



OCTOBER 2020

NEVINS INC.

CHECK OUT WHAT'S INSIDE THE ISSUE:

Festa Italiana Virtuale	pg.2
Development & Events	pg.2
Employee of the Month	pg. 3
Feature Story	pg.4
Clinical Services Update	pg. 5
Participants of the Month	pg. 6
Abilities & Possibilities	pg. 7
Board of Directors Highlight	pg. 7

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INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Art Gallagher

Dear Friends:

As I complete my first 30 days as Interim Executive Director at Nevins I am pleased to report that we are still delivering outstanding service as we "create opportunities ". We continue to work with over 40 ambitious individuals who provide support services for Atrium Health.

Our Program and clinical staff recently completed an annual update with the State of North Carolina's Medicaid consultant and Nevins Inc received another clean bill of health! We continue to provide "in home" services for those approximately 45 individuals requesting Nevins to continue their work during our temporary campus closure. Programs and Clinical staff are also planning an all staff training program for later this fall.

Festa Italiana was held virtually this year and you can read more about it elsewhere in this newsletter. Nevins Inc remains extremely grateful to Dr. Voci and the entire Festa team for keeping Nevins as the beneficiary of this wonderful community event.

Nevins Inc will be hiring a full time Human Resources Manager. This work has been previously handled by a number of different staff and we will see significant improvements in the HR area as a result of consolidating different functions into this position.

The Nevins Board of Directors is hard at work conducting a search for a new permanent Executive Director. Over 100 candidates have applied and the search committee for the Board is narrowing down the list to a few outstanding individuals who will be interviewed. The quality of the applicant pool was excellent and I am sure everybody (including me) is looking forward to the Board appointing a new Executive Director.

Please keep in touch with us during these challenging times. We are here for you and your family members!

Best wishes,



**2020
VIRTUALE**

Presented by St. Anthony Foundation



On Saturday, September 26th, the St. Anthony Foundation of Charlotte hosted its 15th Annual Festa Italiana. This year, however, the event went virtual. We hope that you, our Nevin Family including staff, individuals, guardians and supporters, were able to enjoy the wonderful FREE pre-recorded Live Show from the comfort of home consisting of music, dance, songs performed by FESTA entertainers.

Just like in years past, Nevins participants were part of this fantastic show through song, dance and creating a collaborative art piece that was donated to the FESTA Silent Auction. We want to thank Marlon, Treana, Lia, Joey, Deionna, Cameron and Nikki for participating in the event. We also want to thank Ashely Tisdale, and Jax Jackson for their dedication as our Music and Art Instructors preparing and guiding the individuals for Nevins recording day at Freedom Park. Big thanks to Rudy and Delores as well for getting all the participants safely to the venue.

We are grateful to Dr. Vincent Voci, St. Anthony Foundation Founder and President, and the Foundation Board for their continued support of Nevins mission and the individuals we serve. We can't express enough thanks to you all!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Virtual Programs **Tues, Wed, Thurs.
@ 1:00 PM**

CPCC Classes **January 2021
begin**

Chili Cook Off **March 13**



Nevins is hosting a Technology Drive to address the need of access to digital services so that our participants can engage with our weekly virtual sessions. We are currently hosting 3 virtual sessions with more coming in the future.

We are still taking donations (ipads, tablets, laptops, or monetary) until we meet all our participants needs. Thank you ahead for your kindness and support in helping our participants stay connected to our virtual programs and to their friends. For many, this is the only time they see their friends.

Contact Pamela Glass, Director of Development at pglass@nevinsinc.org for more information.

