



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



ELIZABETH MARTIN, CEO

As we honor Memorial Day, a time to remember the courageous individuals who gave their lives in service to our country, we are reminded of the profound importance of standing up for others. In many ways, advocacy is its own form of service; fighting for justice, equity, and dignity for those whose voices are too often unheard.

On June 2, Living Resources will be sharing our updated and renewed organizational values, but I'm excited today to offer you a sneak peek. At the very top of our renewed values list is a principle that has long defined our work: **ADVOCACY!**

Advocacy is a call to action. It is about standing up, speaking out, and ensuring that the rights, needs, and voices of individuals with disabilities are heard and respected. This commitment is more vital than ever.

Recently, the U.S. House of Representatives passed their budget reconciliation bill, a legislative move with significant implications for our community. As a nonprofit organization that depends on Medicaid dollars to provide a wide range of supportive services, we cannot afford to stay silent and we cannot waiver from our mission. We must continue to advocate, **STRONGLY AND PERSISTENTLY**, with members of the U.S. Senate to protect these essential resources.

Additionally, we believe that disability rights are human rights and this belief informs every decision we make and every program we deliver. It also drives us to support and encourage self-advocacy, empowering individuals we serve to speak for themselves, make informed choices, and take charge of their own lives.

Advocacy is strongest and most effective when we approach it as a shared responsibility and a shared power. Together, we will keep pushing forward, because our community deserves nothing less.

Thank you for standing with us and remember to please contact your U.S. Senator and tell them to protect Medicaid!

Scan for Advocacy Resources





## RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE AT LIVING RESOURCES



Last month, ANCOR proudly announced the 54 recipients of the national association's 2025 Direct Support Professional of the Year Awards, and two amazing Living Resources staff members were honored for the contributions to the intellectually and developmentally disabled (I/DD) community.

Recognized for her distinctive relationship building skills, Daryllyn Ward was honored in the special category for Relationships. Recognized for her unwavering commitment to person-centered services, she prioritizes the independence and

happiness of those she supports, responding effectively to their needs and those of their families. Daryllyn exemplifies dedication, compassion, and the true spirit of person-centered care in every interaction.

Kelly Brewington's fierce dedication to the I/DD community for 35 years was recognized as she was awarded the 2025 New York State DSP of the Year award. Kelly's daily messages of blessings and prayers reflect her selfless nature, unwavering passion for caring for others, and commitment to fostering happiness and good health in everyone around her.



While they were honored in San Diego, Living Resources also had a celebration of their own at our main office in Albany. The award winners were welcomed to a congratulatory breakfast, where board members, legislators, and colleagues came together to honor Kelly and Daryllyn and celebrate this monumental achievement.

Living Resources CEO, Elizabeth Martin, gave a congratulatory speech to each winner, and by the end there wasn't a dry eye in the house! Kelly and Daryllyn's dedication to the individuals



they support is truly heartwarming, and they are an inspiration to all they meet.

This year's awards came with a record-breaking 500 applications for DSPs throughout the country. We're so proud of Daryllyn and Kelly for being chosen, and for their continued dedication to their work here at Living Resources.







## CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF THE ERIE CANAL

With immense pride and hearts brimming with joy, we want to share some truly wonderful news! Several incredibly talented artists from Living Resources have their remarkable artwork showcased at the esteemed Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center. Their pieces are a vibrant and integral part of the museum's captivating "Culture, Community, and the Canal" exhibit series.



This special exhibition delves deep into Waterford's rich and enduring connection with the Erie Canal, especially poignant as we commemorate its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Alongside fascinating historical artifacts, the museum is also celebrating the creativity of local artists, and we are absolutely thrilled that the unique voices and perspectives of our Living Resources artists are so prominently featured.

The artwork created by these individuals in the Living Resources Art Program is nothing short of breathtaking. Their pieces, inspired by life along the canal, burst forth with bright, joyous colors and offer truly unique and heartwarming perspectives. Each brushstroke and carefully chosen hue tells a story, reflecting their individual experiences and creative spirits.

