

COMMUNITY LIVING CORP.

THE OPEN DOOR

PROVIDING QUALITY CARE TO DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PEOPLE THROUGH COMMUNITY LIVING

CLC GALA 2017 HONORS JOHN SIGNORELLI



Gala honoree John Signorelli and his wife Peggy.

This year's Gala was a great success and a wonderful tribute to John Signorelli for his 27 years of dedicated service to the organization. Over 320 guests, including 150 CLC consumers, attended the 14th annual event at Greentree Country Club in New Rochelle, NY on October 15.

Hidden Treasures participants presented John with a special, handcrafted gift of a tapestry along with a treasure chest full of thank you notes and good wishes. Highlights of the day included a musical performance by the CLC Choral Group; they sang a special song dedicated to John. Comedienne Sybil Bruncheon put on a hilarious performance that had guests laughing throughout the afternoon.

The fashion show featured 16 CLC consumers showcasing summer and formal wear outfits. Model participants were thrilled to walk the red carpet and enjoyed the luxury of limousine transportation. The limo service was donated by Kami (residence manager at Curry Street) and husband Dennis Quast. Formal wear was donated by the Community Center of Northern Westchester.

Hidden Treasures (HT) held a silent auction. Works were donated by the artists and the proceeds raised funds for the HT program to support scholarships and supplies. Many CLC consumers take classes at HT, which is an arts education program for people with special needs.

This year's gala event was made possible by our generous sponsors and supporters and we thank them again for their help. Major sponsors were:

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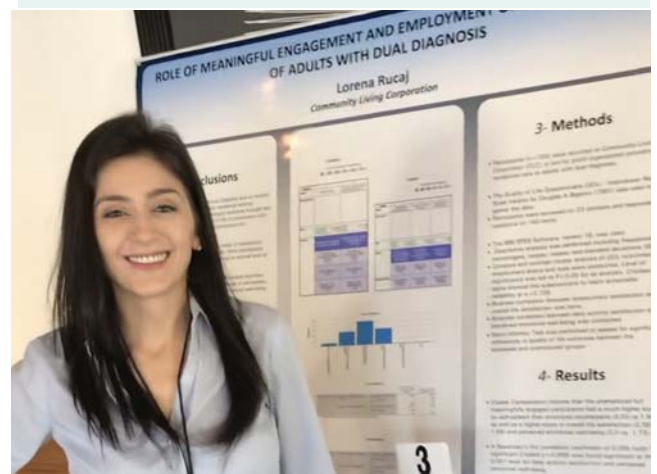
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CLC STAFFER EARNS HIGH HONORS AT NAAD CONFERENCE 2017



Lorena Rucaj, a Clinical Support Liaison working with CLC consumers, began a scientific research study this past September. She examined how identification with occupational roles and meaningful engagement affects quality of life of CLC adults with dual diagnosis.

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KEVIN CAN'T WAIT!

Kevin Davenport lives in Society Hill in Peekskill, and he can hardly wait for this meeting. A strong man, he greets me at the door with a hardy handshake. He is dressed in a formal shirt and tie because, he says, "this interview is a big deal."

For jazz aficionados, the Davenport name may be familiar since Kevin's mother is renowned professional singer Glenda Davenport. He has obviously inherited her musical talent as he does some serious freestyle Rap, sometimes with residence manager Jerimin (Jay) Goulbourne.

Kevin is very serious about music, which is reflected in his very own megawatt sound system that kicks up his tuneful talent more than a few notches. He's happy he can *surround* himself with his hobby.



This sound system is one of Kevin's prized possessions.

"I've been with CLC about fourteen years now, and I really like it," Kevin says. "I have no complaints." This jazz man is also very complimentary of his roommate buddies Mark and Christian, and residence manager Jay.

Kevin keeps busy with two jobs. Some days he makes the hour plus ride to the Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center in Warwick, where he grooms horses and feeds the chickens. His other job is at Infusion Restaurant in Pelham, NY, where he makes lattes and sets a swanky table for customers.

