

The Many Hands of our Mission

The Many Hands of our Mission provides information on Diakon staff members celebrating anniversaries in July, August and September. 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!



MELANIE ARIZMENDI

Adoption & Foster Care - Topton
Child Preparation & Profile Specialist
Years celebrated: 15

FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR ROLE... AND WHY... A favorite aspect of my role is working with children and families. It's a good reminder that we all want to belong somewhere and have a place to really call home.

FUN FACT... I planned (and pulled off) my wedding in five days.

ADVICE FOR NEW COWORKERS... Don't be nervous - you already have what it takes.

FAVORITE QUOTE... "Children make your life more important"
Erma Bombeck

FAVORITE THING ABOUT WORKING AT DIAKON... I love the comradery and working with so many people who care about kids!



ELIZABETH SVOLTO PATTERSON

Family Life Services - Mechanicsburg
Clinical Director
Years celebrated: 5

FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR ROLE... AND WHY... We work with

families for 32 weeks and being able to see the positive change our families make is very rewarding.

FUN FACT... A fun fact about me is that when I was two years old, I had my tonsils removed. I somehow managed to get into the crunchy peanut butter after my surgery. Mom was not very happy.

ADVICE FOR NEW COWORKERS... The best advice I can give to a new co-worker would definitely be to not be afraid to ask questions. Remember, you don't know what you don't know. Diakon wants you to be successful and we are all here to help you.

FAVORITE QUOTE... "Success is to be measured not so much by the position one has reached in life as by the obstacles he has overcome."
Booker T. Washington

FAVORITE THING ABOUT WORKING AT DIAKON... One of my favorite things about working at Diakon is that every day is different. We are always striving to do good by our neighbor. I think the "Love of Our Neighbor Fund" is an awesome way to be able to give back to our community with the support of our organization.



JENN RAUTZHAN

Ministry Support - Human Resources, Performance Improvement and Compliance
SVP, HR & Compliance
Years celebrated: 30

FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR ROLE... AND WHY... I have been with the organization for a long time and have held many positions. The common theme has always been helping others. In my current role, I am fortunate to be able to support and help others in a variety of ways.

ADVICE FOR NEW COWORKERS... Get to know your fellow team members as well as learn about all the other services Diakon team members provide. There are many career

paths available within Diakon and we have a generous Tuition Assistance Program available to support your continued growth.

FAVORITE QUOTE... "Do what you feel in your heart to be right-for you'll be criticized anyway." - Eleanor Roosevelt

FAVORITE THING ABOUT WORKING AT DIAKON... I am so incredibly proud of the services we provide to those we serve. We are a special organization that provides meaningful and important care and support to those in need in a variety of ways. I am humbled by all of our dedicated team members who provide such amazing compassion and service. Diakon's mission and values are important to me and are a large part of why I have remained at Diakon for the past 30 years.



MELISSA KINDALL

Ministry Support
Senior Director, Corporate Communications & Marketing
Years celebrated: 15

FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR ROLE... AND WHY... I really enjoy the fact that I get to work with all of the communities, programs and ministry

support departments in our organization in such a collaborative way. I also enjoy hearing and sharing stories of the people we serve. It's inspiring!

FUN FACT... I have a tattoo of Romans 8:28 on my wrist. It's a Bible verse that reminds me not to worry and to be confident that all things work together for good.

ADVICE FOR NEW COWORKERS... Be flexible and open to learning new things. A new job may feel overwhelming at first, but we've all been in those shoes at one point, so please know you're not alone. It's up to each one of us to invest our time and efforts into equipping ourselves with what we need to do our jobs well, and oftentimes, that includes asking for help or clarity, which is totally okay.

FAVORITE QUOTE... "Don't wish for it. Work for it." - Unknown

FAVORITE THING ABOUT WORKING AT DIAKON... I love the work we all do collectively to help others. I appreciate that empowerment, growth and creativity are encouraged here.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS... I have learned so much from my coworkers over the years and have a lot of respect for what everyone does to help so many people. Looking forward to the next 15 years!



