

MIDLAND MESSENGER



2022 SPRING EDITION

MIDLAND

Megan Chemey: A Midland Student— Turned Employee—Success Story

“Be patient, relax, and you will learn all the skills you need to be successful,” are Megan Chemey’s mantra and words of advice for Midland students.

Megan started as a student at The Midland School at the age of 15. Her fondest memories revolve around her social circle, especially her first friend at Midland, Darius. Megan says building relationships motivates her to do her best.

These connections extend to her teachers, aides, and therapists, whom she credits for the tremendous strides she made during her educational years and beyond. Megan says two teachers in particular, Mrs. Tauscher and Mrs. Hickey, helped her achieve her goal of working at Midland.

“Mrs. Tauscher and I connected right away and she is always there for me,” says Megan. “I always loved horticulture with Mrs. Hickey, too,” she adds.

While participating in Midland’s job training program, Megan’s favorite sites were at a local pre-school and assisting in Midland’s OT/PT program. Her supervisors say she was such an asset during her Midland OT/PT internship that they had to make it a permanent thing.

Megan’s dream of working at Midland came true in July of 2019. Now, working three days per week, Megan assists the therapists with lessons, activities, and a variety of clerical duties like copying, laminating, cleaning equipment, and setting up bulletin boards.

and her organizational skills are second to none. It is a joy to watch Megan interact with both our students and her co-workers. It is obvious that she enjoys working at Midland as much as we enjoy having her here.”

Megan also finds time for interests outside of work. She especially enjoys gardening, baking, drawing, and helping in the community. Megan has a special affinity for helping through Buddy Ball—a nonprofit special needs athletic league.

“Midland prepared me to work here so I was sure I could do the job I was hired to do,” says Megan, who enjoys seeing the students and staff each day. “I feel so much joy and excitement to come to work,” she adds. “With Midland’s help, I made my dreams come true!”



Megan and student Ally during an OT session

“Megan has an intuitive ability to help motivate students and keep them engaged,” says Midland Occupational Therapist, Suzy Frank. “Her kindness, passion to help others, fun-loving spirit, creativity, and drive to keep learning and growing are all attributes that make her so special. She has truly been a great asset and we are thrilled to have Megan as part of the OT/PT team,” she adds.

“As a staff member, Megan’s patience and energy are boundless,” says Midland’s Supervisor, Karen Storm. “Her ideas are innovative



Megan at work at The Midland School



A Message from the President & CEO

I hope that this message finds you and your family in continued good health.

March 2022 marked the second full year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Two unprecedented years. Fortunately, we are seeing many positive indicators that point to the pandemic waning. Midland is committed to moving forward in a way that supports the safe operation of our school and adult programs. We are determined not to let this pandemic define who we are or deter us from our mission.

As we shift to a post-public health emergency construct, our behaviors will also adapt. To be clear, it is apparent that we will need to contend with some level of virus as we shift from a pandemic to an endemic. Accordingly, it is incumbent for all of us to learn and adapt as we return to a more normal way of day-to-day life. We look forward to facemasks not always being required. We also look forward to easing the restriction on public gatherings. This is all part of our return to normal order. Naturally, some individuals may opt to continue to wear facemasks and social distance. This is completely understandable. Each person should be afforded the right to exercise their own personal safeguards consistent with their comfort and health needs.

If this global health emergency has taught us anything, it has reinforced the value of communication and staying connected. We value your input and experiences. Together, we will shape the future of Midland.

As spring approaches, Midland is gearing up for the development of our new Strategic Plan. Accordingly, we will be hosting several in-person stakeholder sessions in April 2022 to gather information and inform the development of our plan. We want to hear from you and encourage each of you to participate in these sessions. These sessions will be held in Midland's Great Room. Please check our website at www.midlandnj.org for the dates and times.

As we renew our vision for Midland's future, it remains self-evident that there are many unmet needs for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (and their families). Meeting these challenges requires listening, learning, and leaning upon one another.

