

THE OPEN DOOR

PROVIDING QUALITY CARE TO DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PEOPLE THROUGH COMMUNITY LIVING



CLC CELEBRATION 2015!

On December 10, CLCers gathered together to celebrate the holidays at Villa Barone Hilltop Manor in Mahopac. Although the venue was decorated to the nines for the season, and the food was top notch, nothing could outshine the beauty and spirit of the guests of honor – all the CLC consumers and staff. “As one consumer said with great feeling, “we look spectacular!”

There were, however, a few who sparkled extra brightly. Everyone agreed that Cindy Dilonardo “dazzled” in her celebration attire. Robin Cooper’s air guitar performance was voted a real standout. In the CLC tradition, everyone put their best foot forward on the ballroom floor with the “Whip and Nae Nae” deemed most popular dances.

Continued on p. 6



Next Issue coming March 2016

Vacation Memories

Spring and Summer 2015 brought not only a great vacation to our Castle in Ireland, but kicked off wedding anniversaries around the globe. Ken and Judy Launhardt celebrated 10 wonderful years of marriage at the Castle in Ireland; that very castle that was our home for a week. This inspired Jennifer and Hartley Shenkman to share their 10 year anniversary ceremony on the rocky coast of our oceanfront manor in New Hampshire. The great honor culminated in the celebration of 30 years of marriage by Patsy and Lois Ginese.

These elaborate ceremonies, marked with great fanfare, seem to have shared all the right stuff...good friends, beautiful destinations, big banquets, grand music and great memories. Happy anniversary again, you guys, and thanks for celebrating it with us!

Our summer voyages took us from the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare, Ireland to the Cliffs of Aquinnah in Martha's Vineyard. We traveled from Abbey Road, Buckingham Palace and Leicester Square of London to Ireland's Blarney Castle. And if another group of consumers want to experience this trip, we'll do it again!

We have enjoyed sunsets from the East Coast of Old Orchard Beach in Maine to the West Coast porch of our Malibu vacation home. Happiness is chatting beside the bonfire in our backyard on Martha's Vineyard with Fourth of July fireworks bursting overhead.

Taking selfies with celebrities in Las Vegas was a hoot and riding *It's a Small World* at Disneyland together was absolutely priceless.

We stand beneath coruscating streams of light as thankful as the Pilgrims and Indians were on that very first Thanksgiving! I mean where would you rather be...sitting at home or on the train to Christmas Town!

By Creative Escapes staff member



Rapping in London



Selfies in Vegas



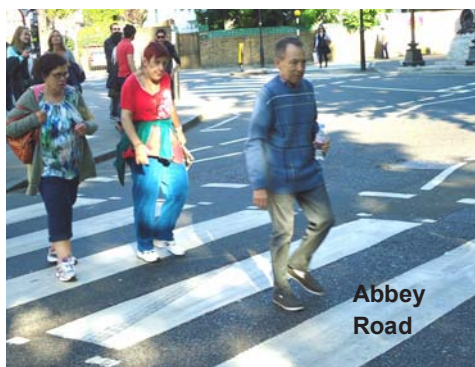
Stephen at the Cliffs of Aquinnah



New England cooking demonstration



Buckingham Palace



Abbey Road



Disneyland!



IMAGINE DRAGONS

MESSAGE

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone has enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and is looking forward to all the best in 2016. The weather certainly has done its part in making it easy for us so far.

Overall it's been a good year for all of CLC. Just take another look at the number of employees being recognized for milestone employment dates (see page 5).

When our staff members complete five, ten, fifteen and even twenty years of service, I believe it speaks volumes to their dedication and commitment to our programs. These are the folks who form the backbone of the organization.

When I announce the names and present the certificates for each group at the annual holiday party, there are cheers and shouts from all. Our residents are often the ones who know the staff best. They've worked with them, dined with them, and understand their commitment and how this morphs into a real bond within the CLC family. Without them, we simply have no program at all.

As in past years, our annual appeal was a tremendous success. This year our families and friends donated more than \$18,000 to the Holiday Appeal, all of which was distributed to only those employees having direct roles with your loved ones.

Without your generosity, this small bonus could never have been possible. I thank you for your support and pass on to you many, many statements of appreciation from our staff.

This year marked one additional milestone for CLC. Namely, this is CLC's 25th Anniversary! Those of us who have achieved a certain age can hardly believe that this is true – after all, we're not any older!

Growing from a good idea without a method into a well-respected agency serving hundreds of consumers is no small task, and we will begin to look at ways to both publicize and celebrate this anniversary with all our stakeholders.

