

COMMUNITY LIVING CORP.

THE OPEN DOOR

PROVIDING QUALITY CARE TO DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PEOPLE THROUGH COMMUNITY LIVING

IT'S OFF TO WORK WE GO!



"I love my days at *Infusion Restaurant*. The people are so nice and the food is really, really good. I've learned meal prep, how to barbecue, make fancy coffees and set a proper table. I can even take the restaurant inventory now." *Troy*



← Eric has become skilled at horse grooming at Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center.



→ Emily and David make a cake at *Infusion Restaurant* in Pelham.

The staff of CLC's Vocational Department helps consumers gain skills and experience to be successful in a job. In addition, they provide additional training and support throughout their employment.

Job coaches Jack, Les, Lawrence, Jane, David and Dan head up a group of hardworking consumers. Some set out each day to give a good day's work for a good day's pay, while others volunteer their time. Another group is in training, gaining skills to land a job and keep it. *Continued on p. 6*

National Disability Employment Awareness Month

October is Disability Employment Awareness Month. During this time, we recognize the contributions of Americans with disabilities to both our workforce and our society, reaffirming their commitment to ensure equal opportunity for everyone in America.

To mark this celebration, we are honoring the organizations that employ CLC consumers. Some are new to CLC; others have been with us for 20 years or more. Our sincere thanks go to the following who count CLC consumers among their valued workforce. Your partnership is greatly appreciated.

CLC Employers:

Dover UFSD
Shoprite
Chappaqua Schools
Starbucks
Town of Peekskill
Acme
Burger King
Stop & Shop
Goodwill Industries
Advocates for the Disabled

CLC Transportation
Walmart
Town of New Castle
TJ Maxx
CVS
Panera Bread
Boys and Girls Club
Mt. Kisco County Club
Children's Center
Rite-Aid
County of Putnam

Town of Armonk
Rocky's Deli
Cerebral Palsy
Berger Hardware
Whitson's
Town of Cortlandt
Skyview Nursing Home
Aramark
Family Services of Westchester
Target

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DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK

CLC, along with hundreds of agencies across our state, celebrated Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week (DSPR) 9/10-16th) to thank the people who care for consumers.

NYSRA and NYSACRA joined us in our salute and shared on their website the proclamation from Governor Cuomo formally announcing DSPR Week in New York State. In addition, they issued an official Direct Support Professionals Week proclamation that says:

“New Yorkers join to recognize the dedication and the vital role of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities, who are of all ages and walks of life; we take this opportunity to extend appreciation for their contributions that help many overcome challenges and reach their full potential, recognizing that direct support professionals provide the compassion that is the essence of human services.”

In the CLC tradition, five days of festivities were planned to honor our direct care staff. To show their appreciation, office staff created a table of goodies for direct support staff. The agency arranged for Mr. Softee to make a free ice cream stop at Radio Circle Drive. The celebration continued with a gift card giveaway, and each day a lucky staffer was chosen to receive an extra paid day off. Winners were Lucille, Tinna, Michelle, Jerimin and Millie. Staffers Amanda, David, Alicia, Shernette and Claude each won a free day off of work.

Two CLC family members sent notes of thanks:

Thank you to the CLC staff. My daughter Jenny is a long-time client. There are some ups and downs, of course, but Jenny has a fine life, work, friends, social activities, all be-



Bedford Manor residence manager Sedeaka enjoying a snack from the staff goodie table.

cause of the CLC staff. I am eternally grateful to those who work with her, who care about her and who respect her. Thank you. Most sincerely, Caryl Moskowitz

Responding about your great staff of people. They are really dedicated in the work they do. I am so happy that I have chosen CLC for the care and help that he needed. Many thanks. Stanford Bernstein

Irene Quill



Assistant manager Kevin with Cindy.



Vocational job coach David having an ice cream cone from the Mr. Softee truck. David was one of the lucky winners; he received a paid day off!



Barker Street residence manager Patrice, at left, and Ana, direct support staff.

Photo credit for this issue: Irene Quill, Kami Quast, Carol Grant, Bianca Gordon, Les Foreman & David Chun.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The past few weeks have been punctuated with the sounds of construction. The final phase of our building project is almost complete and we can finally see how everything will come together.

