



ELIZABETH MARTIN, CEO

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

July is Disability Pride Month, a time to celebrate the strengths, talents, and contributions of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and brain injuries. It is also a reminder that inclusion is something we build every day by creating opportunities for people to learn, work, connect, and live as independently as possible.

At Living Resources, we see that spirit every day. Whether someone is mastering a new skill, finding meaningful employment, pursuing higher education, or reaching a personal goal, every achievement is worth celebrating.

One of my favorite traditions each July is our Disability Pride Parade, where staff and the people we support come together to celebrate inclusion, self-expression, and community. It is a joyful reminder that everyone has unique gifts to share.

That same spirit was on display at our 2026 Day Services Awards Ceremony, where we celebrated participants for their hard work, growth, and determination. Moments like these remind us what is possible when people are supported, encouraged, and empowered to reach their full potential.

Thank you to our participants, families, staff, volunteers, and community partners for helping make Living Resources a place where everyone is valued, included, and empowered every day.

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CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: THE 2026 DAY SERVICES AWARDS



It's the most wonderful time of the year! No, it's not Christmas in July. It's the 2026 Living Resources Day Services Awards Ceremony!

From Warren and Westchester Counties to every stop in between, our incredible staff and participants journeyed to Hudson High School with one goal in mind: to celebrate. And let's be honest, when this group gets together, it's always a party. The energy was electric from the very first beat of the music, with everyone singing and dancing along, their joy absolutely contagious.

This ceremony is the grand celebration of a year's worth of hard work. We cheered for participants who mastered new skills towards independence, from navigating transportation and cooking up a storm to tackling math and computer goals. But just as importantly, we celebrated the beautiful, unwritten milestones: the kindness, the friendship, and the unwavering support they offer one another every single day. We also took great pride in presenting our Starlight Awards, which honor staff members and participants from each county for their outstanding merit and dedication.

While our hearts were full of celebration, we also took time to pause and honor the cherished members of our community whom we have lost. We held a moment of silence to remember the legacy of Joe Morelli, our Associate Executive Director of Operations & Compliance, whose 33 years of extraordinary leadership, compassion, and commitment helped shape the heart of Living Resources.

In memory of Nah'Quis Williams, a beloved program participant taken from us too soon, we were deeply moved to present the inaugural Master Chef Award to participant Michael Stapf. It was a profoundly touching moment as Nah'Quis' mother, Nanesha Davis, joined us to help present the award, a beautiful tribute to her son's spirit.

Former Town of Colonie Mayor Frank A. Leak was a tireless supporter of Living Resources. In his memory, we were proud to present the Mayor Frank A. Leak Community Enrichment Award to BBL and the Main Street Community Center for their incredible dedication to our community.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: THE 2026 DAY SERVICES AWARDS

Amanda Rivenburg was a bright light and former Assistant Director of the Day Community Opportunities Program (DCOP) who was tragically killed in the Schoharie limousine crash on October 6, 2018. To honor her memory, her parents, Donna Floyd Rivenburg and Thomas Rivenburg, presented the prestigious Amanda Rivenburg Phoenix Award. This year, it was awarded to the phenomenal Kattiana Casseus. Kattiana has been a true beacon of positivity, rising from a DSP to an Assistant Director in just three years through sheer dedication and brilliant leadership.

Continuing Amanda's legacy, the Amanda R. Rivenburg Memorial Scholarship was established in 2024 through an investment by her father, Thomas J. Rivenburg, and matched by the Living Resources Foundation. This fund empowers our staff to pursue their educational dreams. We were thrilled to announce our 2026 recipients: Quayana Thevenin, who received \$1,000 to further her Bachelor's degree, and Radmyla Lutsenko, who received \$2,500 toward the completion of her Master's degree.

As we look back on the outpouring of love, the incredible milestones, and the spirit of community that filled the room, it is hard not to feel that same warmth and magic we usually reserve for the winter holidays. Because our staff and participants reflect such a beautiful, vast array of traditions and backgrounds, the atmosphere was a true testament to the spirit of all seasons. Perhaps, in the midst of all this joy and celebration, it really was a little bit of the winter holiday spirit in July after all!





CELEBRATING DISABILITY PRIDE: RAIN COULDN'T STOP OUR SHINE!



The weather may have been wet, but nothing could dampen the spirits of the program participants and staff of Living Resources as we recently gathered to celebrate Disability Pride Month. And if there is one thing we know how to do, it's party! Everyone embraced the spirit of the day, coming together for a vibrant celebration that honored inclusion, community, and the historic anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The festivities kicked off inside the Living Resources boardroom, where everyone was welcomed with Disability Pride-themed



party favors, noisemakers, juice, and delicious snacks. Energy was already running high as participants showed off their themed clothing and colors, all while rocking out to an energetic playlist curated by our DEI Committee.

True to this year's inspiring theme—"The World Works Better With Us"—departments and locations brought incredible energy, crafting wonderful handmade posters in hopes of winning that coveted title of bragging rights for the year. The threatening clouds prevented us from parading a loop around the outside of the main office as planned, so we made reasonable accommodations. With music blazing, noisemakers, proudly displayed homemade signs celebrating their identities, and countless smiles, the procession wound through the hallways of the office. It was a powerful tribute to the unique strengths and voices that enrich our community every single day.

Events like these remind us of the beauty of coming together to celebrate our identities, support one another, and fully embrace the vibrant spirit of Disability Pride. Thank you to everyone who brought their energy, creativity, and pride to make this day so unforgettable!





