



**MESSAGE FROM THE CEO**



Elizabeth Martin

September is Direct Support Professional (DSP) Appreciation Month, and Living Resources has been honoring our DSPs for the critical work they perform each day in supporting and empowering individuals with disabilities to live with dignity, independence, and happiness.

One of the many avenues for recognition was the presentation of the Living Resources Value Awards. Staff members were invited to nominate their colleagues to be considered for a

**Living Resources Value Award.** Nominators took the time to write a short statement explaining the rationale for their selection.

These nominations were sent to our Board of Directors who selected DSPs who most strikingly personify each of our six values - Collaborator, Innovator, Mentor, Self Determination, Personal Growth, and Inclusivity. The awardees were then surprised by a visit from our Executive Staff and presented with a plaque and monetary award.



**Congratulations to Dennis Anakum, Quay Hines, Lacey Leming, Kelly McGill, and Aretha Williams, who were the first recipients of this month's Living Resources Value Awards!**

**More awards will be presented in the month of October, so stay tuned!**

**Please join us in congratulating all the nominees for the Living Resources Value Awards!**

Adam Abdirisak  
Dennis Anakum  
Laurie Bosco  
Julianna Burkard  
KerryAnne Burnside  
Kalesha Cancer  
Patrinka Coutant  
Thomasina Crippen  
Natalia Cruz  
Jada Daniels  
Magdalena Diaz  
Cinthia Dudley  
Rebecca Edwards

Colby Ford  
Julie Gilchrist  
Gwen Griggs-Donker  
Quay Hines  
Khijon Hooks  
Sharon Hyde  
Tjesa Jacobs  
Kie Jones  
Que Jones  
Onidashia King  
Patrica Laviana  
Lacey Leming

Bill Lynch  
Meghan McCormick  
Kelly McGill  
Teyana Monroe  
Lovancie Moon  
Kathryn Muller  
Alyssa Murphy  
Victor Nwaefuna  
Mary Omoniyi  
Michael Omoregie  
Johanna Perez  
Genassiel Reyes  
Miguel Roldan

Malaika Rose  
Koryn Shear  
Amanda Soto  
Darian Sprague  
Kadayah Tarver  
Alvera Thomas  
David Thomas  
Nakia Tisdale  
William Tolan  
Paul Truax  
Aretha Williams  
Lauryn Youngblood

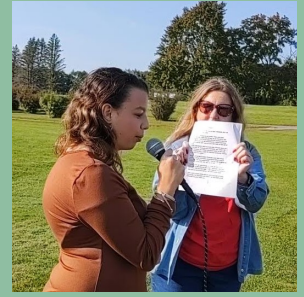
**Finally, we would like to send a special thank you to each and every DSP for the work they do each day to support others in leading their best lives.**





# LIVING RESOURCES 14TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

We asked and Mother Nature delivered! Sunshine and summer-like temperatures abounded at the 14th Annual Living Resources Golf Tournament at the Colonie Golf and Country Club on Friday, September 22, 2023.



The day started with a hot breakfast, served buffet-style inside the club. Participants then learned about Living Resources' College Experience program from program graduate, Abby Censabella. She shared her journey to the College Experience, what she learned there, and how far she has come. She shared that she is employed at New

Scotland Elementary School as an after-school counselor, and is considering going back to school to get her Associates Degree in Early Child Care. She was proud to say that she lives in an apartment by herself, and pays her own rent, and prouder to exclaim that, after 21 years of her family helping her advocate for her needs, she was recently diagnosed with autism.



After the inspiring speech, the foursomes were off in their carts, with a new Living Resources-branded golf bag full of goodies, on their way to their first hole. After hours of friendly competition, lunch was served on the turn, courtesy of Burger 21. All along the way, students from the

College Experience were on hand to help out and join in the fun. College Experience graduate and golf extraordinaire, Tor Kronbichler, put participants' skills to the test in thrilling contests to see who had the best drive.



Congratulations to our Winning Teams, 1st Place: PNJ Technology Partners and 2nd Place: CDPHP as well as our Longest Drive Winners: Kelly Behan, Matt Young and our Closest to the Pin Winners Kaitlin Knickerbocker (22'), Mike Quaranta: (12'6")



Big thanks go out to all of the sponsors who made the day possible, especially title sponsor Marshall & Sterling. We are already looking forward to next year!





