

COMMUNITY LIVING CORP.

# THE OPEN DOOR

**PROVIDING QUALITY CARE TO DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED  
PEOPLE THROUGH COMMUNITY LIVING**

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

### A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Music. It's in their hearts; it's in their souls. It's something that this mother and son have shared from the very beginning, and it's not hard to understand why.

Glenda Davenport, Mom to CLC'er Kevin, is a well-known jazz singer with a career spanning over 25 years. She's headlined at the renowned Iridium Jazz Club in Manhattan, was a winner at The World Famous Apollo Theater's Amateur Night, performed at Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, and much more. She has recorded two CD's, "Sophisticated Lady" and "More Than You Know." "My first important gig," says Glenda, "was as a Mom. I shared my love of music with my children from the beginning." Glenda had good training. Ever since she can remember, there was music in the house she shared with her parents and five siblings.

Says Glenda, "My dad Roland sang tenor in the Philharmonic Glee Club of Westchester and the group would often practice at our house, singing in the living room around our upright piano. My mom Pauline had a lovely soprano voice; she was often singing and teaching us songs. We grew up in this beautiful harmony, so it was natural for me to sing and play music with my family. I remember Kevin's favorite album was Aretha Franklin's *Amazing Grace*. It's still his favorite today.



**Kevin with his sister Tracey and mom Glenda, at right.**

The Davenports had two children. "Tracey came first and hit all the right milestones," Glenda recalls. "Then Kevin was born and by age two Glenda knew there were issues. 'I sensed something was amiss. He wasn't walking and talking as others his age. I thought, *get treatment early so we can nip it in the bud. We'll get this fixed.* That was how I viewed things. I took Kevin to several doctors, who all agreed that there were some delays. 'Nothing definitive, just delays,' says Glenda. 'I took him for therapies and more appointments. A lot of them.'

When it came time to start school, however, Glenda enrolled him in a regular public school Kindergarten in their Mount Vernon neighborhood. "I wanted the teachers to come to me and tell me there was an issue. That was their job, I thought."

*continued p. 6*

## GO AHEAD, MAKE US SMILE

**With the holidays near, we encourage everyone  
to shop on Amazon and help support CLC.**

**Here's how:**

**Go to [HTTPS://SMILE.AMAZON.COM/CH/13-3563609](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/13-3563609)  
and do your shopping as usual.**

**Same products, same prices.**

**The benefit: 0.5% of your purchase goes to CLC!**

**How easy was that?!**

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From left, Andrea, Direct Support staff Charmaine, Holly, Tom and Brandon.



Kevin and Danny, center, with Day Hab staffers Les, far left and Dan, far right.



A wall of celebratory thank you notes from CLCers to Direct Care staff hung in the lobby at 135. A few notes are printed at right.

## A WEEK OF APPRECIATION

In the CLC tradition, the agency held a week long celebration to recognize direct care staff during Direct Care Service Professionals Appreciation Week. Highlights included a table of goodies and prizes, all to say a resounding *thank you* to CLC Direct Care staff. Gift card winners were Sonnett Giles, Kimball Harrison, Ange Boh, Suzette Barrett and Audrey Green-Ellis. Day off winners included Divine Williams, Rennett Gordon, Myrna Glave, Dan Brown, and Charmaine Grant.



CLCer Robin, at right, with On Call staffer Ange.



*You are awesome, fantastic and a very beautiful and strong and smart woman inside and out.*

*To All CLC Staff,  
Thanks for your hard work and helping with giving us direction about work.*

*Thank you for all your help.*



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**C**ould someone please tell me where this summer went? It seems as if just yesterday that we were planning sunny vacations and buying caps and suntan lotion.

Both the Fourth of July and Labor Day holidays fell mid-week, making the months seem even shorter. So here we are, now half way through October and already planning our monster bashes and parties. Some of our consumers have already started to prepare for the events, whether it's the food, costumes or decorations.

Halloween is sort of a tradition at CLC, with the earliest parties planned by Lucille McCarthy and the late Lorraine Ruiz. Good times were had by all and we have the pictures to prove it! Thanksgiving is looming just around the bend. The next thing we'll see is the decorations for Christmas and Chanukah.

Last month we celebrated our direct care staff recognizing their work and thanking them for all that they do. Without them, there would be nothing. Compliments are never out of style so why not thank them when you see them, not just during the official DSP days.



**Ken S., at right, who resides at one of the Barker Street apartments, stops by 135 to visit with John Porcella.**

Yesterday, we received a notification from our insurance carrier regarding a report which was called in through the 1 800 vehicle reporting system. Usually these call-ins do not convey very good news.

Today, however, someone surprised us by writing a very positive statement, detailing the courtesy and professionalism observed on the road with our staff in the driver's seat.