This year is going to be a challenging one for our entire field. The changes and transformation of everything we do will continue to move ahead in 2016. We have already seen some of the changes and I anticipate there will be major decisions to be made in 2016.

For instance, *fee for service Medicaid* will be replaced by choosing from various Managed Care Organizations. Not surprisingly, the sole purpose of this is to save money. What it means in practice for a sick CLC consumer in the middle of the night is yet to be seen. Only time will tell.

Public hearings on NY's Waiver Plan to the Federal Government are planned for the end of January. It's a huge, complex undertaking and one which will shape how our country will care for citizens who cannot advocate for themselves. I anticipate that there will be a great deal of information flowing before and after the hearings this month, and I will share or post the relevant pieces.

There is a small group of concerned parents and consumers who have expressed a willingness to help with advocacy issues. We will be getting together soon and there is always room at the table for additional help.

If you would like to participate at the advocacy level, please contact my office and I will see to it that you are kept informed of our efforts.

I look forward to working with you.

John Porcella

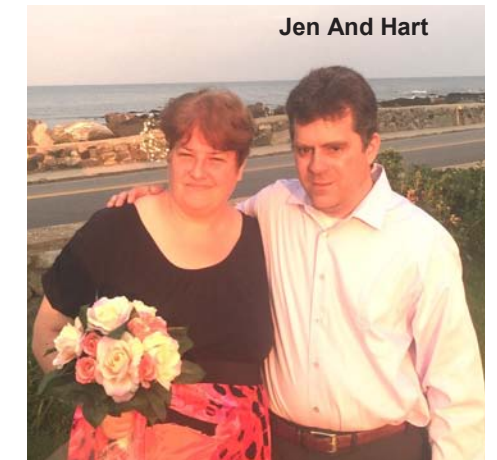
CLC Anniversary Couples



Patsy and Lois



Ken and Judy



Jen And Hart

Meet Rebecca!

It's an unusually warm December day with temperatures approaching 60 degrees. Rebecca greets me at the door as we meet for the first time in her cozy garden apartment in Mount Kisco, which she has called home for a little over a year now. "I was living with my parents in Somers and in the beginning it was an adjustment. But now this is home, and I feel very comfortable."

With two jobs and a sports career, Rebecca has what most would describe as a "full plate." She is a all-around athlete in *Special Olympics*, participating in floor hockey, basketball and volleyball, just to name a few. One of her favorite memories is playing at a large floor hockey tournament at the Jacob Javits center in Manhattan against teams from all over the country.

Not content with domestic competition, Rebecca traveled to China for a softball tournament, where her team captured third place. Rebecca continues, "Do you know my roommate Mousy? Everyone knows Mousy. She got to play in Japan."

When not participating in athletics, Rebecca juggles two jobs. She has been working at CVS in Mount Kisco for almost seven years. In addition she is an associate at the Panera Bread restaurant, also in Mount Kisco. She trains other associates on how to keep the dining facilities up to professional standards. Not only does she find the work rewarding, she can reward herself occasionally with a well-earned employee discount on the delicious Panera cuisine. "I went to a different Panera and paid full price, so I really appreciate this benefit."

Rebecca is a twin; her twin brother's name is Will. "He's a half hour older." She has another brother Michael who shares her love of music. "We went to see a Billy Joel concert at the Mohegan Sun Casino in Connecticut. It was terrific," says Rebecca a self-taught singer who loves to belt out popular ballads from Jackson Brown to Carole King.

When not working, competing in sports or singing, Rebecca finds time to visit her parents in Somers, and at their farm in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Rebecca looks forward to spending time with extended family in the heart of the beautiful Berkshires and takes advantage of many relaxing activities like swimming, hiking, and fishing.

Rebecca lights up with the mention of *Harry Potter* movies and that TV classic *Full House*. "I am happy now living here in Mount Kisco," says this inspiring young woman. "I get to do a lot of things. Actually, I surprise people when they see how much I can do."

After snapping a few photos, I say goodbye and exit into the December air. The temperatures have dropped since I arrived, but it's a funny thing... I am feeling just a little bit warmer. *Debra Descloux*



Rebecca gives this treasured black and white family photo a special place in her apartment.



Rebecca shows off one of many sports medals she's earned over the years.

