

THE OPEN DOOR

PROVIDING QUALITY CARE TO DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PEOPLE THROUGH COMMUNITY LIVING

OUR GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE

Creative Escapes ventured south to a new destination this year, Nashville, *Dollywood*, and Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Nestled in the Great Smoky Mountains, we awoke to the mist and fog floating between the hollers making it look like little fires in each gulch. The views from the porch of our three-story log cabin home (with an indoor swimming pool, movie room and pool table) gave us a sense of homey extravagance. We couldn't have wished for more.

"In Tennessee, it's a cardinal sin to be unkind" - Patsy Cline

In Pigeon Forge, TN we ventured to the amazing amusement park of Dolly Parton...*Dollywood*. Anthony, Carrie, and Jen all wanted to see the shows. We scheduled our day going from performance to performance.

The Hall Sisters were outstanding, *The Dolly Parton Story* was even better! There was bluegrass and Country music showering our every step. We forgot about the rides and went to shows for two straight days.

Gatlinburg was a special southern surprise. More stores than chores up and down that main street. Smoky Mountain souvenir shops, and unique stores of every kind.

Gino hit up the hot sauce store and Joe posed as a gunslinger in the old time photoshoot. David, who hails from Asheville NC, is a southern gentleman with a deep southern accent. He fit in like a snug cowboy hat. Drowned in kindness from all the store patrons, he would



You can't visit the Smokey Mountains without a stop at the world famous *Dollywood* amusement park!

sparkle with pride and say, "That's just the way it is down here."

Tom took us past the old time taffy machine and happily took the free samples of the taffy hot off the presses. T-shirts and trinkets filled our bags, and Sandy showed us the local cinnamon bread stores that enticed our palates.

Nashville brought it's own sense of

wonder. Among droves of people on the sidewalks, we stopped and listened to the music in every café up and down both sides of Broadway. We went to the Country Music Hall of Fame and hit that gift shop like no other.

"Tennessee, Tennessee, Ain't no place I'd rather be..." (Robert Hunter, Jerry Garcia). We couldn't agree more, and all signed up to return next year.

HAPPENING AT WINSLOW

Vicki Wolf

Adult Day Hab participants are going to “parts unseen” at Winslow! Weather permitting, each morning, Rebecca, Linda and Dawn take the group for a walk around the property to stretch, observe the animals, and get the day started.

While a good number of the group's members are able to take the walk, there are others who are unable to take the trek due to physical difficulties. Thanks to a generous grant from the *Warwick Savings Foundation*, Winslow was able to purchase golf carts for our Program to use, and now everyone can see EVERYTHING!



For the maiden voyage, the group traveled to one of the more distant pastures to groom some horses. For some of our amazing participants like Barb, Tommy and Adam, this was the first time seeing this part of Winslow! While we normally bring the horses in for them to groom, they were able to go to the pastures where the horses live and groom them there.

These golf carts will open up all of the accessible areas of Winslow's 100 acres to all of our program participants. They will also aid the group in travelling back and forth from the new building, which will open soon and will house the adult day program, to the original building for equine assisted programming.

Like the postal service, “Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night shall keep them travelling around campus!”



GETTING REEL WITH STEPHEN



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

Fall Guy PG-13



In this movie, Ryan Gosling stars as Colt Seavers, a stuntman who has come across hard times after suffering a severe stunt accident. Emily Blunt plays Jody Moreno, Colt's ex-girlfriend and director of her first film. Aaron Taylor-Johnson plays Tom Ryder the star of the movie, who disappears.

Colt is contacted to help with Tom's disappearance. He gets involved in trying to find Tom, but Colt finds himself mixed up in a more serious situation, all in hopes for Jody's movie to not fail and to rekindle his relationship with her. It is funny, lots of stunt action and exciting to watch. I give this movie five stars.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

That 70's Show

Gas lines and Disco might not be back, but inflation sure has returned with a vengeance. It continues to affect every household in America; CLC households included.

I recently watched a TV and cable advertisement produced by the IKEA furniture company enunciating their efforts to produce a quality product within the reality of an inflationary economy. Amid full color photos of attractive and functional furniture they presented a sober message of how everything in the production chain is interconnected and necessary for their industry.

Inflation peaked around June 2022, just over the highest level since the 1970s. Everyone who is old enough surely recalls this period as one rough ride. Who doesn't recall the beating the economy took? Both the largest industry and the smallest saving accounts were subject to the same tough treatment. Does anyone recall mortgage rates at 18% or gas prices

being changed once or twice a day, creating fuel lines stretching all around the block.

Just go into any grocery store and listen to the banter created when someone suddenly realizes that the price of eggs has crept up to over \$4.00/doz. Or, \$6.00 for a loaf of bread...

