

THE OPEN DOOR

PROVIDING QUALITY CARE TO DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PEOPLE THROUGH COMMUNITY LIVING

LET'S CHALK THIS UP TO...

IRENE QUILL

A week of celebrating CLC'S INCREDIBLE DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS!

Another year has rolled around and we again are grateful and proud to recognize Direct Support Professionals Week 2022: September 12 - September 16. With no thanks to COVID-19, CLC Direct Support Professionals have worked even harder to provide a safe and supportive environment to individuals entrusted to their care. We all THANK YOU for that!

To celebrate, special plans were arranged throughout the week. Community Connections Life Day Hab individuals prepared baked good and coffees. Human Resources provided an array of delicious snacks and beverages. Every DSP and Day Hab employee received a Dunkin' gift card. One paid day off and gift cards were raffled off each day. Let's not forget the Topsy Taco Truck!

If you stopped by 135 Radio Circle Drive during this special week, you would have seen all the beautiful sentiments and drawings on our walkway. Indeed, they are touching and lovely. Although the chalk will fade, please know that our admiration and respect will endure. Three cheers for CLC's Direct Support Professionals!



ADI ON A MISSION

Annette Maksoud

Advocates for the Disabled, Inc. (ADi Cares) was launched by Rochelle Hutchings in 2004 as an Independent Medicaid Service Coordination Agency serving developmentally disabled adults. ADi was dedicated to providing the highest quality of service coordination protection and advocacy for the developmentally disabled. The organization worked diligently to provide maximum independence and community inclusion, while respecting individuality.

These services were provided by:

- Coordination and collaboration of the delivery of services for the needs of persons with developmental disabilities;
- Ensuring that individuals and/or their



"I am passionate about this field and the work we do with the individuals we serve."

**Amy Berman
ADi Executive Director**

families and advocates received all services to which they were legally entitled and which allowed them to have the highest quality of life;

-Making certain that individuals with developmental disabilities are treated with dignity and respect, and that their residences were safe and secure.

In 2019, New York State opened Care Coordination Organizations (CCO) that forced independent coordination



The current staff members of ADi, from left, Ed Schultz, Intake Specialist, Amy Berman, ADi Executive Director and Sarah Passell, Part Time Office Assistant. Not pictured is Deirdre Tracey, Director of DayHab.

agencies to choose which CCO to enroll individuals. ADi transferred over 400 clients to Lifeplan CCO. Amy Berman, as the Executive Director, oversaw the smooth transition for the individuals and their families. Amy also aided in hiring and transitioning ADi's current Social Workers/Care Managers over to their organization. After the transition, ADi and its Board proposed that ADi provide administrative and compliance duties for the CLC Day Hab Program.

ADi has achieved major accomplishments throughout the years. Deirdre Tracey, was assigned as the Program Coordinator in June of 2019. She organized and created the compliance from scratch, researching all the requirements from OPWDD and working closely with the program specialists.

Deirdre works with over 90 Care Managers on a regular basis. She works hand in hand with the Program Specialists at Community Connection Life (CCL) and with Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center, with which she has formed strong working relationships. Deirdre has recently been promoted to Director of Day Hab.

Another major accomplishment has

been significant program growth. The program and staff have expanded tremendously due to the collaboration between ADi, CCL and Winslow. This truly has been a team effort.

One last accomplishment to be highlighted is their pride in ensuring that policies and procedures were put in place.

When asked what is one of Deirdre's short-term goals, she replied, "I am eager to form positive working relationships with my growing team and enhance communication."

As for long term goals, CLC is looking to expand services and ADi will be there to assist. Effective September 1, 2022, Amy has assumed the role of Executive Director of Community Living Corporation (CLC). She is excited about her new role.

Amy has known and worked with the staff, individuals and their families for many years. Amy says, "I am passionate about this field and the work we do with the individuals we serve. I look forward to embarking on this new mission."

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

It's been a long hot summer here in Mt. Kisco and it is finally coming to its logical end. We see families trying to squeeze in a few more days of vacation, one final barbecue, getting ready for school and trying to guess how much snow we'll be soon shoveling.

With this as the backdrop, a few good things have occurred, just in the past week or so. First, we learned this week that several of the COVID-19 restrictions pertaining to mask use have been altered or even, eliminated.

