

Up close and personal with Elizabeth



On September 1, 2020, Living Resources welcomed Elizabeth Martin as our new CEO. We thought you might enjoy learning a bit more about her in this brief Q&A.

Where does your passion to serve individuals with disabilities come from? I've had several mentors throughout my career that sparked my interest ensuring individuals with disabilities were given the support and opportunities they needed to live wonderful, fulfilling and productive lives. The Director of Mental Health and the Commissioner of Children, Youth and Families in Albany County influenced my dedication to help make our local service system work better for children and adults with mental illness. This carried on to my time at the Department of Social Services where many of the people we served lived with a variety of disabilities.

My biggest "ah-ha" moment, was at Consumer Directed Choices under the guidance of their founding CEO, Constance Laymon. Constance was a well-known and fierce disability rights advocate and was passionate about self-direction for individuals with disabilities. She took me under her wing and taught me the history and philosophy of disability rights and the independent living movement. She sparked in me a heightened sense of empathy that is the source of my fundamental belief that individuals with disabilities have an intrinsic right to dignity, choice and control, opportunities and happiness.

What attracted you to Living Resources? Living Resources has enjoyed a long and well-deserved reputation in the region for the strength and quality of its operations and programs. But even more than that, I have always admired the creativity, innovation and philosophy of Living Resources. The College Experience Program, Without Walls Day Program, technology exploration and other creative innovations to provide individuals with more opportunities to live as independently as they can and pursue their interests and aspirations were all things I was very interested in becoming a part of.

Who are your heroes and why? This may sound sappy, but I would have to say that my husband, Jason, is my biggest hero. We often hear about how men don't pull equal weight in housework or caring for the kids. I'm lucky because Jason is not that stereotype. He cooks and takes primary responsibility for vacuuming, cleaning and yardwork. He also helps cart our kids around to all their activities. He does everything but fold laundry - but that's because I don't like the way he folds the laundry, so we've agreed that is my job (giggle, giggle). He's just an incredible life partner and I don't know what I would do without him.

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11th Annual Golf Tournament

Living Resources' 11th Annual Golf Tournament was held on Friday, September 25, 2020, and it was a picture perfect day. Because of the generosity of all our sponsors and donors, the **BIG WINNERS** were those served by the many programs of Living Resources, including our College Experience Program!

Congratulations to our top scoring teams!

First Place: Nationwide's Team of Anthony Russo, Matt Welch, Mike Hutcherson, and Ross Setlow

Second Place: NLG Wealth Management's team of Adam Neary, Dave Vener, Mike Hanley, and Todd Kletter

Third Place: Pioneer - NY's Team of Bob Mesick, Jason Urschel, Jesse Tomczak, and Matt Dahl

Congratulations to our low scoring golfers!

Male Closest to the Pin: Emmet Finnerty of Janney Montgomery Scott

Female Closest to the Pin: Maggie Erlich of Living Resources New York

Male Longest Drive: Jim Trembly of Jaeger and Flynn Associates, Inc

Female Longest Drive: Jeanne Maloy of Marshall & Sterling Insurance - Scotia NY





The Legend of Tor

For the last three years, our golfers have had the option of letting our guest "Student Drivers" hit a shot for them, for a donation of \$10 per golfer. Tor Kronbichler, a 2019 graduate of our College Experience Program, has become a bit of a legend in this capacity. Those who have golfed with us before excitedly

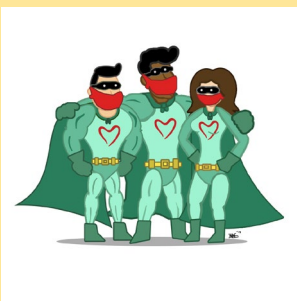
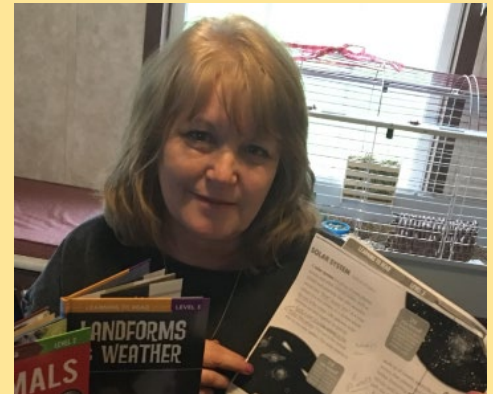
approached hole ten calling out to him, "Are you going to hit for me?" Newcomers had their doubts, challenging "He talks a good game, but I doubt he can beat my shot." Tor never ceased to amaze.

