

THE OPEN DOOR

PROVIDING QUALITY CARE TO DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PEOPLE THROUGH COMMUNITY LIVING

CLCers CREATE BEAUTIFUL ART TOGETHER

CLC individuals, staff, family and friends came together April 14 through 18 to create a beautiful and inspiring piece of art. The piece was painted on garage space walls at 135 Radio Circle Drive by this group of burgeoning artists. The artwork was a vision of muralist and native New Yorker Joe Pimental, who sketched out the original framework. "I am thrilled to share my latest mural collaboration with the amazing team at CLC Foundation in Mt. Kisco, NY! CLC is a dedicated organization focused on enhancing the quality of life for individuals living with persistent disabilities. It was an absolute joy and honor to work alongside their incredible clients and staff to bring this mural to life. This project was more than just painting — it was about connection, creativity, and community." The words at the center of the mural, "I AM BECAUSE WE ARE" signifies the sense of community felt by all at the organization.

The big reveal took place on Wednesday, April 23rd to enthusiastic reviews. A big thank you to all our artists and helpers, and a very special thanks to Valley Bank for their generous grant for this project. Your ongoing support is vital to our mission in caring for individuals with disabilities.



YOGA & HENNA: *WHAT A PARTY!*

Annette Maksoud

On Sunday, March 9th, our vibrant community came together for two delightful events that truly exemplified the spirit of connection and creativity at CLC. The day began with a calming chair yoga class, expertly led by the compassionate Allison McKay, a certified yoga instructor.

Participants engaged in seated exercises designed to enhance flexibility, circulation, and overall well-being. Our recent sessions have illuminated the incredible diversity of breath, yoga poses, and guided meditation techniques that participants have embraced.



Each individual discovered that, regardless of any limitations, these practices can cultivate a profound sense of strength and calmness within. Participants have shared heartfelt experiences, expressing how yoga has not only enhanced their physical well-being but also nurtured their emotional resilience.

This powerful sentiment reflects the heart of our mission: to promote independence

and well-being for individuals with developmental disabilities, reminding everyone that we are all capable of growth and serenity regardless of the challenges we face. After a rejuvenating yoga class, we transformed our space into a Henna art party, radiating joy and inclusivity—core values of CLC.

We were thrilled to welcome Margie Nugent, the talented owner of **Making Faces Parties** and a skilled Henna artist, who brought her unique artistry to our community. Known as the "glitter queen," Margie's flair for face painting, balloon twisting, and intricate Henna designs captivated all.

With lively tunes setting the atmosphere, participants chose their favorite designs, and Margie poured her heart into creating personal, hand-painted masterpieces using only the highest quality, skin-safe henna. The smiles and laughter shared were truly heartwarming, reflecting the enriching experiences that CLC strives to provide. You can view Margie's work or book her at www.makingfacesparties.com

Individuals who participated: Emily K., Crystal H., Jenny M., Tom C., Diane W., Donna F., Caitlyn K., Stephanie I., Emily H., and Cruz R.

Staff who joined in: Ana Hiraldo, Carol Grant, Simone Coache, Branden Pryce and Senior Residential Director Allison McKay.



Henna is a reddish-brown dye derived from the leaves of the Lawsonia inermis shrub. It has been used for over 5,000 years in Africa, Asia, India, Pakistan and the Middle East. It is a temporary dye that sits on the skin's surface.

Don't Miss This!



GETTING REEL WITH STEPHEN



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

Thunderbolts

PG-13 Thriller/Sci-Fi

Thunderbolts is a Marvel movie. It is an action-packed show with many villains in it. I thought it was an excellent movie. Everyone should see it. I give it 5 stars!



MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Dear Friends and Family,

Spring is upon us, bringing with it new energy, growth, and excitement. We are thrilled to share the many wonderful developments happening at Community Living Corporation (CLC)—an awakening of positivity, creativity, and community spirit!

Thanks to renewed involvement from our community and your continued support, CLC is experiencing a wave of positive momentum. One of our most exciting accomplishments has been the formation of our Recreation Committee, a passionate group of CLC staff who have gone above and beyond to bring engagement and joy to our programs. Thanks to their creativity, we've hosted an amazing lineup of events including Bingo nights, chair yoga, and visits from a Henna tattoo artist.