What a luxury it will be to have our larger meetings and training sessions held in a large bright comfortable space. No longer will we hear the echoing of our words bouncing off the walls. The CLC Foundation is coming to join us here at “135”, as we now call it, very shortly.

Over a year ago we were the beneficiary of a large donation of office furniture from MBIA Corporation and arranged through our CLC Board member, Christine Johnston. We can finally unpack and put it all to use.

So far we have three complete conference rooms set up and will soon begin to arrange our café tables and chairs to form the space for our social club. Hidden Treasures will be moving to 135, too!

With the new floors in place, the space is a natural

for our dance groups and musical rehearsals.

CLC Transportation will be next to move in and we welcome them into the building. All of this marks the first time that we have been able to get everyone into one central space. The Foundation is already thinking about having an open house, showcasing our new digs for the community.

Our Culinary Connections group staged a wonderful feast of authentic Jamaican food last week. Participants from the program leaned toward the Caribbean to cook and serve jerk chicken and a new favorite, curried goat.

Every aspect of this party was completed by the participants, from food shopping to cleaning away the tables and dishes. Congratulations to everyone who participated; it was just super!

Don't forget we have a Gala coming up on October 15th. This is a special event



John Porcella and John Signorelli back in the day at CLC.

indeed this year because we will be honoring John Signorelli, an original founder of CLC, as he looks forward to retirement. Without John, there would be no CLC and the lives of 140 people with developmental disabilities would be quite different.

So, if you're undecided, or you didn't hear about this year's Gala, please take the time to attend this year and help us all thank John for everything he has done.

See you at the Gala!

John Porcella

SHOPPING COUNTS!

PLEASE CONTINUE TO DO ALL YOUR AMAZON SHOPPING THROUGH [SMILE.AMAZON.COM](https://smile.amazon.com) AND HELP SUPPORT CLC!

AMAZON WILL DONATE 0.5% OF ELIGIBLE PURCHASES TO THE CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION OF YOUR CHOICE. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ENTER AND CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW AND A PORTION OF YOUR AMAZON PURCHASES WILL SUPPORT CLC!

EACH SUBSEQUENT TIME YOU ENTER AMAZON, MAKE SURE YOU GO TO [SMILE.AMAZON.COM](https://smile.amazon.com) FIRST (OR RE-CLICK ON LINK BELOW), AND YOUR PURCHASES WILL AUTOMATICALLY SUPPORT CLC! NO EFFORT REQUIRED! PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION ON TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

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MACY'S SHOP-FOR-A-CAUSE BENEFITS CLC



In July, CLC once again participated in Macy's Shop-for-a-Cause fundraising event and netted \$1,700 for our agency! The campaign was run differently than in previous years.

In the past everyone received their Macy's Shopping Pass in the mail and had the opportunity to donation to CLC directly. This year Macy's made the event entirely online for donors to contribute to CLC through Crowdrise.com, while competing against other non-profits for cash prizes.

As a thank you for donating, each donor received an exclusive 25% savings pass to shop at Macy's during August. Shopping and giving to a great organization—now what could be better than that!

Denyele Urciuoli

GET FAMOUS! (ALMOST)

Would you like your son, daughter, family member or friend featured in this newsletter? Do you have a story idea or interesting photo?

If yes, email us!

Deb Descloux at swissx@optonline.net or Irene Quill at iquill@communitylivingcorp.org

The Open Door is published quarterly.
Editor: Debra Descloux
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IN THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME



Consumers, staff, family and friends from Todd and Curry gathered in the yard at Curry Street for a summer barbecue. No need to say more; the smiles tell the story.



← Six Flags Park is a popular place for consumers to spend a fun-filled day. You never know who you'll find at the meet & greet. Just ask Louise, Ron, Kristina and Jill!



Chrissy tries her hand at the drums at Six Flags.



Take us out to the ballgame? Of course! Kerry, Karen, staffer Sonnett and others enjoyed a Hudson Valley Renegades game on a beautiful summer afternoon.



In what has become an annual tradition, Kristina made Italian-style tomato sauce from an old family recipe at an Ossining Firehouse with residence manager Kami and husband Dennis.

