

# Sharing the Journey

May 2019



## A Message from the Chief Executive Officer



I looked out my window and there was a fire outside. The fire department had set the hills ablaze in a controlled burn. Everything was burnt, but already new greenery is growing where trees once stood. The hill is alive again and renewal is occurring. I often think about renewal and how this is occurring at Living Resources. Our Community is alive with growth opportunities. We are teaching individuals many new practical skills and they are happy and productive. Our reach is growing as well now that we have programming in Columbia, Dutchess, and Ulster counties.

Highlights of our month include our third Art of Independence at the Fort Orange Club, the graduation of the largest class of our College Experience Program to date, participation in the CDPHP

Workforce Challenge, and even a Spring Fever Staff party.

Stay tuned. Our future's so bright, we'll have to wear shades!



**Support Living Resources by joining in  
a fundraiser with the ValleyCats!**

**\$10 Premium Box Tickets**

**Thursday, July 11, 7:00pm**

**Joseph L. Bruno Stadium**

**Troy**

**FIELD OF DREAMS**

**Celebrating  
30 years!**

**Be sure to wear your favorite baseball jersey!**



For information,  
Call (518) 218-0000  
or go to  
[tcvalleycats.com/  
livingresources](http://tcvalleycats.com/livingresources)  
Group Password:  
livingresources





LIVING RESOURCES



LIVING  
RESOURCES

The **ART** of  
Independence

A great time was had by all while we celebrated our  
individuals journey to success...



A road paved through  
**Education**  
and **Employment**



Were you **SEEN?**  
Check out the pictures







## College Experience Graduation



Congratulations to the students of the College Experience on a successful year of learning and discovery. Move-in day in August of 2017 was filled with excitement and anticipation mixed with fear of the unknown. The new students were leaving their families, some for the first time, and they were understandably uneasy. Fast forward to May 2019, where these same students displayed confidence, friendship and community. The graduation party was filled with nothing but joy.

Our largest graduation class to date took some time to discuss plans for the future; some are going back home equipped with new skills and talents waiting to be utilized, others are moving into apartments with their fellow graduates in the Albany region to be supported through Living Resources Transitions program. Many have part-time or full-time employment or internships already lined up, and at least one will be moving on to our CareerNext Program at SUNY Schenectady for a certificate in the Culinary Arts.

Whatever your plans, we wish you the best of success moving forward!







## CDPHP Workforce Team Challenge



After a month filled with rain and dreary clouds, the sun broke out long enough for the CDPHP Workforce Challenge, where 10,000 participants from over 500 Corporate teams across the Capital Region descended on the Empire State Plaza. Our team of almost 40 staff members enjoyed their afternoon of wellness and camaraderie.

Living Resources Top Finishers Were:

Male:

1) Jordan Healy 2) Jovan Carpino 3) Dan Owens

Female:

1) Emily Russell- Selsky 2) Stephanie Fisher  
3) Liz Landry

Congratulations to all who participated!



## Job Fair at CDPHP

Living Resources was happy to present our annual Job Fair for individuals with disabilities at the main office of CDPHP. Participants had the opportunity to engage with a variety of employers and try out their interview skills. The room was alive with energy and excitement.

Special Thanks to our partners who participated;

- \* CapCom
- \* CVS Pharmacy
- \* FedEx Ship Center
- \* KeyBank
- \* Teresian House
- \* St. Peter's Health Partners
- \* Capital District YMCA Guilderland
- \* D.O.T. Office/ NYSOGS
- \* Guilderland Chamber of Commerce
- \* INNOVA Systems & Technologies
- \* Our Ability to Accessories







## Spring Fever Staff Social

All Living Resources Staff were invited to Lucky Strike Social in Crossgates Mall for food, music, raffles, and more. Some chose to sit and relax while others danced the night away, but everyone had a wonderful time with their Living Resources Family!





