

# *Northwest Employee Times*

## DiMasso Strong!—Jane Pinho

It was just an average day in July, we thought? July 15th, John DiMasso was diagnosed with Stage IV Colon Cancer. Constant back pain was something John accepted as normal but the pain this one day was too much and brought him to Saint Mary's ER. What he thought was an agonizing pain that could result him in back surgery was much more serious than that. Shocking news to John, his family, friends, and co-workers. CANCER! Although the doctors from the Harold Leever Cancer Center told John his cancer wasn't curable, many patients are living today with treatable cancer. John's cancer is treatable. Knowing John, his worry wasn't the fight ahead but how to manage it all, mostly ongoing expenses. Will he be able to work, pay for health insurance, medical costs, mortgage payments, bills, an overwhelming list of items? John's journey was beginning to seem overwhelming. Without missing a beat, there was a "Go Fund Me" page created and it was already being funded. John is not one to easily accept help. Although he has his family, we were overwhelmed John's diagnosis, his dad was also recovering from Stage 3 Colon Cancer.

Almost immediately his friends and coworkers thoughtfulness and desire to help turned into a fundraiser dinner. Starting with Brian Gallagher and Chris Casey, snowballing to the employees of NWCTPS, EMS Union, Police Department Union, Fire Department Union, to a team of many volunteers including life time friends, family and strangers all pitched in. John and his family are overwhelmed with the amount of funds that were raised to help defray the many expenses that will come, the love and support provided for John to focus on fighting the all too common disease and that awful word "Cancer." Although John has a new journey, he isn't alone today and because of your generosity, he doesn't have to worry about finances. We all know stress can only add negative effects to your health but with the support John has received from everyone at NWCTPS, his work family has given him the ability to focus on the challenges he faces each day for his health. Thank you to everyone at NWCTPS and the many angels that have gifted John peace of mind to focus on his health. Please keep the prayers coming. We are blessed and thankful for all of your support! DiMasso Strong!!!

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## New Employee Announcement —Jeffrey Liskin

Northwest is pleased to announce that eleven new employees have joined our ranks. These eleven have taken positions in both the Regional and Waterbury operations. They all have various level of experience in and out of public safety. Let's continue to welcome them as we've been doing already and all pitch in to help get them trained as best we can.

### **Vanessa Barret**

- Vanessa comes to Northwest with experience in the NYPD communication center. During her time with NYPD, she gained experience as a Call Taker and will bring this to Northwest as a Waterbury Call Taker.

### **Breanna Toomey**

- Breanna is an EMT with Oxford EMS and will bring her medical knowledge, as well as field emergency service experience to our center. She is starting off as a Waterbury Call Taker and looks forward to increasing her knowledge.

### **Mallory Naylor**

- Mallory worked as a Security Officer in the mall and has experience dealing with various types of people. She's focused and interested in areas of law enforcement and is eager to learn as much as she can. Her inquisitive nature will prove to be an asset while processing calls for service as a Waterbury Call Taker.

### **Sarah Crowley**

- Sarah comes to us with experience in New Britain as an EMT after she completed her EMT course at the New Britain EMS Academy. Sarah is service oriented and has a family background in public safety. Her desire to be a calming presence will be utilized as a Waterbury Call Taker.

### **Michelle Torres**

- Michelle has many years working with people in the human service industry. Her skills in conflict resolution and communication will prove to be a huge benefit as she processes routine and 911 calls as a Waterbury Call Taker.

### **Lauren Riddick**

- Lauren comes to us with several areas of experience. Not only is she from Waterbury and knows the area, she also comes from a center that uses NexGen and is familiar with its use. Additionally, she came to us EMD certified and with some time as a dispatcher. Her experience and knowledge will help make her a valuable team member as a Waterbury Dispatcher.

### **Rob Haas**

- Rob comes from a family of public safety and has been with the Southbury Fire Department for many years. His experience in public safety and desire to help others will allow him to excel as a Waterbury Dispatcher.

### **Brian Grimm**

- Brian comes to us with experience as a fire fighter in Watertown. Brian has proven to maintain a positive attitude and asks many questions in an effort to ensure understanding. Brian wants to learn as much as he can and is training as a Waterbury Dispatcher.