We're especially excited to welcome the Brewster Rotary, led by singer Bob, for an upcoming community sing-along—a heartwarming event sure to bring smiles

to many faces! In addition, our team continues to issue a monthly calendar of events, highlighting both in-house and local happenings to keep everyone informed and connected.

A major highlight this season was our '80s Club Night—a vibrant, high-energy evening filled with neon lights, dancing, a live DJ, and plenty of snacks. It was truly a night to remember and a perfect example of how meaningful moments of joy and connection can be for all involved.

We also held our first annual Spring Clean-Up Volunteer Event, and it was a resounding success! Thanks to the dedication of our volunteers, families, staff, and supporters, we were able to come together to beautify our spaces and strengthen our sense of community. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who donated time, energy, or funds—your generosity directly enhances the lives of the individuals we serve.

If you haven't already, we encourage you to join our email blasts or become part of the CLC Friends & Family group to stay engaged and informed

about everything happening in the CLC community.

Behind the scenes, none of this progress would be possible without the steadfast support of our Directors—the dedicated Directors who provide critical leadership across the departments of CLC and CLC Group Services. These highly skilled professionals ensure our staff have the structure, guidance, and encouragement they need to deliver exceptional, person-centered care. We are proud to say many of our staff and leaders have dedicated years of service to CLC and our clients, and their experience and commitment continue to drive our mission forward.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to learning, growing, and improving with every event and initiative. We are continually inspired by the resilience, energy, and enthusiasm of our community—and we are deeply thankful to each and every one of you for being a vital part of it.

With appreciation and warm wishes,

Denyele Urciuoli

Interim CEO, CLC Group Services



20th Annual

CLC Foundation Gala

Sunday, November 16th

This year's theme will be "A Legacy of Honor: Celebrating 20 years of Impact" and we will be highlighting past honorees and other milestones of CLCF/CLC over the last 20 years. If you have a photo, memory or achievement to share at this year's gala, please email Denyele@clcfoundation.org.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Everything I do for my CLC family I do with a passion. I love every one of the wonderful people I serve.

This feature profiles a staff member who has been selected by his or her peers to be "in the spotlight." The nominee will receive a \$100 Amazon gift card.

Maybelline Bodden joined CLC as a DSP in our Seth Canyon residence and has worked on and off with CLC since May of 2017. She left CLC for a period in December 2020 and returned that August, when she was re-hired as a DSP. In February 2024, she was promoted to Residence Manager of Curry Street; she currently holds this position.

"When I heard I was to be the employee spotlight, I was honored and happy!" she says. "It made me feel so good that people recognize what I do." Maybelline is quick to add that she doesn't work to be in the spotlight. "I am here for the love of the job and the wonderful individuals I am with every day. They are my family and I have a deep connection with each person."

Comments from family members of clients at Curry Street who nominated Maybelline:

"Maybelline has been very supportive and skillful in addressing the needs of my daughter. Her work at Curry Street has made a real difference for the residents who live there." — *Elinor Baller*

"Maybelline is extremely dedicated to our children at Curry Street and she is trying to improve their life through their love and personal examples." — *Vivian Marcovici*

"Maybelline has been great at Curry Street." — *Matthew Persanis*

Pattii Hurley

BINGO!

On Saturday, April 5, our CLC community gathered for a highly anticipated BINGO event that brought together 57 enthusiastic participants. The atmosphere was festive, adorned with Easter-themed balloons and a variety of exciting prizes.

Organized by the Rec Committee, attendees enjoyed refreshments including water, seltzer, and soda while eagerly awaiting their turn to play. Each participant received a BINGO card and a dauber, and it wasn't long before the joyful exclamation of "BINGO!" filled the room. We played five exciting games, culminating in a delightful celebration of Nastassija T's birthday with cake for everyone.

The prizes were a hit, featuring water bottles, hats, wallets, socks, puzzles, coloring and word search books, jewelry, and body sprays. A special highlight was the double-winner, Jonathan H. Playing BINGO not only provides entertainment but also fosters social interaction, encouraging conversations, laughter, and a fun shared experience among CLC members. We can't wait for the next event!