Very much the sportsman, Kevin follows the NBA, NHL, and NFL, among others. His NFL team loyalties are Dallas Cowboys (America's team), New York Jets (naturally) and the New Orleans Saints (because it's a jazz city). Kevin would love to work at Modell's Sporting Goods, so he can be around sports stuff and make money. Movie interest are "anything with Eddie Murphy, Cedric the Entertainer, and Bernie Mac. The last movie I saw was Tyler Perry's *Halloween*." He liked that, but wasn't too thrilled about Stephen King's *IT*, and shuddered just thinking about it, (pun intended).

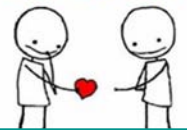
Kevin has two sisters Tracy and Lisa, and a brother Leno. He proudly states "Germaine is my nephew; he's Lisa's son." Though his father Clarence lives in Richmond, Virginia, most of his immediate family, including his mom, is conveniently located in the Westchester area making for easy visits.

Kevin saved his biggest talent reveal for last. He is a top flight bowler! "Yes, these are *all* my trophies," he says, beaming. "I bowl 190. See that bicep?" To prove his point, Kevin flexes his impressive arm muscle, the business end powering his high bowling scores and first place trophies. He can't wait for his next bowling competition. Discloux



Kevin has won a roomful of bowling trophies; most are first place awards.

Pay It Forward



Somebody did a nice thing. A really kind thing; and we only know his name is Mark.

In November, CLC consumers were celebrating the birthdays of Jenny M. and Adam B. They were all at the Applebee's Restaurant in Cortlandt Manor making merry. At a table nearby, a gentleman sat quietly observing the happy crew. Then he did a nice thing. A random act of kindness. A good deed. He told the wait staff that he was picking up the tab for the entire table; and he did.

Jenny said that she told the man "thank you." He said it was his gift to them, and with a wave of his hand he was gone. (Don't you wish more stories would turn out like this one?)

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

and farm program continues to grow, as does the very successful Culinary Connections Program.

For me to say the last few weeks have been busy would be the understatement of the year. Time just seems to be flying. October saw the CLC Gala honor John Signorelli and his decades of service to our agency and foundation. Hanukkah has come and gone too quickly; Christmas is here now and we've already had a wonderful holiday party at Villa Barone in Mahopac.

Smack in the middle of all this we welcomed CLC Foundation into their new offices at 135 Radio Circle. The long held plan to have all of the CLC affiliates in one building is now coming to fruition. Being under the same roof will make it easier to communicate with the various CLC entities on a real-time, day to day basis. We now have access to a training room capable of seating about 50 people.

CLC's Hidden Treasures is now organizing their materials and workspace, looking very much forward to meeting and rehearsing here for the first time. Enrollment in the Winslow riding

Our Annual Holiday Appeal letter has been mailed and we are asking for your help in providing a tangible, meaningful "thank you" to all of the people who work directly with your loved one, adult child or sibling. As always, 100% of the proceeds of our annual appeal go only to those who work directly with our consumers. The only way we can do this is through your generosity. If you have already made a contribution, I thank you. If you have not yet participated, please consider making a completely tax deductible gift to help us show our appreciation to those who help CLC be the best ever. This year we recognized four staff with more than fifteen years of service as well as Lucille McCarthy passing the 25 year milestone.

Budget issues, brought about by OPWDD's Transition Plan for Home and Community Based Services will demand our complete attention. Our entire means of serving people with disabilities is undergoing a complete transformation at the local, state and federal level. What it means for

an individual living at CLC is not yet clear. The draft of the transition plan is now available for public comment. Contained within it and buried in new acronyms is New York State's vision of service provision in the future. Some of the changes will be implemented beginning in early 2018.

Complete transitions to managed care service (as opposed to fee for service) will follow thereafter and be fully implemented in the next 36 to 60 months. I hate playing the classic Grinch, but somehow, I just don't see anyone, local state or federal, saying, "Hey, nice job; here's an increase in your billing rate to help you keep it up!"