## 2023 BIAD REFLECTING ON THE PAST, LOOKING FORWARD



As the summer season winds down, members of our Brain Injury Program gathered in a large pavilion at Tawasentha Park in Altamont, NY for their annual Brain Injury Awareness Day (BIAD). Here, they carved out time to remember their past, reflect on their journey, and think about their goals for the year ahead.

Together, they enjoyed a meal, shared their stories, and celebrated each other's victories. There was a display of art created by program participants, tee shirts for sale, and even raffle prizes. The keynote speaker was Christina LeBeau, Director of Advocacy and

Engagement of the Brain Injury Association of New York State. Christina works to increase awareness as well as campaign for public policy changes to improve and expand public policies regarding brain injury. She talked about her personal story of why she got involved in that agency and communicated her affection for the Living Resources Brain Injury Program and its participants and shared upcoming events to increase awareness about Brain injury.

Living Resources Brain Injury Services is dedicated to providing a comprehensive treatment program for people with traumatic or acquired brain injuries to establish meaningful post-injury roles and relationships. At Living Resources we strive to educate, train, encourage, and patiently guide survivors of traumatic brain injuries and their loved

ones throughout this process. Individuals living in the community have access to a wide range of service options including; Care Coordination, Life Skills Training, Day Programs, Fine Arts Instruction, and Clinical Services.



Learn more at <https://www.livingresources.org/services/brain-injury-services/>







## END OF SUMMER SOIRÉE



Living Resources' Rensselaer and Columbia County Community Opportunities Programs officially drew the summer season to a close in high fashion by holding a collaborative end-of-summer bash which they called an "End of Summer Soirée!"

What's the recipe for a Living Resources Soirée? You start with a lovely setting and add equal parts of dancing and a lunch buffet. Next, you fold in enthusiastic party-goers and sprinkle a touch of romance. Blend for a few hours and watch the magic happen.

The Albany Shaker Heritage Society was kind enough to offer their beautiful barn space for

the occasion so everyone could party the day away. If it's a dance, you're going to need music, right? Never fear- program participant Ted Cioffi was the D.J. and got the room rocking in no time.



The participants had such an amazing time and were all calling it "The Prom." One of the participants said, "This is better than my real prom! This is one of the best days of my life!"



What's a prom without Cupid's bow flying throughout the room? Love blossomed as a participant from Columbia County asked a Rensselaer DCOP participant to be his girlfriend. The couple met at a previous BBQ and they hit it off spectacularly, so no one was surprised when her response was a resounding YES!

Thanks to our Rensselaer and Columbia County Community Opportunities Program staff and all who were involved in making this End of Summer Soirée a smashing success. We look forward to all that the fall will bring for our Living Resources Family.







## LIVING RESOURCES - PARTNERS IN THE COMMUNITY

Living Resources was excited to participate in the Autism Society of the Greater Hudson Region's **Walk for Autism and Family Fun Day** on September 23, 2023, in Schenectady's Central Park Pavilion. Participants were encouraged to embrace their inner awesome by dressing up as their favorite character, be it a superhero, anime icon, fantasy creature, or any other creation. The Family Fun Day included a Resource Fair and a Community Walk around the park's Iroquois Lake.



Networking was the word of the day at the **NY Special Needs and Disabilities Expo** on Sunday, September 24, 2023, at the Albany Marriott on Wolf Road! The purpose of this first annual event was to partner community members with disabilities and their caregivers with much-needed local resources. Living Resources was a proud sponsor of the event which drew in well over 700 attendees. The day included interactive



panel discussions, 60 exhibitors showcasing their services in the exhibition room, a networking room for individuals with disabilities and their caregivers to connect with each other, and a quiet room for anyone needing a break from all the activity.

Our CEO, Elizabeth Martin, participated in the first panel discussion of the day with Caralee Kardash, Director of Special Education of BOCES. Together they discussed strategies for creating an inclusive and independent life at home and in the workplace.

Congratulations to Mariah, Jennifer, and all involved in making the NY Special Needs and Disabilities Expo such an amazing success!







# Many thanks to all who participated in our 14th Annual Golf Tournament



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