

THE OPEN DOOR

PROVIDING QUALITY CARE TO DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PEOPLE THROUGH COMMUNITY LIVING

WORKING 9 TO 5

WHAT A GREAT WAY TO MAKE A LIVING AT CLC!

The search for good talent is not an easy task for most companies. Having enough reliable workers, however, is essential to maintaining uninterrupted, quality service and a healthy working environment. So when CLC needed just the right person to staff a position, it began to look inside the organization - to the very people it serves. Over this past year, the agency found a few perfect candidates, right in the CLC family.



Mousy has been a CLC'er for years, "many, many years!" she says. Today, she holds a paid position working at CLC Foundation. "I just love it!"

By 8AM every Monday morning, Mousy is already filing, shredding and working on mailings. "I handle a lot of paper," she says. "When I finish in my department, I go down the hall and help others. They call me *the fast worker*," she says proudly. "It's great experience and I learn so much."

Mousy had to be somewhat assertive (not difficult!) to get her job. She remembers asking Priscilla Orr, former senior staffer and current Board member, about a paying job. "It worked!"

Mousy is also part of the Day Hab crew where she is a Barista at the main office Café, brewing up Cappuccinos and Lattes. "I really like to work and to keep busy. It's a good feeling."



Crystal is CLC's receptionist extraordinaire. Stationed at the main office front desk Tuesday and Thursday mornings, she too, got her position by asking about a job with a paycheck.

"I had to try out for the position. Afterward, everyone said they liked my work. I learned the phone system in less than an hour. I think that helped!" (Crystal is quick to mention that Maria trained her.)

"Working in communications is perfect for me," says Crystal. "It's rewarding helping people, and I feel good when I connect a caller with the right person. These past five months since I started have gone by so quickly."

Crystal is currently saving most of her paychecks. "I don't have anything specific in mind to spend it on yet, but when that special something comes along, I'll have the money!"



After volunteering for a while, Jenny was hired last year by CLC Group's Accounting Department. Another *fast worker*, all agreed her work was exceptional. "But I had to try out," she says. "I have a few jobs including opening and organizing mail for Gina, the Benefits Coordinator for residents. I go over the ledgers and highlight important information for client allowances, and I sort and fold checks by houses."

Jenny says it is interesting work and, "I love everybody here. I can ask anybody if I need help, especially Lisa K. She's my bestie." Jenny is also a Day Hab participant and spends time at the Winslow farm. "My goal is to do a really good job and not mess up," she says with a giggle. "So far, so good!"

SCOTT M. RETIRES AFTER 28 YEARS!

Annette Maksoud

Scott M. is a long time CLC Katonah resident of 26 years! He lives in an apartment, and at 66 years young Scott has decided to retire after working for 28 years. His jobs included working at Muscoot Farms for three years, Waldbaums for five years and his most recent job at Shoprite for 28 years!

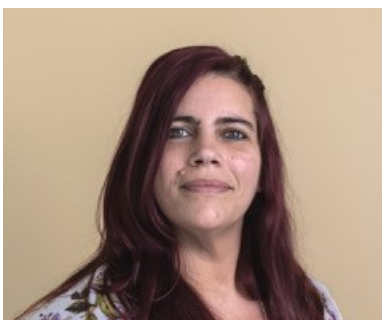
During his time at Shoprite, Scott worked on the loading dock, where he swept and kept the place clean. He also crushed cardboard and worked with Maintenance. Scott decided to retire on April 1, 2023. When I asked Scott what he liked most about his job, his response was, "Everything!" I then asked him what he liked least about his job and his response was, "Crushing cardboard!" Scott stated that he developed friendships with all his co-workers and they were all his friends.

While Scott mentioned he didn't really have any hobbies, he did say that he wants to spend more time with family and that his family members are scattered all around. Scott is a long standing member of the Friends Network at the Day Hab Program. Last month he took a trip to Florida with Jack and Dolores.



Although he has no definite vacation plans currently, he would like to plan a trip to the Bahamas.

I asked Scott what he is looking forward to now that he has retired. His response was "Go on more trips, maybe to Miami." He is also planning to attend an upcoming local carnival and to enjoy Memorial Day and other holiday parades. Help us congratulate Scott on his well deserved retirement. CLC sends him good wishes for happy years to come.



