

THE OPEN DOOR

PROVIDING QUALITY CARE TO DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PEOPLE THROUGH COMMUNITY LIVING

THE WRIGHT STUFF

CLCers head to Wright Family Farm for Downhome Fun.

DayHab participants spent a beautiful sunny day at Wright Family Farm in Warwick, NY this fall. They were aiming to go pumpkin picking, but were treated to some downhome farm fun, too.

The family-run farm has been in operation since 1912 and features a nine-acre pumpkin patch, corn maze, farm stand and a barnyard of animals, among other attractions. A shiny green tractor (actually a pedal car) caught the eye of Barbara, who couldn't resist hopping on. Not to be outdone, Tom goes for a spin and suddenly, there's a mini Indy race around the farm!

After the races, farm visitors made themselves comfy on hay bales in a covered wagon, which was pulled around by big daddy tractor. During their visit, our group learned about the grain hopper, which is a place to store grain, and were thrilled to meet two tame donkeys and a big pet pig. Louise was the only one brave enough to slide down the 20 foot tube slide. Meanwhile, down at the patch, "We picked extra sugar pumpkins and plan to make pumpkins pies from scratch this weekend," says CLC staffer Rebecca. "Yum!" shouted one of the happy pickers. "Pie!"



Barbara takes a tractor out for a quick spin... Before you know it, Tom joins in and we have a mini Indy event on the farm!



CLCers hop a ride on the hay wagon on their way to pick pumpkins.

Tom and Sandy are happy to take a wagon ride around the farm.



MEET FRANKIE: A FRIEND TO ALL



Frankie demonstrates his bowling swing. An avid bowler, he plays weekly with North East Recreation at lanes in Jefferson Valley. North East is a community-based therapeutic recreation agency serving children and adults with developmental disabilities in the North East portion of Westchester County, NY.

I meet Frankie M. at his home in Mount Kisco on a crisp fall day. He rises from the sofa, shakes my hand, gives a little nod and smiles. (I can't help but smile, too.)

My first impression is that he is a kind and gentle man. In this case, first impressions were spot on. Carol Grant, residence manager at the sprawling country home, is there also and adds bits and pieces to Frankie's story.

Frankie has been with CLC for "a very long time," according to him. "my friends are here," he says quietly. "Eddie is here." (Eddie is Frankie's roommate.)

During the week, Frankie goes to The Manzi Center in White Plains, where he attends workshops, does arts and crafts, exercises and takes yoga. He also participates in various projects in the community.

Frankie very much enjoys *Hidden Treasures*, an arts program for people with special needs, where he takes singing classes. His favorite song is *New York, New York*, and he hums a few bars to prove it. "I like the show," he says, referring to the program's annual performance in June. "I'm on stage," he adds proudly.

Every Tuesday, Frankie and friends bowl at Jefferson Valley with North East Recreation. "I have a good

swing," he says, and gets up to demonstrate

Frankie looks forward to seeing his sister Sara, who lives in the area. Says Carol, "Sara always organizes a Christmas party here and supplies arts and crafts for everyone. She also brings plenty of food for all 12 CLCers living at the house."

Carol adds that Sara also throws a birthday party for Frankie every year, complete with fabulous food and a cake. Everyone looks forward to Sara's parties. When asked about his favorite dinner, Frankie doesn't hesitate, "Ravioli!"

Good food, and especially going out to eat, probably tops everyone's list; Frankie is no exception. "Occasionally we travel to the Connecticut casinos, *Foxwoods* or *Mohigan Sun*, where they have all you can eat buffets," says Carol. "We can spend hours there."

I have a good swing.

Carol continues, "I give each person some small change for the penny slots. They enjoy it and a dollar can last a very long time when you bet a few cents at a time. Frankie has won a few times. "Got it!" he says happily.

Frankie vacations with *Creative Escapes*, a travel organization for people with special needs. He recently

visited Cape Cod with the group. Additionally, Carol organizes weekly day trips; the latest was to the New York *Renaissance Fair*, less than an hour north of Westchester County. Says Carol, "The group loved walking around and seeing people dressed in medieval costumes." Before that they drove down to the Jersey shore to enjoy the beaches and the boardwalk. "Boardwalk is fun," says Frankie.