MORE SUMMERTIME FUN

↓ Consumers from Seth Canyon had a fun-filled summer this year. Residence manager Carol and staff escorted the group to Glen Island Park in New Rochelle to cool off from the heat.



Lions and tigers and bears were just a few of the animals consumers saw on a brisk but sunny day at the Bronx Zoo. It was the perfect outing for Chrissy, Kristina, Karen, Jill and Kerry. Residence manager Kami and CLC staffer Taylor escorted the group.



What could be more fun than seeing *Annie* at The Westchester Broadway Theater on a sultry summer's eve? Consumers especially liked dining at tables from the comfort of their theater seats.

CORRECTION: In the last issue we incorrectly identified CLC staff. It was residence manager Kami Quast and Sean Brown, DSS who escorted consumers to Six Flags last spring.

GETTING REEL WITH STEPHEN



Hi, it's Stephen M. with my latest review!

MOVIE: AMERICAN ASSASSIN ACTION/THRILLER

This movie is all about shooting guns back and forth. The main character is Stan Hurley, played by Michael Keaton. He mentors CIA agent Mitch Rapp, who is played by Dylan O'Brien. This movie is rated R and I liked it.

I give this movie five stars!



Suzanne ←

Paul ←

Consumers from Barker Street get ready for Halloween.

A SHINING CRYSTAL

A Bronx girl, Crystal joined the CLC family in 2008. She shares a two bedroom apartment in Mount Kisco with her housemates, Carol, Lauren, and roommate Abby. "They are A-OK in my book," says Crystal. "We have a good group, and our staff is just the best."

"Our residence manager is Patrice and assistant manager is Ana. There's also Charmaine, Simone, Joyce, Tim, Steve, David and, of course, my buddy La-Kesha."

Working girl Crystal is employed at Goodwill in Somers. "I've been here about five years and I enjoy my work sorting, tagging and hanging clothing. We have a nice crew — Tanya, Judy, Kim and Sabrina," she says. "We've become very close." Crystal also has family in the area, her dad and brother, and her mother. "I really look forward to



spending time with mom. It's special."

Crystal's hobbies include basketball and Rap, Hip Hop and R & B music. "I write and record Rap songs on my computer. I absolutely love Drake and Lil' Kim and the group Aventura. Someday, I'd like to perform at the BET Awards Show. It's one of my goals."

Singing and recording gives an artist an appetite, and Crystal knows just what to order — Spanish Food! Rice and beans, Pernil (roasted pork shoulder) and Pasteles (a kind of empanada) top her list. "My friends and I like *Salsa Fresca Restaurant* in Mount Kisco. It's a treat!"

Besides her talent for composing and rapping, Crystal can read Braille. "I studied it at the *Perkins School for the Blind* in Massachusetts. That's where I went after I lost my sight years ago; I learned a lot there."

Crystal is especially interested in the World Wide Web. "I received a CD of the JAWS program that allows me to surf the internet. "It talks what is on the screen. I installed it on my computer myself," she says proudly. "I just love technology. It's opened a whole world to me."

Asked about the future, Crystal says her dream job would be a Social Worker. "I like to help people. It makes me happy and I know I'd be good at it. I feel like I can do almost anything." (If you knew Crystal, you would undoubtedly agree.)
D. Descloux

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IT'S OFF TO WORK WE GO!



Job coach Les and coworkers keep a jobs board schedule to keep track of their busy workers!

Employment provides a sense of accomplishment, pride in one's ability and builds self confidence. Some jobs come with a paycheck. While volunteer positions offer experience and the knowledge that one is giving back to the community.

For paid positions, earning money provides CLC consumers the freedom to see a movie, go out to dinner, or to simply buy a cup of coffee. Putting a few dollars away each week teaches the value of savings and enables consumers to make larger purchases, like buying a computer or taking a vacation.

Les, a CLC job coach for the past eight years, focuses on training. "It's vital that consumers gain marketable skills that they can offer to prospective

employers. We regularly go to *Infusion Restaurant in Pelham*, where consumers learn kitchen skills such as chopping vegetables and how to properly store food items at the correct temperature," he says. "We also go to *Restaurant Depot* to buy produce; consumers compare prices and learn how to spot the freshest items."