The observer didn't have to do this, and there is no tangible reward attached to it. It was just a simple validation of the driver's efforts to get our consumers safely where they need to be. From the recipient's perspective it was completely uplifting. "Hey, someone notices!"

We'll probably never learn who or where the compliment came from. So here's something to think about- why not make a conscious effort to

think about all of the good things that occur here every day, the things that just seem to appear by themselves, conclude quietly, and are often invisible.

All we have to do is smile and say a simple "thank you!" You'll never wear out your welcome, and you just might make someone's day.

*John Porcella*

**CLC HOLIDAY  
PARTY 2018**  
FOR CLC INDIVIDUALS & STAFF

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6  
THE VILLA BARONE  
MAHOPAC, NY**



**Special thanks and  
photo credit  
for this issue:**



**Charmaine Grant,  
Emily Conklin,  
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Mousy L., Patti Hurley,  
David Chun, Stephen M.,  
Glenda Davenport**

## eNews UPDATES

WE SEARCH THE WEB TO  
BRING YOU THE LATEST NEWS

### A WATERPARK FOR GUESTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS ADMISSION IS FREE!

*Time Magazine* says that a first-of-its-kind water park designed to be fully accessible to people with special needs is among the top 100 places in the world for 2018.

The magazine included Morgan's Inspiration Island in San Antonio, Texas on its inaugural list of the "World's Greatest Places." Other landmarks to make the cut include an underwater art museum, a hotel where guests stay alongside giraffes and a cruise ship featuring the longest go-kart track at sea.

Morgan's Inspiration Island, which opened in 2017, is a \$17 million attraction filled with pools, geysers, jets, water cannons and a five-minute jungle-themed riverboat ride. The park was created to be "ultra-accessible" meaning that every part of it is wheelchair-friendly. There is an area with warmer water for those sen-



At Morgan's Wonderland and Morgan's Inspiration Island, every guest with special needs enjoys free admission. [www.morganswonderland.com](http://www.morganswonderland.com)

sitive to cold and special waterproof wheelchairs are available for guests, among other accommodations.

*Time Magazine* said it solicited nominations of museums, parks, bars, restaurants, theme parks, cruises and hotels from its staff and industry experts and then evaluated destinations based on factors including "quality, originality, innovation, sustainability and influence."

"The result is a list as diverse as the world it reflects, with 100 entries spanning six continents and 48 countries — highlighting everything from a Texas water

park that empowers kids with disabilities to a Maldives resort that's building an undersea abode to a library in Tianjin, China, that's almost as wondrous as reading itself," the magazine said.

Morgan's Inspiration Island is situated adjacent to Morgan's Wonderland, a fully-accessible amusement park that opened in 2010. Both parks were created by Gordon Hartman, who has a daughter with disabilities, and sought a place where she and others like her could play.

*The Disability Scoop*

## SMITHSONIAN PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON SPECIAL OLYMPICS

With a new exhibit, the Smithsonian Institution is highlighting how athletics have helped to dramatically change the lives of people with intellectual disabilities over the last 50 years. The display *Special Olympics at 50* was unveiled recently at the National Museum of American History in Washington just as the international sporting movement is celebrating a half-century.

"Founded at a time when people with intellectual disabilities (ID) were often institutionalized or hidden away, Special Olympics changed attitudes about the abilities and talents of children and adults with ID — giving them the chance to train their bodies, build confidence, meet new people and share skills through sports," the Smithsonian said. Located in the museum's *of note* case, the exhibit showcases how Eunice Kennedy Shriver evolved a backyard camp for young people with intellectual disabilities into Special Olympics, which hosted its first international games in 1968 in Chicago.

The Smithsonian display also features the stories of four well-known Special Olympics athletes — Marty Sheets, Ricardo Thornton, Loretta Claiborne and Lee Dockins — with a pennant, jersey, medal and other mementos from the athletes' experiences at various games over the decades. In addition, visitors can engage with the exhibit by jumping between agility lines and see the height of the uneven parallel bars, Smithsonian officials said. The Special Olympics display will be on view through June 2019.

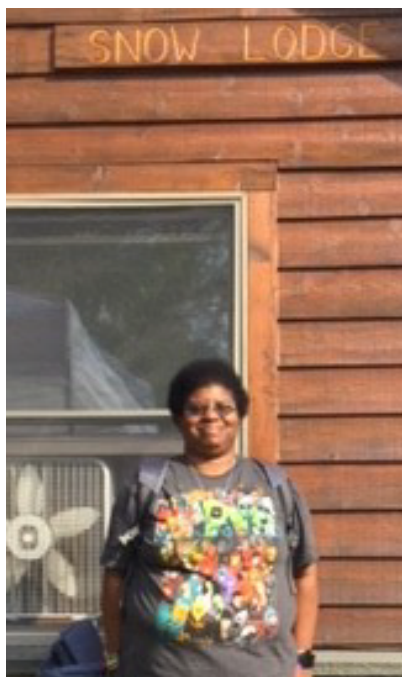




## MOUSY ON THE MOVE

A FIRST HAND REPORT BY MOUSY L.

