

## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



**Elizabeth Martin**

As we end the month of July, I am filled with a deep sense of pride and gratitude for our community here at Living Resources. This month holds special significance as we reflect on the values of freedom, equality, and inclusion that resonate deeply within our organization.

Independence Day serves as a powerful reminder of the principles that define our nation—freedom, liberty, and justice for all. These ideals are not just aspirations but also guideposts for our work at Living Resources. We are committed to creating opportunities and breaking down barriers so that every individual, regardless of background or ability, can experience the true essence of independence and self-determination.

July also signifies Disability Pride Awareness Month and at Living Resources, we embrace the spirit of Disability Pride every day by promoting accessibility, advocating for inclusive policies, and empowering individuals to reach their full potential. It's time to recognize the achievements and contributions of individuals with disabilities, whose resilience and creativity enrich our society in countless ways.

Let us renew our commitment to fostering a more inclusive and equitable world. Together, we can build a future where every person, regardless of ability, background, or circumstance, has the opportunity to thrive and contribute meaningfully to our shared community.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our mission.



*In less than one month, we head to the races!*

## Third Annual Tribute to Transforming Lives A Day at the 1863 Club

Sunday, August 18, 2024 | 11 A.M.

Saratoga Race Course | Fashion Show, Brunch, Racing

Presented by

*Saratoga Trunk*  
LADY'S FINERY

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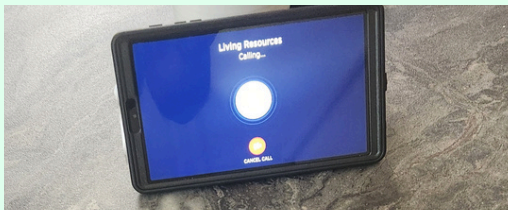




## TECHNOLOGY HELPS OUR SUPPORTIVE LIVING PROGRAM GROW

Adaptive and assistive technology has come to our Supportive Living Program and it is providing a great deal of support to individuals living and moving into their very own apartments.

Last year, Living Resources was awarded funding through a New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) Supportive Residential Habilitation Transformation Grant. This injection of revenue is allowing us to completely revamp our approach to Supportive Living. Under this grant, our existing Supportive Living Program is expanding to include 15 individuals. 10 of those individuals will be new to the program, transitioning into new or vacant apartments. Five of those individuals already reside in our supportive apartments, but through the grant, they will be offered an enhanced experience.



We are partnering with SimplyHome, a company that seeks to empower independence through innovation, to install technology in 10 apartments supported by our agency. This technology can include monitors to video-chat with Living Resources team members and sensors for doors, ovens, and smoke alarms. SimplyHome offers a great deal of customization, so the technology for each apartment can be tailored to an individual's wants and needs. We are also working to utilize Amazon echo dots, foldable shopping cards, bed shakers, motion-sensing hallway lights, and a smart medication tracking system called Pill Drill, that will remind individuals when it's time to take any prescriptions they may have.



The Supportive Living Program has seen many success stories, including Jennifer Jones who is warmly called the Mayor of Supportive Living. She lived in two institutions before coming to Living Resources and she has lived in her own apartment for years. "I get to set it up any way I want," she shares, "I don't have to share anything with anybody. Nobody is telling me 'Oh, I want that over there, that's my corner.' It's all my corner!"



Much of the new technology is being tested and experienced for the first time by supported individuals, team members and board members alike at the Supportive Living Program's recently-established staffing hub, also funded through the OPWDD grant. The hub is based out of an apartment in Albany and it features a room where clinical staff can hold confidential meetings and all the amenities you would find in a typical apartment. The kitchen, living room, and bathroom are ideal for use by individuals learning and practicing skills so they can transition into a supportive apartment.

"It's important to remember, promoting and achieving maximum independence and control for individuals does not just save resources and benefit the service system, it benefits individuals as well," says John Breitenbach, Director of Community Living, "Having maximum independence means individuals have maximum control over their own lives and destinies. It means individuals have a greater sense of purpose, self-worth, and confidence. It means providing individuals with a greater level of dignity and happiness."

[Click here to watch an in-depth video about this expanding program!](#)





## CYCLING FOR CREATIVITY 2024 TAKES ED FROM MINNEAPOLIS, MN TO RAPID CITY, SD

Despite our most careful planning, the road of life can be unpredictable. After completing a little over 600 miles on his bicycle, our friend Ed Brennan had to cut Cycling for Creativity 2024 short, due to days of inclement weather (with more in the forecast) coupled with a bout of illness.



Since 2022, Ed has been going on long distance bicycle rides each summer to raise awareness and funds for our organization. His daughter Kelsey lives in one of our residences, attends our Site-Based Day Habilitation Program, and takes classes in our Arts Program. Ed's odysseys are self-supported. He has no nearby assistance and he chooses his path entirely on his own. His ultimate goal is to travel all the way from Albany, New York to Albany, Oregon by completing different legs each year.



This summer, Ed's travels began with an Amtrak ride to Minneapolis, MN, where the avid cyclist successfully completed a three day American Cyclists Instructor Certification course before putting on his helmet and beginning his journey. His route through Minnesota took him past Lake Minnetonka and through the cities of Chanhassen, Hutchinson, Redwood Falls, and Marshall.

