Happy Thanksgiving!

We are extremely thankful to announce some great news! In honor of “Giving Tuesday,” Neil Golub has issued a matching gift challenge in support of Living Resources.

Any donations made through this challenge will be matched by Neil Golub, up to $5,000. Mr. Golub issued this challenge because he and his wife Jane were always inspired by how we, at Living Resources provide support to individuals with disabilities, helping them on their paths to success and independence through our educational programs.

Need more inspiration? Let me introduce you to Brendan. Brendan was born after a complicated pregnancy, and, unlike his twin sister Arielle, was rushed into the NICU shortly after birth. After high school, Brendan attended a college program with a contained setting, only sharing facilities such as the meal halls, and rarely leaving the campus on his own. Brendan wanted more. He urged his family to explore the Living Resources College Experience Program at the College of Saint Rose. After an overnight visit and interview, Brendan knew it was the perfect place for him, and excitedly applied. To his elated joy, he learned that he had accomplished what many of his more typical neighborhood peers had – a college acceptance letter.

Through our College Experience Program, Brendan took classes including social skills, cooking, personal finance, navigation, computer skills and health care. He made friends, integrated into the college scene, becoming a loyal member of the cheering section for the College of Saint Rose sporting events. He has graduated and now lives in an apartment with great friends, travels independently, and has a job that he loves at St. Peter’s Hospital. He is so proud of all the things he accomplished because of the College Experience Program.

So if you haven’t yet given to our Annual Campaign, please consider donating now and having your gift matched.

Click here to Donate
Want to go to College for Free?

Living Resources is proud to be an Approved Apprenticeship Training Employer! Through a grant from the New York State Department of Labor, we are now able to send our Direct Support Providers to SUNY Schenectady to study coursework related to their profession for FREE!

Ahyonnah Harris, pictured with her brother, works in one of our residences. She jumped into this program with both feet, taking four courses in addition to working full time at Living Resources. She is taking introductory classes in Psychology, and Social Work, as well as a Group Dynamics class and even an online course.

“The classes absolutely help me with my job. It’s linked to my life every day. I can bring everything I do and learn at school to work and apply it. It’s amazing!”

Becky Okpoti Jarczynski works with our Brain Injured population and has chosen to pursue her certificate course-work one class at a time. Becky is thrilled to have this opportunity to increase her skills related to helping people with disabilities. She says “The Group dynamics class is really pertinent to what I do now. I have already taken ideas and concepts that I’m learning in the classroom and applying them to my groups!” (photo credit- Dan Kipp)

Who Qualifies?
Staff of Living Resources

Is it really Free?
Yes! The grant from New York State Department of Labor covers everything—tuition, books and materials!
Ahyonnah said, “I think it’s great that you can get a job and an education at no cost to make you better.” Plus she feels that this education will lead to promotions and a bigger salary down the line. She says “You just can’t beat it!” Becky agrees and is “absolutely thrilled” for this grant because she already has a lot of student loans. “It’s a huge burden lifted and something that everyone should take advantage of.”

OK, but is it a real college education?
Again, YES!
Our staff learn alongside SUNY Schenectady students, and all 25 credits included the Certificate are transferrable to a two-year or a four-year degree. If our staff want to go on to a further degree, Living Resources has a reimbursement program where we will pay for part of those costs too. Becky says, “Eventually I’d like to use this education as a base to go on to pursue an Master’s in Social Work, or perhaps art or music therapy. I’m very grateful to Living Resources for this opportunity”

Want to learn more? Call Joe LaMalfa at (518) 218-0000 x 4310
Or e-mail JLaMalfa@LivingResources.org
The Day Community Opportunities Program (DCOP) is pleased to present this writing piece about Halloween from Taysia who is an enthusiastic contributor to our Creative Writing curriculum that was started back in 2013!

"My favorite costume when I was a child was a princess. When I was a teenager I would want to be a vampire. Now as an adult I want to be a Wonder Woman. My favorite candy is candy corn and chocolate. The movie that I am afraid of is Chuckie the doll that wants to hurt people with a knife."