### James Kleban

- James also comes to us from the Watertown Fire Department. James brings his calm demeanor which, when coupled with his public safety experience, will prove useful as a Regional Dispatcher.

Please continue to help each of them along their journey as they learn and grow in our center.

## Employee Spotlight—Julia Bickford

### What do you like most about being a Call Taker?

Every day is completely different

### How long have you been a Call Taker?

About 10 months

### How did you become involved in call taking?

I saw the job opening and had done police explorers when I was younger.

### Do you work in the emergency services when you're not call taking?

I don't

### What do you like to do outside of work? (sports or hobbies?)

I love hiking and bodybuilding

### Tell me a random fact about yourself that we might not know

I ran cross country and track for 7 years



### What are three words that best describe you?

Determined, active, and hard-working

### What is the best vacation you've ever been on?

Japan for my sisters wedding

### What's the one thing you couldn't live without?

The gym

### If you could learn to do anything, what would it be and why?

I would learn to speak various languages because I want to travel and be able to communicate

### October Anniversaries

John DiMasso 3y

Kyle Kelley 17y

Pete Fegley 16y

Michael Konwerski 9y

Sean Cloney 9y

Stayce Halloran 8y

Valerie Graziano 5y

### November Anniversaries

Jeffrey Liskin 1y

Tami Reilly 2y

### December Anniversaries

Julia Bickford 1y

Madison Daly 1y

Pete Miller 30y



Jillian Ribeiro 10/5

John DiMasso 10/7

Nina Wilkens 10/11

Stayce Halloran 10/19

Jose Luna-Peguero 10/22

Melissa Kelly 10/23

Amy Kish 11/7

Nancy Taylor 11/8

Michael Cavaliere 11/12

Chris Rowe 11/27

Lataeya Burton 11/27

Michael Konwerski 12/3

Benjamin Kovalsky 12/10

Christopher Casey 12/16

Kaleigh Pronovost 12/16

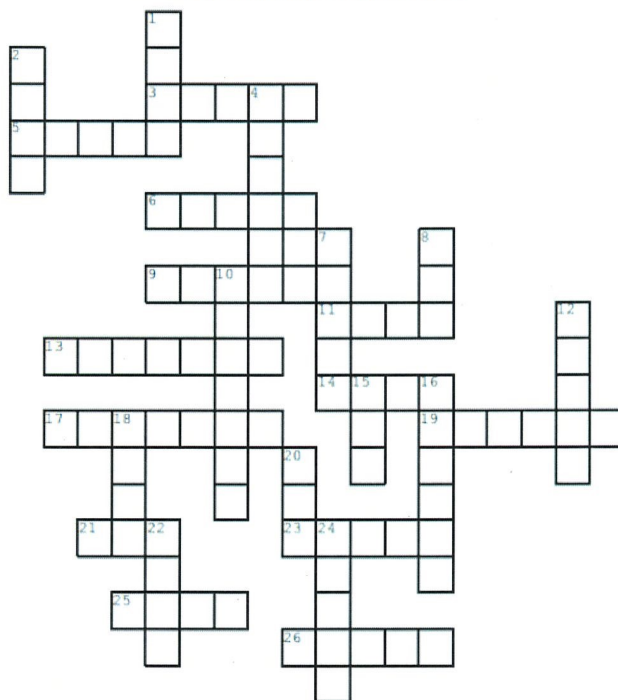
Jeffrey Liskin 12/17

Lisa Schultz 12/17

Jonathan Awalt 12/24

## Phonetic Alphabet Cross Word

Do you know your phonetics?



### Across

3. H  
5. U  
6. Q  
9. V  
11. A  
13. W  
14. K  
17. L  
19. E  
21. S  
23. Y  
25. X  
26. D

### Down

1. J  
2. P  
4. R  
7. F  
8. T  
10. C  
12. Z  
15. I  
16. G  
18. N  
20. B  
22. M  
24. O

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Training 9-1-1 Heroes

Training & Resources

## Looking for Writers...

Have an idea for a future story and want to write for the Northwest Employee Times? Please email Lisa Schultz at [lschultz@nowestps.org](mailto:lschultz@nowestps.org)