Frankie gets along with everyone.

When he's not at workshops, singing at *Hidden Treasures*, vacationing or bowling, Frankie relaxes with his housemates and watches TV. He's a fan of the oldies; *Bonanza*, *Jeopardy* and *Family Feud* are on most nights at the house.

"Sometimes there's a disagreement about what to watch," reports Carol. "We only have two televisions for our large group, but Frankie never complains."

Frankie gets along with everyone. "He is well liked," says Carol. "He is very independent, though. He wants to do everything he can for himself. "I can do it," Frankie says nodding, and he gets up to show me his bowling swing again. "Arm up!" he coaches. "Higher!" (Got it, Frankie!)

D. Descloux

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On September 19th, 2019, OPWDD Acting Commissioner Ted Kastner visited Westchester County and met with a number of groups to answer questions and provide information regarding the New York State's transition to managed care. I was fortunate to be able to participate in this event. It was a small group of providers and everyone has a chance to ask their questions and learn firsthand where we stand as we look forward to the future.

We are well down the path toward the transition. Recall that the first few steps have already been implemented. The Care Coordination Organizations have been created and are operational. For instance, your former "Case Manager" has been replaced

by a "Care Coordinator", who is employed by one of the Care Coordination Organizations. The previous Individual Service Plan has been eliminated.

The Care Coordinator is now charged with the responsibility of creating an individualized "Life Plan" with the input of all disciplines, but most importantly, the person receiving services. As of now, the individual receiving services is not mandated to sign on to the managed care model, but will be required to sign on in the very foreseeable future. OPWDD will monitor the transition and attempt to make changes and adjustments before mandatory enrollment.

The former "fee for service" model will be phased out and will be replaced by services supervised and coordinate by the managed care organization and implemented through medical care coordinator. This includes all services currently provided through OPWDD. There are many, many questions which will be asked and, hopefully, answered.

During the meeting with Commissioner Kastner, we learned of many challenges which are facing the entire field. He explained how the system keeps growing geometrically in numbers despite the fiscal caps imposed

by the legislature. Please remember that Medicaid funds tens of billions of program dollars. Where Medicaid goes, so do we! We're locked into a system that continues to grow despite the best efforts to contain it. Managed Care may well be the only methodology to create a sustainable and responsive service system.

Fiscal watchdog groups, such as the "Empire Center of New York" or, the "Citizens Budget Commission" report that New York's entire health care system continues to run large deficits. The 2020-2023 budget is under construction right now and will begin to reveal its impact for years to come.

Commissioner Kastner has been involved in similar issues in several states. He is no stranger to health care issues and explains the budget situation in plain English, both the good and the bad.

I encourage you to become an active advocate and get on to the OPWDD internet mailing list to stay active. Without your input, nothing will happen.

See you at the 2019 Gala!

John Porcella

WANTED! Full & Part-Time Staff

CLC has various full & part-time openings, including for direct care personnel. A positive attitude, compassion and prior experience preferred.

Required: High School Diploma/ GED, valid driver's license for past three years, own transportation, background check, drug testing.

Fax resumes to (914) 241-0578 or email HR at resumes@communitylivingcorp.org. Incentives for employee referrals. Contact HR for details.

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Email us your CLC photos & news!

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A SWINGING SUCCESS!

The 1st Annual "Healing with Horses" Golf Outing was a swinging success. The event benefited Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center, an agency of CLC Foundation (www.clcfoundation.org). For a recap of the day, go to www.winslow.org.



THAT 70s PARTY!

In September, CLCers hosted a 70s party at *Infusion Restaurant* in Pelham, NY. Kitchen staff, which includes quite a few CLCers, cooked up a fabulous dinner that had guests “Boogie Oogie Oogie-ing” to the buffet for “More, More, More” throughout the event. Said one guest about the food, “That’s the Way I Like It.” DJ Brandon kept the music playing, creating a “Disco Inferno” that had guests practically “Dancing on the Ceiling.”

At the end of the event, partygoers thought they “Never Can Say Goodbye” to all the fun. But even though many had “Night Fever,” the party had to end and guests were gently “Hustled” out of the restaurant. At the end, everyone agreed that “We Are Family.”