"I went to Frost Valley in August on a North East Special Recreation trip. I learned archery, tried wall climbing and walked a cable bridge. North East gave us breakfast, lunch and dinner. My favorites were turkey sausage and whole wheat waffles with fruit. It was a really good vacation."



## DESTINATION: LAKE GEORGE

CLCers from Peekskill visited Lake George in August. They stayed at the Roaring Brook Ranch Resort, which features an on-site restaurant, spa, pool, table tennis, billiards, tennis courts, sauna and fitness center.

Nicknamed the *Queen of American Lakes*, this long, narrow lake is approximately 32 miles long and is located at the southeast base of the Adirondack Mountains, in the northeastern New York State. Our group had plenty of company at this popular destination. Although the year-round population of the Lake George region is relatively small, the summertime population can swell to over 50,000 residents.



Enjoying a sunny day at Lake George, from left, Diane, Jenny, staffer Charmaine and Suzanne.

SAVE THE DATE!  
SAVE THE DATE!  
SAVE THE DATE!



## CLC GALA

HONORING

JOAN LENSKY ROBERT, ESQ.

&

DONALD AND DORIS HARE

**Sunday, November 11**  
**Noon — 4PM**

**THE GREENTREE  
COUNTRY CLUB  
NEW ROCHELLE NY**

For additional information and Journal advertising, please contact: Joy McLeod  
[joy@clcfoundation.org](mailto:joy@clcfoundation.org)  
914/241-2076  
at the  
CLC Foundation

**WANTED!** CLC has full & part-time openings in a variety of positions, including for direct care personnel.

A positive attitude, compassion and prior experience preferred. Required: HS Diploma/GED, valid driver's license for past 3 years, own transportation, background check, drug testing.

Candidates please Fax resumes to (914) 241-0578 or email HR at [resumes@communitylivingcorp.org](mailto:resumes@communitylivingcorp.org). Incentives available for employee referrals. Please contact HR for details.

**Hidden Treasures** seeks two experienced teachers for Arts & Crafts and Studio Art for our Monday evening classes in Mount Kisco, NY, 6:30pm to 8pm. Must have classroom or community instruction experience, creativity and love art.

Teachers will prepare projects, supervise and assist students during class and be available to present art work during art shows, gala, etc. Please email your resume to [htreasures@optonline.net](mailto:htreasures@optonline.net).

Have a CLC photo or story? email us at [swissx@optonline.net](mailto:swissx@optonline.net) or [iquill@communitylivingcorp.org](mailto:iquill@communitylivingcorp.org)! Send a photo and caption of CLCers and we'll publish it in the next edition.

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

## ALL IN THE FAMILY

The teachers did their job, and after just a short time suggested Kevin be switched to a Special Ed Kindergarten. "He did much better there, I think because he received more attention," says Glenda. "I didn't like that the classroom was located in the basement of the school, where most of the Special Ed classes were in those days. But of course, as I learned later, that was not important."



**Mother and son take a walk together on a sunny day.**

Glenda continued to raise her family, sharing her music with her children, singing and dancing around the house with them (Kevin is still especially fond of dancing.) When Kevin turned 15,

Glenda enrolled him at The Clear View School in Briarcliff Manor, NY. "It was a wonderful and safe place and Kevin stayed until he aged out at 21. During all these years, I continued to take Kevin to therapy. "Somehow, deep down I thought that all this would make Kevin totally OK. I'm his Mom. I believed it."

Upon Kevin's graduation from The Clear View School, he went to the Westchester ARC workshop program. "It was a day of reckoning for me," recalls Glenda. "It was then that I realized I couldn't make it all OK. It was a very difficult day. Kevin was fine. He even saw some people he knew. It wasn't him. It was me who had to adjust."

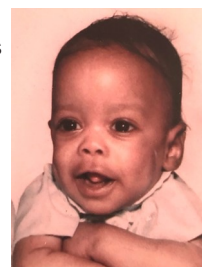
As a child, Kevin continued to make great strides. He learned to ride a bike, roller skate and even to swim and dive. "When he tried these *daring* things," said Glenda, "I would pretend I wasn't watching. He had such determination to achieve! He persevered!"

Then in 1993, with a bit of luck and many conversations with John Signorelli, former Executive Director of CLC Foundation, Kevin joined CLC. "He was very hesitant and wanted to come home," Glenda remembers. "We missed each other terribly, but I knew it was for the best. To my great relief, he adjusted and soon was his happy self again, making friends, playing music, video games and adjusting to his new surroundings. I thank God every day for CLC. I feel safe knowing that he's here."