From there, it was across state lines to South Dakota! There, Ed saw the "World's Largest Pheasant," an 80 foot statue of a brontosaurus, one of the hometowns of Laura Ingalls Wilder (the author of The Little House on the Prairie books), the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site, and the beautiful Dignity statue, honoring the cultures of the Lakota and Dakota Native American people. Ed also ate breakfast at a restaurant operating out of an old railroad dining car and swapped stories with a team of bicyclists from the University of Illinois, who were also on a cross-county charity ride, raising funds towards a cure for cancer.



Thank you, Ed, for your dedication, year after year, to this athletic endeavor! We are so inspired by your travels and tenacity. If you would like to make a donation to our organization in honor of Ed's journey, [click here to visit our donations page.](#)



# Get Ready for Great Food!



Fogg's Automotive will host a Brooks BBQ Fundraiser Benefiting Living Resources

**When:** Wednesday, August 7  
3:00 P.M. Until Sold Out!

**Where:** 642 Saratoga Road,  
Glenville, NY 12302



Chicken Dinner: \$15  
Half Chicken: \$10

## HOPE IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS: A UNIQUE WILDLIFE INTERACTION SUPPORTS TRAUMA RECOVERY

In a heartwarming intersection of wildlife conservation and therapeutic support, a local wildlife rescue organization, Whispering Willow Wild Care, brought their inspiring exhibit of birds of prey to Living Resources Acquired Brain Injury program, offering both educational enrichment and a meaningful connection to nature.



The exhibit featured an impressive array of raptors, including majestic ravens, magnificent owls, powerful hawks, and crows. These magnificent birds, rehabilitated and cared for by the wildlife rescue team, captivated attendees with their sheer beauty and intricate behaviors. This personalized experience not only provided a rare opportunity for close-up encounters with these apex predators but also served as a powerful reminder of the resilience and recovery possible in both the animal and human worlds.



For individuals coping with the effects of traumatic brain injuries, this event was particularly impactful. Engaging with the birds allowed participants to experience a sense of wonder and tranquility, fostering a therapeutic environment that complemented their ongoing recovery journeys.

The exhibit's interactive elements, including educational talks and hands-on opportunities, helped bridge the gap between the natural world and personal healing, offering a unique and uplifting experience for all involved.





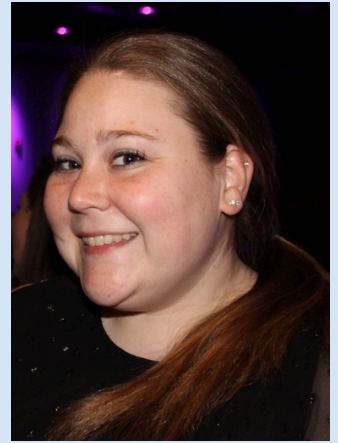
## SCHOLARSHIP IN THE NEWS

We thank The Daily Gazette in Schenectady for writing a poignant and informative article about our newly-established Amanda R. Rivenburg Memorial Scholarship Fund.

[Click here to read the full article!](#)

The scholarship fund currently allows for a \$500 scholarship to be awarded to a Living Resources staff member pursuing an Associate’s Degree, a \$1,000 scholarship for a staff member pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree, and a \$2,500 scholarship for a staff member pursuing a Master’s Degree.

The application period for this year’s awards just closed on July 12. Our scholarship committee will announce the first recipient(s) soon!



## CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY!

Our residences and programs were feeling patriotic on the Fourth of July! Parties, gatherings, and cookouts were held across our agency to celebrate our USA pride!



The colors red, white, blue were worn by many and favored in the decorations at a get-together organized by our Brain Injury Program at our Albany office’s cafetorium. Party-goers chatted, played games, hosted a basket raffle, and snacked on yummy cupcakes, with frosting that was perfectly on-theme.



Meanwhile, those who call our residences on Balltown Road in Niskayuna and Hays Road in East Greenbush home traveled outside to enjoy some summer sunshine and a classic holiday cookout!

On this most patriotic of holidays, it is so rewarding when we can all enjoy quality time in each other’s company and rejoice in our American freedom. Happy Independence Day!







## DCOP SOUTH IS OUT AND ABOUT!

Summer is in full effect across our programs and residences and the Day Community Opportunities Program (DCOP) is taking full advantage in the southern-most counties we support.

In Westchester County, participants recently took a trip to Playland Park in Rye to enjoy the rides and other attractions. The swimming pool at Rockland Lake State Park provided a place to cool down and get some exercise, the arcade at Palisades Center Mall gave a taste of competition, and the exhibits at Bergen County Zoo offered a chance to walk on the wild side!

Over in Rockland County, the DCOP group tried their hand at some boating, with support from the Rockland Rowing Association and in Orange County ice cream was paired with some creative tie-dyeing fun.

Finally, in Columbia County, it was time for a "Field Day!" Participants enjoyed tackling some sports and games, like cornhole, and had fun with other activities and crafts, like face-painting, temporary tattoos, and stamping.

We can't wait to see what all of these fine folks get up to next!



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