

# THE OPEN DOOR

PROVIDING QUALITY CARE TO DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PEOPLE THROUGH COMMUNITY LIVING

## CLC GROUP REORGANIZES

*CHANGES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022*

CLC began over 32 years ago with 15 residents in one rented house and a few rented apartments. Today, the CLC Group serves approximately 2,500 individuals in a wide variety of services and employs 450 people.

To provide some perspective, the annual budget of 32 years ago is equivalent to just three day's budget today!

This growth has been achieved both by the formation of new corporations as well as through mergers with other organizations, each known as an "Affiliate." However, what was lacking were common goals, purpose, and strategic direction.

To remedy this, over the past two years we have worked on developing an organizational structure (unique in the field of agencies) that has the following objectives:

- A. To provide a common strategy across all Affiliates.
- B. To enable ease of growth of service providers through mergers and creation of new corporations.
- C. To provide a wide variety of services, with each entity being financially stable and sustainable.
- D. To develop succession planning that permits continuity of service and not dependent on one or a small group of individuals.
- E. To have a common group of services with adequate back-up



**Charcoal drawing of the Bedford Manor house, located in Mount Kisco New York. This was the first home acquired by CLC when the organization was created in 1989. Artist: Don Longabucco, former manager at Lyndel Road house.**

that is the same across all Affiliates (i.e., having identical HR, financial reporting etc.)

F. To allow the Executive Directors and staff to focus solely on growth and excellence of service for the individuals to whom services are provided.

Observing the General Corporate (for profit) model of a Holding Company that retains the shares / stock of the affiliated corporations, we searched for a similar model in the not-for-profit (NFP) world. The answer lay in what certain NFP hospital groups have adopted.

So, after much consideration, we have implemented what is called "A Passive Parent Model with

Centralized Back-Office Operation."

This entailed forming one Board of Directors, the members of which are the same people across all Affiliates. This allows for a common strategic direction across the entire organization.

Next was the creation of a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) who would be responsible for managing the daily activities of all the Affiliates.

Finally, we created a CLC Group Services Corporation that provides common HR, IT, Finance etc. services across the entire group of Affiliates. Through these



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steps, we have achieved all the goals / issues stated above.

Therefore, as of January 1, 2022, a single Board of Directors is operational and John Porcella PhD has been named CEO of the CLC Group. He has the responsibility for managing the daily activities of the entire group of Affiliates and will report to the Board of Directors.

Reporting to the CEO, John Porcella PhD, are the Executive Directors (ED) of the Affiliates:

Community Living Corporation (CLC) - Jessica Thomas - ED, replaces John Porcella. CLC provides services of residential and general living / activities in 40 homes to 150 residents. Reporting to Jessica are Kevin Lager, Medical Director; Alison McKay, Joanna Raynor and Carol Smith - the three Residential Department Heads, the Behavior Specialist, Jonathan Lukens and the CLC Compliance Function.

CLC Foundation (CLCF) - Denyele Urciuoli, ED; Services include: Nikki Ferro, Associate Executive Director; Sue Ferro, ED – Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center - farm & therapeutic riding; and Sharon Sinnott, Director, Visual / Performing Arts Education - Hidden Treasures; and The Supplemental Needs / Surplus Income Trusts.

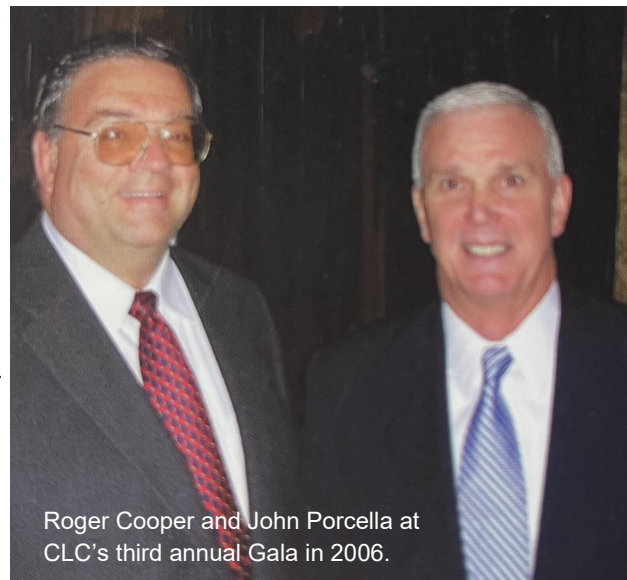
Epilepsy Foundation of Metropolitan New York (EFMNY) - Elinor LaTouche, ED - providing clinical, occupational, and physical therapy in New York City and Westchester and soon in Orange County.

