion, including Rep. Hilda Santiago, Rep. Renee LaMark Muir, and Sen. Matt Lesser. Their willingness to hear directly from providers and advocates is an essential step toward meaningful progress.

This impactful event would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors: The Community Foundation of Middlesex County, YMCA, The Connection, Hartford HealthCare Rushford, Habitat for Humanity, Lumibility, Community Guidance Clinic, MidState Arc, Inc., and Mosaic, and Mayor Gene Nocera of Middletown. Their partnership and commitment to the nonprofit community help make advocacy efforts like this possible.



Quarterly Newsletter

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Upcoming Events:

- ❖ Birdies for Charity through 6/28/26
- ❖ 2nd Annual Fall Festival and Paddle Sport Event 10/17/26

For comments contact Sabrina Hoisington at sHoisington@kuhnemployment.com

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Comedy for Kuhn: A Night of Laughter and Community

Kuhn's first-ever *Comedy for Kuhn* event was a tremendous success, bringing together laughter, community spirit, and meaningful support for our mission. The evening was filled with energy, great humor, and an overwhelming sense of connection, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who came out to make this inaugural event so memorable. Your continued support means the world to us and plays a vital role in helping Kuhn move its mission forward.

We extend our sincere thanks to our outstanding partners who helped make the night possible. A special thank you to CT Comedy for Cash, Pig Rig, and Two Pour Guys for their collaboration, professionalism, and enthusiasm, they were truly wonderful to work with and helped create an unforgettable experience for all in attendance.

We are also deeply appreciative of our generous sponsors. Thank you to our Featured Sponsor, Unapen, for leading the way in supporting this event. We are grateful to our Gold Sponsor, Workers Comp Trust, for their commitment, as well as our Silver Sponsors, Gilmartin, DiPiro & Sokolowski and Ion Bank. We also thank our Bronze Sponsors—Kiwans Club of Meriden, Star Auto, Mule Security, Brown & Brown Insurance, and Blue Moon Handyman Services, for their valuable contributions. Your support helped make this event not only possible but truly exceptional.

The level of community support we experienced was nothing short of amazing, and it is something we deeply appreciate. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the Kuhn Board of Directors and the Fundraising Committee for the tremendous amount of time, effort, and dedication that went into planning and executing this event so successfully.

A special thank you to the many local businesses and community members who generously donated raffle and silent auction items. Your contributions added an extra layer of excitement to the evening and helped further support our cause.

We are so proud of what was accomplished and are already looking forward to doing it again. We hope you will join us next time as we build on this success and make the next Comedy for Kuhn event even bigger and better!

Advocating For Kuhn: Voices That Make a Difference

Advocacy is at the heart of Kuhn's mission, and it plays a vital role in ensuring we can continue providing high-quality supports to the individuals and families we serve. For nearly 65 years, Kuhn has remained deeply committed to its community, and that commitment extends beyond daily services, it includes actively engaging in legislative advocacy to secure the funding and long-term supports necessary to sustain and grow our programs.

While Connecticut's nonprofit system continues to face funding challenges, Kuhn remains focused on making sure our voice—and the voices of those we support—are heard. Ongoing advocacy efforts highlight the need for increased investment in community services, including funding to better support behavioral health programs, strengthen the nonprofit workforce, and address gaps that impact the quality and accessibility of care. These priorities are not just policy points, they directly affect our ability to serve our participants safely, effectively, and with the dignity they deserve.

A powerful example of this advocacy in action was seen during the Legislative Appropriations Committee hearings this past February. Kuhn was proudly represented by a strong and passionate group of staff, leadership, and program participants who showed up to speak on behalf of our mission. Their presence was a testament to the dedication that defines Kuhn, and the impact was undeniable.

The testimonies shared were heartfelt and honest, painting a clear picture of both the passion that drives our work and the very real challenges that come with it. Stories spoke not only to the importance of the services we provide, but also to the sacrifices made every day by those who are committed to supporting others. These moments of advocacy are critical—they help decision-makers understand the human impact behind funding decisions.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Kuhn staff who delivered powerful testimony: Andrew Young, Angelo Aglieco, Geraldine Reddick, Sabrina Hoisington, Mary Apuzzo, TR Holt, Brian Skolnick, Kerri Bishop, Geoff Crandall, Erin Gasparini, and Beth Fisher. Your willingness to share your experiences and speak up for those we serve reflects the very best of Kuhn.

Kuhn will continue to pursue every opportunity to advocate for the resources and recognition needed to sustain our programs and expand our impact. Together, through strong voices and shared commitment, we will ensure that Kuhn can continue serving our community for many years to come.

Felicia Walker Honored for Dedication and Compassion



Felicia Walker has been named the recipient of the 2025 E. B. Kuhn Memorial Award, an honor that recognizes individuals who exemplify outstanding commitment to enhancing the lives of those we serve. Felicia's dedication, compassion, and consistent support for Kuhn's participants make her a truly deserving recipient.

Nominated for her continued work with the individuals of Kuhn, Felicia stands out for the meaningful connections she builds and the care she brings to each interaction. A coworker captured her impact best, sharing, "Felicia has a tremendous heart for the individuals she serves and consistently goes above and beyond to ensure they feel supported, respected, and valued. Her patience is exceptional, she takes the time to teach each task thoroughly, making sure individuals truly understand their responsibilities and are able to complete their work with confidence and pride."

This sentiment is reflected in Felicia's daily work. She meets each person where they are, offering encouragement, guidance, and reassurance every step of the way. Her consistent encouragement and positive presence have helped her build strong, trusting relationships with those she supports.

Felicia is always willing to help wherever she is needed, never hesitating to step in to support her coworkers or the individuals. No matter the situation, Felicia approaches her work with a cheerful, positive attitude that uplifts those around her. Her commitment, kindness, and unwavering support make a meaningful difference every day, and she is truly deserving of this recognition.

We are proud to celebrate Felicia Walker and grateful for the dedication she brings to our mission each day.

Compassion Counts: Coming Together to Address Stress & Anxiety



Kuhn Employment Opportunities was proud to partner with several community organizations for *A Compassionate Conversation: Stress & Anxiety, Oh My!*, an engaging and informative evening focused on mental health and

wellness. Held on February 11th at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Middletown, the event was exceptionally well attended and warmly received by all who participated, reflecting the community's strong interest in better understanding and addressing stress and anxiety.

The evening offered valuable information for everyone in attendance. Guests had the opportunity to learn the differences between stress and anxiety, how to recognize the signs in themselves as well as in children and teens, and practical strategies for managing these challenges. The keynote presentation, along with a thoughtful panel discussion featuring clinical experts and lived experience, created a welcoming space for open dialogue, shared learning, and meaningful connection.

Kuhn was proudly represented by Senior DMHAS Program Manager, TR Holt, who also played an integral role in the planning and coordination of this impactful event. His leadership and collaboration helped ensure a successful and enriching experience for all involved.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to such a positive and supportive atmosphere. It was inspiring to see so many community members come together to gain useful tools and insights around stress and anxiety. We encourage everyone to stay tuned for future seminars and events as we continue working together to support mental health and overall well-being.

Kuhn's 2nd Annual Fall Festival Returns this October

Join us for Kuhn's Second Annual Fall Festival on October 17, 2026—a day full of fun, community, and excitement! Enjoy our paddle race along with a festive atmosphere featuring live music, local vendors, and plenty of delicious food for everyone to enjoy. We're looking forward to another amazing event and hope to see you there!

For questions or to participate as a vendor or sponsor, please contact Sabrina Hoisington at shoisington@kuhnemployment.com

