

2024 Annual Awards Ceremonies

The awards presentation is the highlight of each of Kuhn’s three annual awards ceremonies. Kuhn takes the time to recognize the hard work that our participants have done throughout the past year and their commitment to being Valued, Independent and Proud.



Kuhn’s North Colony program celebrated in September with its annual Awards Ceremony. It was a great event with approximately 150 in attendance, including 11 volunteers consisting of staff and participant’s family members along with past staff. This year’s jungle themed event was organized by Kuhn’s amazing staff and participants. Burgers and hotdogs were enjoyed and there was plenty of time for dancing before distributing milestone and recognition awards to many of Kuhn participants.



Kuhn’s Rushford program enjoyed the beautiful weather at Hubbard Park and the delicious offerings of a local food truck while they celebrated everyone’s accomplishments.



Kuhn’s Middletown Program held their client success celebration at Veterans Park in Middletown and enjoyed some fun, frivolity, music, pizza and awards.

Two of Kuhn’s Community Providers, Sherrie F. from Community Health Center (L) and Krista I., from Middlesex Health Behavioral Health, (R) were presented with awards for their commitment and service to Kuhn.



The **Big Y** in Meriden was recognized for their support of an individual in our Independent Supported Employment Program. **IGT** in Wallingford was recognized for their support to the Group Supported Employment Program and the participants who work there.

We were elated to have **Stacey Daniels** from IGT present, to be recognize for the integral part that IGT plays in the lives of the individuals that are served by Kuhn.



Quarterly Newsletter

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Sept 2024

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Upcoming Events:

- ❖ **2024 Silver Lake Paddle Race** benefiting Kuhn
Sunday, October 13th, 2024
Racing Class-5 Miles | Recreational Paddle
For more information email 66silverlake@cox.net
- ❖ **Giving Tuesday:** December 3, 2024
- ❖ **Good Cause Shopping Event:** December 6, 2024

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Music Therapy

Music Therapy has kicked off at Kuhn with a bang (on a drum!) Thanks to a grant from the CUNO Foundation, Kuhn's Community Experience Program (CEP) and Opportunities for Older Adults (OOA) have begun doing weekly music therapy sessions with Infinity Music Therapy Services. Music therapy is a data-based allied health profession in which music and music-based interventions are implemented to assist our individuals with motor skills, communication skills, cognition, social skills, emotional regulation, and a variety of other non-music skill areas. For adults with developmental disabilities, music therapy can be an avenue to develop self-regulation, improve expressive and receptive language, increase social interactions, improve attention to task, and improve a variety of other skill areas. With these weekly sessions, Kuhn hopes to continue to see a decrease in physical/verbal behaviors and an increase in well-being by the individuals receiving music therapy. We have observed a positive correlation between auditory stimulation through music therapy and participant optimism. Music therapy at Kuhn will continue for a full year thanks to the grant from the CUNO Foundation. Their generous support allows us to utilize music therapy with our individuals in a rewarding and supportive way. This has been a very popular activity, that allows participants to join in and create music.



Staff Appreciation & DSP Week

Everything that Kuhn does, day in and day out, would not be possible if it were not for our amazing staff.

Kuhn took a little extra time to thank our staff in June with a Staff Appreciation Celebration. Kuhn has such a dedicated staff, that work hard every day with our participants. Their dedication to supporting our mission and the participants that we serve shows in the differences they make every day. This year Kuhn enjoyed some fresh, delicious, New Haven style, brick oven pizza from Big Green Truck and some refreshing Gelato on what turned out to be quite the warm summer day.

In September, Kuhn joined colleague agencies across the nation in recognizing the dedication and accomplishments of outstanding Direct Support Professionals as part of the National Direct Support Professional's Week of Celebration. Accompanied by a Proclamation from Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont, Kuhn took a little extra time each day to say an extra

THANK YOU!

CT PIE & Kuhn



Connecticut's Pathway to Integrated Employment (CTPIE) held a presentation on the evening of July 18th at Kuhn to kick off their available supports for interested participants and their families and shared resources designed to help participants as they move toward independent employment. Ongoing group meetings and individual meetings have continued as we continue to collaborate in our efforts to move participants toward greater independence.

Meriden/Wallingford United Way Day of Caring 2024

Day of Caring is an annual United Way day of service that takes place on a Thursday in September. United Way invites organizations across the county to come together in completing various projects that benefit the community.



Kuhn's volunteers came from Fosdick of Wallingford and spent the day giving Kuhn's vans an extra deep cleaning. Thanks to the Fosdick Team!



A New Lift Van is Here!



We have added a new, 2025 wheelchair lift van to our fleet. This vehicle was obtained through a CT DOT section 5310 grant and this larger, updated version will replace an older model which will be removed from our fleet.

Donor Recognition

Many thanks to those that supported Kuhn during the last fiscal year. (7/1/23-6/30/24)

Your Support is Greatly Appreciated!

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| *Linda T. Barile | *Michele Jenks |
| *Jerry Brennan | *Patricia Keating |
| *Tracey Brown | *Kathleen Kogut |
| *Delma Carretta | *Ernest Kuhn |
| *Cynthia Clegg | *Pat Ladner |
| *Shelley Cordas | *Linda & Jack Mayoros |
| *Geoff Crandall | *Donna B. McClure |
| *Vicki Cummings | *Joyce Mik |
| *Elizabeth Edgeworth | *Joan Ogurick |
| *Rose Ferrari | *William Taylor |
| *Elizabeth Fisher | *Janet Whitney |
| *Barbara Foley | *Wisniewski Family |
| *Erin Gasparini | |
| *Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Gezo | *CUNO Foundation |
| *Judy Gumprecht | *Durham Manufacturing |
| *John & Arlene Herens | *Jonal Laboratories |
| *John Hoisington | *Mule Security Systems |
| *Sabrina Hoisington | *Silver City Council #2 Knight |
| *Jan & Drew Ingenito | *Workers Comp Trust |