CLC Transportation (CLCT) - Desiree Antonini, ED. This Affiliate provides medical Ambulette Transportation in Westchester and surrounding counties.

ADI Cares (ADI) - Amy Schnitzer-Berman, ED. This Affiliate manages the Day-Habitation services and private advocacy and assists other Agencies in various key activities.

CLC Group Services (CLCGS) - Sarah Fiske, ED. This newly formed Affiliate, provides common "back-office" services to all Affiliates including: Patricia Hurley, Human Resources; Kara LaMay, Financial Control; Penny Ayotte, Purchasing & Maintenance; Development through CLC Fund for the Disabled (CLCFD); and Technology – these last two managers are to be named.

CLC Group (CLCG) - Additionally, certain "functional advisors / individual contributors" across all Affiliates



Roger Cooper and John Porcella at CLC's third annual Gala in 2006.

provide consulting and other such services. These individuals who report to the previously named CEO, John Porcella are Fred Eisman Esq., General Legal Counsel; Priscilla Orr, Finance; Delores Lulgjuray PhD, Clinical; and Levan Natalishvili Esq., QA/Internal Control. Additional details can be found on the recently developed web-site - [www.clcgroup.org](http://www.clcgroup.org).

We wish all the 450 individuals that comprise the CLC Group great continued success with ever improving service to our "clients," under the new structure. We are also working on a series of new ventures, which will be announced once we are closer to implementation.

Best regards,  
John Porcella PhD, CEO,  
CLC Group

CLC Group  
Roger Cooper, Chair  
CLC Group

### DONATE TO CLC FOR FREE!

PLEASE DO ALL YOUR AMAZON SHOPPING VIA [SMILE.AMAZON.COM](https://smile.amazon.com) AND HELP SUPPORT CLC, AND IT WON'T COST YOU AN EXTRA DIME! ENTER THE LINK BELOW AND CLICK. AMAZON WILL DONATE 0.5% OF ELIGIBLE PURCHASES TO CLC.

PASS THIS ON TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS!  
(YOU MUST DO THIS EACH TIME YOU SHOP)

[HTTPS://SMILE.AMAZON.COM/CH/13-3563609](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/13-3563609)



We CLCers kicked off the holidays in November and traveled to Plymouth, Massachusetts for Thanksgiving. Posing by Plymouth Rock, we basked in Mayflower history and all things Pilgrim. Talk of their epic voyage had us appreciating pizza, although we enjoyed a traditional turkey dinner!

In December, our group celebrated in Dickensian Christmas fashion, touring *The Breakers* mansion in Newport, Rhode Island. Our own hotel *mansion* had a ballroom, too. So we got all dressed up, sipped bubbly grape juice and danced to 18th century fiddle music.

On Christmas Eve Day we played bingo (what else?) and won socks and video games, coffee mugs and chocolate. Everyone got a Christmas basket just for playing. Of course, we had *Secret Santa*, which we had previously shopped for, and we opened our gifts with great gusto on Christmas Eve!

Visions of cinnamon rolls and pancakes danced in our heads and on our breakfast plates Christmas morning. Then off to Mystic, Connecticut to see Santa ride in a tugboat. *The Polar Express* and a live production of *A Christmas Carol*? Yes, please! At night we drove through Christmas lights, and tuned to a radio station for the complete experience.