AMANDA PURDY JOINS AS RESIDENT MANAGER

Allison McKay

CLC is fortunate to have a group of staff members who are committed to the agency mission of providing therapeutic, quality care to our individuals. Amanda Purdy is no exception. She accepted a position as Resident Manager at CLC's Bedford Manor residence in October 2022.

Amanda has been with our agency on and off, however, since 2006 as an on-call employee. She joins our Residential Team with 17 years of experience and an educational background in Applied Behavior Analysis and Psychology. Since becoming a Residence Manager, Amanda has excelled in her position at Bedford Manor, the largest and oldest residence in the CLC agency.

Amanda truly understands that the work is all about relationships, and when working with her it becomes clear she finds value in the service of others. We are so pleased to have her join CLC's Residential Team!



Hello CLC Family!



We are seeking caring, compassionate nurses to join the CLC team! We need your help! Do you know any great nurses who would be a perfect fit for our care team? Please spread the word!

Type in link below on your device to apply:

<https://www.indeed.com/cmp/Community-Living-Corporation-1/jobs>

CLC also has openings for direct care and other positions, which are included in the above link.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

I first met him more than twenty years ago. He and his family were visiting a residential school and treatment program. His disability was atypical, to say the least, and was exacerbated by a bout with the flu at a very early age.

Today he continues to suffer the effects of this affliction and the many complications that came with it. He was left with impaired cognitive skills, serious communication issues and a neurologic disorder that seemed in those days to rule all aspects of his fragile life. Sometimes he was uncooperative and boisterous. Sometimes he was angry and aggressive.

We learned early that these episodes were born of frustration and problems of communication. He knew he wanted something, but he simply could not accurately express his needs to those around him.

Decades passed; slowly, barely perceptibly. Something was going on. He was acquiring new skills and becoming adept at using them. A casual observer may have missed

his improvements. He was now asking for things using nearly full sentences.

He not only wants to go swimming but will insist upon a rationale should he be denied this activity. He speaks about the time he got “those stupid seizures” and how it has influenced his entire life. We explain this to him, and he attempts to hide a recent seizure so he can get on with whatever it was he wanted. This represents an amazing amount of growth.

Most of all he wants to read. He knows this is his gateway to huge amounts of information; he asks for help when he finds something of interest. He wants to have a friend, a girlfriend perhaps, but can't quite navigate that social landscape just yet.

Years ago, I never would have thought he would be where he is today. In the past he never would be able to state his wishes and see them through to completion. He can now.

Today the content of his language has grown tremendously. He still wants to go swimming, but wants to



go in the deep end of the pool. He wants to ride a bicycle, but is limited by safety concerns. He now knows the safety requirements will limit him, and yet he keeps trying and trying. His requests were far simpler back then.

Today we address the same issues that we did years ago. His requests are the same as they once were. The difference is the fact that he is now an adult. We are the ones who have been changed.

Be well.

John Porcella



SERVICE WITH A CLC SMILE!

Most weekday mornings, our CEO John Porcella receives a fresh cup of coffee, delivered by CLC's very own Coffee Baristas! Each Barista is confident he or she knows exactly how John takes his coffee. Some days he is surprised with a sweet treat such as a muffin, cookie or carrot bread. Nothing beats service with a CLC smile!



CCL: IT ALL STARTS WITH AN IDEA

The Open Door presents a new column that highlights Community Connections Life (CCL).

To state the obvious, it all starts with an idea. With no ideas, we have no direction, hence no goals. The satisfaction of achieving personal and professional goals is immense, albeit brief. New ones replace old ones like the air conditioner replaced the fan. Some fall away, others stick and yet others continue to grow.

The CC Life, ADI Cares and CLC collaboration has led to a *magic* collaboration, best described as synergy, and all started with an idea. CLC's bold acceptance of CC Life and their unwavering support of our program has led to the enrollment of over 100 clients to date. CLC, deeply aligned with its own Mission Statement of providing services to those who need them, regardless of red tape, defines the placing of human service before business. The outcome is innovation, a unified goal aimed at human services excellence.



Try it. You'll strike it! This team is ready to roll.