**If you missed the FESTA ITALIANA event, go to
festaitalianacharlotte.org/VIRTUALE/**

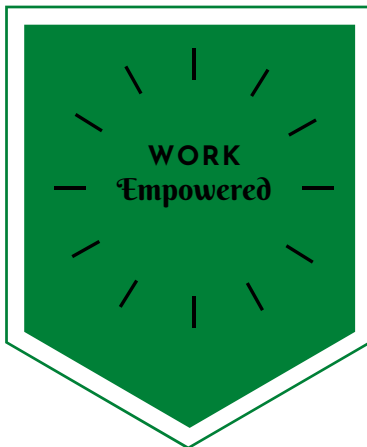
FESTA ITALIANA CONTINUED

In addition to Nevins pre-recorded performances highlighted during the virtual FESTA, Nevins participants created a collaborative art masterpiece. Special this year, was an original piece called Beautiful People, composed and performed by Joseph Gallo. It celebrates Nevins participants and the beauty of people coming together, no matter the differences between them. Thank you Joseph for this wonderful song!

To see the Live Art and Music performance go to <https://youtu.be/vnTLfguBQGE>
Joseph's new single "Beautiful People" is released on all streaming services.

Congratulations to Brian Zito for winning the bid for this amazing colorful masterpiece that was donated by Nevins to the FESTA Silent Auction. We want to thank our wonderful Board of Directors for their contribution to the Silent Auction as well. If you missed the auction or want to make a donation go to festaitalianacharlotte.org/virtuale/

It's not too late to support our amazing individuals!



Join a company that empowers intellectually and developmentally disabled adults to achieve their fullest potential through employment and community involvement.

Positions are available. Join our Talent Community today. Send an email to hr@nevinsinc.org. Tell us a little bit about yourself and attach your resume.

Be a part of a powerful community where all adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities reach for their fullest potential.

Employee of the Month



Kareem Hendrix, Nevins Atrium Main Team

Employee of the month is Kareem Hendrix. Kareem has been here at Atrium (Main) since November 2019. Kareem is very reliable and is always on top of things. Kareem works extremely well with our participants and we can always count on Kareem to go above expectations. Kareem loves making a difference and putting a smile on your face.

NEVINS CHANGING LIVES



Despite the challenges that Nevins has faced with COVID-19, the needs of Nevins Inc participants haven't changed. Some individuals miss being involved in their community, others wish they could participate with Nevins in-person programs working on improving their skills. For Deionna, it is the many friendships she has made during her 4 years spent on campus.

Deionna, 24, and her mother Loretta first learned about Nevins from someone they met in the public who asked about Deionna. Learning that this organization can provide her emotional support and opportunities to travel, her family decided to give Nevins a try.

Deionna is involved in Nevins' Abilities and Possibilities program where she takes part in community and site-based activities that build her skills. Math is an aspect of A&P that she particularly enjoys. In Aktion Club, coordinated by Delores Miller, she gives back to the community through volunteer work at food banks and donating school supplies. After a day's hard work, the club will sometimes get together for a dance party. Furthermore, Deionna has a history of cheerleading experience for the Nevins' basketball team as well as within a cheerleading team for special needs adults in Charlotte.

On September 26th, the St. Anthony Foundation hosted its 15th Annual Festa Italiana with the purpose of benefiting Nevins Inc. As part of the event's silent auction, a group of individuals made a collaborative effort to create a painting using colors that they believed symbolized the impact that Nevins has made on their lives. With a color that makes her feel happy, Deionna painted the piece with streaks of green. She and other participants also sang a song called "The Spaghetti Song" while performing a dance using colored scarves of the Italian flag.

Once the Nevins campus reopens, the first thing Deionna will do is reconnect with her friends. "I can't wait to see and talk to everyone," she said. She misses her conversations with Courtney and the laughs shared with Gabrielle. However, the pandemic hasn't hindered her from doing the activities she loves. Nevins offers virtual programs for individuals to take part in through Zoom meetings. Deionna enjoys all activities from superhero yoga on Tuesdays to singing rock 'n' roll songs on Thursdays. "It's awesome!" At home, she likes to draw, bake cookies and blueberry muffins, and write fairytale and adventure stories.

continue story on next page.