Richard Cohn, a participant in Living Resources Community Habilitation program has been volunteering at the Animal Protective Foundation since 2014 with the support of his Living Resources counselor, Wesley John.

According to Richard, “My favorite part about volunteering is giving the dogs what I call ‘puppy love’. Some dogs might not have had the best lives before coming to the AFP, but I help provide them with the affection they deserve.” Richard also participates in APF’s STEP (Staff Training Enrichment Program) class, which is designed to train staff volunteers in proper dog handling.

Through his volunteer work, Richard says he is happier than ever and has gained confidence in all areas of his life. Counselor Wesley states that Richard’s volunteer work has made a significant impact on his personal growth, “It has given him something meaningful to do and an opportunity to learn.”

We couldn’t be happier to announce that Living Resources Day Community Opportunity Program opened in Orange County this month. We are so excited to be welcomed into this wonderful community. Our home base for this program is the New Prospect Reformed Church.

The first order of business as they jumped into their day was to make Veteran’s Day appreciation cards. They then delivered them to the “home for heroes” at the VA Hospital in Montrose.

"Now, that is community spirit!"

The Day Community Opportunities Program (DCOP) is pleased to present this writing piece about Halloween from Taysia who is an enthusiastic contributor to our Creative Writing curriculum that was started back in 2013!
We are Thankful for all who donated In Honor Of and In Memory Of their friends and loved ones!

In Honor Of Betty Apkarian
Richard A. Fuerst Esq.

In Honor of Kay Broughton
Jacqueline Gardner

In Honor of Cathi Butryn
Debbie Kirsch

In Honor of Mary Chamberlain
Teresa Stellar

In Honor of Gary and Karen Cornwell
Lynne and Michael Long

In Honor of Traci Cornwell
Lynne and Michael Long

In Honor of Trisha Cornwell
Lynne and Michael Long

In Honor of Alex Corvino
Jean Corvino

In Honor of Katie Curran
McCaela Donovan

In Honor of Fredrick Erlich
Kimberly Strauchon Verner

In Honor of Noah Fruiterman and Fruiterman Family
Talya Meyerowitz

In Honor of Arthur Gilbert
Susan Lieberman

In Honor of Betsy and Shane Gilchrest
Lynne and Michael Long

In Honor of Kristen Kaiser
Lynne and Michael Long

In Honor of Leslie and Kenny Leichman
Susan Lieberman

In Honor of Justin Long
Lynne and Michael Long

In Honor of Jeff Morse
Clifford and Charlynn Tryon

In Honor of Robert Muller
Pine Grove Methodist Church

In Honor of Andrea Taichnar
Sandra Stern

In Honor of Gary Tryon
Clifford and Charlynn Tryon

In Honor of Tom and Mary Ellen Windish
Nancy and Mike Ottati

In Memory Of Louis J. Bonan
Sister Virginia Bonan SNJM
David Capka

In Memory of Grace Fruiterman
Anthony Bango
Patricia and Michael Boggs
Maria Colavito
Bob Cronin
Leslee Danz
Nicole Dauphinais
John and Marie Day
Frances and David Dembling
Michael Dolen
Alan and Tobie Dorn
Seth Edelman
Aosta Edelman
Fredrick Erlich and Beth Vandecar
Barry Feinman
Eleanor Ferraro
Alan and Helen Fogel
Donald and Mary Frances Ford Jr.
Beatrice and Jeffrey Fox
Eunice Golderman
Bruce and Edith Goldstein
Stephen and Diane Harrison
James and Lynn Horn
Raymond and Janice Horwitz
Wendy and Daniel Keyser
Richard and Kathy Kotlow
Caren and Andrew Kotlow
Jerry and Nina Lane
In Memory of Grace Fruiterman (cont.)
John and Cathy Lenahan
Ilene Leveston
Susan Lieberman
Ira and Sheila Lobel
Paul and Dale Lukatschat
Carolyn Marcus
Michael and Susan Marshall
Benjamin and Rebecca Marvin
Bernard McGarry
Dr. and Mr. Cyril Meyerowitz DDS
Bruce and Denise Molino
Mike and Gail Moon
Edward and Barbara Orris
Joan and Richard Platt
Peter Platt
Elizabeth Raczkowski
Dominick Rappazzo
Mary Rappazzo Hall
Deborah Riitano
Dr. & Mrs. Norman Romanoff
Dr. Nina Sax
Martin Scher
George Scott
Ann Shapiro
Lillian Siegel
Judy Sigadel
Dr. Russell Silverman
Patricia Snyder
Thomas and Mary Walsh Snyder
Harold and Valerie Solomon
Maria and Eric Spooner
Stephanie Stein
Kathleen Turek
Mari Vosburgh
Stephanie Wacholder
Dr. & Mrs. Donald Wexler

