

# Sharing the Journey

April 2019



## A Message from the Chief Executive Officer



Recently I was doing some yard work and when I finished, I surveyed the yard and felt a great sense of accomplishment. This feeling reminded me of how important it is for all of us to celebrate our accomplishments, whether big or small.

On Thursday, May 2, Living Resources will be doing just that, celebrating a few of our accomplishments at our 3rd Annual Art of Independence event. This year, our event highlights the Road the Independence and its pavement through education and employment. We are so proud of all the accomplishments of those we serve, individuals who have overcome obstacles in their lives, those that are taking those obstacles and challenging them in their works of art, those that have graduated from college, individuals who have gained employment, those that are making better life choices, and all of us who are living life to its fullest.

Remember, we have much to be thankful for, we celebrate you!

## Art of Independence

Pothole season is here, but with your help, we can ensure that the road our individuals travel is fully paved!

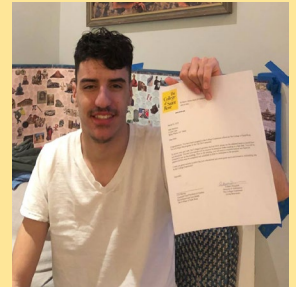
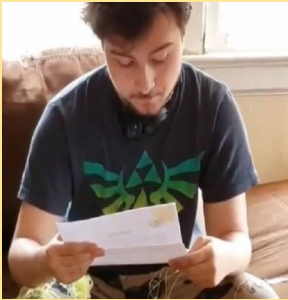
**It is not too late to join us at the Art of Independence.** Won't you come out for a great night filled with food, fun and a silent auction? You will leave with a better understanding of what we accomplish at Living Resources and that great feeling that you did something amazing for the individuals we serve.

Click the link <http://bit.ly/2TNTBfh>

**This wonderful wine/hors d'oeuvres reception is being held on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at the Fort Orange Club in Albany from 6:00–8:00 pm. We will be honoring KeyBank as our 2019 Sponsor of the Year and the Teresian House as Employer of the Year.**

A promotional banner for the "Art of Independence" event. It features the Living Resources logo at the top left. The main title "The ART of Independence" is in a stylized font, with "ART" in large, colorful letters. Below it, the text "A road paved through Education and Employment" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with "Education" and "Employment" in yellow. To the right, there is a small icon of a person and a speech bubble that says "An evening of food and festivities await! Please join us as we celebrate our individuals journey to success." The event details "Thursday, May 2, 2019 Fort Orange Club Albany, NY 6:00 pm" are listed. At the bottom right, the ticket price "Tickets: \$125" and a link "Click here to buy" are provided. The banner also includes several small photographs of people and a group of individuals.

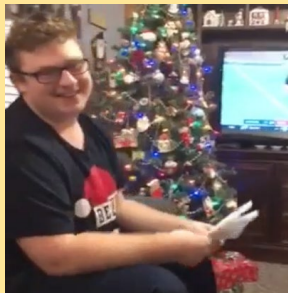




## College Bound!

Every year, high school students anxiously await the day they receive their college acceptance letters. Students in our upcoming classes of The College Experience and CareerNext have been able to share in this thrilling rite of passage alongside their peers.

We are excited for all the students who will be joining us this fall in the College Experience at The College of Saint Rose and CareerNext at SUNY Schenectady!



## CareerNext

Our CareerNext was recently featured in the Daily Gazette. Find out more about our partnership with SUNY Schenectady and this amazing program for special needs students!

<https://dailygazette.com/article/2019/04/05/program-offers-extra-support-for-special-needs-students-at-suny-sccc>



Schenectady County Community College student Megan Marchena leaves her room for class.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARC SCHULTZ





## Day Program Awards



Our Semi- Annual Day Community Opportunities Award Ceremony was held on Friday, April 5, 2019, at the Colonie Village Family Center. Our Living Resources family keeps growing, and we were excited to welcome our Westchester programs to the event for the first time. The Acquired Brain Injury band, "Brain Waves" provided entertainment before and after the ceremony and the Day Community Opportunities chorus sang "How Far I'll Go" from the movie Moana. Once again, Amanda Rivenburg's parents, Tom and Donna, assisted us in handing out the awards.