And so, we continue to provide great programs and serve all of our consumers. There will be real challenges in the future and I believe we are flexible enough and well equipped enough to handle what is coming our way in both the short and long term.

Finally, I wish you all a peaceful and joyful holiday season. We've accomplished so much and could not have done any of it without your trust and

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confidence. 2018 will present its own challenges and will come fast enough. In the meantime, let's just enjoy all the best of this magical season.

John Porcella

CELEBRATING SERVICE MILESTONES

Irene Quill

La Camelia Restaurant was the venue for CLC's recognition luncheon for employees with 15 or more years of service. "Recognizing people for years of dedicated service is one of the highlights of any executive director's job," says John Porcella. "At CLC, it is my great honor to acknowledge the work of staff who are not only co-workers, but people I consider friends." Congratulations to the following employees celebrating years of service milestones:

25 Lucille McCarthy

10 Emily Conklin
Renee Eley
Kathy O'Connell
Millie Rivera-Gutierrez
Patrice Thomas
Gjuela Trashani

15 Sueli DiStadio; Kevin Lager
Suzette McKenzie
Vanessa Williams

5 Jerimin Goulbourne
Connie Joseph
Audrey Green-Ellis
Nyarumba Nota



Celebrating service milestones are, from left, Suzette McKenzie, Lucille McCarthy, John Porcella, Sueli DiStadio and Kevin Lager.

Vanessa Williams (who was unable to attend the luncheon.)



HOLIDAY PARTY 2017!

Irene Quill

CLC consumers and staff partied hardy on December 7 at Villa Barone in Mahopac. The occasion? Consumers' favorite celebration of the year -The annual CLC holiday party!

Attendees had a blast dancing to the DJ's music and loved the gift drawings that were pulled by consumers Mousy and Crystal. Decked out in holiday duds, staff and consumers alike were very happy with the lavish dinner, and with the gift cards lucky winners received in the raffle. Gift cards were from Amazon, area restaurants, Kohl's, Target and for gasoline!



James, Sonia, Anne Marie and Joe from Peekskill residences.



The dance floor was hardly ever empty!



Happy guests, Joan, Anita in red beret, Suzanne and Stephanie.



Two married couples, Patsy & Lois and Mary & Joe.



Millie, Penny and Laure from the Purchasing Department. These three orchestrated the holiday party. Kudos for a job well done.

GETTING REEL WITH STEPHEN



Movie: *Thor: Ragnarok*

Action Adventure PG-13

I saw this movie at the Bow Tie Cinema in Mount Kisco. It was very exciting.

In this movie, Thor, played by Chris Hemsworth, is in prison on the other side of the universe without his powerful hammer. He has to get back to his homeland to save it from destruction. First, he has to win in a gladiator fight.

My favorite parts are when the Incredible Hulk comes out to fight for his father, the sword fight, and when his father returns.

I give this movie 10 stars!



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



Kristina relaxes in style.

PUMPKINS & PECANS & APPLES, OH, MY!

Irene Quill

November is a busy time for cooks and bakers. It was an especially active time for the crew at Culinary Connections, a hands-on food service training program that combines classroom instruction with mentored work-site experiences.

CLC student bakers took 50 orders for holiday pies and cakes from staff at the main offices, and then had to stop because the demand was too great. The chefs then set out for Infusion Restaurant, where many train and work, creating delectable desserts that were delivered in time for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The group did have time, however, for a little friendly baking competition before making their sale items. The opposition was fierce, but in the end, Patsy won first place for his Deep Dish Sour Cream Apple-Pecan Crumb Pie, while



Sonia, a baker and consumer from Peekskill, delivers a CLC-baked pie to Lawrence, direct care staff.

Caroline took second honors for her Creamy Pumpkin Cheesecake. Three CLC chefs tied for third place, Sonia, Jennifer and Lois,

who is Patsy's wife. Lois' third place win was bestowed for her Light and Airy Pumpkin-Marshmallow Pie. My, my, my!