For decades now, Kevin has been living a full life. He goes on vacations and just loves Italy (who doesn't?). He has friends and a few part-time jobs. Of course, Kevin still has challenges. He loves money and loves spending it! CLC staff work with him so he can budget for items, especially music CDs and video

games. He's yet to find his perfect job, but keeps trying. (Little does he know that many of us are still looking for that perfect job!)

Glenda is especially grateful that Kevin is living an independent life at CLC since she'll soon relocate to Austin, Texas. "Two of my sisters live in Austin and I realized how much fun I was having when I visited. They love their quality of life in Austin, so I thought I would give it a try.



**Kevin as a baby.**

"I was a bit anxious about telling Kevin (my biggest fan!) about the move. I took him and his sister out to dinner. Taking a deep breath, I told them together. Tracey said we *want you to be happy!* I braced myself for Kevin's response. He gave me the nicest smile and said *Go for it, Mom!* I was stunned and excited all at once. My heart just melted. *Mr. Independent! He will be fine! They will both be fine!*"

*Postscript: Even though Glenda is leaving her New York singing career, she plans to revive things in Austin, known as the live music capital of the world. "I've already done a gig here with a local jazz pianist and we stayed in touch." So watch out, Austin, Glenda's coming, and she's going to be more than OK.*

D. Descloux



## A SPECIAL DAY AT PLAYLAND

Lyndel Road folks joined nearly 10,000 people for a full day of fun at Playland on July 27. They were there to celebrate the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Day for People with Disabilities."

In a tradition going back many years, Playland offered free, unlimited rides for people with disabilities, their family members and caregivers. CLCers Mary Lou, Clarice, Kevin, Gerard, Margaret, Stephanie and staffer Jill took advantage of every minute.

The Ferris Wheel was the first ride of the day for Mary Lou, Kevin, Gerard and Jill. "We loved it!" they cheered in unison. Only Clarice, however, dared to take on the water slide, "It was awesome!" she told her friends when she got off, dripping wet. Everyone in the group was nearly as soaked since they stood nearby to watch her.

The troop walked the busy and boisterous boardwalk, passing tantalizing attractions like the Zombie Castle, House of Mirrors and Kite Flyer. Were they worth the advertised chills and thrills? Everyone voted "Yes!"



Gerard, Stephanie and Mary Lou were all smiles all day at the park.

Finally satisfied they had experience their share of excitement, they ended the day with pizza and soda. "Thanks for taking us!" was Kevin's heartfelt comment to Jill as they headed to the car, tired and happy.

Located on the shores of Long Island Sound, Playland opened in 1928. As the only Art Deco amusement park in America, is part of the National Register of Historic Places.

Kevin gives Playland an enthusiastic double thumb's up.



## Therapeutic Riding & Horsemanship

Every weekday, a group of CLC individuals makes the hour-long ride over to Warwick, NY with the Day Hab staff to work and learn at Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center.

Besides tending to the chickens and planting crops, CLCers take therapeutic riding lessons and learn horsemanship. Therapeutic riding is an individualized program of learning to ride a horse which takes into account a person's physical, mental, and emotional strengths and limitations.

The horses, staff, and volunteers at Winslow have all been carefully selected and trained to accommodate the physical, mental, or social disabilities of the rider. Goals of therapeutic riding vary as much as the individual participants. Improved physical strength, balance, mobility and coordination are



accomplished through the physical act of riding a horse.

Increased attention, concentration, learning, and verbal skills are inherent in learning the skills necessary to ride successfully. Bonding with the horse, making new friends, and respecting authority are some of the social improvements we see. Improvements in self-esteem, self-control, and confidence also arise from the experience of success in learning to ride.

Jim loves riding in the ring at Winslow.

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## GETTING REEL WITH STEPHEN



Movie and play  
reviews from CLC's  
in-house expert.

### Movie: *Operation Finale*



*The movie was slow and I  
am only giving it three stars.*

Historical Drama [PG-13](#)

The plot is about seven men with a mission to capture bad guys. The bad guys were responsible for the death of Jewish people. In the end they captured the cruel mastermind.

### Movie: *A Simple Favor*



*You should see it!  
Four stars!*

Drama/Thriller [R](#)

This is a mystery about two friends in a small town. Emily, a working mom and wife, and Stephanie, a stay at home mom and widow, become friends. Their sons are friends, too. Emily asks Stephanie to pick her son up from school one day. Emily never comes to pick him up and then she disappears. Stephanie begins to wonder what happened to Emily and works with Emily's husband to unravel her disappearance.

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