For instance, OPWDD no longer requires universal mask usage. Naturally, there are several situations where mask usage must continue. We are in the process of implementing the new, slightly relaxed regulations. Nothing will stop someone from deciding to continue with the mask if they choose to do so.

Regular hand washing and cleaning of living spaces are still considered to be very valuable tools in the COVID-19 battle. However, the best preventative measure available is still...

Vaccination! Please get it done. And if it is done already, get the booster shots. A full schedule of vaccinations protects both you and those around you.

Second, on September 13th, The New York Assembly Standing Committee on People With Disabilities, conducted a Public Hearing aimed at gathering feedback from both Commissioner Kerri Neifeld, the Assembly members and the system stakeholders. This hearing was aimed at fulfilling one requirement of Mental Hygiene Law, Section 5.07.

With this action, OPWDD has begun the creation of its five-year plan, due in November. This plan is crucial because it is the vehicle by which the budget is created and then utilized for the next five years. I was moved by the many, many discussions regarding the need for a stable workforce earning a living wage. There is no doubt in my mind that every person participating in this hearing is now fully educated regarding the needs and realities of the DSP workforce.



Finally, Westchester County held a job fair in September for people with disabilities. Anticipating about 40 people would attend, roughly 100 actually attended. This is important because it puts the prospective employee in contact with prospective employers.

Westchester plans to hold such meetings in various locations around the county. Let's all hope that this model is successful and that its successes spread and grow!

John Porcella

CLC GROUP MANAGEMENT CHANGES

Amy Berman currently the Executive Director of ADi Cares, will continue in this role and will also assume the role of Executive Director of Community Living Corporation, reporting to John Porcella - CEO of the CLC Group.

Deirdre Tracey currently the Day Hab Coordinator of ADi Cares will assume the role of Director of ADi Cares reporting to Amy Berman.

Allison McKay currently the Residential Manager of a group of residences will become the Senior Residential Director of Community Living Corporation, with responsibility for all residential units. Allison will report to Amy Berman.

Kevin Lager, Medical Director, Nyarumba Nota, Compliance, Jonathan Lukens, Behavior will report to Amy Berman in their respective roles.

Additionally, Annette Maksoud, currently providing support to John Porcella, will assume the role of Therap Electronic Records System Head and report to Amy Berman.

We hope you will all welcome these changes and support each of the individuals in their new roles.

**John Porcella
CEO, CLC Group**

**Roger Cooper
Chairman of the
Board, CLC Group**

NEWS FROM CLC FOUNDATION

Denyele Urciuoli

Did you know it is required by law that CLC Foundation work in coordination with a bank/financial institution when administering a pooled trust? Argent Financial and CLC Foundation partnered together in 2016 and have continued to work together, providing excellent fiduciary services to our trust beneficiaries.

As co-trustee, Argent conducts an annual audit to ensure best practices and procedures are being adhered to. The 2022 audit concluded in July, when auditors reviewed all disbursement activity, ensuring CLCF followed all protocols and laws while acting in the best interest of each client served. To learn more about Argent Financial go to argentfinancial.com.

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.

HIDDEN TREASURES

Hidden Treasures is an arts education program for people with special needs and is sponsored by CLC Foundation. This summer HT offered an Open House series summer, providing an opportunity for current and new program

participants to get a sampling of the fall semester, which began on September 19th at CLC Group, 135 Radio Circle Drive, Mount Kisco, NY. Classes include Studio Art, Arts & Crafts, Choral Group, Modern Dance and Musical Drama. For questions, please contact Sharon Sinnott at (914) 643-2943.



MEET JOSHUA!

Allison McKay

Meet Joshua, a guy of many interests. He came to CLC in June of 2022 and is enjoying getting to know his roommate and the CLC community. Joshua has many interests including art, gaming, bike riding, longboarding, fishing, wilderness and marine life.

An adventure seeker at heart, Joshua can teach us a thing or two about the great outdoors! Whether it's about an invasive species, marine life or survival skills, he often talks about his experiences while he was at wilderness survival programs in Vermont and Utah. He truly enjoys sharing his knowledge with us all.

Among his many talents, Joshua is an artist and is passionate about painting and drawing. "It's just a hobby" he modestly says, while working on a landscape using colored pencils. His artwork clearly shows his natural, loving personality!



