



A Message from the Chief Executive Officer



Our family is growing!

I am very excited to share that earlier this month, Living Resources welcomed Family & Child Service of Schenectady (FCSS) into the family through an affiliation agreement.

How did this affiliation come to be?

Earlier this year the FCSS Board of Directors reached out to Living Resources when it became apparent that it would be beneficial to those they support to affiliate with a larger like-minded organization. Living Resources was interested in this affiliation as it provided us with the opportunity to bring self-direction/fiscal intermediary support services under our umbrella of provided services. As part of our Strategic Plan development, this supportive service was identified as a need by our individuals, families, and staff.

As part of the affiliation, FCSS traditional support services such as community habilitation, family support services, and employment programs are being transferred to and will operate directly through Living Resources. The self-direction program and staff who operated under FCSS will continue to operate through the FCSS affiliation under the management and leadership of Living Resources. Additionally, no supportive services were discontinued, staff are not being let go, and all individuals who received traditional supportive services from FCSS were provided with the opportunity to transfer their services to Living Resources and all traditional service support staff were offered positions within the Living Resources family. The only change for many is that the office location is now 300 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany, NY 12203.

Living Resources remains committed to providing a life-time of supportive services that empower individuals with disabilities or other life challenging conditions to live with dignity, independence, and happiness. Thank you for supporting us and sharing our journey.



Family &
Child Service
of Schenectady

An affiliate organization of

LIVING RESOURCES



A special thank you to all who supported our:



13th Annual Golf Tournament

September 23, 2022

Colonie Golf & Country Club, Voorheesville, NY



We are most grateful to the many sponsors and golfers who embraced the chilly, windy September weather in support of our mission. We thank the students and instructors of our College Experience Program who were on hand to participate as program ambassadors and volunteer hole watchers. Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch of burgers and fries on the course, thanks to Mike Stygles and Burger 21 of Latham, NY.

Congratulations to our top two teams who received cash prizes and a year's worth of bragging rights. Our 1st Place team with a score of 62 consisted of Vera Cohen, Eric Wasserbach, Matt Caballos, and Chris Greagan. Our 2nd place team with a score of 63 was Mike Quaranta, Fred Erlich, Justin Buchanan, and Jamison Flora.

After the last ball was hit and the carts were parked, everyone made their way to the beautiful banquet hall to warm up, compare scores, and enjoy a light lunch. Kevin Baker, the program's Asst Director of Residential facilitated a question and answer session, giving us all a glimpse into their internships, experiences, favorite classes, and more. Listen to what they had to say by going to <https://youtu.be/VRizGBr4kdc>





Brain Injury Awareness Day



The Injury Acceptance Maturation (I.A.M) Group held their 16th Annual Capital District Brain Injury Awareness Day on August 26, 2022 at Tawasentha Park in Altamont. Throughout the day, Brain Injury survivors took the stage to share their inspiring stories of perseverance and healing.

Brain Injury survivor Brian T. served as the Master of Ceremonies and Jesse Saperstein, Media & Activities Liaison for Living Resources New York's The College Experience was the keynote speaker. Those in attendance also enjoyed a picnic lunch, a basket raffle, and a display of art created by participants.

The purpose of the day was summed up by the statement:

"We the members of the I.A.M. group of Living Resources,

are brain injury survivors. We want to let people know that having a brain injury is not the worst thing that can happen to a family member or friend. We have changed a little- but we are the same people."

~ I.A.M. Members





DSP Appreciation Week Value Recipients



Thomasina Crippen, a DSP in one of our residences helps new staff understand the individuals that live in her house- the hobbies and interests of each person, what they like to eat and drink, their emotional concerns, needs, and much more. She also has a wonderful ability to assist those who are experiencing anxiety and stress, guiding them to a place of ease. **Richard Currao**, a DSP from our Day Community Opportunity Program is very educated on a myriad of social issues that affect many of the individuals we serve. He excels at providing trauma-informed support and he does everything he can to make sure that everyone has the tools they need to be the best they can be. He assures that individuals in his teams feel safe and that they can come to him whenever they need to.

Jemima Dzigba, a DSP at one of our residences is determined to provide the highest quality of support, consistently giving her best to provide the individuals with a clean home. She is self-driven ~ always finding something she can improve. When one of our individuals was in the hospital, Jemima was the first to offer to pick up extra hospital shifts, to advocate for them. **Patricia Frazier-Edge**, a DSP in one of our residences is an exemplary employee who has taken on a lot of responsibility for her house, accepting extra shifts and serving as a consistent presence and a source of comfort in the lives of her Living Resources Family.

Lily Holcombe, a QIDP in our Art program, shows compassion through her interaction with both the students of our program and her co-workers. The students she interacts with have built a trusting relationship with her, thanks to her innately compassionate attitude. **Hayley Humiston**, a DSP in our College Experience Program consistently does more than what is asked and at an extremely high level of quality. Hayley uses creativity in everything that she does, developing interactive lessons and using multimedia that engages students in topics that they may not typically be interested in, but are important to learn.

Ruby Kelly, a behavior technician at one of our site- based day Programs is compassionate and sensitive to the needs of those in her program, offering them support for growth while helping them start their day on a good note. Ruby carefully considers the interests, likes, and sensory needs of those she supports, intuitively asking questions to better understand any concerns. **Latoya Marshall**, a DSP at one of our residences is genuinely engaging and respectful to the individuals. Whether she is giving a shower, taking individuals into the community, or preparing meals, she does it all with the utmost of quality and care. Latoya is always willing to lend a hand to a variety of programs, giving the same high level of support to each person she is with.