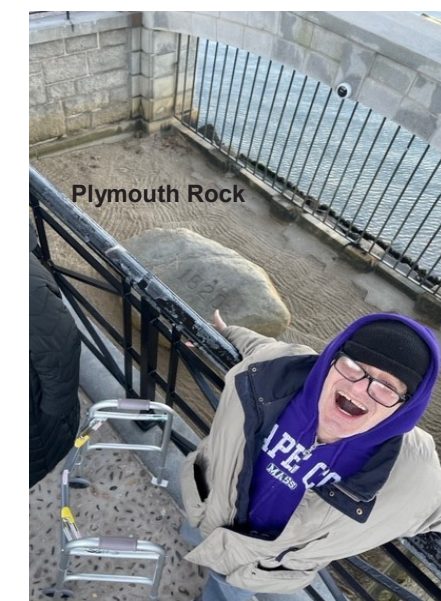
We had two fabulous holidays, a few history lessons and loads of fun, all while rejoicing in the spirit of the season together. *J. Mungovan*



## HOLIDAY TRAVELS



Besties Phoebe & Petra



Plymouth Rock



Special Thanks to Jack Mungovan for his pictures and prose.







## SEIZURE PREDICTING DOGS

CLC Group Board Chair Roger Cooper and Executive Director Elinor Latouche of the New York Metro Epilepsy Foundation recently attended the Annual Conference of the American Epilepsy Society in Chicago. Here they are seen posing in front of *The Bean* in Millennium Park with a dog specially trained to sniff out and identify early seizure activity.

Labrador Retrievers are the primary breed trained for this purpose. Some are taught to put their body between the seizing individual and the floor to break the fall at the start of a seizure. The law protects a person's right to use a service animal in any public place.

The New York Metro Epilepsy Foundation is an Affiliate of the newly reorganized CLC Group.

## HALLOWEEN ON PARADE

Jasmine Jenkins, manager at Bedford Manor, sent in this note and photos back in October 2021. It just missed the last issue, but we just had to include it:

*Thank you so much for sharing our Halloween fun in the newsletter! Bedford Manor invited folks from London Road, Curry Street and Todd Road to our first ever Halloween Parade. We held a costume contest, with judges Patsy and Lois. There were so many wonderful costumes, and our judges had some hard decisions to make.*

*Everyone got goodie bags, donuts and apple cider. Of course, there were prizes for our contest winners: a nun- Janet; a Minion - Chrissy; scary clown- Philip; ghost face - mystery person?; Minnie Mouse - Carmen.*



## HOLIDAY CHEER & MILESTONES

Patti Hurley

Although we were unable to host our holiday party, we still kept with tradition and raffled off a variety of gift cards to our staff. The 10 winners who were picked randomly were:

**Belinda Nixon - Curry Street**  
**Femi Joseph - Curry Street**  
**Joseph Nyaware - Huntington**  
**Suzette Barrett - Edinburgh**  
**Deborah Wimpfheimer - On-Call**  
**Patrine Jones - Seth Canyon**  
**Rennett Gordon - Moseman**  
**Sean Brown - Todd Rd**  
**Lesford Foreman - Day Hab**  
**Janelle Petrie - Barker Street**



Joseph Nyaware  
Rennett Gordon



## EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

Employee milestones did not go unnoticed! John Porcella presented our *Years of Service Awards* to those who reached 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 years with CLC.