CLC Holiday Party Celebration



Continued from p. 1 Addressing the partygoers, John Porcella noted that that CLC is celebrating its 25th year (1990-2015!) and announced all of the employees who were being recognized for 5, 10, and 15 years of service. Two employees who achieved 15 years of service are Linda VanDorn (Nurse) and Jerry Stone (Agency Vehicle Coordinator). All CLC staff celebrating milestones are:

10 Years: Linda Pobiner, Moses Osafo

5 Years: Sean Brown, Thomas Moore, Rennett Gordon, Felicia Banuchi, Patrice Thompson, Gwendolyn Willis, Desmond Allen, Lester McCarthy, Jean Carlos Estevez, Denyele Werthner, Patricia Hurley

Of course, no CLC holiday celebration would be complete without the perennial favorite closing tradition - a gift raffle giveaway!

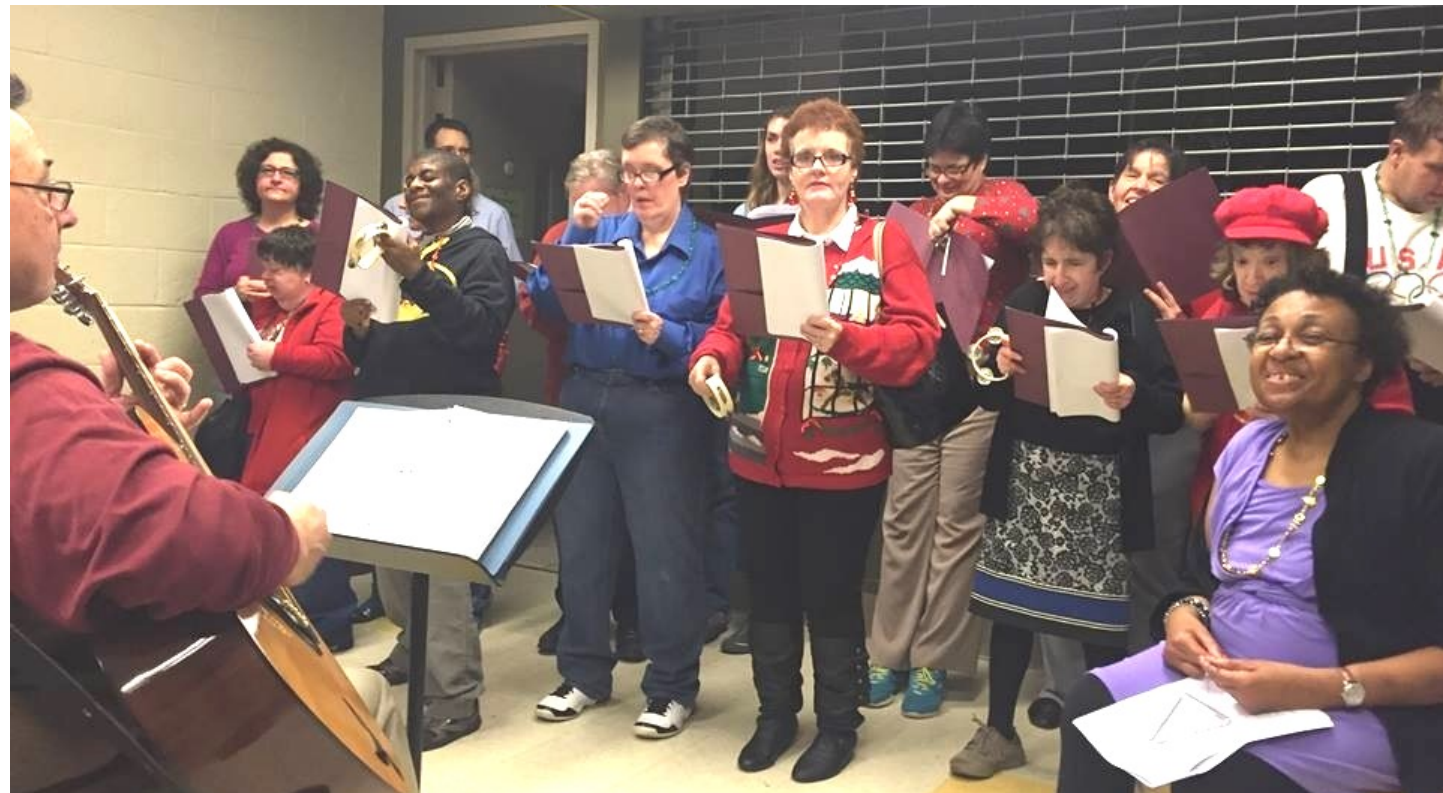


CLC Foundation

The Foundation is pleased to announce that Kaitlyn Eisen, Esq. will be joining CLC Foundation as Associate Executive Director in January 2016. She will be working out of the Foundation office at 600 Bedford Road, Mount Kisco, NY 10549.

Choral Group Wows Lions!