*Self Determination * Caring * Respect * Creativity * Compassion * Personal Growth * Individuality * Sensitivity*



2022 Living Resources Value Award Nominees



It was our honor and privilege to distribute our DSP Value Awards to

Thomasina Crippen, Richard Currao, Jemima Dzigba, Patricia Frazier-Edge, Lily Holcombe, Hayley Humiston, Ruby Kelly, and Latoya Marshall.

While our Board of Directors could only select one winner in each value category, please join us in congratulating each of the nominees and awardees on being recognized by their co-workers for their outstanding and dedicated efforts to coach, mentor, teach and care for the individuals we support.

Orpheus Acosta - Mahopac
Dennis Anakum - Lincoln
Matiaha Ballard-Fields - Charlton Rd
Laurie Bosco - ABI
Lennox Bray - DCOP/Rensselaer
Michelle Bynoe - Schodack and Elmwood
Deserene Carrol - Mahopac
Martha Cuero - DCOP/Orange County

Rodney Davis - DCOP/Staff Relief
Amanda Deere - ABI
Patricia Dymond - DCOP/Rensselaer
Janelle Grant - Mahopac
Nickorda James - Woodsedge
Philomina Joseph - Terry Ct
Edwin Knuckles - Cardinal
Kamina Lawry - Birch St
Joy Ogden - DCOP/Columbia

Oluwabunmi Omoniyi - Schodack
Johanna Perez - Schodack
Laquinda Pinckney - Birch St
Iris Reeves - Schenectady Site Base
Genassiel Reyes - Schodack
Malaika Rose - Schodack
Yves Sebataware - Mill Rd
Fatima Salih - Birch St
Gwendolyn Singleton - Terry Ct

Amanda Spickerman - DCOP/Saratoga
Darian Sprague - Schodack
David Thomas - East Greenbush Site Base
Ashley Vanzandt - Schodack
Andre Williams - DCOP/Albany
Aretha Williams - Corlaer
Patricia Wolford - Heather Lane

Additionally, we would like to send a special thank you to each and every DSP for the work you do each day to support others in leading their best lives.

From our heart to yours, thank you!



A Smashing Good Time

In honor of DSP Appreciation week, our staff was treated to a raffle prize drawing, ice cream, and a stress reduction Smash Room all courtesy from our friends at KeyBank.

A large variety of staff took advantage of the opportunity to interact with the KeyBank team, asking any questions they had related to finances, and scheduling private consultations.



They basked in the picture perfect late summer day while enjoying their choice of ice cream bars and even vented a bit of stress by smashing plates and glasses in a mobile smash room.



Thanks to all who made this day possible (including Mother Nature who held up her end of the bargain) and all staff who enjoyed the event!





Hydrocephalus Awareness Month



My name is Danielle Livingston. You may not know my story, but I was born with hydrocephalus. Hydrocephalus is an abnormal buildup of fluid deep within the brain which puts pressure on the brain's tissues. There is no cure for hydrocephalus, the only treatment is brain surgery where the doctors place a tube (shunt) that connects my skull to my abdomen. I've had four surgeries for shunts- at 3 days old, 18 years old, 26 years old, and 27 years old. My latest shunt was placed July 12, 2022, because the last valve clogged.

Approximately 125,000 people live with hydrocephalus every day. I've learned you can still live a normal life even with hydrocephalus. I attend Living Resources Day Community Opportunities Program and I'm a huge traveler! My favorite places are Maine and visiting my friends in Galway, NY. I love going to Massachusetts and have traveled to Vermont and Lake George. I also have a boyfriend named Andrew who I met in high school.

Danielle attends our Day Community Opportunities Program, "without walls" program offered throughout the Capital/Saratoga Region, as well as Taconic and Hudson Valley, for adults 18 years and older. Individuals in the program participate in a wide variety of activities throughout the communities in which they live. These experiences include cultural and artistic pursuits, volunteer opportunities, recreational activities, and skill-building classes. Skill-building classes include, but are not limited to: art, computer instruction, cooking, money management, reading, travel training, and a variety of social skill-building classes.

DCOP participants develop essential and practical life skills that promote independence through volunteerism, education, and enrichment activities. Our DCOP team has created an environment that supports and fosters community inclusion, self-sufficiency, and self-advocacy for its participants.

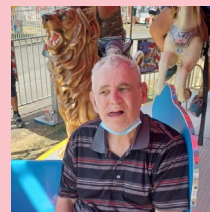
Learn more about the program here:

<https://www.livingresources.org/day-community-opportunities-program-dcop/>

A visit to the Altamont Fair



I was excited to go to the fair and enjoy the food and rides. The old farm equipment and car exhibit was lots of fun but I really enjoyed petting the animals. I talked to the owners of the animals and they told me all about them. My favorite animals were the horses because they were not only big and beautiful but calm enough to pet.



When I got there the smell of the food made me very hungry. I decided on chicken barbecue for lunch along with a little ice cream and popcorn later. I found some rides that were calm and wouldn't make me dizzy.

I enjoy going into the community and having fun with others and I will be back at the fair next year to enjoy some cotton candy and maybe some fried dough.

– Keith Sellner

www.LivingResources.org

Click [HERE](#) to read August's Newsletter

