

Kuhn Advocates at the Capitol for Nonprofits

This past May, Kuhn was proud to stand alongside the Connecticut Nonprofit Alliance and many of our colleagues at the State Capitol for Nonprofit Day and Rally Day—a powerful reminder of the vital role nonprofits play in the fabric of our communities. With a crowd of 2,500 in attendance during the rally, the days were filled with energy, determination, and a shared commitment to strengthening the services that thousands of Connecticut residents depend on every day.

Throughout this legislative session, Kuhn has engaged in extensive advocacy, working tirelessly to ensure that the voices of individuals with disabilities and those we serve are heard by lawmakers. From meetings with legislators to submitting testimony, our team has actively pushed for policy and budget decisions that support long-term sustainability for nonprofits like ours.

At the heart of our advocacy is a call for increased funding in the state budget. For years, community nonprofits have faced underfunded budgets, even as the cost of providing high-quality services continues to rise. State investment is essential, not just to maintain services, but to grow and adapt to meet the evolving needs of our communities.

We are incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication shown by our staff, board members, individuals, and families. Their collective efforts—writing letters, sharing stories, and attending events like the Nonprofit Rally—demonstrate the strength and unity of our mission. Together, they have been powerful advocates not only for Kuhn, but for all local nonprofits that serve Connecticut’s most vulnerable populations.

We thank our local legislators for their support and the historic increases resulting from this year’s session. However, the need continues and Kuhn remains committed to this advocacy. We will continue to work with the Nonprofit Alliance and our community partners to ensure that Connecticut’s budget reflects the value and impact of nonprofit services.

Thank you to everyone who has lent their voice to this cause. Your support makes all the difference.



Celebrating Success in June!

June was a month of recognition and celebration at Kuhn, as we honored the hard work, perseverance, and achievements of our incredible clients. Both our Rushford-based and Middletown-based offices hosted festive award ceremonies that highlighted the dedication of everyone involved.

Rushford rolled out the red carpet—literally—for a Hollywood-themed celebration complete with a photo booth that was a crowd favorite. Guests enjoyed delicious catering from *Fire in the Kitchen* and cooled down with a visit to an ice cream truck. Fifteen awards were given out, each representing a story of resilience and success. Peer support was strong, with clients cheering one another on, and heartfelt appreciation was shared for the Kuhn staff whose guidance has played a key role in each success story.

In Middletown, the spirit of competition and fun took center stage at their Olympics-themed event. Clients participated in friendly games of corn hole, bocce, and even rock-paper-scissors. The event was catered by *Food Extrovert*, with sweet treats provided by *NoRA Cupcake Company*. One of the event’s highlights was the presentation of the Richard Byrd Memorial Award, which honors a client who has shown remarkable perseverance through significant challenges.

Both events were powerful reminders of the progress our clients continue to make—and the vibrant community that celebrates every step forward. We’re proud to support their journeys and honored to be part of their achievements.



Richard Byrd Memorial Award Winner Maria Barnes



Kuhn’s Rushford based staff, dressed to the “Nines” for their red-carpet themed ceremony.



Quarterly Newsletter

Kuhn Staff and Participants with Rep. Hilda Santiago, Sen. Jan Hochadel, Rep. Michael Quinn & Rep. Jack Fazzino Story on pg. 4

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Upcoming Event:

- Kuhn’s Fall Festival and paddle Race Event-10/12/2025

Thank you, Casa Di Roma, for hosting a successful Dine Out fundraiser in support of Kuhn — we truly appreciate your generosity and community spirit!

For comments or questions about the Kuhn News, please email shoisington@kuhncare.com

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CEP Get a Bold Refresh

In a wonderful show of community spirit, 14 dedicated employees from Brown & Brown Insurance stepped away from their desks and into their work clothes—to transform a key space for Kuhn’s Community Experience Program (CEP).

The team spent their entire day turning an ordinary room into a vibrant, welcoming environment tailored for the individuals served by CEP. With thoughtful input from program participants themselves, the new color palette brings joy and energy into the space: bright yellow for cheer, exciting purple for creativity, and calming green to promote peace and focus.

The room, now full of life and purpose, stands as a testament to what can happen when organizations take time to give back. Brown & Brown’s hands-on support is deeply appreciated and will leave a lasting impact on the individuals who use the space every day.

A heartfelt thank you to Brown & Brown Insurance for your time, talent, and generosity in supporting the Kuhn community. You’ve truly helped us make this experience more colorful—in every sense of the word.