Bakers made a variety of desserts including Tammy's Rustic Pumpkin Cake; David's Southern Espresso Bourbon Cake; Jen's Pecan Apple Pumpkin Pie; Culhane's Turkey Luvin' Carrot Cake; Sonia's Apple Pie Baked Apples and Emily's Red Hot Velvet Supreme Cake.

Special thanks to Les Ford for contributing to this article.

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HAPPINESS THROUGH SOCKS

John's Crazy Socks is a father-son venture inspired by John Lee Cronin, a young man with Down syndrome. It all began with John's love of colorful and fun socks, or what he calls his "crazy socks."

John, who is studying retailing and customer service at a tech high school, teamed up with his dad to launch the business. The grassroots company hires people with disabilities and has created a series of awareness and charity socks.

A portion of proceeds from each pair sold is donated to causes like Down Syndrome, Autism awareness, Special Olympics and breast cancer research.



Shop via Amazon using the CLC link (see p. 3) and find johnscrazysocks.com.

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.

FOUNDATION MAKES A MOVE

CLC Foundation has moved from “the big white house” on Bedford Road to their new offices at 135 Radio Circle Drive in November. The main offices are already home to staff from CLC Corp. and ADi.

To mark the occasion, Foundation Executive Director Kaitlyn Blanchard held a luncheon for all employees at CLC’s main offices. “We are thrilled to finally join the rest of the CLC Community here at 135 Radio Circle,” Kaitlyn said. “Thank you to everyone who helped make this new office space possible for our team.”



In their new home for the holidays, from left, Genevieve, Joy, Tim, Kaitlyn & Kathy.

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CLC Gala guests had a wonderful time at the event, which drew one of the largest crowds ever!

- 1) Sonia walking the red carpet;
- 2) Caroline;
- 3) Joanna, Patrice & Millie;
- 4) Comedienne Sybil Bruncheon
- 5) Joe & Hada-Luz;
- 6) Jennifer & Fred
- 7) Tim & Ramona;
- 8) Priscilla & Lindsay;
- 9) Tom, Mel & Ellen.

CLC Gala 2017



CLC STAFFER EARNS HIGH HONORS AT NAAD CONFERENCE 2017

Continued from p. 1

Statistical analysis of the gathered data showed that CLC adults who were meaningfully engaged in day programs and matched to optimal level of functioning capacity, reported higher quality of life, higher self-esteem, and higher overall life satisfaction.

Lorena was invited to present the findings of this research at the 34th Annual NADD (National Association of Dual Diagnosis) Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina in November. Her work was met with great interest and received top accolades.

“My Research Poster Presentation won the contest for Best/ Outstanding Research Poster Presentation,” says Lorena. “The founder of the organization has formally invited me to publish the findings of this research in the NADD Journal.” Separate offers for publications were also made by other sources during the conference.

(NADD is a not-for-profit membership association established for professionals, care providers and families to promote understanding of and services for individuals who have developmental disabilities and mental health needs. NAAD’s mission is to advance mental wellness for persons with developmental disabilities through the promotion of excellence in mental health care.)



Stephen, Lorena, Susan and Jennifer.

Says Lorena about her win, “This award should really go to CLC individuals for their persistent commitment to growth despite inherited challenges and setbacks.”

FARM WORK IS NEVER DONE!

It’s cold outside! However, that doesn’t mean there’s not plenty of work to be done at Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center in Warwick, NY. CLC consumers make sure the animals are fed and tended to - even when the temperatures dip down low!



Consumers Cindy, at left and Julie fill grain buckets for the farm animals.

Danny, at right, and Manny, tend to one of the horses at Winslow.



Have a CLC photo or story? email us!

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or Irene Quill at iquill@communitylivingcorp.org

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**THEIR PLACE
AT THE SUN**



Consumers and staff from Todd and Curry traveled to Connecticut's Mohegan Sun Casino in the fall. After Shopping and a stop in the gaming room, the group saw a fascinating show in the Comix Theater - *The Magic of Tom Pesce* (Tom, at center in suit and tie, is the cousin of residence manager Kami Quast.)

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