Thank you for your continued interest, partnership, and unwavering support of Midland's mission yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

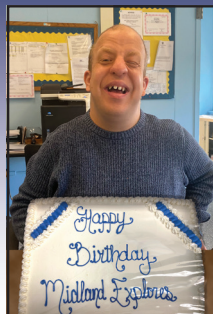
Best,
Shawn M. McInerney

Two Midland programs celebrate 4 year anniversaries!

This January, two programs that support Midland adults celebrated 4 years in operation – Midland Explores and Small Group Supported Employment.

Midland Explores provides meaningful community integration, personal development, and social and leisure activities to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Midland's Small Group Supported Employment Program works in concert with local area businesses to develop Supported Employment in our community with the support of a Midland Job Coach.



John is all smiles at The Midland Explores birthday celebration!

Nowack Joins Board of Trustees



The Midland Corporation announced the appointment of Mr. Andy Nowack of Basking Ridge, N.J. to the Board of Trustees, effective November 2021.

Mr. Nowack is the Executive Vice President of Premier Development, a residential real estate development company that specializes in multifamily and single family development and construction.

Mr. Nowack's involvement began in 2016 with a partnership between Midland and Premier Development to launch Midland's first apartment complex placement in Hillsborough for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). This special needs housing project grew to include other venues and additional apartments in the Midland's Community Residential Services program. Mr. Nowack also served on The Midland Foundation's Golf Committee since 2019.

Mr. Nowack holds a Bachelor's degree from Lafayette College. He currently serves as a Trustee on the Central Jersey Housing Resource Center's Board, is Trustee of Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church, and previously served as a Trustee of the Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church.

"Mr. Nowack has clearly been a champion of affordable housing options for people with disabilities," says Midland President & CEO, Mr. Shawn M. McInerney. "His 25 years of experience and expertise in housing makes him a welcome addition as we look to expand Midland's residential services program to meet the needs of parents of adult children with intellectual and developmental disabilities coupled with the growing demand for affordable and accessible housing."

"I am honored and excited to join the Midland Board and thank Midland for this opportunity, says Mr. Nowack. "I believe in Midland's mission and look forward to lending my support to helping the organization position itself for the future."

Midland Goes to the Movies with PNC

Midland Goes to the Movies with PNC was held on November 21 at a new venue – The Morris Museum in Morristown, NJ – where patrons had access to exhibits. The evening's surprise film was *Dream Horse (2020)* – The true story of Dream Alliance, an unlikely racehorse bred by small-town bartender, Jan Vokes.

The *Midland Goes to the Movies with PNC* Committee thanks the individuals, businesses, and corporations who have so generously contributed to the evening.

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Special Thanks to the Midland Goes to the Movies with PNC Committee members & event chairs. From left to right: Janine Morris, Tish Capawana, Gabby Valentine & Sandy LoPiccolo.

Become a Midland Champion!

Support Midland throughout the year by making monthly gifts to support our students and adults.

Visit Midland's website to set up automatic recurring monthly gifts. Hover the camera on your smart phone or device over this QR code to go directly to the gifts page.



THE 2021 MIDLAND GOLF CLASSIC

On October 18, 2021 The Midland Foundation hosted the 35th Annual Midland Golf Classic at Hamilton Farms Golf Club in Gladstone, NJ. Thank you to all our golfers, sponsors, committee members, and volunteers for making the Midland Golf Classic such a success!

Special Thanks to the 2021 Midland Golf Classic Committee

Dave Anderson • Michael Bateman
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John Morris • Matthew LoPiccolo

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From left to right: Rich Morris, Tim Foley, John Morris (Co-Chair), and Kevin McCallen out on the course during The Midland Golf Classic.



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THE MIDLAND SCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE
THURSDAY, APRIL 7TH
10AM TO 11:30AM
RSVP TO FINN@MIDLANDNJ.ORG
BY APRIL 6TH

2022 SPRING EDITION



Join us for the
**7th Annual MOOve for Midland —
Fun at the Farm!**

Sponsored by PVH Corp.

Saturday May 21, 2022

3:00PM - 5:30PM

Rain Date:

Sunday May 22, 2022

3:00PM - 5:30PM

*For more information and to join the MOOvement,
visit: <https://secure.frontstream.com/moveformidland2022>*



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