Since its inception a few years ago CCL has continued to flourish. CLC holiday markets have already cultivated a strong initiative among some clients. Ellen C. made her own jewelry to sell and has done pretty well so far. Sarah G. sells stuffed animals she hand makes. Eric E. painted over an entire weekend at Bedford Manor and sold all four of his paintings. Jen F. saw an opportunity and baked a bunch of brownies using her own money, sold them, and profited handsomely. The excitement and satisfaction among our folks is scarcely imaginable...and flourishing.

Our community outing goals were to create an array of opportunities for program participants. The spring program gets us planting herbs in the patio garden in Pelham, and fruits and vegetables in the Pound Ridge Cottage and Gar-



Nothing is more exciting than climbing on a fire truck!

dens. Our summer programs lead us to beaches, such as those of North Carolina's famed Outer Banks, parks, lakes, pools and picnic venues. Educational and cultural programs take us to museums, historical sites, libraries and art exhibits where all of our opinions are valid and supported. Fun programs bring us to movie theatres, bowling alleys, and basketball courts. Thursday's lunch bunch is a community outing to local restaurants along with staff who educate client on food choices, costs, budgeting and more. A truly social community experience.

Enough of the loftiness and postulating. If the idea is to create more fun, experiential learning, inclusion, and acceptance, what new goals would lead us there? A film studio where individuals put ideas on camera, see themselves and laugh with one another? A music studio with a recording booth to sing, record voice-overs, and listen with headphones like an industry professional? How about a Baking Studio? Perhaps a retreat location where we facilitate friends' retreats, yoga retreats, exercise in disguise retreats, and much more?

It is the collaborative synergy that allows us to pat ourselves on the back by acknowledging that we're headed in the right direction. New ideas on the horizon, new goals actualizing, and the hope that the well of ideas may never run dry. This enables and encourages us to achieve more, work that muscle that guides problems to solutions and lifts us to that place of meaning and purpose. If the purpose turns out to be just plain fun sometimes... how wonderful is that?!

J. Mungovan

Spring Sip & Paint

Denyale Urciuoli

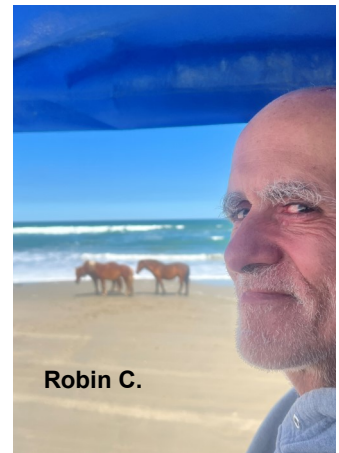
The latest *Sip & Paint* fundraiser, held on Saturday, May 6 at CLC main offices at 135, was another resounding success. The event, featured an out of this world theme and benefitted Hidden Treasures Arts Education Workshop for Adults with Special Needs.



CREATIVE ESCAPES

This spring found happy *Creative Escapes* travelers on the shores of North Carolina's Outer Banks. The group kicked off the 2023 vacation season with a whirlwind of activities.

Highlights included watching the wild horses running on the beach at Corolla, barbecuing on the sand, dining at *The Jolly Roger*, and enjoying a sweet treat at *Duck Donuts* in the giant chair, of course!



eNEWS UPDATES

We Search the Web to Bring You the Latest News

As part of a push to diversify, a Barbie doll with Down syndrome is hitting the market. The new doll is modified to have a shorter frame and longer torso, according to Mattel, the company behind Barbie. Her face has a rounder shape, smaller ears, a flat nose bridge and eyes that are somewhat almond shaped. In addition, Barbie's palms have a single line, as is often the case for those with Down syndrome.

Mattel said it worked with the National Down Syndrome Society to create the new doll. Individuals with Down syndrome, siblings, parents and other stakeholders were consulted to ensure accuracy in Barbie's representation of the chromosomal disorder.

In addition to adjusting Barbie's physical features, the doll's clothing is yellow and blue with butterflies, symbols and colors associated with Down syndrome.

And, Barbie wears a pendant necklace with three upward chevrons to represent the three copies of the 21st chromosome present in those with Down syndrome.

Barbie also has pink ankle foot orthotics since some people with Down syndrome need this type of support.

The limited-run Barbie with Down syndrome is available online now and it will be at major retailers this summer and fall for \$10.99.



Source: *The Disability Scoop*

CLC Foundation staff have been meeting with community members to help educate them on the services provided by CLC Foundation. One of these outreach missions brought Nikki Ferro and I to the 18th Annual Transition Linkages Fair on March 28th at Westchester County Center.