FIRST NEW YORK FEDERAL CREDIT UNION AWARDS \$2,500 GRANT TO LIVING RESOURCES



At Living Resources, we believe that providing the right tools and environments allows the individuals we support to truly thrive. That is why we are incredibly excited to announce a \$2,500 FHLBNY grant from our amazing partners at First New York Federal Credit Union!

This generous donation is earmarked specifically for our Schenectady Site-Based location. With these funds, we will be acquiring new educational resources and specialized equipment designed to enrich our daily programming.

Community support is the cornerstone of everything we do. Thank you, First New York Federal Credit Union, for investing in our mission, enriching our daily programs, and helping the individuals we support reach their fullest potential!

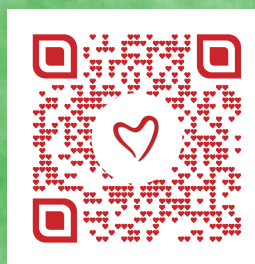
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BAKING INDEPENDENCE: A COLLABORATIVE FOURTH OF JULY CAKE



At Living Resources, holiday celebrations are about much more than just a sweet treat—they are valuable opportunities to grow, learn, and connect. Recently, the individuals in our Columbia-Greene Day Community Opportunities program kicked off their Fourth of July festivities with a hands-on culinary adventure. Together, they took on the creative challenge of baking a patriotic flag cake entirely from scratch, using the project to strengthen vital independent living skills.

The adventure began long before the ovens were preheated. The individuals in the program practiced real-world budgeting and shopping skills by sitting down to review the recipe and estimate costs. They managed their budget carefully, made a checklist, and navigated the grocery store aisles with staff to locate and purchase all their ingredients, including fresh blueberries and raspberries. Practicing these financial and social skills in the community helps build the confidence needed for daily independence.

Back in the kitchen, the class turned into an interactive lesson in culinary skills. Individuals



practiced reading recipe directions step-by-step, measuring out ingredients accurately, and mastering kitchen safety while baking. From mixing the batter to monitoring the oven, everyone took pride in their active roles.

True to our core agency value of collaboration, the grand finale was a massive team effort. Once the cake cooled, everyone tapped into their creative sides, working side-by-side to frost the cake and carefully arrange the fruit into stars and stripes.

Everyone did an incredible job! This festive cooking class perfectly highlights how our programs empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and brain injuries to build practical life skills, work beautifully as a team, and celebrate their achievements together.



SMOOTH SAILING AND SUNSET SMILES: LIVING RESOURCES CRUISES THE HUDSON

There is nothing quite like a summer evening on the water, and our Living Resources Community Living Program recently made some unforgettable memories aboard the Dutch Apple Sunset Cruise! From the moment everyone gathered near the dock, the energy was bright, excited, and filled with anticipation. Smiles were everywhere as the group posed together before stepping aboard Albany's favorite riverboat.

Once out on the Hudson, everyone settled in to enjoy everything the evening had to offer. A live band set the mood, filling the boat with upbeat tunes as members gathered near the stage and enjoyed the music. Cruising down the Hudson River provided scenic views of the water, passing landmarks, and surrounding greenery, all bathed in the beautiful glow of the setting sun. Everyone kicked back at the tables inside the cabin, enjoying refreshments and taking in the warm breeze through the open windows.

Beyond the scenic views and music, the real magic of the night was the connection shared among everyone. As the cruise went on, friendships deepened, new bonds were formed, and the laughter grew louder by the minute. Seeing the joy on everyone's faces, whether winking for the camera near the band set, posing proudly in front of the Dutch Apple oversized chair, or laughing together at the dining tables, reminded us what our Community Living Program is all about: community, connection, and creating joyful experiences together.

A huge thank you to the team at Dutch Apple Cruises & Tours and our wonderful staff who helped make this Sunset Cruise such a success. It was a golden evening on the Hudson that none of us will forget anytime soon!





CELEBRATING JOY, COMMUNITY, AND DANCING AT THE DCOP PROM



At Living Resources, we believe in creating moments where everyone has the opportunity to shine, celebrate, and connect. Recently, our Day Community Opportunities Program (DCOP) brought that exact spirit to life at the Delmar Reformed Church in Delmar, NY, hosting an unforgettable prom for the individuals we support.

The atmosphere was electrifying from the moment guests arrived. Dressed in their finest attire, individuals stepped into a room decorated to the

nines, brimming with energy, warmth, and excitement. Between a delicious spread of food and fun party games, the dance floor remained the heart of the celebration. The highlight of the party? A show-stopping, fully coordinated group dance to Michael Jackson's iconic "Thriller" that had the entire room cheering!

Events like the DCOP Prom are a beautiful reflection of what drives our agency every day:

- **Collaboration:** Bringing an event of this scale together takes dedicated teamwork. From transforming the venue to coordinating activities, every detail was a joint effort designed to make the day seamless and fun.
- **Inclusivity:** Creating welcoming spaces where everyone can fully participate, express themselves, and feel celebrated is at the core of our mission. Seeing everyone come together on the dance floor was a powerful reminder of the strength of our community.



- **Empowerment:** Beyond the fun and music, moments like these empower the individuals we support to build confidence, forge lasting friendships, and embrace new experiences on their own terms.

An extraordinary day like this doesn't happen by accident. A massive thank you to our amazing DCOP staff whose hard work, creativity, and unwavering passion made this event such a resounding hit for both our supported individuals and team members alike. Your dedication turned a vision into an unforgettable celebration!