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, TROY!

Annette Maksoud

Troy, who resides at the Satellite Apartments, celebrated his 50th birthday on August 4th at a party held at 135 Radio Circle Drive. Residence Manager Patrice Thompson planned the party and decorated Jo Jo's Café in white, black and gold for the occasion. Simone Duggan cooked the delicious lunch.

All of Troy's friends at CLC attended his milestone event. The highlight of Troy's celebration was when his mother showed up at the party and surprised him!

Troy and his friends ate very well, dining on pizza, pasta, mac and cheese, barbecued chicken, lasagna, fruit salad, cookies and birthday cake, of course.

When I asked Troy, "How does it feel to turn 50 years old?," he responded with a laugh by saying, "I feel like 100!"

Patrice shared nice comments about the birthday boy. She said, "We appreciate Troy. He is a helpful guy and a celebrity at CLC. All the girls want to hang around him!" Many happy returns, Troy!



Troy and his mom.



BROADWAY, HERE WE COME!

Allison McKay

On August 6th, the group at Barker Street headed to Manhattan to see the award-winning performance of *The Lion King*. They all enjoyed this magnificent show and felt the magic of being at the famous theatre watching the "Circle of Life" unfold before their very eyes!

"The whole thing was exciting!" says Mousy, who shared that this was her very first experience seeing a play. "The scenery was excellent and the different costumes were interesting, I felt like I was right there in Africa."



It sounds like the musical was an event that the individuals will always remember with joy and amazement. Patrice, Residence Manager for Barker Street, coordinated the excursion including a trip to "Junior's" for burgers and a walk in Times Square. The individuals cannot wait to go to another show!

THE PERFECT SUMMER

Can you remember a summer in your lifetime that had so many cloudless, perfect and hot summer days? We can't. We CLC travelers were in *Martha's Vineyard* for the entire month of July and into August. One day after another, one week into the next. We had six trips and each and every traveler got to experience the heights and highlights of summer at its best. Here are a few quotes from our noble travelers:

Jenny, "I'm having a good time, it's like family here, good friends and staff."

Stephen, "We're family and we're all having fun being in this house together. I earned this vacation!"

Bill stayed two weeks in the Vineyard, "Good friends, good weather, perfect company. I went to the *Black Dog Café* every day and I liked it...I loved it! I am looking forward to going again."

Tommy, "*Black Dog Café* and lobster rolls. Buying the snorkel, and then you teaching me how to snorkel."



17th Annual
CLC Foundation
Gala
SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 13 2022
11 AM
GREENTREE COUNTRY CLUB
NEW ROCHELLE, NY

**HIDDEN TREASURES
ANNUAL SHOW**
Tuesday, December 6th
Fox Lane High School, Chappaqua, NY.
Art Show 6pm
Performance 7pm
Tickets: \$10 at the door.

You Oughta Be in Pictures!
Would you like to be in this newsletter? Or, would you like to nominate someone?
Just send an email with nominee name/email/phone (or manager info) to Deb Descloux
swissx@optonline.net

THE PERFECT SUMMER

J. Mungovan

Joseph, "Nice and the weather couldn't be better. We had fun spying on you guys at the beach before Suzanne and I went to *Black Dog Café* for coffee with Delores."

Kate, "I loved the summer dance and swimming in the lagoon. I liked the drive-in and the ladies teaching us circus tricks before the movie."

Diane, "Good time, sunny and nice weather."

Ellen, "I liked the *Black Dog Café* and all the beaches. I liked sitting in the floatie chair and also the one I could lay flat on floating on that private beach." (referring to the lagoon at the sailing camp down the sandy lane.)

Joyce, "I like it and it's fun. I really love it here."



THE OPEN DOOR
published quarterly
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**GETTING REEL
WITH STEPHEN**



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

DC League of Super-Pets

Rated: PG

I give this movie



I saw this movie at AMC Theater in Port Chester, NY. It's a big place with good seats. Ace the bat-hound was played by Kevin Hart and Dwayne Johnson was Krypto, who is Superman's dog.

The dogs and animals can talk to each other and like to chase each other around just like best friends. They want to keep the world safe.

This is an animated movie in 3-D and was excellent. I really liked it. Everyone should see it.

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