Hidden Treasures Choral Group performed at the Mount Kisco Lions Club in December to an enthusiastic audience. Under the direction of Claude Preece, the group entertained with a medley of their favorite holiday songs.



A Delectable Feast at Seth Canyon

The manager at Seth Canyon, Carol Grant, did a phenomenal job cooking and preparing the Thanksgiving Day meal. Offerings included ham, turkey, lasagna, mac and cheese, oxtail, curry goat, fish, fried plantains, rice and beans, sweet potato and apple pie. Carol also served a Jamaican juice called "sorrel" and a natural fruit punch. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed her delectable feast!



What's Up at Winslow

By Jonathan Lukens

There is much exciting news to report from Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center. The Day Hab consumers continue to refine their riding and ground skills. Several new horses have been added to the barn and are quickly becoming habituated to their new environment.

The agency has also introduced several new activities, as well. They include music therapy with Jackie Sinclair. Jackie's upbeat personality is highly infectious and she has the consumers singing, tapping and drumming to the music at every session. Another popular class, soap making, was started by a Winslow staffer Susana Kuglir and is very popular.

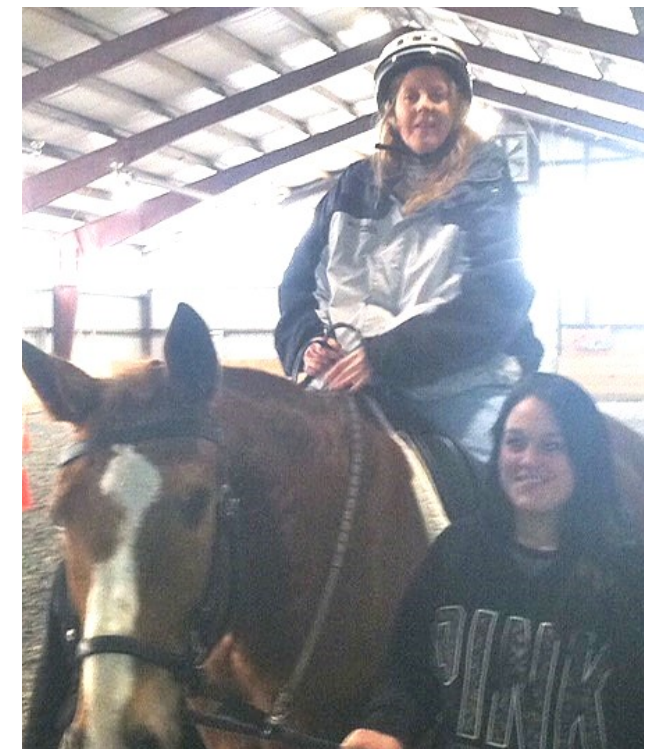
In addition, Pace Psychology Intern Jillian Ferro has inaugurated the new fitness center with her mind body approach to fitness. Jill has the guys practicing a combination of cardio and yoga to properly prepare them for their riding experience. This has resulted in greater, flexibility, confidence and attentiveness leading to enhanced learning and skill.



Rick Dammann collects eggs

The Sunday riding program has been a phenomenal experience for those non-Day Hab CLC consumers. Under the tutelage of TRC Joyce Degetto, our consumers continue to blossom. Most notably has been the experience of Stephanie Iaccobucci.

Stephanie has, through the patience of horse Cosmo and an entourage of volunteers, transformed from a timid rider, who would only travel a few steps, to riding the trails. All of the consumers have taken advantage of the spectacular fall weather to get outside and enjoy themselves.



Special Thanks from Family and Friends

Notes to CLC staff

*The staff are wonderful people. Thank you for everything you do.
Dear CLC, holiday blessings to all!
Thank you for all your great work. It is greatly appreciated.
Thank you for all the care you have given to people at Community Living.
I appreciate all you've done for my sister over the years.
We appreciate each and every one of you at CLC.
Thank you again for taking good care of my sister!
Thank you for your hard work, dedication and kindness throughout 2015.
Your efforts are sincerely appreciated.*

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Community Living Corp.
135 Radio Circle Drive
Mount Kisco, NY 10549

SAVE THE DATES

ZUMBA

Hidden Treasures will be hosting its second annual ZUMBA fundraiser event at Equinox gym in Armonk, NY. Consumers and friends are invited to participate in an hour long dance and fitness class on Sunday Feb. 21 (time to be determined).

CLC GALA

The 2016 Gala will be held at Greentree Country Club in New Rochelle in mid-July.

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We want to hear from you! Please share your comments, stories, ideas and photos by emailing them to swissx@optonline.net