Kevin



Adam



Troy, Sam & David

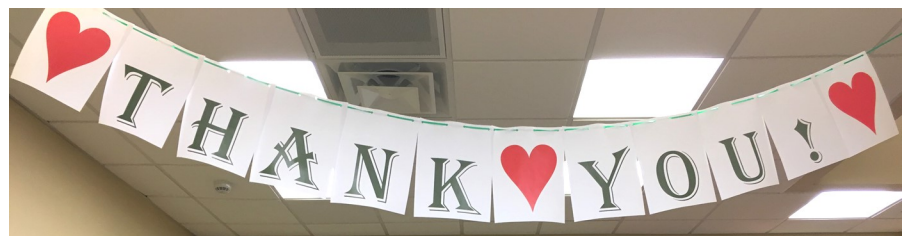


DIRECT SUPPORT STAFF APPRECIATION

Fall is a favorite time of the year at CLC, but not just because of the colorful autumn leaves and pumpkin spice everything. Direct Support Staff Appreciation Week is celebrated at this time, and festivities run for a full week.

The celebration begins with CLC individuals writing notes to staff, which are posted for all to read. Office staff sets up a table of goodies, assorted cookies, cakes, beverages, fruit and candy to show their appreciation for Direct Care Staff. Additionally, names are drawn each day for gift cards and day off coupons.

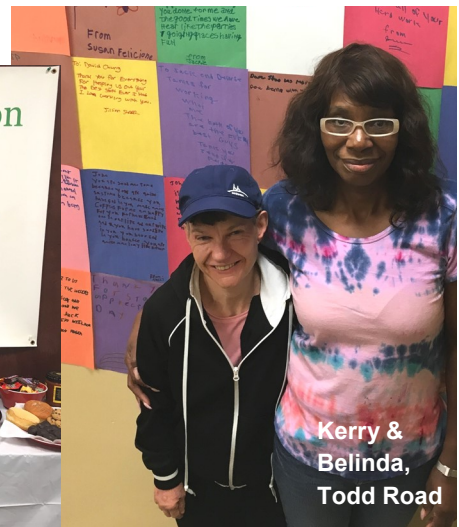
Irene Quill



Community Living Corporation

In recognition of Direct Service Professionals Week, the CLC Board of Directors and management team sends its thanks to all of our direct care professionals!

The most therapeutic professionals in the field. Gentle Teachers, we thank you!



Kerry & Belinda, Todd Road

eNews Updates

WE SEARCH THE WEB TO
BRING YOU THE LATEST NEWS

The Autism Society Applauds the Unanimous Senate Approval of the Autism CARES Act.

**AUTISM
CARES
ACT**
PASSES THE SENATE!

September 19, 2019, Bethesda, MD – The Autism Society of America is thrilled to learn that the Senate unanimously approved H.R. 1058 today. This bill reauthorizes and improves the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, and Supports (CARES) Act for another five years. The next step is for President Trump to sign the bill into law.

“I am grateful to all senators, but especially the bill’s lead sponsors, Senators Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ), HELP Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) and their staff,” said Scott Badesch, President and CEO.

“We are also grateful for Representatives Mike Doyle (D-PA) and Chris Smith (R-NJ), the champions of the House bill (HR 1058) that passed unanimously in the House on July 24. Finally, we appreciate all of our wonderful families who helped to advocate for this bill’s passage.”

This law helps millions of children, youth, and adults with autism and other developmental disabilities by providing important basic and applied research, interdisciplinary training of professionals, public education, and critical services and supports. We expect the President to sign the bill into law soon.

The Autism Society is the nation’s leading grassroots autism organization, and exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism.

Source: *The Disability Scoop*

MAGGIE’S 90TH!

Maggie C. celebrated her 90th Birthday in September! It was a day filled with birthday cake and balloons, good food and great friends.

Maggie began her day at a breakfast celebration with her housemates and resident staff at *Denny’s*, where she enjoyed pancakes and sausage. Then she was whisked off to the salon, where she was pampered with a manicure and new hairdo. (Must look good for a Saturday night out on the town!)

