

Sharing the Journey

August 2018

LIVING
RESOURCES

College Experience Semi-Formal



Not many people know how to party and "cut loose" like the **College Experience** students. This is exactly what they did on the evening of Thursday, July 19, 2018! The Elks Club in Albany was kind enough to host all of the current students, alumni, and the participants of our first **Summer Exchange Program** that officially ended this week. In the spirit of summer, the theme of the semi-formal celebration was The Beach. Whether it was in Hawaiian shirts or elegant suits/gowns, students were dressed to impress. Our talented DJ played their favorite songs from Beyonce's "Single Ladies" to Journey's "Don't Stop Believing."

We thank our admissions coordinator, **Colleen Dergosits** for spearheading the event as well as all of the staff for their participation.





A Message from the Chief Executive Officer

At Living Resources, our mission is to provide growth opportunities in a safe and nurturing environment that helps the individuals we serve meet and exceed their personal goals. How do we do that? It is through the hard work and dedication of our amazing staff members that we are able to achieve such goals.

Did you know that we have over 150 employees that have been with the agency more than 10 years? According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median number of years a person stays in a position is between 3-4 years depending on their age. So, why do our employees have such a long span? It's simple, because they care! They care about the individuals they serve. Recently, I was stopped by a grandparent who told me a story about how much the College Experience Program changed their grandson's life. They shared how prior to this experience, their grandson was shy, had no confidence, limited friendships to family members, and could not be trusted to get himself around safely. NOW all that has changed, He is excited to make new friends, share his experiences,



Fredrick W. Erlich

and enjoy his new found freedom by safely walking the street and taking the bus. They reiterated that none of this would have been possible without the dedication of our staff members. This is just one of the many stories that I get to hear each time I go to one of our programs but there are so many more and I can't thank our staff enough for everything they do each day that makes a difference in the lives of our individuals and their families.

As CEO, I am personally dedicated to ensuring that your loved one receives the best possible services. That is why each year we mail out a satisfaction survey to our individuals and family members. These survey responses allow us to acknowledge what we are doing right, but also allows us to take a deeper look at anything you believe we might be able to do better. If you have not completed your survey and mailed it back, it is not too late. The survey is available on our home page at <https://www.livingresources.org/index.php/family-satisfaction-survey-2018>.

We are listening, please let your voice be heard!

Fredrick W. Erlich



Living Resources has achieved Goldstar Platinum Certification, the highest level of recognition, which illustrates our commitment to transparency to you, our community and our current and future funders.



MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

Welcome to the Living Resources Foundation Board!

Scott Joralemon President of PNJ Technology Partners, provides services such as strategic IT consulting, technology services and cloud computing services.

Welcome to the Living Resources Board!

Peter Cornell, President CEO of Pike Development Company, has developed and managed millions of square feet in both commercial and residential property, senior and student housing. Peter previously served on Living Resources Foundation Board.

Dr. Roy Fruiterman, is an internist with Community Care Physicians and is affiliated with Albany Medical Center and St. Peter's Hospital. He is also a member of Living Resources Certified Home Health Agency Board.

Jonathan Muckell, Ph.D., Professor of Practice- Computer Engineering at University at Albany. Jonathan works with the community and mentors students in creating projects for assistive living technologies.

Bonita Sanchez, Assistant Dean and Director of Field Education for the School of Social Welfare, University at Albany. Bonita has extensive experience in developmental disabilities and previously served on Living Resources Corporation board for nine years.

Kimberly Strauchon Verner, Esq. A solo practitioner at K.S. Verner Law, who specializes in estate planning. She educates professionals and the public on topics including guardianship and disability law. Kimberly also previously served as President of Living Resources Certified Home Health Agency Board.

Teresa Stellar, Interim First Lady, University at Albany, has leadership experience determining ways to enhance student's experience and advance UAlbany's connection to the surrounding community. She also has professional experience as a social worker handling cases of troubled adolescents.



Catherine Butryn:

Development Coordinator
(pictured left.)

Deneen Palmateer:

Director of Philanthropy
(pictured right.)

Meet the Fund Development Team

Deneen joined the **Living Resources** family in February 2018. She oversees all functions of the development office at Living Resources, including but not limited to **public relations, communications, marketing support, events, donor cultivation, and major gifts.**

Cathi joined the Living Resources family in 2015 as a direct service professional and in January was appointed **Development Coordinator.** In this role, Cathi is responsible for our social media outreach, photography, legislative requests, and provides assistance with all development office functions.

We are here to help the agency reach its financial goals. If you have an idea for an event or a possible donor contact, please do not hesitate to reach out to them. Deneen can be reached at **518-218-0000 x5334** or **dpalmateer@livingresources.org**. Cathi can be reached at **x5329** or **cbutryn@livingresources.org**.



ETSY Page

Our **Arts Program** is on the move with their recently launched **ETSY** site where you can purchase high-quality unframed reproductions of our student's original pieces. Additionally, participation in gallery workshops is available through self-directed services and community habilitation. Learn more about what is happening on our Gallery Facebook page www.facebook.com/70Beekman/. To visit the Etsy site, visit www.etsy.com/shop/LivingResourcesArts.