In Memory of Kevin O’Brien
Margaret A. Tucker

In Memory of Charles D. Rasmussen
Diana Aiello
Marilyn Arents
Sigmund and Abby Balaban
Christopher Chenette
Fredrick Erlich and Beth Vandecar
Gary and Barbara Haber
Janet Haber
Andrea and Gene Hershorin
Holli Mallon
Paul Medina and Sandra Gold
Gladys and Jeff O’Rourke
Frances Rasmussen
Michael and Patricia Reilly
Dolores Rudinski

In Memory of James Riccardi
The W. J. Barney Foundation
James and Christine Pollock

In Memory of Amanda Rivenburg
Anonymous
Lorelei Bohle
Ted and Dolores Correll
Colleen Lyons
Catherine Merriman
Carolyn Peterson Vaccaro
Eileen Pierce
Helmut and Erika Samide
Teresa Stellar
Valerie Warren

In Memory of Donald Sommers
Paul, Kim, and Andy Valente

In Memory of Lee Ann Stenard
Raymond Oneglia

In Memory of Karen Greeley
Shirley Greeley

In Memory of Dr. Robert Lieberman
Susan Lieberman

In Memory of Dolly Marrazzo
Dr. Maggie Kirwin Ed. D.

In Memory of John Mulhall
Kathleen B. Curley
Sloane Eusebio

In Memory Of Marian R. Nitsky
Helen Maurer
Faculty Spotlight: Jonathan Parsons

We are proud to introduce you to our Community Outreach Specialist, Jonathan Parsons. Prior to beginning his career at Living Resources, Jonathan served in the US Marine Corps. He showed leadership skills while at boot camp in Parris Island, SC and was named a Squad Leader, where he honed critical skills such as networking, communicating, and teamwork, ultimately advancing to Platoon Leader. From there, he went on to Fort Knox, KY where he trained with tanks, and on to Camp Pendleton where he served in the First Marine Corps Division Tank Battalion becoming the youngest tank commander in the Division. Utilizing his prior experience in Martial Arts, he became a hand to hand combat/tactical instructor for the new recruits and close-quarters combat. Jonathan’s martial arts skills were recently recognized and featured in Wing Chun Illustrated 2019. His Division was deployed to Nicaragua for a short stint where he put his training to use before returning to Camp Pendleton, and was honorably discharged from service in 1986.

Jonathan joined Living Resources in 2016, securing a position as a house manager, where he utilized the interpersonal skills he learned in the service to serve those with disabilities. He was part of a team that developed a pilot residential program for individuals with autism who aged out of their previous programs. He was then asked to assist in our Art Program. Although Jonathan didn’t know much about art, he used his networking skills to engage the community and create meaningful partnerships. In a similar fashion, he assists with recruiting events, connecting with prospective employees and helping them apply for positions.

We are proud to have Jonathan with us, and we encourage other veterans to join our team of Superheroes! Click here to search for available positions.

SAVE THE DATE!

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

Tuesday, December 3- Giving Tuesday
Sunday, December 22- Chanukah begins
Wednesday, December 25- Christmas
Thursday, December 26- Kwanzaa
Tuesday, December 31- New Years Eve