Think now how the inflation cycle affects us here at CLC. Food prices continue to skyrocket and even the best made budgets are no longer adequate. Simply put, we can't just raise our prices the way a restaurant would. How much we receive or don't receive is determined in Albany by a rate setting division of OPWDD (Office for People with Developmental Disabilities).

Transportation to and from various appointments is critical and again, completely dependent upon fuel and its ever-increasing cost. Every attempt to control gasoline costs has been tried. Unfortunately, there is little we

can do about gas and oil prices.

Medical insurance is one of the most volatile and most expensive items on our budget. We understand that next year's increase could be as high as 17%. We have asked for a meeting with the actual vendors to help reduce this cost. Even a small adjustment in any of our budget lines can produce significant outcomes.

These are truly difficult times that will test us in many ways. It will also bring out the very best in us. So, let's choose the best as we go through this summer. Find some time for fun, and of course stay safe!

All the best,

John Porcella, CEO



eNews Updates

We Search the Web to Bring You the Latest News

Google is unveiling a slew of accessibility updates while also announcing new efforts to support people with disabilities creating content online. The company will enhance features aimed at those with blindness or low vision, individuals with cognitive disabilities and physical accessibility needs.

The company is also launching a six-month fellowship program for influencers with disabilities and investing \$5 million in a fund backing nonprofits making coding and computer science education more accessible to students with disabilities. The *Google Rising Influencer with Disabilities* fellowship includes 15 participants from the U.S. and Canada who will be mentored by accomplished influencers, learn from industry leaders and be connected with Google product teams.

The new investment fund will focus on organizations using *Blockly*, a Google open-source library to develop and implement inclusive tools and curricula.

Product updates will include a new option for Lookout, an Android function that allows people who are blind or who have low vision to use their phone's camera to find out about what's in front of them, Google said. The "find mode" feature, which is in beta, allows users to be notified about the direction and distance of objects that fall within seven categories including seating, tables and bathrooms.

Meanwhile, an Android app known as *Look to Speak*, which allows users to speak pre-written phrases that they select with their eyes, will add a text-free mode with speech activated based on personalized emojis, symbols and photos.

Google Maps is also expanding its options for screen readers so that users can hear about the names and types of places near them and how far away they are. And, detailed voice guidance offers audio prompts so users know if they're going the right way, being rerouted or crossing a busy intersection, Google said.

In addition, *Maps* will now display a wheelchair icon on desktop computers to indicate if a place is wheelchair accessible. Previously, the icon was only visible on mobile devices.

Sourced from: *The Disability Scoop*

MOUSY ON ICE!

Mousy L. was guest of honor at the opening ceremonies of the NY Raptors special hockey club fund raising tournament. Held at New York's *Playland Park* in Rye, NY on April 6, Mousy had the great honor of dropping the first ceremonial puck the along with a retired member of the New York Rangers hockey team.



Mousy was chosen because she was a member of the 2005 Special Olympics Floor Hockey team that represented the United States at the Special Olympics, held in Nagano, Japan. Mousy and her team won a Gold Medal in their final game against the Isle of Mann team.



Mousy gets ready to drop the puck!

During their trip to Japan, Mousy and her teammates were treated to a cultural experience of a lifetime. The team members spent time living with host families in the city of Matsumoto, where they enjoyed fun excursions at temples and historic site; they even learned how to make rice balls!

Mousy's presence at the tournament served as a notable example to special hockey communities, demonstrating the pinnacle of what can be achieved for special players.

Cookin' Good with Jenny



We are pleased to present another cooking column by our own Jenny M.



Jenny's Summer Shortcakes with Berries and Cream

Ingredients:

- 4 - 5 sliced strawberries
- 4 - 5 sliced blackberries
- 1 package of dessert shortcake cups
- 1 container Cool Whip or Redi-Whip

Directions:

Add berries to a bowl and mix gently.

Place dessert cups on a platter.

Using a spoon, add a small amount of whipped cream into each cup.

Fill each cup with fruit mixture and top off with a dollop of Cool Whip or Whipped cream. Enjoy!

MEET BILLY

D. Descloux

A CLC'er for 2 1/2 years, Billy is an outgoing and vibrant young man, eager to talk about his life.

Billy resides in a two-bedroom Highland Avenue apartment in Mount Kisco, NY. with two housemates. "I share a room with James, and Steven has the other room. We're all good buddies and we get along."

A collector for most of his life, Billy has amassed stockpiles of everything from Matchbox cars to baseball cards. "I started young," he says. "I can't even remember all the stuff I squirreled away in my room!"

His current passion is collecting DVDs and CDs. "I even have a working DVD player," he says proudly.

Billy is a connoisseur of horror films. "My two favorite movies are *Bride of Chucky* and *Freddy vs. Jason*. I saw these early on and they are what got me interested."

His CD collection revolves around Hard Rock, Punk Rock and Heavy Metal with some Rap thrown in. He pauses for a minute and adds, "I'm a little bit country, too." Top bands are Guns N' Roses and Blink-182.



