

Sharing the Journey

March 2019



A Message from the Chief Executive Officer



Fredrick W. Erlich

Earlier this month we sprang ahead with the setting of the clocks which means that Spring is in the air! Spring for me, is nature's way of saying let's get moving ... the snow is disappearing and the days are longer so there is more time to get outside to enjoy the sunshine.

At Living Resources, Spring is a time that we get to work on the many house projects at our 44 residential homes which includes landscaping, painting, paving, and so much more. Spring is also a great time to rejoice in our successes, such as preparing for graduation season for our college students, the announcement for enrollment for next year's class, and on April 5, 2019 we will celebrate the many accomplishments of our Day Community Opportunities Program attendees. Very exciting indeed!

And for me, Spring means that the golf courses will soon be open, which is something I very much enjoy. So, Spring ahead and enjoy all that life has to offer!

BeFair2Direct Care



Living Resources joined 1,000 Direct Support Providers, self-advocates and families who traveled to the Capitol from all across New York State to call on Governor Andrew Cuomo and the Legislature to include [#bFair2DirectCare](#) funding in the budget.



The rally took place in the War Room, but the masses of people who arrived filled the entire second floor of the Senate Building. As the echoes of "Be Fair to Direct Care," and "D.S.P.!" filled the building, we were given a special announcement from the Governor's office. The Governor's counsel, Alphonso David, said that this year's budget will include a wage increase for direct care workers. We look forward to seeing the budget when it is finalized in April. As Mary Beth Walsh said "We know that New York is a great State, but we can only be great if we take care of our most vulnerable individuals."



Soaring Graduates

Congratulations to College Experience graduate Henry Medina on being Pioneer Bank's Employee of the month! His employer says "Henry joined the Pioneer team in 2016. His friendly disposition and determination to do the best at his job each and every day speaks strongly to our IMAGINE culture and values. Henry is often seen making the rounds, asking various departments if there is anything he can do to help! With a strong commitment to Pioneer and our culture we are very proud to have Henry on our team!"



We have our hard hats on and are busy constructing the "The Art of Independence!" We will be celebrating "A road paved through Education and Employment." This wonderful wine and hors d'oeuvres reception is being held at the prestigious Fort Orange Club on Thursday, May 2, 6:00 to 8:00pm. Won't you join us? Click the banner below.



The **ART** of
Independence



A road paved through
**Education
and Employment**



An evening of food and festivities await!
Please join us as we celebrate our individuals
journey to success.

Thursday, May 2, 2019
Fort Orange Club
Albany, NY 6:00 pm

Tickets: \$125
Click here to buy



Down Syndrome Awareness Day



Amanda is 30 years old and has received services from Living Resources for almost ten years. Her favorite way to celebrate National Down Syndrome Awareness Day is by participating in a "Buddy Walk®." Amanda explains that this is where "you take a friend and go for walk. It's lots of fun. You have snacks and a lunch." Amanda loves dancing to hip-hop and singing, particularly in the Living Resources Day Community Opportunities Program's "All Star Chorus." Amanda currently lives with her mom, but will soon be moving into an apartment with her boyfriend of almost ten years, Michael Salvi. She says of Mike, "We are a team!" Amanda also loves writing and participates in Living Resources writing class through the Day Community Opportunities Program. Please enjoy the selection she wrote below:

Amanda Boucher – My Talent

I love to dance. I love singing some songs with my hip hop music. I was singing some songs on my iPod. I love writing songs because I am a song writer. I love performing on the stage for people. I love performing so much. I would perform in the city as with the Peacocks and the Peacocks are colorful with their colorful feathers because Katy Perry sings the Peacock song. I love singing some songs because singing is my life because I love singing some songs. I love to sing a lot of songs from Disney because singing is my dream. I love performing in my life. I love performing in the circus. Performing is my favorite talent. I love to perform for the people. I will perform for my fans. I will sign the autographs and CDs and posters for my fans. I love to dance with my mom at Zumba. I do Zumba with my mom on Saturday. Me and my mom doing mother and daughter time together because my mom is greatest mother in the whole world I love.

In the News: The College Experience

What happens when a child ages out of public school but can't move onto college because of a developmental or intellectual disability? That's where Living Resources' College Experience Program comes in. Administered by Living Resources and the College of Saint Rose, it's changed the lives of 100 local young adults over the past 14 years.

Dr. Benita Zahn from WNYT News Channel 13 recently interviewed College Experience Assistant Director Jennifer Richard and College Experience alumnus David Lieberman about the program and how it helps others learn to live independently. [Click here to watch the video.](#)



To learn more about our College Experience Program, go to <https://thecollegeexperience.org/>



DCOP Corner

In celebration of World Poetry Day Thursday, March 21, here are a selection of writing pieces created by our participants of the Day Community Opportunity Program.

My Favorite Season

By: Cindy Samide

Spring is my favorite season. The sun is out longer and the sun shines brighter. It's starting to be lighter out longer. It begins to warm up outside. We don't have to wear hats and gloves anymore. We can go outside and have more fun. Lots of flowers start to bloom and the grass is greener. The weather makes me happier. That is why spring is my favorite season.

