



MCS FAMILY SUPPORT NEWS

NEW OFFICE

MCS is pleased to announce the opening of a new MCS office at 505 East Columbus Avenue. Several programs will be housed in the new location, including the new MCS SOS of Springfield, Family Bridges, DESE/DDS, and the Leadership and Training Program.

FAMILY LEADERSHIP

The western Massachusetts Family Leadership program, hosted by MCS, is pleased to announce the return of the **Family Leadership Series**. This series focuses on helping participants create a family vision and develop the leadership and advocacy skills required to live and thrive in their communities. Participants meet for three 2-day sessions held at the Delaney House in Holyoke in February, March and April 2022. For more information or to request an application, contact Sue Crosby, Program Coordinator, at susancrosby@mcsnet.org or 413.301.7390. Click here to apply online <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdn5UZcB2DVT19pKgcU4VIDpH-ap17FBT4jpqCeMMUgJN-0A/viewform>

HIGHLIGHT

In this issue, we're delighted to highlight David, Tatiana and Adriana! All are talented artisans who are part of our Family Support program.

David repurposes silverware to craft beautiful rings and also carves walking sticks out of branches. If you are interested in learning more about David's wares or would like to make a purchase, you can contact his Family Support navigator, Nilda, at 782-2500 ext. 315.



Twins, Tatiana and Adriana, create bracelets, earrings, necklaces, keychains, hair clips, Christmas ornaments, snow globes and more! The photo on the left showcases a small portion of their creations. If you would like to learn more or purchase Tatiana's or Adriana's products, you can contact their navigator, Ida, at 782-2500 ext. 316.



1000 Wilbraham Road
Springfield, MA 01109
(413) 782-2500

260 Westfield Road
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 534-3299

3 State Street
Westfield, MA 01085
(413) 562-4885

505 East Columbus Avenue
Springfield, MA 015
(413) 301-7390

Meet the Team...

Syuzanna Malyarenko

My journey at MCS started in 2004 when I began working at a residential site as a direct care worker.



A few years later I became the house manager. I love being able to help people with disabilities and to provide services that are needed. In August of this year I joined the Family Support team as the International Language Project Navigator at the Springfield MCS office. My husband, Samuel Rivera, is also part of the MCS family. We have 3 beautiful children. We love hiking, visiting new places and exploring the world.

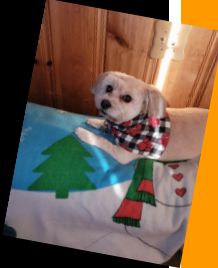
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Meet this issue's pet:

Rocky is an adorable 7-year-old Shih tzu-Pomeranian mix. He was rescued into his forever home by Roz Mestre, Carlos Resto, and their two boys Carlito and John. Rocky has grown up in the bustling Mestre-Resto household, and has made a name for himself. His cuteness has won over not only his entire family, but anyone who visits. He is full of energy and love, greeting anyone who enters his home with tail wagging happiness. We aren't sure who is luckier, Rocky or the Mestre-Resto clan.



EVENTS / NEWS:



- MCS Holyoke, Holyoke Public Schools and SEPAC joined forces to offer a Trunk or Treat community event on October 20th. It was a resounding success!
- MCS Springfield will host their Trunk or Treat event on Friday, October 29th from 6:00—7:00 pm. Dress up or come as yourself, but please join us!

GROTONWOOD CAMP— Many of our crew took advantage of the Grotonwood adult day camp last summer. The reviews are in and are universally stupendous!! With ratios of 4:1, 2:1, and 1:1, sessions are designed to accommodate campers of all abilities. Contact Leslie at lesliesroberts@mcsnet.org or (413) 782-2500 ext. 325 to learn more about the summer 2022 sessions.

JOB FAIRS MCS continues to need dedicated, quality direct care staff for individual respite, group respite outings, and weekends at the Westfield Planned Respite house. We held two Job Fairs during the month of October, but we still need more staff. If you know someone who would like to join our team, please have them give us a call at 782-2500 or 534-3299.

PHOTO SHOOTS MCS is delighted to have offered families the opportunity to have professional photographs taken at various sites in the area. The rain held off while 60 families took advantage of this amazing opportunity. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the 4 photographers:

Shooting at the Ashley Reservoir in Holyoke - Sheila of Sheila Connally Photography

Shooting at Forest Park in Springfield—Lizet of Lizet Land Photography and Design

Shooting at Fountain Park in Wilbraham—Jim & Barbara Talenda of Silver Pixel Photography

Shooting at the green bridge in Westfield—Denise Silva of Posar Photography

This event was such a success that we anticipate doing it again. Keep your eyes open for an announcement!



FUEL ASSISTANCE

With cold weather approaching and heating costs skyrocketing, families may be looking for some assistance with energy costs. Below are some of the agencies that provide assistance. Not all communities are served by all agencies, and the eligibility requirements vary. Information is also available by looking up mass.gov and entering "fuel assistance" in the search bar.

Valley Opportunity Council (VOC)

300 High Street
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 552-1548

Holyoke TAO

72—100 Front Street
Holyoke, MA 01041
(413) 552-5400

Community Action Pioneer Valley

377 Main Street
Greenfield, MA 01301
(413) 774-2310/1-800-379-0940

Wayfinder

1780 Main Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413) 233-1600

New England Farmworkers Council

1666 Main Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413) 272-2209

Catholic Charities

65 Elliot Street
Springfield, MA 01105
(413) 732-3175



Distrigas / Citizens Energy (877) 563-4645
JOE4SUN@CITIZENSENERGY.COM