At the Fair, we met with family members and support agencies who assist loved ones transitioning out of the school systems. Discussions centered on financial options and therapeutic and recreational programs CLCF has available.

We also presented to AANE's Hudson Valley Support Group chapter on March 19th. We hosted a Zoom discussion on the role of SNT's and pooled trusts and how CLCF works with families and disabled individuals to protect their public entitlements and assist in asset protection.

CLC Foundation will continue to educate our clients and families with ways to protect their entitlements and eligibility for future programs. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to CLC Foundation staff at any time, 914-241-2076.



Nikki Ferro and Denyele Urciuoli at the CLC Foundation booth at the 18th Annual Transition Linkages Fair at Westchester County Center.

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.

Cookin' Good with Jenny



We are pleased to present another recipe from our own Jenny M.



Chopped Power Salad with Chicken *The Perfect Summer Salad* Serves 4

Salad Ingredients:

- 4 cups torn green-leaf lettuce
- 4 cups baby spinach
- 2 cups shredded cooked chicken
- 1 cup halved grape tomatoes
- 1 cup halved and sliced cucumber
- 1/2 cup slivered red onion
- 1/3 cup sliced pepperoncini
- 1/3 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1/4 cup sunflower seeds (optional)

Dressing:

- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 clove garlic, grated
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon each salt & ground pepper

Directions:

In a large bowl, add lettuce, spinach, chicken, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions and pepperoncini. In smaller bowl or jar, whisk oil, lemon juice, garlic, oregano, sugar, salt and pepper together.

Pour dressing over salad and gently toss.

Serve sprinkled with feta and, if you like, sunflower seeds. Enjoy!

Clip and save this recipe from Jenny!

A Groundbreaking at Winslow

Winslow Therapeutic Center held its Expansion Groundbreaking Ceremony for a new facility on April 25th in Warwick, NY. Community members, local officials and business owners, and Winslow's clients and volunteers attended the event. With the space created by the construction project, Winslow will be able to expand their services and help many more members of the community.

Occupational Therapy, Equine Assisted Psychotherapy, PT/Hippotherapy, a studio & performing arts workshop for disabled adults, and more will find a home in the 4000 square foot building (which also includes a greenhouse for a seed to table program!) Referred to as The Winslow Expansion Project, expected completion is late spring of 2024. An agency of CLC Foundation, Winslow is a non-profit organization founded in 1974 in Warwick, NY.



Seated: Virginia Mazza (Winslow Founder) Standing from left: Denyele Urciuoli (CLC Foundation, ED), Michael Sweeton (Warwick Town Supervisor), Susan Ferro (Winslow, ED), Nicole Ferro (Winslow AED), Mayor Michael J Newhard, David Woglom (Woglom Construction, Supervisor), Christopher JP Collins (CJPC Architect), Bonnie Marcucci (Woglom Construction, Operations).

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Working 9 to 5

Anthony is another CLC individual who works for a CLC pay check. He holds a number of jobs at CLC main offices including replenishing the paper for all the copiers in various departments and collecting and emptying receptacles as well as the recyclables bins. Holding a key role in keeping things neat and tidy, Anthony also vacuums Health Services.

Says Anthony, "I like coming to 135 and talking to the staff." From all accounts, the staff enjoys Anthony's visits just as much. "I take out the trash, but I have fun doing it!"

CLC will continue to hire CLC individuals on an as needed basis.



THE OPEN DOOR

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Irene Quill, Annette Maksoud, Carol Smith

Monday, August 7th, 2023

"HEALING WITH HORSES"
GOLF OUTING

WEST HILLS COUNTRY CLUB - MIDDLETOWN, NY



SAVE THE DATE!

Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center

CLC GROUP
135 RADIO CIRCLE DRIVE
MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549
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**GETTING REEL
WITH STEPHEN**



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

Creed 3

Rated: PG-13

I give this movie



I went to see a great movie recently. It is called *Creed 3*. It is about two fighters, Adonis Creed and his childhood friend, Damian. They meet again after Damian returns from prison and wants to prove himself again as a boxer.

The two match up in the ring and face off to settle an old score. It is an excellent movie with a lot of action and boxing. I think everybody should see it. I give it a three-star rating.

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