Spring Acrostic Poems

Bloom

By: Crystal Allen

Birds in the sky
Lady bugs fly near by
Outside swinging on a swing
Others play with butterflies
Moon is bright in the warm sky
Swing up to reach the sky

Flower

By: Stephen Principe

Fun in the sun
Ladybugs flying by
Outside we can play basketball
Waterfalls are making waves
Easter is coming soon
Rainy days

What is your 22q IQ?



College Experience grad Amy Maiorano was invited to speak to Professor Eileen Hoffman's class at Mercy College about her condition, Deletion 22q. Deletion 22q is the one of the most common chromosomal disorders, second to only Down Syndrome, but it is often misunderstood. Amy is pictured below with the Mercy College class and with her father. Be sure to check out her music video, "22q" in the style of Taylor Swift's 22 by [clicking this link](#).

International Womens Day



Friday March 8 was International Women's Day. Did you know that approximately 75% of the Direct Support Professional workforce is comprised of women?

We honor you, we celebrate you and we appreciate you every day of the year!





March Birthdays



Erik Adorno
 Evelyn Afra
 Jennifer Agar
 Monday Akhelumele
 Susan Benoit
 Laurie Bosco
 Silvana Bonesteel
 John Breitenbach
 Kay Broughton
 Shumeka Burgan
 Emily Burns
 Margaritta Cancer
 Antonio Castillo
 Richie Daughty
 Brandy Davidson
 Christopher Dooris
 Debra Dooris
 Briana Doyle
 Naiwantee Dulichand
 Bonfils Dunia
 Raymond Edwards
 Fredrick Erlich
 Allen Field

Lora Francis
 Netanya Fraiser
 Eric Frempong
 Jillian Gadawski
 Erin Gapp
 Julie Gilchrist
 Joseph Glasby
 Dorothy Gonzales
 Debra Griffin-Daza
 Marylynn Grimes
 Shevonna Hall
 Ashley Hines
 Cathleen Hull
 Charles Hunt
 Sharon Jackson
 Stuart Kaplan
 Sarah Keeler
 Ellen Khachadourian
 Omowunmi Majekodumi
 Violet Malema-Horne
 Chelsea Mancucci
 Neil Mansbridge
 Paul Martino

Erin Massaroni
 Colleen Metzinger-Koleosho
 Briana Miles
 John Newkirk
 Erin Ouellette
 Daniel Owens
 Frank Padula
 Cheryl Pavone
 Wilda Polanco
 Chandra Ramotar
 Erien Rawlins
 Cynthia Reinhardt
 Rakiema Richardson
 Leah Roberts
 Danielle Rodriguez
 Lynn Rodriguez-King

Anniversaries

Omonike Akinyemi
 Kumar Araujo *
 Michelah Bellot
 Suzanne Bernier *
 Laurie Bosco ***
 John Breitenbach *
 Alicia Bynum
 Margaritta Cancer
 Sergio Camacho***
 Tenisha Collins
 Korrin Cox
 Todd Delmarter *
 Cinthia Dudly ***
 Kimberly Edmonds ****
 Tina Marie Finney
 Scharry Ford **
 Lora Francis ***
 Wayne Germany *
 Garnett Green *
 Dorothy Gonzales

Jeffery Hallenback ****
 Amanda Hanks ***
 Albertina Harris
 Jennisha Hyman
 Stuart Kaplan
 Sharon Kendzierski ****
 Patrice Lawrence
 Dana Leach ***
 Rebecca Lettieri
 Rose Macdonald *
 Trevor Marsicano
 Daniel Martinez
 Cashuanna Mcgil
 Colleen Metzinger-Kolesho
 Michele Mickel
 Matthew Miranda
 Natalia Obote
 Jacqueline Perryman *
 Wilda Polanco
 Cinthia Reinhardt

Lidia Robinson *
 Sheliza Samuels
 Malcolm Sidbury
 Megan Stangle *
 Elizabeth Summer-Yergan *
 Jacqueline Tadjioqueu ****
 Faye Trinkle *
 Marissa Urkevich
 Melissa Williams **



Faculty Spotlight: Marcus Anderson



Marcus started with Living Resources as a volunteer at the Carriage House Arts Center in late 1999 and became an art teacher in 2000. He has held a variety of positions with the program over the years. Marcus is currently working as the gallery manager at Living Resources' 70 Beekman Street Gallery where he also serves as an art instructor. The favorite part of his job has always been working with our talented students. Marcus recently visited a Schenectady middle school and shared his insights, inspiration and amazing talent with the students there. The Schenectady students have learned what we already know - Marcus rocks!

Click the link to see footage of Marcus' visit
<https://www.news10.com/news/local-news/local-comic-book-artist-visits-schenectady-students/1818499856>

SAVE THE DATE!

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

Friday, April 5 from **12:00 - 2:00 p.m.** DCOP Awards Ceremony at the **Colonie Village Family Center, 2 Thunder Road, Albany.**

Sunday, April 7 World Health Day

Thursday, April 18 World Heritage Day

Friday, April 19 Good Friday

Friday, April 19- Sunday, 27 Passover

Sunday, April 21 Easter

Monday, April 22 Earth Day

Thursday, May 2 from **6:00 - 8:00p.m.** The third annual **ART of Independence**. This wonderful wine and hors d'oeuvres reception will be held at the **Fort Orange Club in Albany**. We know that there are many roads to independence, this year we will be highlighting the road paved with education and employment opportunities. More information to follow.



www.LivingResources.org

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