Consumers are also trained on how to set tables from, napkin folding to silverware placement. Sessions working the fancy coffee and espresso makers results in a new skill: trained barista. Consumers not only learn how to keep the dining room tidy, they are shown how to maintain a good professional appearance. "First impressions count," says Les.

CLC uses an outside consultant, Shanna, who helps find the right job for each consumer, matching skill level to job requirements. Currently approximately 40 consumers participate in the program.

"I'm retired from a long career in this industry," says Les, "However, this program makes me feel like I've just found myself. Every person can

grow and learn something. I see consumers get better and better every day. Self accomplishment is underrated!" Les notes that many CLC consumers get to the main office extra early, anxious to get to work. "It's that sense of purpose that motivates them, and it's wonderful to see."

Consumers also give back to the community, volunteering for *Meals on Wheels* several days a month, delivering food to homebound people. CLCers also help keep local parks tidy, stopping by Briarcliff, Chappaqua and Millwood parks a few days each week.

Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center provides another outlet for training. Job coach David and Dan head to Warwick with a consumer group a few days a week, where they tend the gardens, plant crops, feed chickens, enjoy arts and crafts, and groom horses and ride them around ring. "We sell eggs and homegrown tomatoes to locals and always sell out," says David. "Our crew loves when everything sells. It means they did a good job."

D. Descloux

eNEWS UPDATES

WE SEARCH THE WEB TO BRING YOU THE LATEST NEWS

TARGET ADAPTS Target has rolled out a collection of sensory-friendly apparel for children and says adaptive clothing for adults with disabilities is most likely on the way, too. The new offerings are part of the retailer's house brand and are available exclusively on the store's website.

The company is marketing a selection of t-shirts and leggings with flat seams that are free from bothersome tags and embellishments in order to "minimize discomfort" the company said. Adaptive styles will be added soon including items with zip-off sleeves and side and back openings to make dressing easier for those who are sitting or lying down.

Regarding adult sizes, the company is evaluating how they will move forward based on guest feedback and the children's line performance. *The Disability Scoop*

SUPER, SUPER HERO One of the first heroes with Down Syndrome has appeared in the new comic book *Superb*, according to publisher Lion Forge. While there have been comic book characters with cognitive disabilities and super abilities, there's yet to be a main protagonist with Down syndrome.

Superb tells the story of Jonah, a young man with Down Syndrome who is struggling to find his place in the world and looking to put his powers of super-human strength, telekinesis, and telepathy to good use. Lion Forge partnered with the National Down Syndrome Society on this project, and the book is written by David F. Walker and Sheena C. Howard.

Lion Forge head Geoff Gerber states that the comic will represent a strong story about the importance of understanding one another. "Everyone faces different challenges in life," he says. "But those challenges don't prevent us from wanting to be heroes."

GETTING GALA READY



Our friends at the *Community Center of Northern Westchester* have opened their hearts, and their closets, to CLC consumers once again. In anticipation of the CLC Gala on October 15, dozens of gorgeous gowns and dresses were sent over so consumers could shop for that perfect evening outfit.

Special thanks go out to CCNW Executive Director Clare Murray and her staff for this gift of fashion. Kudos to CLC staffers Patrice and Charmaine, who made the original connection.

Decisions, decisions. Susan considers an Empire waist purple chiffon gown and a dazzling azure blue beaded number.

WANTED!

CLC hires the best and brightest around and always has an eye out for experienced professionals. Currently, the agency has full and part-time openings for direct care personnel to provide quality care and individualized skill instruction for dually diagnosed, developmentally disabled adults. A positive attitude, ability to think creatively and compassion towards others are prerequisites.

Prior experience with developmentally disabled individuals highly preferred. In return, CLC offers competitive salaries and benefits packages.

Applicant must possess a HS Diploma/GED, valid driver's license for past three years, and have own transportation. Background check and drug testing are required.


Interested candidates should send resumes to HR via email at: resumes@communitylivingcorp.org or Fax to (914) 241-0578.

THE NEXT ISSUE
WILL FEATURE THE
CLC GALA

HONORING
JOHN SIGNORELLI

Sunday, October 15

THE GREENTREE COUNTRY CLUB
NEW ROCHELLE, NY



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135 RADIO CIRCLE DRIVE
MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549**

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