We are honored to announce the first recipient of the Amanda Rivenburg Rising Star Phoenix Award- **Rachelle Hicks**. (See Faculty Spotlight) Thank you Rachelle for all you have done and continue to do for Living Resources!

We hope to keep our dear Amanda's legacy alive in our hearts by honoring one Living Resources employee with this award twice a year from here on out. But we need your help. Please consider donating to the Amanda Rivenburg Phoenix Award fund by clicking this link. <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/ARRisingStar> Thank you!



Recipients of the  
Mayor Frank Leak  
Community Award:  
The Moreau Community  
Center



Staff Starlight Awards: (left to right) Bill Tolan, Matthew Miranda, Kayley Simpkin, Therese Hoffay, Mary Delorier, Manuel Vasquez, Alec Cafaro, Toya Tooley, Wesley John, and Maribel Sena





## Autism Action Day



Living Resources was thrilled to celebrate National Autism Awareness Month by attending Autism Action Day. This event was hosted by Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara and was held in the Well of the Legislative Office Building.



Not only did we have an information table staffed by great employees at the event, but our College Experience Activities & Media Liaison, Mr. Jesse Saperstein delivered a powerful public oration. He spoke about the difficulties of growing up on the autism spectrum, as well as the joys of finding work, purpose, and community.



## DCOP Corner

The Day Community Opportunities Program (DCOP) is a "without walls" program offered throughout the Capital/Saratoga Region for adults 18 years and older. Individuals participate in a wide variety of community experiences, including life skills development, volunteer opportunities, recreational activities and cultural and artistic pursuits.

***The Minerals Springs of Saratoga*** By; Daniel, Todd & Michael (Saratoga South DCOP)

In the mid 1800's the settlers found the mineral waters that caused Saratoga to grow into the city we know today. The rich and famous came to Saratoga Springs for the bath houses and it was known as the "watering hole" and "the queen of spas". In the 1930's President Franklin D. Roosevelt instituted that the mineral springs be called Saratoga Spa State Park. The city of Saratoga added pools, picnic tables, and golf courses. The taste of the mineral springs is different at every spring. The Tallulah Spring had the best tasting water. The Polaris Spring tasted salty. Another spring, the Karista Spring is the worst one. The group said it had too much iron in it and it leaves a bad taste in your mouth. Everyone experienced a great time.

***Basketball Hall of Fame*** Saratoga North took a trip to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield Massachusetts. Look at the smiles on the faces of these sports enthusiasts!







## April Birthdays



Prisca Abosse  
Yamaris Alamo Cruz  
Katelynn Allen  
Mary Alston  
Francesca Archina  
Ambros Asante  
Laura Booth  
Jaquesha Brandon  
Debra Braoudakis  
Stacy Brownell  
Sergio Camacho  
Karen Church  
Michael Daiute  
Happiness Daniel  
Lisa Deck  
Abiambo Diakahwa  
Michael English  
Tex Farrugia  
Bhanumattee Ganga  
Winifred Gariba  
Meredith Garvin  
Rajcoomarie Ghirdharie  
Elida Gross  
Arthri Hardial

Emily Harrison  
Marisa Henkin  
Laura Higgins  
Rochelle House  
Zachary Jacobia  
Christopher Joseph  
Paramjit Kaur  
Russell Kellogg  
Rebecca Kerber  
George Kurian  
Lisa Laniewski  
Cassandra Lapatra  
Horace Little  
Lynn Mackey  
Gregory Markiewicz  
Trevor Marsicano  
Vincent Mascardi Jr  
Courtney Mason  
Gillian Mason  
Brent Masterson  
Cashuanna McGill  
James Mitchell  
Natalia Obote  
Catherine O'Hearn

John Ojuro  
Felecia Powers  
Godson Ramsus  
Lisa Reinhardt  
Fe'Lee Reyes  
Ciera Rodriguez  
Lester Rosenzweig  
Sheliza Samuels  
Jesse Saperstein  
Nicole Scanu  
Iona Scarville  
Michelle Scepkowski  
Donna Seyboth  
Shannon Sperry  
Rosemarie Talmadge  
TyDingco Tamery  
Bonnie Terry  
Zsuzanna Thibault  
Elizabeth Villalobos  
Kelly Weiss  
Tiffany Williams  
Edna Young