Brown & Brown Volunteers pose with Kuhn CPO Erin Gasparini and CEO Beth Fisher



Kuhn’s Spring Into Recovery, lead by Senior Employment Specialist Walt Kita. (See related article on right)

Expanded “Spring Into Recovery” Reaches Further Thanks to CFMC

The 2025 *Spring Into Recovery* event marked a significant milestone in supporting individuals on the path to recovery and employment, with an expanded focus made possible by generous funding from **The Community Foundation of Middlesex County** and the **365 Fund**. This year’s event, hosted by Kuhn Employment Opportunities’ Middletown based location, grew from its original format as *Spring Into Employment* to include a broader range of recovery services, allowing for greater outreach and impact across Middlesex County.

The event welcomed approximately 30 attendees and opened with an introduction by Senior Employment Specialist, Walt Kita, who shared the exciting news about the event’s expansion and the vital role that community funding played in making it happen. The day was filled with meaningful engagement, as representatives from seven local organizations spoke about the resources and services they provide to support individuals in recovery and seeking employment.

Participating organizations included **Middlesex Health’s Beit Paley Center, Fellowship Place**, the **Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce**, the **American Job Center**, **Community Health Center**, the **Connecticut Legal Rights Project**, and the **Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS)**. Each organization spent time educating attendees on the supports available to them—from mental health and healthcare services to legal advocacy, job preparedness, training opportunities, and employment assistance.

Presenters didn’t just speak about their services—they shared personal stories of recovery and success, answered questions, and connected one-on-one with attendees to provide person-centered, individualized guidance. Topics discussed throughout the day included education assistance, mental health maintenance, and practical tools for finding and sustaining employment.

Thanks to the support from The Community Foundation of Middlesex County and the 365 Fund, *Spring Into Recovery* was able to expand both its mission and its reach. The event served as a testament to the power of collaboration and community investment in helping individuals find lasting support on their path to recovery and independence. We

Kuhn Shines Bright

Not even the threat of rain could dampen the spirit of the Meriden Daffodil Festival Parade—or Kuhn’s continued tradition of enthusiastic participation!

This year, a proud group of 25 Kuhn staff and individuals turned out in full force, dressed head-to-toe in vibrant daffodil yellow, continuing our longstanding tradition of bringing joy and energy to this beloved local celebration. Under sunny skies, the Kuhn community brought smiles and excitement to everyone along the parade route.

The support from the crowd was incredible, as always. The cheers, waves, and warm greetings we received reminded us of the strong connection we’ve built with the Meriden community over the years. We’re deeply grateful for the continued encouragement and appreciation shown to our organization.

Thank you to everyone who helped represent Kuhn so proudly—and to those who cheered us on. We look forward to keeping this wonderful tradition alive, year after year!

Kuhn Thanks Silver City Knights



L to R: CFO Kerri Bishop, Acting Chair John Eno, Knight Frank Palumbo, CEO Beth Fisher, Director of Programs Geoff Crandall, CPO Erin Gasparini

We are deeply grateful to the Silver City Knights of Columbus and Kuhn’s Acting Board Chair and Grand Knight John Eno for their ongoing and generous support of Kuhn through their annual Tootsie Roll Drive. Their dedication and commitment to our mission make a direct and meaningful impact on the lives of the individuals we serve.

The funds raised through this important community initiative support Kuhn’s North Colony Annual Awards Ceremony that celebrates participant achievement towards leading fuller, more independent lives. Year after year, the Silver City Knights demonstrate the power of compassion, community, and service.

On behalf of everyone at Kuhn, thank you for standing with us and for helping us build a more inclusive and supportive community.

Save the Date for Fall Fun at Kuhn

Get ready for an unforgettable autumn day at Kuhn’s North Colony location on Sunday, October 12th, 2025, as we launch our first-ever Fall Festival & Paddle Sport Event! Building on the energy and success of past years’ Silver Lake Paddle Race, this year we’re making it bigger, better, and more festive than ever before.

Paddle enthusiasts—don’t miss the thrilling race around scenic Silver Lake, where competition meets breathtaking fall views. Whether you’re racing, cheering from the shore, or just enjoying some recreational paddling, the excitement is real!

But the fun doesn’t stop at the water’s edge. From 11 AM to 4 PM, stay and enjoy a full day of live music, local vendors, food trucks, and family-friendly activities. Browse handcrafted goods, indulge in delicious bites, and soak up the vibrant atmosphere of community and celebration.

Bring your friends, your family, and your appetite for adventure.

Mark your calendars—October 12th is going to be one for the books. See you lakeside!

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