Donation, Renovation, Community Benefit

Thank you **Horowitz/Block Family** for your generous gift. CLC would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Horowitz/Block family for their generous donation aimed at renovating the bathroom at Seth Canyon. This essential upgrade will significantly enhance the experience for individuals who use this facility, ensuring they have access to a clean and comfortable restroom. Your support is making a real difference in our community, and we are deeply appreciative of your commitment to improving the lives of others.



BLOOMING COMMUNITY A Garden of Empowerment



Three years ago, a vision blossomed at Highland Avenue Supported Apartments—a beautiful garden that has since flourished, thanks to the dedication of our passionate gardener.

AnneMarie Palagano, mother of James, 35 years old residing at Highland Avenue, has not only cultivated a vibrant array of flowers and vegetables, but has also fostered a sense of community and connection among residents.

Every bloom you see is a testament to generosity, with flowers either lovingly donated or nurtured from personal funds. This garden stands as a symbol of empowerment and creativity, showcasing how one person's initiative can uplift an entire community. It reminds us of the beauty that comes from collaboration and caring for one another. Thank you, AnneMarie!

CLC Friends & Family

Collaborating. Communicating.

(Please note that the CLCF&F is organized and run by the families and loved ones of CLC residents.)

We are so pleased to report that our friends and family group continues to grow in interest and numbers! It has been heartening and inspiring to meet new families and loved ones of CLC residents and participants at each meeting. We encourage and invite all family members, friends and loved ones of CLC residents and participants to join us!

Our goal is to bring families and loved ones of CLC residents together to support one another, build a more collaborative relationship with CLC leaders, engage in positive advocacy and to help identify resources and pathways to create robust and inclusive living and recreational opportunities for our loved ones.

At our most recent meeting, our guest speakers were Sarah Fiske, Executive Director of the CLC Group, and Kara

LeMay, Head of Accounting for the CLC Group. They each provided an overview of their roles in the organization, as well as how residents' finances are managed. As with all the CLC speakers we have had thus far, they answered questions from our group during the meeting.

Some of the issues discussed related to Medicaid and SSI funding, clothing allowances, rent costs and requests by loved ones for statements of expenditures. We thank Sarah and Kara for their time, and for thoughtfully addressing our questions!

The information exchange during our meetings continues to be a critical component in our understanding of how to navigate and access information and help when needed. At our next meeting on May 18th, we will welcome the owners of CCLife "Creative Escapes", Delores and Jack. CCLife is the company that

provides year-round trips in which many CLC residents participate. We are looking forward to learning more about the services they provide to our loved ones. For more information and detailed minutes for all our meetings, please visit our website, <https://sites.google.com/view/clcfriendsfamily>.

We warmly invite you to join us at our next meeting (typically held on the 2nd Sunday of each month for the time being), as we continue our efforts to help create a vibrant CLC community for our loved ones, staff and families.

To learn more about CLCF&F and to join our mailing list, please contact:

Yan Ni, nigyan@gmail.com, or **Deb Fischer**, Debfisc2006@gmail.com

Or visit our website at <https://sites.google.com/view/clcfriendsfamily>

Deb Fischer

BERMUDA, BAHAMAS, COME ON CLCERS!

Walking the pink sands of Bermuda was top of mind for CLCers as they boarded the *Prima*, a brand new Norwegian cruise liner. However, with every amenity imaginable including a go-cart track, the ship itself turned out to be a fabulous vacation all its own.

Mousy and Suzanne loved the live theater, especially the Magic Show, where Mousy participated in the mind reading segment. Gino and Tom saw the comedians most every night. We think Majorie, Brian, Tommy and Abby met most every passenger on board. Scott was nicknamed the King of the *Prima* and Holly was the jewel in the crown.



Of course, the beautiful island of Bermuda was a wondrous place, as well!

Bermuda is a British Island territory in the North Atlantic Ocean known for its pink sand beaches. Its capital is Hamilton.

April is Autism Awareness Month

Celebrating David's Journey to Independence at CLC

Meet David S., a remarkable young man who has truly embraced independence and personal growth during his time at CLC. David joined us in February 2021 and has made incredible strides in developing his skills and confidence. At just 22 years old, David graduated high school in 2021 and has continued his education through classes at BOCES in Westchester.