## Anniversaries

Chrystal Anyos \*  
Permetris Arrington  
Janice Asquith  
Shonae Barrett  
Latchmi Bedisee \*\*\*  
Shakeyisha Bynum \*  
Jacqueline Calder \*  
Ciomara ConDelario  
Nikai Cannon \*\*\*  
Tawonna Clemmons \*  
Shadaney Collins \*  
Alfred Cooley \*  
Michael Daiute \*  
Vickie Dean  
Amanda Deer  
Carrie Dozier \*\*  
Elle Dugan \*  
Alison Farron  
Rita Fleischman

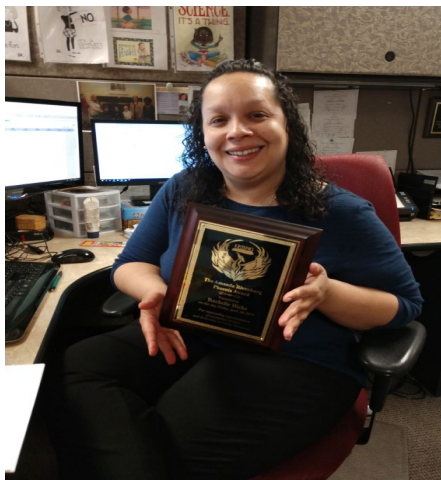
Eric Frempong  
Jared Hammond  
Katherine Hodge  
Keisha Howard  
Janice Hundley  
Antoine Johnson \*\*\*  
Dorothy Jouben \*\*\*\*  
Danielle Kimball  
Karen Kulesa \*\*\*\*  
Jennifer Mainello  
Paul Martino \*\*\*\*  
Salema Mitchell \*\*\*  
Jean Mowery \*\*  
Andrew Tobias Nelson  
John Newkirk \*\*\*  
Shelia O'Donnell \*\*\*  
Lisa Ondra  
Erin Ouellette \*\*\*  
Jenene Pabon

Michael Pacheco  
Crystal Pease \*  
Grace Rutagengwa-Fikiri  
Mary Beth Ryan  
William Stanley  
Shamila Subaniken  
Darlene Sylvester \*  
Shanice Taylor  
Sudhakar Thalluri  
Latoya Tooley  
Oron Tucker  
Wendy Vance  
Christopher Welch  
Lorenzo White \*\*\*  
Larry Yerkes





## Faculty Spotlight: Rachelle Hicks



Rachelle, or Rocky as she is frequently called, has been a part of the Living Resources family since 2001. In this time, Rocky has sampled the Smorgasbord of opportunities we offer here. She began her career as our receptionist later moving into Administration Services. Rocky then worked directly with individuals in the Residential, Community Habilitation, and After School Programs. Next, she returned to the main office in a variety of capacities, finally landing in the Corporate Compliance department. Rocky has orchestrated the conversion of our documentation of medical and care services from pen and paper to electronic. This has been no small feat. She has been on the front lines, answering many a phone call, patiently and reassuringly answering questions from staff. It is no wonder that Rocky was chosen to be our first recipient of the Amanda Rivenburg Phoenix Award.

Rocky loves her job here at Living Resources. She says this is her home and we are all family. And we are happy to call her our sister!

## SAVE THE DATE!

Here's a list of Upcoming Events you don't want to miss

**Wednesday, May 1** from **10:00 - 11:30a.m.** **Job Fair for individuals with disabilities** hosted in partnership with **CDPHP**. Job seekers come and meet businesses interested in filling their job needs. Practice interviewing and get your resume critiqued by Human Resources Specialists. Held at **CDPHP office at 500 Patroon Creek Blvd, Albany, NY 12206**.

**Thursday, May 2** from **6:00 - 8:00p.m.** The third annual **ART of Independence** will be held at the **Fort Orange Club in Albany**. This year we are highlighting the road to independence paved through education and employment. [Click here to join us](#).

**Friday, May 10** from **5:00 - 7:00 p.m.** **College of Experience Graduation Party** at **531 Western Avenue, Albany**. Come celebrate the wonderful accomplishments of our students as they celebrate their graduation.

**Friday, May 10** from **6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** **Meet the Artists Reception** at **Beekman Street Gallery, 70 Beekman Street, Saratoga Springs**.



[www.LivingResources.org](http://www.LivingResources.org)

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