Tor learned to golf from his grandfather when he was in high school, and has brought his "A Game" ever since. And golf is not his only game. In high school he also swam and played baseball. He is currently involved in Special Olympics teams, playing softball, basketball and floor hockey.

Tor likes talking about his College Experience, happily recalling his time living in the CEP dorm, making strong friendships with his fellow classmates, and learning the skills necessary to live independently. He paused at the idea of naming a favorite class saying he liked all his classes, but after some thought, unsurprisingly, his most memorable class involved physical activity. He said his bus training class alternated with sports. Bus training was certainly useful for Tor who now rides CDTA daily to his part time job at Dicks Sporting Goods in Crossgates Mall. During the Coronavirus shutdown, Tor was out of work for a few months and used the time to go home to Rhinebeck, NY to visit with his family. He is now back in the Capital Region, working his regular shift at Dicks. He says his favorite part of the job is enjoying helping the customers.

Happy DSP Appreciation Week!

Thanks to all of our Living Resources Super Heroes, for all they do every day to help our individuals live their best lives.



* some photos were taken pre-pandemic



Bidding Summer Farewell and Welcoming Fall

Saratoga County Day Community Opportunity Program celebrated the unofficial end of summer in style with three separate Labor Day picnics at Peebles Island, Saratoga Orenda Pavilion and Saratoga Columbia Pavilion. At the Orenda Pavilion Lynda And Katie enjoyed games of ladder ball and Yard Yahtzee while Sheila played a game of frisbee and Bridget helped Assistant Manager Kristina pour juice. At Peebles Island the group (Nate, Theresa, Jen and Cindy) enjoyed a game of Bocci ball with staff Cheryl K.



Saratoga DCOP Participants, Brian Burnett, Steve Zebrowski, and Steven Bellinot hiked the "Five Mile and Geyser Trail" with their Assistant Manager Kristina. The oddly named 2.9 mile loop trail is located near Saratoga Springs that features a waterfall.



Nate Brown and Daniel Benes enjoyed the end of summer with some Apple Picking at Bowman's Apple Orchard.



Up close and personal with Elizabeth (cont.)

Tell us about your family and what you do in your spare time. Jason and I have two teenage girls. I am one of four siblings. My parents were married for 50 years and while my dad passed away a few years ago, my mom is still active and enjoying life in Washington County. The only pets we have are two fish. I like to go for jogs and walks - particularly outside during the warmer months. I also like to read suspense novels on the beach during our summer vacations. I'm also a news junkie so scrolling Twitter is actually fun for me.

You've been on the job a month. What's your impression of Living Resources so far? I've been struck by how much like a family it is here at Living Resources. I've also been very impressed with the level of competence I've seen among staff, as well as their flexibility, resilience and dedication to the individuals we support and their families. Just one example has been during this COVID pandemic. Everyone has made and continues to make very fast adjustments in how services were delivered so that we can continue providing needed supports while best ensuring the health and safety of our staff and individuals.

What are some of the things you have been doing since you started? Meetings, meetings and more meetings! And when I'm not in a meeting, I'm reading regulations and organizational documents or participating in online trainings. The purpose is to get up to speed as fast as possible on the programs, issues and challenges. But I'm also already getting involved in current matters and initiatives, so there's a lot of "on-the-job training" happening as well. Fred and I have also started visiting the residences over the past couple of weeks, and will continue to do so through November. This has provided an opportunity for Fred to say farewell to staff and individuals while also introducing me to everyone. I've really enjoyed visiting the residences and getting to know staff and individuals. Everyone has been so welcoming to me; it's simply been a joy.

What is the best advice you ever received? One piece of advice that is so applicable to the current environment (personally, professionally and globally) is to "be patient and trust the journey." It provides me with a sense of hope for the future and a belief that any challenge or uncertainty we face has a purpose and will make us all stronger. I think if you have this philosophy in life, then you will be less likely to give up, or feel overwhelmed, scared or helpless.

What else would you like to share with us? Only that I'm loving my time at Living Resources and I'm looking forward to meeting as many of our employees, individuals and their families as possible over the next year.



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