

THE OPEN DOOR

PROVIDING QUALITY CARE TO DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PEOPLE THROUGH COMMUNITY LIVING

Christina Stile Honored at CLC Gala

On Sunday, July 24, the 13th Annual CLC Foundation Gala was held for the benefit of Community Living Corporation. Christina M. Stile, Esq. who has dedicated over 20 years of her career to CLC, was honored at the event, which was held at the Greentree Country Club in New Rochelle, New York. "I want to thank the Board members for this special honor," said Ms. Stile. "It was great to celebrate with everyone in such a beautiful setting."

Kaitlyn Eisen, Associate Executive Director of CLC Foundation, commented, "We welcomed more than 300 guests, including over 100 consumers, making this one of our most successful Galas ever." Attendees included family, friends, supporters and consumers, many of whom were decked out in formal wear donated by The Community Center of Northern Westchester.

Luncheon highlights included a *Hidden Treasures* Art Exhibit, *CLC Choral Group* performance, a cash prize raffle, a musical performance featuring professional singer/performer Ruben Navarro, and a favorite of CLC consumers - an afternoon of dancing.

Remarks by Roger Cooper, John Porcella, and John Signorelli recognized this year's co-sponsors, M&T Bank, United Asset Strategies and Westchester Bank. Their generosity covered the Gala's major costs. Remaining funds will benefit CLC consumers.

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MEET FRANKIE !

There's no doubt about it, Frankie is a busy guy. A Seth Canyon consumer for the past 15 years, Frankie's interests range from athletics to arts and crafts, which he does several times a week.



Already preparing for the winter holidays, Frankie the artist made an adorable snowman, "with rice inside," he says, "so it stands up." Crooner Frankie attends *Hidden Treasures* classes and sings everything from the classics to new pop tunes. His favorite song? "New York, New York, because I live here."

Athletic Frankie bowls every Tuesday at local lanes with North East, which offers programs for children and adults with developmental disabilities. He owns a bowling ball that is "big and red." Pumping his arms in a classic runner's gesture, Frankie says, "I run fast," commenting on his participation in Special Olympics. On cooler summer days you might find him playing Mini Golf.

Social Frankie's best friend Barbara is a Seth Canyon resident, too. "We talk and play Uno." They also watch reruns together, along with the rest of the Seth Canyon crew. *Lassie* and *The Andy Griffith Show* top the morning roster. Standard evening fare includes *Jeopardy* and *Wheel of Fortune*. *The Addams Family* movie makes him laugh.

Traveler Frankie loves a relaxing beach vacation and names Martha's Vineyard a favorite destination (*good choice!*) A highlight of his latest trip was seeing the whales up close from the boat. "They were big!" he exclaims.

Frankie's family includes sister Sarah, her husband Wayne and their two children. Frankie the foodie looks forward to holidays with them, especially Thanksgiving. "I love turkey and stuffing." His all time favorite meal, however, is spaghetti and meatballs.

When asked where he'd like to visit the reply is quick, "Italy!" Why? "So I can eat spaghetti and meatballs every day." (Clever, Frankie!)

By D. Desloux

Special thanks to CLC staffer Jillian who helped with this interview.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Wow! Another summer has come and gone. To be completely candid, I'm not sure if it went by really quickly or really slowly. I guess it depends on what specific part you concentrate on.

From an activity point of view, there was all kinds of things going on this summer. Just look through the pictures of this Open Door issue. We've had people out on vacation, in July we held our Annual Gala, we've had people honing their basketball skills, cooking their specialties; collecting freshly laid eggs, working hard and riding horses over at Winslow!

As I write this, I just found there is a group going to a Yankee game tonight, thanks to the CLC Foundation. One of our consumers is packing her luggage this week to attend the self-advocacy conference (SANYS) in Albany next week where I'm certain she will represent us very well.

We have just learned today that a group of families in Buffalo NY has filed a class action lawsuit against New York State and OPWDD. The lawsuit was filed in Buffalo's Federal Court by Attorney Bruce A. Goldstein and claims that NY State and OPWDD has failed to provide adequate support for long term care of people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Goldstein states in the action that more than 2000 individuals should be eligible for services in Western NY and further states that NY State has failed to provide for residential opportunities for this group. There are many individuals who are aging and are currently cared for at home by even more rapidly aging parents and/or siblings.