David resides at Red Twig, a Supervised IRA apartment where he enjoys living with his roommate. He hopes his high functionality and independence will lead to a transition to a Supportive IRA, a more autonomous environment. David is proud to work as a Store Associate at Party City in Mt. Kisco, where he excels at the register. Although Party City will soon be closing, David remains optimistic and is eager to explore opportunities with the guidance of his job coach.

David has a rich tapestry of personal interests that highlight his creativity and zest for life. He enjoys art, particularly nature drawings, and has a passion for writing poetry. He is actively involved in his church, which fosters a sense of community. He loves listening to movie soundtracks and watching shows like *Impractical Jokers*. Living at CLC has granted him the freedom, personal space, and independence he cherishes.



Looking ahead, David aspires to publish his writing and continue on his journey toward greater independence. David is a testament to the transformative impact of Residential support and personalized care. At CLC, we are dedicated to helping individuals like David achieve their dreams and lead fulfilling lives.

Annette Maksoud



Meet Nicole D., a vibrant young woman from Todd Road, whose journey at CLC over the past seven years has been nothing short of inspiring. Living with Prader-Willi syn-

drome, Nicole has transformed her life through the personalized support and empowerment offered by CLC. PWS is a complex genetic condition presenting unique challenges, including difficulties with appetite regulation, cognitive functioning, and emotional well-being.

May is Prader-Willi Awareness Month

Celebrating Nicole's Journey: Empowerment Through Independence

At Winslow, she engages in meaningful vocational work, grooming horses, caring for chickens, and collecting fresh eggs, which fosters her sense of responsibility and nurtures her passion for animals.

Beyond her work, Nicole finds joy in computer games and solving puzzles. She also enjoys participating in the Great Escape trips, which create memorable experiences and foster community connections.

Nicole cherishes her independence, expressing how CLC has helped her grow, stating, "Helps me be on my own." With a loving family that includes a brother and sister, Nicole thrives in an environment where she feels supported and valued, surrounded by staff members she adores and a soundtrack of her favorite pop music. CLC has truly been a catalyst for Nicole's growth, enabling her to embrace her independence and enjoy life to the fullest.

Annette Maksoud

Our 80s Dance Party!

What an unforgettable night we had at our 80's dance party on April 26 at 135 Radio Circle Drive! The vibrant atmosphere was filled with energy as everyone came together to dance, enjoy delicious food and celebrate the spirit of the 80s. It was a beautiful reminder of the importance of inclusion and the joy that comes from coming together as a community.



VOLUNTEER HOURS BRING MAY FLOWERS



At CLC, we are filled with heartfelt GRATITUDE for our dedicated staff, wonderful families, and the incredible team from Valley Bank who came together for the Volunteer Spring Clean-Up on Saturday, May 3rd. This event was not just about cleaning; it was a celebration of UNITY and COMMUNITY as we all rolled up our sleeves to beautify the residences.

The day was filled with laughter, camaraderie, and a shared sense of ACHIEVEMENT as we transformed our spaces into welcoming environments. The smiles and joy shared among participants truly highlighted the spirit of togetherness we cherish at CLC.

We invite you to take a moment to enjoy the delightful pictures captured from Todd Rd., London Rd., Moseman, Pound Ridge, Kitchawan and Highland, showcasing the vibrant energy and teamwork that made this event a resounding success!



COMMUNITY
COLLABORATION
EMPOWERMENT
INCLUSION

HELP US HELP THE FOLKS WE
FEEL SO LUCKY TO SERVE

Volunteer your time or experience!

Donate Now!

Please make your check out to
Community Living Corporation and mail to:

CLC Group
135 Radio Circle Drive
Mount Kisco, NY 10549
Attn: Annette Maksoud

Or donate online at:
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=Z4PZWW8XCUXBE&source=url&ssrt=1740062565610

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THE OPEN DOOR

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Got News? *Share It!*

We welcome your CLC news!

**Story suggestions,
events and especially the name
of someone you think would be
a good interview candidate.**

**Email Deb or Annette
(emails at left)**