## Challenge Accepted!



Ashley taking a pause from her art work

A challenge was put out to all who participate in Living Resources Art Programs to create a design to be used on our Workforce Challenge Shirt. Suggested ideas included people running, running equipment such as sneakers or even an abstract design. Many individuals chose to roll up their sleeves and create great works of art. We chose Ashley Zoltowski's image of three people running for the front of our shirts.

Ashley has been taking art classes at our Schenectady Art Studio for four years. She is always up for a challenge. Ashley enjoys making realistic and non-objective art. Her pieces are shape oriented and she uses bright color in her works. Her art can also be seen on a local "Clynk Truck", as well in our Living Resources Etsy store. Ashley is not only interested in the process of making art: she is also interested in art history. Her favorite mediums include watercolor, colored pencil, and acrylic.

Ashley stated, "God bless each and every one of us and also the art that we all represent as a community. I always have had a love and a passion for reaching out to others. This opportunity for me to do artwork for the Workforce Challenge has really brought out the inspiration in me to reach out and to do great service for others."



## DCOP Corner: Not just another Fish Story!

Ashley, Nate, & Todd of the Saratoga South Day Community Opportunities Program participated in the Saratoga Spa State Park Fish Release.

They wrote: "Going to the park was a lot of fun. Volunteers from Van Hornesville fish hatchery brought over a thousand fish to be released.



We each got to release a brown trout into Geyser creek. Our fish were very cute and felt slimy and they were about eight to nine inches big. The goal is to restore, establish, maintain, and enhance local freshwater areas. Stocking creeks, ponds, and lakes in our area will also restore threatened, endangered, or native fish species. It was nice to watch our fish swim down the creek in search of a new home."







## May Birthdays



Katherine Adalian  
Hassaballah Adam  
Dveeka Alexander  
Layla Ali  
Brenston Ayers  
Joseph Baranowski  
Cynthia Barcomb  
Tamica Brown  
Alesander Cafaro  
Erica Cain  
Jacqueline Calder  
Ciomara Candelario  
John Colandrea  
Amanda Colby  
Shadaney Collins  
Christine Danzy Miller  
Albert Davis  
Willie Davis  
Tiffany Degraffenreid  
Angela Diaz  
Teresa Edwards

Annette El-Tohami  
Tina Marie Finney  
Stephanie Fisher  
Scharry Ford  
Gillian Friedtander  
Lorraine Garafola  
Meredith Gilchrist  
Rosemary Gleason  
Carol Gore  
Paige Graney  
June Green  
Marisa Gross  
Roni Hanford  
Albertina Harris  
Jordan Healy  
Heather Henderson  
Joan Harold  
Regina Herrington  
Abyesha Holman  
Jamell Jackson  
Nakia Jackson

Joi Jennings-Botts  
Jaquasa Kirkpatrick  
Sheila Kmack  
Shevon Laliveres  
Joscelyn Lecyer  
I-Shonn Maynor  
Sierra McPherson  
Acey Mercer  
Cherlene Moffre  
Lisa Montgomery  
Tina Mucci  
Carolyn Olshefski  
Julia Parks  
Beth Pickup  
Kyle Popalis  
Johnathan Pratt  
Lisa Razanousky  
Randy Reeves  
Thomas Regan  
Jessica Rivers  
Christopher Rochester

Mary Shaver  
Patrick Shorter  
Chantai Sontag  
Melissa Smith  
William Stanley  
Joseph Sterling  
Davia Stephens  
Shaquanna Taylor  
Aaron Timmons  
Dayl-Lyn Ward  
Lesley Weston Salvato  
Tessa Wilner  
Jessica White  
Tonya White  
Michele Wolcott  
Nan Xia