According to the filing, residential opportunities are available only when the aging caregivers pass away or can no longer provide the care because of their own end of life illnesses. The suit claims that New York has failed its obligation to provide community based services as mandated by the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).

This suit is the result of years of stifled support, lack of new development and the pent up frustrations of parents and siblings of people with disabilities all across NY State. This could easily become a landmark case; one that sets the standard of care for the disabled for decades to come. This is one lawsuit which warrants our full attention as it works its way towards the court.

This story first appeared in *The Buffalo News* on September 13, 2016. It can be viewed at www.thebuffalonews.com



Pictured with John Porcella at this year's Gala, consumer Kevin D. sported a spiffy bow tie to the event and hit the dance floor every chance he could get.

John Porcella

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FLOWER POWER



Photo by Sarah Fiske

For the past few years, Jill's mom, Maureen De Angelis, helped consumers at Curry Street plant a deck garden. Everyone takes turns caring for and watering the blooms. On nice days the gardeners like to sit outside and enjoy their (not so secret) garden. From left are Josh, Louise, Chrissy, Jill and Ron.

PLAY(FUL) TIMES

On August 24, consumers from Todd, Curry, Moseman and London Road attended an off, off Broadway production of *The Lion King* at the Warren Theater in Torrington, Connecticut.

Tickets were arranged by Curry Street manager Kami Quast, whose niece, Kennedy Morris, played Simba the lion cub. The play was a smashing success, especially among consumers.

Jill obviously loved the play and the young lion!



Photo by Sarah Fiske

A JOB WELL DONE, CLC STYLE!

Ever wonder who prepares the mailing for this newsletter? The answer: CLC consumers, of course! Volunteers from the Vocational Department typically help with folding, affixing mailing labels, securing mailing seals, placing postage and bundling them up for a quick trip to the U.S. Post Office, conveniently located down the street.

The mix of consumers changes each time, depending on who stays in the main office that day. The process takes place in the gathering area of the Voc Department, and a job coach oversees the process. So no matter who is around, everyone pitches in and the job gets done... CLC style!



Holly, Stephanie and Kathy

Photo by Irene Quill

NOW THAT'S ITALIAN!

September 3 was a very busy day at an Ossining Firehouse for Kristina, a consumer from Todd Road. Kristina was joined by Kami Quast, residence manager at Curry Street, her husband Dennis, a member of the Firehouse for the past 30 years and Dennis' mom Madelina, who held the family recipe! Their goal: make homemade, Italian-style tomato sauce from scratch.

Off to work they went. Kristina cut, boiled and grinded bags and bags of tomatoes. She then cooked them up with close oversight from Madelina, of course. After five and a half hours, the tempting aroma told the group that the sauce was ready to be jarred and boiled again so they would last on the shelf for months. It was a great experience for Kristina, who was intent on learning the recipe from Madelina; she began making it in Italy with her mother 80 years ago. The 64 jars of delicious sauce were distributed to Todd and Curry Street, the Ossining Firehouse, Kristina's parents and the Quast kitchen, of course!

Photos by Kami Quast



Kristina and Madelina take a break while the sauce simmers



Kristina and Fireman Dennis tend the tomatoes

♥ A DECADE TOGETHER

Happy Anniversary to Eileen and Jim! The couple celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary on July 22nd. On this special occasion, Eileen was thrilled to receive a beautiful bracelet from her husband. As a sign of her affection, she gave Jim some spiffy new clothing. Their celebration was a quiet one; an evening at home reminiscing over an Italian feast.



Photo by Irene Quill

GOT MEALS ?



Meals By Michoal has taken off!

A fledgling culinary enterprise started last year by Michoal, *M by M* currently provides meals six days a week for many CLC residents. In addition to cooking scrumptious dinners for consumers right in their own kitchens, Michoal also prepares food for occupation and personal therapy sessions held at the main offices at 135 Radio Circle Drive.

Clients are more than satisfied with his delicious, healthy and balanced dinners, which he plans, shops for and cooks. Within the next six months, Michoal hopes to open a cafe on the second floor of CLC. Next year, this imaginative and enterprising young chef has ideas of expanding his food services to other agencies in the Westchester area. Who knows? One day you may be dining at a restaurant run by Michoal. Make your reservations early!