### 5 Years

Debra Kelly  
Arlene Llorens-Sosa  
Sylvester Ndimele  
Zachary Smith  
Michelle Stevenson  
Leslie White

### 15 Years

Joann Cerretani  
Jose Espinal  
Femi Joseph  
Kurtis London  
Jonathan Lukens  
Della Martin

### 20 Years

--None--

### 25 Years

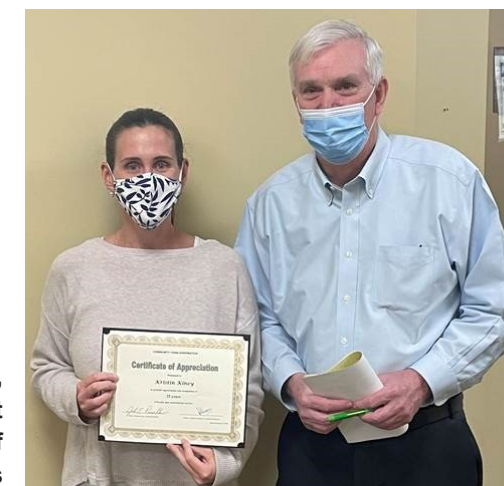
Kristin Kinney  
Allison McKay



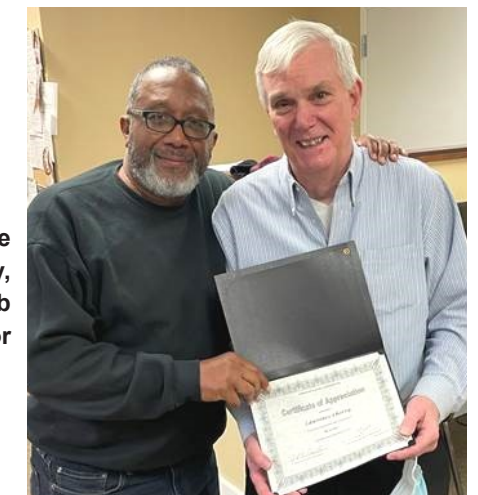
Allison McKay,  
Residential Director

### 10 Years

Tinna Buyu  
Lawrence Cherry  
Clare Halloran  
Lisa Kraemer  
Gail Osbourne



Kristin Kinney,  
Assistant  
Coordinator of  
Health Services



Lawrence  
Cherry,  
Day Hab  
Instructor

## THE OPEN DOOR:

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Email us your CLC photos  
& news!

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Patti Hurley, Roger Cooper,  
Jack Mungovan

## NOTES FROM YOUR HEARTS

SENTIMENTS SENT IN BY CLC FRIENDS & FAMILY AT HOLIDAY TIME

"We want to thank all at CLC who hold everything together with their hard work. Your exemplary efforts help all our clients."

"As you know, your staff deserves everything life can give for all they do for the clients."

"Thank you for taking such good care of my sister."  
"I want to thank all of the staff that looks after my son. It is most appreciated."

"Thank you for all you do for your clients. CLC has been wonderful to our daughter. We we have never regretted our decision. I thank you from the bottom of my heart."



# News From CLC Foundation

Denyele Urciuoli

## TRUSTS 101

This feature informs and educates consumers and their families about CLC Pooled Supplemental Needs Trusts.

In 1996, CLC Foundation, Inc. was one of the first non-profits in New York State to establish a Pooled Supplemental Needs Trust with the help of Community Living Corporation, Inc. Today, the Trusts are among the oldest and largest in New York State.

As we start 2022, it is important to remind our family and friends of the importance of properly filing a tax return. CLC Foundation, as Trustee of the CLC Pooled Trusts, is responsible for filing tax returns for each trust, but what does that mean for the individual beneficiaries?

If a trust client earns investment income on his or her account, TD Ameritrade will issue a 1099 to be included in their personal tax filing. This report, along with any other tax related documents, are to be submitted with your tax return.

CLC Foundation has teamed up with The Bonadio Group to complete and file tax returns on behalf of the Trust. It is essential for CLC consumers and CLCF beneficiaries to consult a qualified tax preparer to ensure returns are filed correctly (or need to be filed at all). Please reach out to your CLCF Trust Officer if you need assistance in arranging for your tax return.

## WELCOME NIKKI

Nikki Ferro recently joined the CLCF team, where she will be wearing a few different hats. She'll work assisting Priscilla Orr, CLCF Controller as well as cross train with Denyele Urciuoli and Sue Ferro at Winslow to learn both programs.