We extend our deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to the Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center. Your commitment to celebrating local artistry and providing a platform for these exceptional individuals is truly commendable. Thank you for recognizing the talent and vision of our amazing artists and for allowing their beautiful work to be seen and appreciated by the wider community. This opportunity means the world to them, and we are so incredibly proud of their accomplishments.





## CONGRATS TO THE CLASS OF 2025!



A wave of pride filled the MVP Arena as our College Experience Program seniors, clad in caps and gowns, prepared to graduate alongside their peers at Russell Sage College. This milestone marks more than a ceremony, it is the culmination of years of determination, growth, and hard work.

Throughout their journey, these students didn't just meet academic goals, they built the skills necessary for independent living. From managing their own meals and navigating public transportation, to fostering friendships and making confident decisions, each challenge became a building block toward a more self-directed life.

This year also marks a major step forward for the program itself: our first official graduation/partnership with Russell Sage College. This collaboration has expanded opportunities for our students and reinforced the College Experience Program's long-term vision for growth and impact.



Today, we celebrate a class of graduates who have proven what's possible. They join a community of over 200 alumni who are living with purpose, contributing to their communities, and continuing to grow.

To the Class of 2025, your hard work, resilience, and achievements inspire us. Congratulations on everything you've accomplished and everything still to come. We are so very proud of your success.

## A Tribute to Transforming Lives

A Day at the 1863 Club  
Saratoga Race Course

Sunday, August 17, 2025

*Presented by*



*Presenting Sponsor*



Barbara J. Bouchee  
ASSET MANAGEMENT  
INCORPORATED

*Benefitting*



Tickets:







## TRADING WINTER WHITES FOR SPRING PASTELS

In celebration of 518 Day, a celebration of service, collaboration, and community empowerment within the greater Capital Region, Living Resources program directors and office staff traded their typical Friday activities for something a bit more hands-on. Armed with paint buckets and rollers, they rolled up their sleeves and embarked on painting projects at the main office and various residence houses throughout the region.

This day was particularly meaningful to Darlene and Joe as it brought them back to the Albany residence where their Living Resources journeys began. Both eagerly requested this location, with Darlene, who now works in our finance department, fondly remembering the kindness of the staff and residents who created core memories and imparted valuable life lessons for her. Joe, who is now the Director of our Incident Management and Mitigation department, emphasized the powerful feelings behind giving back to individuals with whom he began his career. He noted the joy of fulfilling one resident's wish for a purple room, a color of special significance to her. Across the residences, staff embraced the opportunity to personalize the individuals' rooms with colors like light blue and pink as well as brightening up shared spaces such as hallways, dining areas, and living rooms.



Dave Putman, Director of Living Resources Facilities Management, expressed his department's deep appreciation for the initiative. He explained that his team prioritizes safety matters, so aesthetics like painting often takes a backseat. However, he said, "Painting does the most to improve the look of the house, both inside and out." Lissa, one of the residence managers, brightened as she envisioned the delighted reactions of the individuals when they returned home from their day programs. She anticipated that they would be "over the moon" upon seeing their newly painted rooms. Although the residents had chosen their preferred colors, the timing of this refreshing makeover was kept as a surprise.



Named for the region's 518 area code and typically observed around May 18th (5/18), 518 Day was organized by the United Way of the Greater Capital Region and has evolved from a small beautification initiative into a widespread regional day of community service encompassing diverse projects. We thank all who took part in this day of service to Living Resources and those who reside with us. Your hard work has certainly had a profound impact on the lives of those who live in and work at the selected sites!



## THE ARTS THRIVE AND GROW AT LIVING RESOURCES

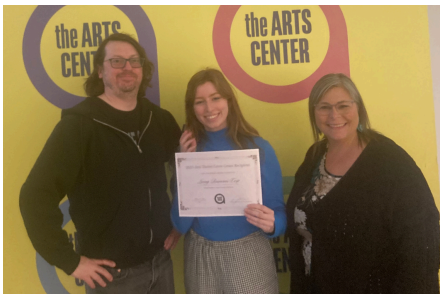


Great news! We're thrilled to announce that Living Resources has been awarded a \$3,000 grant by The Arts Center of the Capital Region as part of the Arts Thrive and Grow program! This incredible support will be instrumental in helping us restore our darkroom within our Arts Program, directly benefiting the individuals with I/DD we are so proud to support.