Photo and story by Ryan & Jay

GALA 2016!

continued from p.1 "We want to recognize the work of all our staff, consumers, parents, advocates and vendors who generously contributed to the success of this year's Gala," said Community Living Corp. Executive Director John Porcella. "Our sincere gratitude to John Signorelli, Sarah Fiske, Kaitlyn Eisen, Joy McCloud, Lucille McCarthy and so many others for all their hard work in planning this wonderful event."

Gala photos by Sarah Fiske, John Signorelli and Nicole Wright



Ruben Navarro entertained guests



Consumers and staff from Highland Avenue



Artwork by Hidden Treasures



Keep the Ball Rolling!

I went to the basketball camp that Lori hosts every Saturday at Leonard Park. A professional basket player in Albania, Lori is doing an absolutely amazing job teaching our group how to play and understand the game. When I watched them shooting baskets and dribbling the ball around the court, I was utterly in awe. They were all amazing. Lori has such a special way with consumers!
By Nicole Wright



A Clinical Support Liaison in CLC's Residential Department, Lori Z. (holding basketball) poses with the team



We want to hear from you!

Please share your comments, stories, ideas and photos by emailing them to swissx@optonline.net

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ANNA CELEBRATES!

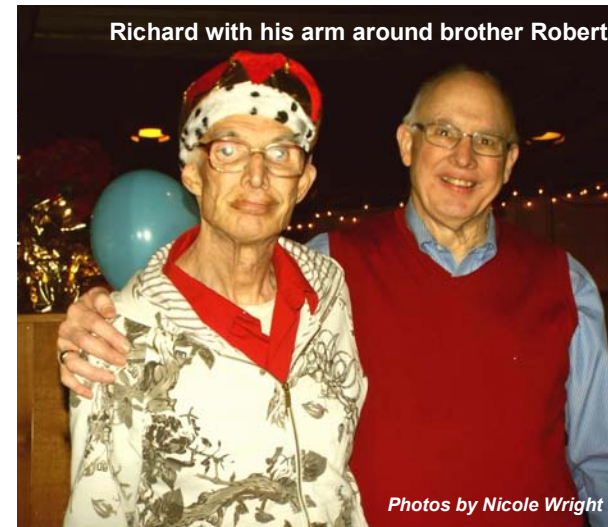
Highland consumers celebrated Anna's 39th birthday in June. Every year Anna's mother comes to Highland and cooks a special Greek dinner for our group! This year, she made her famous homemade ice cream cake (it's amazing), and a delicious fish dish. By Nicole Wright



After making a wish, Anna is ready to blow out the candles

Photos by Nicole Wright

ROBERT'S BIRTHDAY



Richard with his arm around brother Robert

Photos by Nicole Wright

This came to us a little late, but we wanted to tell you about Robert's birthday party last year. Surrounded by family and friends, this consumer's 75th birthday celebration was held at Chuck's Steakhouse in Connecticut, courtesy of Robert's brother Richard. What could be better than making merry with your loved ones while dining on a juicy Porterhouse cooked to perfection?!

WINSLOW HOLDS FIRST DENIM DERBY!

Winslow's first Denim Derby, held on September 10, was a resounding success with over 200 people enjoying a night of food, drink and horse racing fun! CLC consumers and staff were among the guests who cheered on their favorite horses picked from eight races. Among the tricky tray prizes were two drones, a digital TV, mountain bike, tickets to Jersey Boys and much more. Proceeds support Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center's mission of Healing with Horses. Many CLC consumers participate in this wonderful program.

Special thanks to Winslow Program Coordinator Pam Heatley for sending in this story.



Pretty in pink, consumer Clarice attended the event along with staffer Nicole and other CLCers.

Photo by Jonathan Lukens

THE RESULTS ARE IN!

For the sixth consecutive year, CLC participated in the Macy's Shop for a Cause Fundraiser. 150 discount passes were sold netting \$750 to benefit CLC consumers. Passes required a minimum donation of \$5, and pass holders enjoyed 25% off items purchased at Macy's from August 26th through 28th. Thank you to all who participated!

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

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**—
John E. Porcella, Ph.D., Executive Director**