Once up to speed, Nikki will attend marketing events, work on grant writing, and will be point person for fundraising events such as the CLCF Gala. Nikki holds a bachelor of science degree in accounting and finance from SUNY New Paltz, and previously worked as a controller at a law firm. Our new hire brings experience and enthusiasm, plus a little something extra. She grew up volunteering and working part time on the Winslow farm where "Tony the Pony" was her childhood pet!

From the time I was young, I knew I was going to work with the developmentally disabled. Winslow has been my second home for 20 years and sparked a love for this community. I look forward to working with this wonderful group of people!



## PAINT AND SIP FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS!

Hidden Treasures hosted its first Paint and Sip fundraiser on Friday evening, December 10. By all accounts it was an all around success. Enthusiastic artists, 26 in all, came together at the garage at 135 Radio Circle Drive, where they painted and sipped their way to a fun-filled night.



Raffles were donated by A&S Marketplace; Mt. Kisco Seafood; Sarah's Art Studio; and Willie's Hair Salon. A wine basket was also donated. Creative artist Sarah Totten of Sarah's Art Studio led the lively class. Sarah's social media is: Facebook.com/sarahsartstudiony and Instagram.com/techartwilltravel. All proceeds benefitted the arts education program for adults with special needs, Hidden Treasures. Classes returned in January via Zoom with hopes in person classes soon. [www.htreasures.org](http://www.htreasures.org)

As many of you may have heard, **Lucille Marie McCarthy**, our dear friend and CLC staffer for over 20 years, passed away in November 2021. Lucille founded Hidden Treasures, an arts education program for adults with special needs, which remains popular today. She touched so many people and positively impacted the lives of many. She will be dearly missed.

## Cookin' Good with Jenny



We are happy to present the third installment in a series of cooking and home articles by Jenny M. A CLCer for 29 years, prepares her specialties two or three times a week.

Clip and save this recipe from Jenny!



Jenny follows all proper food safety precautions:

- Use oven mitts and the appropriate cookware and utensils.
- Never leave the stove unattended.
- Wash hands after handling any food.
- Counters, pots, pans and utensils are washed thoroughly after cooking.
- Cook food to the proper temperature.

### Jenny's Savory Steak & Vegetables

Oven cooking makes this supper super healthy.

Pre-heat oven to 350F

Serves 4 - 6

Ingredients: 2 lbs. New York Strip steak  
1 pkg. mushrooms, halved  
2 carrots, cut in 1" pieces  
1 pint grape tomatoes  
1 large onion, cut in 1" wedges  
Goya Sazonador Total Seasoning  
1/2 tbs. vegetable oil  
Cooking spray (if using)  
2 cloves garlic, chopped  
1 1/2 tsps. black pepper  
1 sprig fresh rosemary

Directions: Spray a large baking sheet pan (use two pans if needed) with cooking spray. Slice steak into thick strips. Season steak and vegetables. Toss vegetables in oil. Lay steak on one side of baking sheet and vegetables on the other. Cook for 30 minutes or until steak is cooked to proper doneness. Remove from oven and cover with foil. Let rest for 10 minutes before serving.

POSTPONED  
TO NOVEMBER

17th Annual

GREENTREE  
COUNTRY CLUB  
NEW ROCHELLE, NY

CLC Foundation Gala



**CLC GROUP**  
**135 RADIO CIRCLE DRIVE**  
**MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549**  
**(914) 239-4700**

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**GETTING REEL  
WITH STEPHEN**



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

***West Side Story***

**PG13**

I give this movie



West Side Story was amazing. You should all go and see it. It has lots of dancing and music like *Jet Song* and *Something's Coming*. They are now my favorite songs.

The actress who played Maria, Rachel Zegler, sang so well. Tony was in love with Maria, but their family and friends didn't like it.

This movie was excellent. I saw it at Portchester AMC Theater.

**CLC GROUP BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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—  
**JOHN E. PORCELLA, PHD., CEO, CLC GROUP**