"Nevins has been a true blessing for Deionna and our family. There is no other program like Nevins: the staff, students and families. We went from being clients to being family." ~Loretta Major-Richardson



In 2016, Deionna won the category for “Most Beautiful” in her first pageant. Two years later, she won her category of North Carolina Jr. Miss 2018 in the annual pageant hosted by Miss Amazing, which then led to her spot in the nationals held in Chicago, IL. She became friends with most of the people she met in her pageant experience. “I liked to meet new people,” she said, “I had fun.” This December, Deionna will be launching her modeling career. A talent agency selected her for a program she applied for earlier this year. She will take acting classes to prep her for appearances in commercials or roles as an extra in movies.

As for Deionna’s future goals, the sky is not the limit! She can envision herself as a TV actress, designer, or author of a book about special needs. Nevins helps her work towards her goals by providing her opportunities to exercise her relationship skills and express her creativity in a number of areas.

Clinical Services Update

Nevins day placement center continues to be closed for on-site services, however we continue to provide services in the community or the homes of the individuals that we serve. We are continuing to evaluate COVID-19 status and will determine a date for reopening the Nevins day placement facility based on Governor Cooper's timing for Phase 3. In the meantime, it is important that we continue to do our part, as a community, to remain safe not only from COVID-19, but from flu.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) urges that getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever during 2020-2021 to protect yourself and the people around you from flu, and to help reduce the strain on healthcare systems responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Who should get vaccinated this season?

Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine with rare exceptions. Vaccination is particularly important for people who are at high risk of serious complications from influenza. People at High Risk of Developing Flu-Related Complications has a full list of age and health factors that confer increased risk. Visit <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/> for more information.

Flu vaccination has important benefits. It can reduce flu illnesses, doctors’ visits, and missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations and deaths. If you have questions about which flu vaccine to get, talk to your doctor or other health care professional.

STAFF BIRTHDAYS:

Alontae' Turner	1
Latonya Scott	5
Aaron Penninger	10
Da'Ramen Pigatt	11
Myra Robinson	13
Ann McCorkle	14
Dianne Merriman	16
Da'Mon Harvey	25
Donald Clark	27
Zenophia Way	28
Wanda Fletcher	30
Glenda Jeffers	31



Kimberly Hailey,
Program Manager of Clinical Services



Tanisha Rorie,
Program Supervisor of Clinical Services

Clinical Services Update continued.

Nevins management team realizes that many of our individuals and families are feeling disconnected during this time. Please know we miss you all and can't wait to have our Nevins family together again.

If you are feeling sad or depressed, we encourage you to seek help. Turn to your family or a close friend to share your concerns and feelings. There are also resources in the community including professional therapists, pastors, or even your physician that are always available. You are NOT alone. We are here for you too.

Innovations Program Participant of the Month



Dewitt A. has been with Nevins for a very long time and continues to thrive everyday with interaction's with his staff (Anthony) and peers. Dewitt is a kind gentleman who loves seeing animals, on a farm or the zoo. Dewitt loves taking rides to the country just to see what nature has in store for him. Dewitt is very polite and when he meets you, he will always give you a name that he will call you every time no matter how many times you may correct him. The name he gives you is what you will be greeted with every time. Dewitt loves to write for his daily activities and pudding of any flavor.

Abilities & Possibilities Participant of the Month



Joey F. has been with the Nevins family for the past thirty years. Joey loves coming to Nevins daily to be with his peers. You will often find Joey smiling bright telling you that you are his friend and that he has known you for a long time. Joey is an active participant of four Nevins classes including CPCC, Music Therapy and Art Therapy. Joey is also an active member of Nevins Aktion club. Joey also likes to be hands on with keeping our classroom clean and sanitized. Congratulations Joey for being the A & P participant of the month.

Supported Employment Participant of the Month



Julius W (JuJu) is an outstanding individual. Julius truly enjoys coming to work at Atrium (Main) and does an awesome job. Julius also loves his Nevins family and enjoys helping others as needed. Julius is well known at Atrium and everyone loves him and greets him with the fist pound. Julius is always on board when asked to complete inventory.