Another passion is wrestling. Billy absolutely adores the WWE and especially INDIE wrestling. Steve Austin, better known as *Stone Cold*, is a retired superstar and Billy is a fan. "I go to matches whenever I can score tickets."

Billy and his roommates are not into cooking (although they *are* into eating!) so the staff usually prepares their meals. "I made my grandma's Chili recipe for everyone once," he recalls. "I added extra spice. It was a hit!"

His favorite foods are hamburgers and broccoli. "One healthy item and one not so healthy, so I guess they balance out!" Although he prefers a homemade burger, he gives the nod to Burger King as having the best fast food offering.

Billy's number one goal right now is to land a job. He used to work at Grand Central Market stocking shelves and doing maintenance "but I've been out of work for a few months."

Billy continues, "I have an interview set up, so I'm hoping that I'll be employed soon. I want to save money for the future, pay my rent and see more wrestling events!"

When asked what else he'd like to share about himself he smiles and says, "I'm a Yankees fan through and through! Go Yanks!"



Like many of us, Billy is not exactly sure of his ethnicity. "I visited Ellis Island with family years ago and found my last name. I think the people came from Germany and Ireland. It's fun to think about where I could be from. Right now, I'm happy to be who I am and where I am."

MORE SMOKEY MOUNTAIN PHOTOS *PLUS* C.C. LIFE UPDATE

J. Mungovan



CLCers strolling down the streets of bustling Nashville, Tennessee, known the world over as *Music City*.



Steamrolling Spring into Summer

C.C. Life is steamrolling through spring right into summer. The Mother's Day Markets in Pelham were a huge hit. Our business trips are for this very purpose. In our Noank/Mystic house Jen, Sonia, Emily, Angela and Sarah put all the gift baskets together, arranging flowers, chocolates, loofah sponges, soaps and lotions for the markets.

Eric had his own art stand and sold several of his paintings. Jillian made the chocolates and sold them at her stand. Ellen sold jewelry. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday before Mothers day the Patio was awash with sun and color and the excitement of selling our products specially made for our Mothers and yours.

C.C. Life's *Cinco De Mayo* party at our *YOLO Lounge* found over 70 of our men and women, from agencies all over Westchester County "cha cha ching" the night away on a stunning May evening. The nightclub glistened with lights inside and shimmered under the stars on the patio. Anthony hosted the event with great panache while Lydia, Mousy, Jen served our patrons dinner, cocktail flavored Crystal Light, and delicious desserts. Louis and Brandon were our DJ's for the event. Troy, David, Yvette, Joyce and Kate all helped to make our party a hit with their contributions.



C.C. Life is springing into summer for our business trips and retreats where we take clients away for free, three-day trips. Our summer house in Westbrook CT. from mid-July through the 3rd week of August is on a peaceful pond, state forest trailheads abutting the end of our driveway and only seven minutes from the beach!

Strengthening friendships learning tennis, laughing while hitting golf balls, focusing on fishing, BBQs and bonfires with smiles and s'mores help us to blossom into who we truly are. Cultivating companionship through shared experiences at stunning locations, with great food, and great fanfare, sprinkled with the unequalled opportunities that come with travel...who can ask for more?

There is no DayHab in the country that we know of that takes their clients away for a couple of nights, several times a year...for free? No wonder they're knocking our doors down...It's a C.C. Life!

SAVE THE DATE

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19th Annual

CLC FOUNDATION'S AUTUMN GALA

For the benefit of Community Living Corporation

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024

ON THE RADIO

CLC Foundation Executive Director Denyele Urciuoli was a radio star one day last April! She debuted on *Elder Care on the Air*, a weekly radio show airing on *The Peak*, 107.1 FM.

The segment is hosted by nationally known elder law attorney Michael J. Amoroso. Says Denyele, "I tried to speak on all of our wonderful programs and I believe we got a positive community response."


The Foundation will continue to educate 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 (914) 241-2076.

In 1996 CLC Foundation was one of the first nonprofit 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.

Denyele Urciuoli

THIS WEEK ON

Elder Care on the Air™



This week's episode of *Elder Care on the Air™* features

Denyele Urciuoli,
Executive Director,
CLC Foundation.

Denyele and Michael discuss how CLC offers financial security and an enhanced quality of life for disabled individuals while maintaining their eligibility for critical government benefits such as SSI and Medicaid.

NEW PARENT GROUP LAUNCHES

If you are interested in joining a parents' support group that is currently being formed, please contact someone listed below:

(The Parent Support Group is run by CLC parents and not by the Agency.)

Maggie Pinsker: mpinsker@hotmail.com or (914) 645-8499

Steve Gold: Stephen.gold@mailfence.com or (214) 448-2794

Debbie Fischer: debfishc2006@gmail.com or (914) 434-1104

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, Annette
or Irene (emails at left)

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