That evening, Maggie and friends went to the *Texas Roadhouse Restaurant*. Maggie ordered a big juicy steak and shrimp! It was a very special birthday for a very special lady.

Jillian Linhardt



CLCERS HOST A LUAUPALOOZA!



CLCers celebrated the end of summer with a luau-themed barbecue at the Winslow farm. Chef Tim fired up the grill and served up a delicious lunch to CLC individuals and staff, who were dressed for the occasion in brightly colored leis. The lei in Hawaiian culture is a wreath of flowers presented upon arriving or departing as a symbol of affection. There's certainly lots of love among this group. Even Lulu the friendly Winslow goat joined the party!



Lulu the friendly goat.

CLC REPRESENTED AT 911 MEMORIAL

Nate and David from Barker Street attended the 911 Memorial Service at Mount Kisco Village Hall on September 11.



What CLCers Did on Their Summer Vacations!

CLC travelers headed across the pond this summer, with stops in Marseille, France, Cadaqués, Spain and Barcelona, where they attended the La Mercé Festival held in honor of the Patron Saint of that city. Another group headed to Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard for a traditional New England summer vacation featuring beach, barbecues and lobster rolls.



Brian, Tom & Howard ready for a day of site seeing.



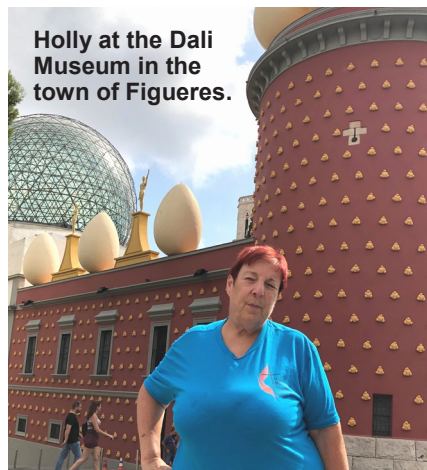
Brian at Cadaqués, a favorite of Picasso and Dali because of its Mediterranean beauty.



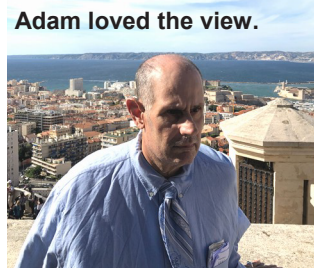
A view from the villa where CLCers stayed in Colera, a small village of 600 overlooking the Mediterranean on the Costa Brava. They did a lot of cooking at the house, including Paella, which was a huge hit!



Hartley & Jen at The Magic Fountain in Barcelona.



Holly at the Dali Museum in the town of Figueres.



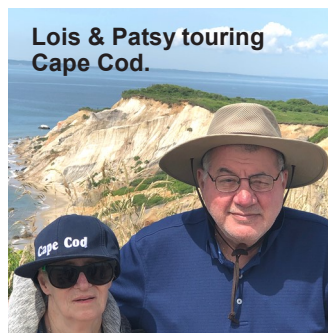
Adam loved the view.



Brian enjoyed Barcelona's Sagrada Família.



After touring the Dali Museum, CLCers stopped at a café in Llança on the Costa Brava. During the trip, the group was happy to try new dishes; a Spanish pulled pork meal was everyone's favorite.



Lois & Patsy touring Cape Cod.



Tom relaxing at the Cape.

GETTING
REEL WITH
STEPHEN



MOVIE AND PLAY REVIEWS
FROM CLC'S
IN-HOUSE EXPERT.

I give each of these movies ☆☆☆☆☆

Movie: *Good Boys* R Adventure/Comedy

This is the story of a few 6th grade buddies skipping school and doing silly things. They go on an adventure, a journey and then try to reach their homes again. Funny comedy. I recommend it.

Movie: *IT: Chapter 2* R Horror/Fantasy

Scary and creepy! Pennywise, the evil clown, returns after many years to the same town and strange things start to happen to people. I recommend seeing it.

Movie: *Angel Has Fallen* R Thriller/Action

This movie was action packed and had violence. A Secret Service agent is taken into custody because they think he made an attempt to assassinate the President. He escapes and tries to find the person who is really trying to kill the President.

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