## Anniversaries

DeVeecka Alexander  
Dante Allen  
**Joseph Baranowski \***  
**Shalonda Booker \*\***  
**Chantel Bounds \***  
**Debra Braoudakis \***  
Carolyn Campagna  
Javeiya Cognetta  
Kendra Cunningham  
Nora Cunningham  
Albert Davis  
**Roxanne Delfarero \*\***  
Frederick Dellio  
Elizabeth Derubertis  
**Naiwantee Dulichand \***  
**Robert Dunlap \*\***  
**Earren Durham \*\***  
Sarah Dwyer  
Veronica Everette  
**Karif Farrell \*\*\*\***  
Loretta Ferko  
Netanya Fraiser

Aimee Gibson  
Rajcoomarie Ghirdharie  
**Julie Gilchrist \*\*\*\***  
Marylynn Grimes  
James Hall  
Ashley Hines  
Michelle Hiscock  
Jordan Healy  
Janice Hurlburt  
Kevin Jean  
Sharon Jones  
Nolle King  
Michael Knoll  
**George Kurian \*\***  
**Eddie Lewis \*\*\***  
**Greg Markiewicz \*\***  
**Paula Marsala \*\***  
**Vanessa Mckay \*\*\*\***  
Sierra McPherson  
**Paul Mergel \***  
**Muneera Morrison \***  
**Jeffrey Morse \*\***

Rebecca Munhall  
**Mohinie Narine \***  
Catherine O'hearn  
**Dan Owens \*\*\***  
Michael Pate  
Precious Picart  
Lashana Pickering  
**Fern Pivar \*\***  
**Frank Prevratil \*\*\***  
Randy Reeves  
**Samantha Roberts \***  
**Jason Rodgers \*\***  
Emily Russell-Selsky  
**Judi Savacool \*\***  
Robert Scaccia  
**Darlene Sears \***  
Tabitha Slyman  
Asia Spicer  
Chantel Sprauve  
Joshua Sutton  
Kristen Sweet  
Rosemarie Talmadge

Shaquanna Taylor  
**Bonnie Terry \*\*\*\***  
Ashley Torres  
Juan Torres  
**James Urlich \***  
Kristen Vanpatten  
Cory Wayman  
**Phyllis Webster \***  
Wisher Tiara



## Faculty Spotlight:



Rhonda has been employed at Living Resources for 13 years. She started as a Direct Support Professional in one of our residences for approximately 10 months before transferring to Merlin Drive where she has been ever since. Rhonda became a manager of that house six years ago and now also manages our Corlaer Ave residence.

Rhonda greatly enjoys the wonderful individuals at her house and the teamwork she shares with her caring staff. She says all of her staff and supported individuals are like family to her. She enjoys taking her individuals on vacation, seeing them smile, interacting with their families and watching them thrive in life. She especially likes helping her individuals learn new things. She says "They grow so much! They accomplish things that they were told they would never be able to do, and they are so happy!"

Rhonda has participated in the Workforce Challenge Team for six years, and was our Team Captain this year. Not only was she the point person for all the communications between the team members, but she led us in a rousing version of Queen's "We Are the Champions" prior to the beginning of the race.

We look forward to having her with us for a long time to come. This lovely lady says she's "In it for the long run!"

## SAVE THE DATE!

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

**Sunday, June 9** from **10 a.m-5 p.m.** Beekman Street Art Festival. **A street fair with different, artists, vendors, and businesses all along the street.** The Beekman Studio will be open for fun art activities that day.

**Friday, June 14 - Flag Day**

**Sunday, June 16 -Father's Day**

**Wednesday, June 19 - Juneteenth**

**Thursday, July 4 - Independence Day**

**Thursday, July 11 - Living Resources Night with the ValleyCats** starting at **7:00 p.m.** Support Living Resources by joining in a fundraiser with the ValleyCats! \$10 Premium Box Tickets. Field of Dreams Night - Be sure to wear your favorite baseball jersey. PostGame Fireworks! Buy tickets online at **[tcvalleycats.com/livingresources](https://tcvalleycats.com/livingresources)** (Group Password livingresources) or call our main office for details (518) 218-0000



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

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