JOANN SHELLEY

Ministry support
Cash Specialist
Years celebrated: 5

FAVORITE DIAKON WORK

MEMORY... My favorite memory of Diakon is how all of the financial team makes everything work together to close a month of financial reporting and how smoothly a month-end close can go. Believe me, some months aren't always so smooth, so when it happens, it does make it a worthy memory!

LIKES OUTSIDE OF WORK...

I like to garden and take care of our animals, which include chickens, a dog and cats. I also love to put puzzles together. I love being with my children and grandchildren and doing things with them like taking trips and miniature golfing. I recently took a trip to Iceland with some of my grandchildren and daughter.

MOTIVATION TO FULFILL DIAKON'S MISSION... To help others to understand the different programs and all the facilities so they are able to do their part in the financial side of Diakon.

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS... Success is when you can make things work out for the good, even if you have to change what you were thinking should be the finished product.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT WORKING AT DIAKON... The people who I work with. We have an awesome finance team!



SALLY MCCLINTOCK

Cumberland Crossings Senior Living
*Director of Community Life/
Transportation/Wellness*
Years celebrated: 30

FAVORITE ASPECT OF YOUR ROLE... AND WHY... I love my job - each day is different, and I love to see the

residents and hear about their day. The joy and excitement you see each day with interactions with residents inspires you to be the best you can be and help fulfill their lives. Our community is small, and I know each resident (and family) and something about each one. I am the leader of multiple departments and enjoy working alongside each member of our team.

FUN FACT... I have a hard time saying "no."

ADVICE FOR NEW

COWORKERS... Smile and enjoy your time with residents. It's not a job; it's a lifestyle.

FAVORITE QUOTE... A good life is when you smile often, dream big, laugh a lot and realize how blessed you are for what you have.

FAVORITE THING ABOUT WORKING AT DIAKON... Their commitment to residents!

JULY 2023 SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Name	YOS	Program/Community Office	Department	Position
John Coutts	15	SWAN	SWAN	Information Technology Manager
Danielle Estrada	10	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Skilled Nursing	Nursing Supervisor
Joann Shelley	5	Ministry Support	Finance	Cash Specialist

AUGUST 2023 SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Name	YOS	Program/Community Office	Department	Position
Meredith Tavares	10	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Activities	Fitness Coordinator
Thomas Kemper	10	YouthServices	Misc Contracts	Group Service Instructor
Jackilyn Burket	5	Cumberland Crossings	Skilled Nursing	Nursing Assistant (NCC)
Rachel Moyer	5	Family Life Services	Cumberlnd Perry D&A Comission	Family Life Servies Clinical Team Lead
Cheryl Pierson	5	Luther Crest	Nursing Administration	RNAC
Melissa Duran Tejada	5	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Skilled Nursing	Nursing Assistant (NCC)
William Hunsicker	5	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Skilled Nursing	LPN Care Manager
Tyler Hess	5	YouthServices	Center Point Day Program	Program Supervisor

SEPT 2023 SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

Name	YOS	Program/Community Office	Department	Position
Lori Moyer	45	The Lutheran Home at Topton	Residential / IL Care	Personal Care Assistant
Kellie Reilly	35	Buffalo Valley	Skilled Nursing	Nursing Assistant Preceptor (NCC)
Sally McClintock	30	Cumberland Crossings	Activities	Director of Community Life
Jennifer Rautzhan	30	Ministry Support	Human Resources	Senior VP of HR & Compliance
Ashley Stahl	15	Family Life Services	SPIN	Family Life Services Clinical Director
Melissa Kindall	15	Ministry Support	Communications Pub Relations	Director of Corporate Communications
Susan Williard	15	Ministry Support	Finance	Disbursement System Specalist
Melanie Arizmendi	15	Permanency Services	Adoptions	Prep & Profile Specialist II
Katelin Boyer	10	Buffalo Valley	Skilled Nursing	Nursing Assistant (NCC)
Kelli Strause	10	Permanency Services	Foster Care	Case Manager II
Zachary Valentine	5	Community Services	PA MEDI Regional Southeast	Regional Coordinator (PA MEDI)
Elizabeth Svolto-Patterson	5	Family Life Services	Family Based MH Prvdr Type 11	Family Life Services Clinical Director