International Ties

The **International Center of the Capital Region** brought a delegation from Switzerland to **Living Resources** this spring, to learn about **Equal Rights and Access for People with Disabilities**.



Kerry A. Delaney, Acting Commissioner of the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) at the Smart House.



ICCR delegation at the Smart House.



Awards and Accolades for Living Resources

Congratulations, **Living Resources!** We are now accredited by the **Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL)**!! This means we are being recognized by an international organization for our efforts in moving toward more person –centered, measurable, valued outcome service delivery. This accreditation goes far beyond just an on-site review, encompassing an ongoing partnership where **CQL** and **Living Resources** will collaborate to ensure that person-centered approaches are playing out not only in policy, but in day to day practice. We want to thank everyone who worked on attaining this accreditation and those who will keep the process moving forward.



Champions of Characters Award



Jennifer Richard,
Assistant
Executive Director of
the College Experience.

Each year the Academy for Character Education honors outstanding positive leadership in our schools and communities. This year, Jennifer Richard, Assistant Executive Director of Living Resources College Experience Program, received the Champion of Character award for her dedication and commitment to the program and its students. According to Jackie and Aaron Lieberman, whose son David is enrolled in the College Experience, Jen is knowledgeable, compassionate, and an advocate for people with disabilities.

Jesse Saperstein, Activities & Media Liaison, College Experience who nominated Ms. Richard’s states: The very personal reasons for my nomination are due to the fact the I live with a disability called Asperger’s Syndrome and sadly attended college from 2000-2004 when the College Experience did not yet exist.

Immediately after my graduation from college I was met with constant adversity and was not welcome in most venues related to the human service and teaching fields due to fear of being a liability. This changed in May 2015, when Jennifer Richard offered me the position as the Habilitation Liaison, which subsequently allowed me to finally become an independent adult at the age of 33 and thrive in my own apartment ninety minutes away from my family.

Congratulations, Jen on this well deserved award!



Art of Independence



Pictured: Mayor of Colonie Frank Leak.

2nd Annual Art of Independence event was held on **Wednesday, May 30, 2018** at the **Fort Orange Club** in Albany. This wine and hors d'oeuvres reception showcased the art and creativity of individuals supported by Living Resources' programs. Several artists were on premises, talking with those in attendance about the art program and their personal journeys.

This event raised funds which assist us in making a difference in the lives of others by providing outstanding services to those with intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, and acquired brain injuries. We were delighted to

recognize **Senator Neil D. Breslin** with the Humanitarian Award, **Colonie Mayor Frank Leak** with a Living Legend Community Award, and artist **Pam Lake** with the Artist of the Year award.

The raffle was an especially heartwarming experience this year. We had many generous donors who bought large quantities of raffle tickets and distributed them to our supported artists. Many of these individuals were ecstatic to hear their name called and learn that they won a raffle.

Pictured: Artists and Art instructors enjoying the reception.



Pictured: John Murray with Board Member Mike Quaranta.

Pictured: Senator Neil D. Breslin, recipient of the Humanitarian Award.



Pictured: Fred Erlich Living Resource's CEO with Pam Lake, Artist of the Year recipient.



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2018

The ART of Independence

A special thank you to this year's Art of Independence Sponsors.
Together, we are promoting independence and making a positive difference in people's lives.



SAVE THE DATE!

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

Friday, September 14 from **5:00-7:00 pm** **Stars of the Track** themed art exhibit and reception at **Living Resources' Beekman Street Art Gallery, 70 Beekman Street, Saratoga Springs**. Be sure to bring along your artistic talent and join in on the fabulous horse drawing class led by our own very talented art instructor Marcus Anderson.

Friday, September 21, beginning at **8:00 am**, our **9th Annual Golf Tournament** will be held at the **Colonie Golf & Country Club**, Voorheesville. See our event on Facebook for details.

Tuesday, October 16, all day, Boscov's Friends Helping Friends fundraising event. We are selling **\$5 passes** (entire proceeds go back to Living Resources) which entitles the bearer to a **25% discount shopping pass for eligible purchases at Boscov's**, as well as fabulous register to win prizes such as shopping passes and a whole lot more.

Friday, October 19, from **noon – 2:00 pm**, **Living Resources Day Services Award Presentation, Village of Colonie Family Recreation Center, 2 Thunder Road, Colonie**. This event is so much fun and really highlights so many of our individuals and their achievements.

Sunday, October 28, from **1:00 – 3:00 pm**, we are hosting our first **Night of the Living Resources Trunk or Treat** at our headquarters at **300 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany**. Another free family fun event open to the public!

Did You Know?

YOU CAN FOLLOW LIVING RESOURCES ON FACEBOOK,
TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM.



Just log on to Living Resources website at www.LivingResources.org and click on the **Facebook**, **Twitter**, or **Instagram** icons.