Helping developmentally disabled adults reach their fullest potential for over 60 years.

What's Happening in Abilities & Possibilities

Nevins participants and staff have been enjoying our virtual programs during this time that we are not able to be on the Nevins campus. Every week we see more familiar faces join in the fun.

Our Mindful Movement class has been a huge success with our participants. They have enjoyed exercising with their friends, and love the different themes each week. Thank you Sarah for being a part of our Nevins family.

On Wednesday we have open fun day with our participants. This time is set aside for everyone to say hello to each other and share what exciting

things they have done or what they may have the previous week.

Thursday zoom class is with Ashley our Music Therapy instructor that has also been a big success. Participants sing and dance at home! We want all of our Nevins friends to join in the virtual sessions. The classes are FREE!

If your loved one is interested or you know someone who is sitting at home not doing anything, reach out to Rudy at Mware@nevinsinc.org to get details on how join in the fun. If an individual needs a device to participate, let Rudy know that as well.

Message from Nevins Executive Search Committee

The Nevins Executive search process is underway and we have had over 165 individuals apply to the Executive Director position, a tremendous response! The committee has screened over 50 candidates locally and nationally and we narrowed the candidate pool to 20. We are excited to share that we have exceptional experienced candidates with demonstrated successes going through our comprehensive vetting process! We anticipate making a decision by December 1.

~ Cheryl Coors, Nevins Board Member

Nevins Board Leadership



Crecia Keller,
Nevins Board Member

Meet Crecia Keller, one of our incredible board members! She was driven to join the Nevins Board due to her continued work at Atrium Health for 23 years and is responsible for the department that employs Nevins participants. Crecia is originally from Harrisburg, NC and currently still lives there with her husband of 18 years and their two children. Crecia understands how Atrium's connection with Nevins is imperative and is working hard to ensure it remains. She told us, "I see and know the value individuals bring to our department and facility."

Crecia has a passion for making a difference in the community, giving back, and wants to create that same passion and understanding within her children. Her family hosts an annual fundraiser called Corn Hole and Cooking for a Cure, which will be going on its 11th year. Last year's event raised over \$12,000 in a day! Crecia and her family are also involved with their local church, Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, DARE International, and more.

Crecia continuously works hard to be an active member of the community and gives back wherever she can. Her passion for making a difference has led her to get involved with so many wonderful organizations and causes. She understands the responsibility of doing your part to help others and your community. We are so thankful to have her on our board and as an example of what it means to be Nevins Strong!



Management Staff:

Art Gallagher,
Interim Executive Director

Pamela Glass,
Director of Development &
Strategic Partnerships

Kimberly Hailey,
Program Manager of Clinical Services

Tanisha Rorie,
Program Supervisor

Jonathan Martin,
Program Supervisor of
Supported Employment

Deon Chism,
Program Coordinator

Patrice Baldwin,
Innovations Team Lead

Rudy Ware,
Abilities & Possibilities Team Lead

Linda Moore,
Atrium Mercy Team Lead

Shaneek Johnson,
Atrium Main Team Lead



KEEP IN TOUCH WITH NEVINS

Here at Nevins we are a large "family", a family that consists of participants who utilize our programs, the parents or caregivers of our participants, our talented staff, dedicated volunteers and our generous donors and community partners. Our monthly newsletter is also available in digital format via e-mail. If you would like to receive a copy of the newsletter electronically, please e-mail your contact information to development@nevinsinc.org or subscribe to the newsletter on our website at www.nevinsinc.org.

Follow us on social media:



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The Amazon Smile program lets you help Nevins with each of your Amazon purchases! All you have to do is go to smile.amazon.com and select Nevins as your cause, then every time you shop on smile amazon 1/2 of a percent is donated to Nevins!

MISSION STATEMENT

Nevins Inc. provides developmentally disabled people over the age of 16 with opportunities to achieve their fullest potential through employment and community involvement.



NEVINS INC. IS A 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION SUPPORTED BY PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND AIDED BY VOLUNTEERS.

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