For decades, our Art Program has provided a vibrant outlet for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to

express themselves, explore their creativity, and develop new skills. From painting to mosaics, the joy and sense of accomplishment our individuals experience through art are truly immeasurable.

However, one of our most beloved and unique resources, our darkroom, has been inoperable for some time. This has limited the ability of our artists to explore the magic of traditional photography – the tactile process of developing film and printing images is a truly enriching experience that fosters patience, precision, and a unique artistic perspective.



The \$3,000 grant from the Arts Thrive and Grow program is a game-changer. This revitalized space will not only nurture the artistic growth of our students but also create new opportunities for public exhibitions and community engagement. By bringing this unique medium back to life, we aim to empower individuals with disabilities to express themselves creatively and, through the sale of their work, support financial independence.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Arts Thrive and Grow program for their commitment to fostering artistic opportunities within our community. This grant is more than just financial assistance; it's an investment in the creative potential and personal growth of the individuals we support.



Arts Thrive & Grow is funded by New York State & the New York State Council on the Arts, with support from Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, and local elected officials, including Senators Jake Ashby and Patricia Fahy and Assemblymembers Scott H. Bendett, John T. McDonald III, Angelo Santabarbara, Phil Steck, and Mary Beth Walsh.





## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We are thrilled to share that Broadview Federal Credit Union has generously awarded Living Resources an infrastructure grant to support renovations at a newly acquired single-level home in Niskayuna, NY. This five-bedroom, two-bath residence is being transformed into a fully accessible, barrier-free environment for five individuals with complex needs.

A vital part of this transformation is the installation of a Generac 14kW Air-cooled Standby Generator. Thanks to Broadview's support, we can now meet critical fire safety codes and provide reliable backup power during emergencies and winter storms. This generator ensures the home's sprinkler system remains operational and that residents remain safe and comfortable, no matter the circumstances.



Living Resources is proud to announce that we have received a \$1,500 grant from Stewart's Shops to support our Art Program! As creativity and artistic expression are key to Living Resources' mission of building a culture of self-actualization for those with intellectual/developmental disabilities, we are grateful for the support to purchase high-quality art supplies, tools, and resources for the nearly 200 students who take part in our art program. Arts supplies come in many forms, and Stewart's generosity allowed us to provide not only traditional materials but also specialized equipment, like a chair with supportive armrests that now enables an individual, who otherwise could not participate, to fully engage in art-making. We cannot begin to thank Stewart's enough for their generosity in providing this vital funding for our art program.







## FIRE SAFETY AT LIVING RESOURCES

It's important to feel secure within your own four walls, and the individuals in the Community Living Program recently reinforced this through an engaging Fire Safety Training session. Investigator Delaney from Albany Fire/EMS led the class, diving into crucial aspects of home fire safety. His presentation wasn't just informative; it was a dynamic and hands-on experience, equipping our individuals with valuable knowledge and practical tools to keep their homes safe.

Did you realize that cooking and kitchen mishaps spark the most home fires? That's why it's so important to always keep a watchful eye on the stove while cooking or heating food! Maintaining a tidy, clutter-free home is another key step. And in the event of a fire, remember to evacuate immediately and call 9-1-1 without delay. We are incredibly grateful to Investigator Delaney and Albany Fire/EMS for conducting this life-saving training!



## A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR A RACE

On Thursday, May 15, thousands gathered at the Empire State Plaza in Albany for the CDPHP Workforce Team Challenge race. Hundreds of Capital Region companies were represented at the race, with Living Resources having a team of nearly 30 present and ready to run or walk the 3.5 mile race course. The Living Resources Wellness Committee covered team members' \$30 race entry fee, allowing any team member to participate if they wanted to.

It was a beautiful day for a race and whether you walked or ran, it was hard not to feel the energy in the air. Team members were able to walk and run together, engaging in friendly conversation and bonding along the trail. This year's race benefitted Girls on the Run Capital Region and Unity House, two amazing Capital Region non-profits. Congrats to all the participants!



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