



MCS FAMILY SUPPORT NEWS

CHANGES AT MCS

Hello MCS families and friends. We hope you are all healthy and happy at the start of our new fiscal year. MCS is making some changes in the way we provide supports to families. Some families will have a new Navigator as their contact person. Please know that we are committed to providing the highest level of service to you and your family. As always, we are here to support you in any way possible! Enjoy your summer!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations are in order for several MCS staff members who recently completed degrees in higher education while working full time. Well done!

Carina Deleon, MSW from Westfield State

Van Nguyen, Masters in Management from
Cambridge College

Shannon Aleixo, BS in Business Management
from Westfield State

Jessica Fuentes, MSW from Springfield College



We are pleased to feature Joshua “JayCee” Hines as this issue’s HIGHLIGHT. A member of our MCS family and aspiring hip hop dancer and choreographer, Joshua and his mother, Jacqueline, co-authored **the RETURN of SUTHER JOSHUA**, their first in a series of mini novels spotlighting the challenges confronting those on the autism spectrum. By sharing the journeys of Suther Jay, Joshua hopes that all readers realize that they can achieve their dreams with understanding, encouragement and determination. Join us all in #dancing ALloverAutism! and remember there are “No Small Victories...Every Accomplishment Should Be Celebrated!” *Jacqueline Williams-Hines*



For more information about this and other books:
www.NSVonline.com

For more information about autism spectrum disorder (ASD) see: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/facts.html>

For more information about “No Small Victories” and other books by Jacqueline Williams-Hines visit:

www.facebook.com/NSVonline

www.twitter.com/NoSmallVictories


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Meet the Team...

Karen Fletcher



Karen joined MCS 27 years ago when she was only 18 years old and a college student. She worked as a Direct Care Staff at the Children and Adult respite houses throughout college. After graduating in 1998 she started to manage the Children’s Respite House and the new IFFS program in Holyoke. As the MCS Holyoke Family Support programs grew, she eventually became the Director of Family Supports. In her current, new position as the Director of Program Services, she oversees all of the programs within the agency, with the exception of Residential Services and Home Care Nursing services. Karen loves her job including meeting and helping individuals and families receive services; working with an amazing group of dedicated people who care deeply about the work they do; and developing new and existing programs to best meet the needs of the people we support.

Karen has been married to her husband Calvin for 20 years and is the proud mom to two teenagers, Lauren and Patrick, and a sweet dog named Reilly.

Visit our website at
MCSnet.org

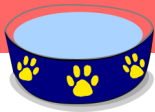
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Meet this issue's pets:



Anabelle and Ollie are the adored cats of Mary Beattie, our Family Supports Director. Anabelle is a 10-year-old Siamese mix who came to Mary as a kitten through a consumer who had passed away. Anabelle is the most mischievous little creature, who gives much joy and laughter with her crazy antics. Ollie is a 7-year-old orange tabby who rules the roost, yet is a very shy boy whenever Mary has visitors. He's known for his unusual hiding places, especially when he knows there's a Veterinarian appointment coming up. All in all, Mary hit the jackpot with these two wonderful creatures.



EVENTS:

★ **High Meadows**— Join us at High Meadows in Granby, Connecticut on Friday, August 6th from 4:30—9:30. High Meadows is a beautiful resort with a pool, volleyball courts, games, ice cream truck, Bingo, a DJ, and a buffet. Please call your Navigator to register. There is no cost for families up to 6!

★ **Six Flags**— MCS is offering a limited number of free Six Flags tickets to our families who do not have season passes. This offer is good for 2 people per family, and includes all day park admission, parking, one meal voucher to be redeemed at any of the food locations in the park, one snack, and one all day drink bottle.

MCS is trying to reduce the amount of paper we use. If we don't already have your e-mail address, please forward it to your Navigator. Thank you!

MCS is currently offering a series of online trainings entitled "What's Going On?" This is a training series for families and providers to teach personal protection by developing a "tool box" of strategies and options to address challenging situations in the home and community. The following links are for Part I and Part II of the series:

<https://youtu.be/iuDcHfJq3-8>; https://youtu.be/j7_lkmBZaQ8

Please look out for the annual MCS Satisfaction Survey in September! We value your input and look forward to hearing from you.

MCS is looking for dependable, committed people to join our team! If you or anyone you know is looking for rewarding work at a great agency, check out all of the job openings on our website www.mcsnet.org.

OPENINGS:

Support Counselors—providing direct, 1:1 support for community activities and family respite.

Group Respite—staffing small group activities for children or adults. Activities range from arts & crafts to ziplining.

