



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Elizabeth Martin

You will notice that within this newsletter are wonderful highlights from Living Resources' *2nd Annual Tribute to Transforming Lives* event at the 1863 Club. You will also see that our *14th Annual Golf Tournament* is being held on Friday, September 22. **Why are these events important to an organization that receives a majority of its funding through NYS Medicaid?**

Sadly, the funding we receive from NYS does not fully meet the needs of those we support. The extra financial support received from event sponsors and attendees provides the essential funding that allows us to pay for uncovered expenses. Expenses such as a new roof for one of our aging homes or household renovations that allow individuals to age in place safely. This funding may also purchase a new wheelchair van or allow us to expand a programs to support more individuals. With this crucial funding from generous donors, we are able to test out new innovative technologies that lead to greater independence and training programs that allow us to continue to provide high quality supportive services.

So we say a very special thank you to each of you that support our events or makes a donation. Your support helps to promote the Living Resources mission and we are most grateful!

Thank you



14th Annual Golf Tournament



[Click here to register](#)

September 22, 2023
Colonie Golf & Country Club · Voorheesville, NY



FOGG'S AUTOMOTIVE SPONSORS BROOKS BBQ FUNDRAISER



Thanks to everyone at **Fogg's Automotive** for hosting the Brooks' House of Bar-B-Q fundraiser on August 9, 2023! Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the many programs of Living Resources.





A Tribute to Transforming Lives

A Day at the 1863 Club
Saratoga Race Course

Sunday, August 20, 2023

Are you proud of us?" Catherine's question hung in the air with expectant excitement. Indeed, the level of pride felt for her and all those who participated in the second annual "A Tribute to Transforming Lives" fashion extravaganza at Saratoga Track's 1863 Club, could not be greater.

The event, hosted by Natalie Sillery and her fashion boutique, "Saratoga Trunk", featured world-class racing and world-class fashion to benefit the world-class causes of Living Resources and Building on Love. Presenting sponsor Steven Bouchey of Bouchey Financial Group, stated it was truly an opportunity for two organizations with different missions but the same heart to come together and do a lot of good.



The fashion part of this year's event featured looks by Paul Wesolowski, designer of Aidan Mattox under the Adrianna Pappell label, as well as a selection of men's clothing from the local Union Hall Supply Co. The designs were modeled by women with years of modeling experience, affectionately known as the "Trunkettes" as well as novices to the runway including individuals served by Living Resources programs.



Two of Living Resources' models were graduates of our College Experience program. Catherine, who exuded confidence in a retro, 70's -themed denim outfit, and her best friend, Danielle, a starlet in a glamorous, red outfit with a matching hat. Both outfits were repurposed by Diane Stage-Fowler. Catherine said, "I loved how fashionable I was." Danielle agreed adding, "I loved the whole outfit ."



The women were not the only ones enjoying the limelight. Brian, who lives in one of Living Resources' residences and attends our Day Community Opportunity Program walked the runway with his sister Barbara. He smiled from ear to ear asserting, "I'm famous!" David, a graduate of the College Experience who was later hired by the program as an Educational Assistant exuded confidence, holding his hat in his outstretched hand, smiling and turning so all could see.



Jesse Saperstein, The College Experience Media & Activities Liaison who has Asperger's Syndrome summed up the overwhelming feelings of the day by stating, "It was amazing. I had a rough childhood with bullying. I was often told I was ugly. When people like me are chosen to model in a fashion show, it reminds us that we have value."



While the fashion show was certainly the day's highlight, the reason for the event can't be overstated. Living Resources shared the proceeds of the event with Building on Love to benefit our mission of supporting and empowering individuals with disabilities to live with dignity, independence, and happiness. Checking in with Catherine as the day was winding down her question was reflected to her, "What are you proud of?" Catherine didn't pause. She said, "I'm independent – I achieve things, I accomplish things and I am proud of who I am." That's what our mission is all about.



Click [here](#) to see photos featured on the Times Union's "SEEN: A Tribute to Transforming Lives"



FLIGHTS OF FANCY WITH COMMUNITY HABILITATION



Community Habilitation staff Cheiree recently brought program participant Karissa to Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory in South Deerfield, MA. It was Karissa's first time there and she had an amazing experience! The ladies were delighted by all the beautiful butterflies that surrounded them and sometimes landed on them. Occasionally, a big butterfly would unexpectedly fly by, startling Karissa, but she took it in stride.

Cheiree checked in with Karissa a few times throughout the day to see if she was ready to leave, but Karissa had found her happy place and wanted to stay as long as possible. Eventually, hunger won over for both ladies and they reluctantly decided to leave. They were shocked to realize it was only thirty minutes before closing time and they had spent the whole day in the presence of the winged wonders.

Before leaving Karissa was asking if they could go back. Staff Cheiree said, "It was a wonderful experience. We plan to visit Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory again in the future."

<https://www.livingresources.org/flight-of-fancy/>



ENJOYING SUMMER WITH SARATOGA DCOP



Our Saratoga Day Community Opportunity Program has been outdoors and loving life this month. Among other adventures, they explored the sights, sounds, and aromas of the Washington County Fair. There, they visited the animals, went on some rides, went hog-wild for the pig races, tasted some fun foods, and purchased great souvenirs!



Riding on the Saratoga Corinth & Hudson Railway was an opportunity to unwind and enjoy a beautiful summer's day. They took a 90-minute vintage train ride from Corinth to Greenfield and back, enjoying the scenic views, and wildlife from aboard a Vintage 1916 Pullman.





ORANGE COUNTY ADVENTURES



Who's up for an adventure?

All of the Orange County Day Community Opportunity Program sites met at the Bronx Zoo for a group adventure! They all certainly got their exercise- the Bronx Zoo is the largest metropolitan zoo in the United States with 265 acres to explore and more than 10,000 animals to see. While they didn't get up and close with all the animals, it wasn't for lack of trying. The program manager said, "Some of our participants are animal experts and they had a blast seeing animals they learned about on TV and sharing their knowledge with their peers."

Speaking of adventures, four of the Orange County teams spent the day at Six Flags, Great Adventure where there was something for everyone. Some of their fearless individuals eagerly strapped themselves into the biggest roller coasters, others challenged themselves to try some new rides and some chose to keep their feet on the ground cheering on the activities of their friends. The groups played arcade games and enjoyed each other's company all day. Everyone agreed that it was a long day but it was a GREAT one!





CEP MOVE-IN DAY



“Trepidatious” was the word of the day. The first day of school is always a bit unnerving and the first day of college, especially when you’re leaving home for the first time is even more so. On Monday, August 14, our The College Experience welcomed 25 new students into the program on The College of Saint Rose campus, our largest class to date!

They came from all over New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Virginia. They came with all their personal items - pillows, posters, photos, anything to help make their dorm room resemble their family home.

During orientation week, students learned about their new neighborhood, learning to navigate the campus, enrolling in classes, and establishing new friendships with peers.



Not surprisingly, many of the week’s icebreakers involved food. On Monday, all new and returning students enjoyed a move-in day dinner, Wednesday ended with a family-style spaghetti dinner for all the students, which they cooked themselves, and Friday night finished off with an ice cream social.



The program is filled to capacity with the returning class, 54 students in total and we cannot wait to see what this journey holds for them!



[Click HERE to read July's Newsletter](#)