

“Everyone is important, but the people who are essential at PEACE, Inc. are the people who provide direct service to our clients ... I’m the food service director ... Dedicated to PEACE, Inc. since 2002.”

Randy LaManche



EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO THRIVE | EST. 1968

WHAT DEPARTMENT DO YOU WORK IN?

LAMANCHE: I work in the Food Service Department. Our department produces and delivers meals to the children in Head Start and the seniors who participate in the Senior Nutrition Program throughout Onondaga County.

WHY DID YOU JOIN THE PEACE, INC. ORGANIZATION?

LAMANCHE: I was working for a very large company with a union workforce. The culture there was not pleasant. The operation I was responsible for operated 365 days per year. Of course, I was on call 365 days per year. Reading the Sunday classified job advertisements at that time was the highlight of my week. I stumbled on a food service job working with the Head Start Program. I wasn't all that familiar with PEACE, Inc. or Head Start. After a couple interviews and site visits, I was impressed with the quality of the program and was convinced I wanted to be a part of it. The work schedule and benefits may have brought me here, but the organization's culture and knowing each day our work is helping the community is what has kept me here all these years.

PLEASE SHARE A MEMORABLE MOMENT IN YOUR WORK EXPERIENCE.

LAMANCHE: There are so many to choose from, but I believe the most memorable would be when our department relocated two production kitchens simultaneously and combined resources into one large production kitchen. This ultimately improved our quality of service and efficiency. I remember the day we made our final equipment move. It was a cold and snowy Friday in February. We worked hard all weekend long setting up. Come Monday morning we were ready to operate. We didn't miss a beat. It was a total team effort.

DO YOU HAVE A HOBBY?

LAMANCHE: I have too many hobbies. Regardless of which season it is or what the weather's like, I have a hobby for every condition. When I can take time from being a father of two young girls, I like to go fishing, hunting, golfing, and bowling. I have other hobbies but those are my primary hobbies - the main ones I focus on. Unfortunately because I'm always trying to be good at all my hobbies, it's hard to be an expert in any one of them.

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE ESSENTIAL AT PEACE, INC.?

LAMANCHE: Everyone is important, but the people who are essential at PEACE, Inc. are the people who provide direct service to our clients. Regardless of all the work and effort that's put in behind the scenes, the individuals who work directly with the children, families, and seniors we serve are the people who our clients connect with and depend on. They spend their time right where the magic happens, where the rubber really meets the road. This is not always an easy place to be. These direct service employees are the eyes, ears, and smiling faces of PEACE, Inc. They are the representatives of PEACE, Inc. I think it is imperative to support them and to ensure their success. If they aren't successful, the rest of us aren't either.

SUM UP ONE THING YOU WANT OTHERS TO ALWAYS REMEMBER.

LAMANCHE: Life isn't always easy. Life isn't always easy for the people we work with, our friends, families, coworkers, and people we serve. We have to keep in mind that we don't know what challenges the people we are around on a daily basis face. I guess I'd sum it up by saying a little patience and tolerance can go a long way.

WHAT MUSICIAN HAS HAD AN INFLUENCE ON YOU?

LAMANCHE: My favorite musician and artist is Jason Isbell. He is an artist who overcame major personal problems, hit rock bottom, and reinvented himself. His life experiences are inspiring in his writing. I can connect with the emotion in his music. He's an Americana singer-songwriter. Americana is a blend of American music influenced by country, folk, blues, etc. It's storytelling. You can hear the lyrics and hear what he's trying to say. I've always rooted for the underdog. I love a story of redemption.