

October 2023



What's Happening in Our World This Month?

Honoring CP Employees, World CP Day, Art Previews, Special Visits, and More!

Dear CP Family,

We enter a fall season with a bout of rain, but nothing that dampens the enthusiasm of our team to do the best we can for those we support.

Across the following pages, you will see efforts from throughout the CP network to go the extra mile for our colleagues and create meaningful experiences for the people in our care. All of this will be celebrated by the field and worldwide on October 6, *World CP Day* and I look forward to sharing a special message with our community and joining the global chorus of gratitude. Look for that in your email and online.

Speaking of adding our voice, we spoke as one when we submitted one of the first public comments on the proposed update to the section 504 regulation by the Department of Health and Human Services to add new provisions that clarify existing requirements prohibiting recipients of financial assistance from discriminating on the basis of disability in their programs and activities, including in health care, child welfare, and other human services. More inside.

Lastly, though I have not been able to join in person, I am well aware of the many initiatives of late and that are forthcoming to gather our CP Family, highlight their successes, “develop” new connections, and take on a more prominent role within the I/DD field. I hope you will take a lot of motivation and encouragement from these and additional developments.

We also welcome a large group of new employees to CP Unlimited and we hope you will greet them in the spirit of friendship and support.

All My Best,
Joseph M. Pancari, President & CEO

Recognizing Employee Dedication: Additional Longevity Events



When CP Unlimited expanded to the Hudson Valley in 2018, we promised the Putnam and Dutchess county communities we would be an Agency of change, where our supports would remain as reliable as they are effective.

To recognize the efforts of our Hudson Valley team with 5 years of service towards that declaration, we gathered at The Putnam Diner for a fun breakfast event where certificates and memories were shared throughout the morning.

We congratulate the following CP team members:

Benard Alila, Residence Counselor
Donna Andrews, Residential Supervisor
Marcela Arnold-Barrientos, Registered Nurse
Sheila Banks-Pitcher, Habilitation Aide
Frederick Byron III, Habilitation Specialist
Susanne Christodoulou-Germann, Res. Counselor
Jennifer Conklin-Tetor, Director of Quality Imprvmt.
Jennifer Efferen, Administrative Assistant
Cynthia Ferris, Director of Business Operations
Eric Fetz, Coordinator of Purchasing
Josephine Foley, Senior Asst. Dir. of Day Programs
Cynthia Graham, Residence Counselor
Andrew Groucher, Residence Counselor
Laura Herdman, Residence Manager
Nigel Hopkins, Habilitation Aide
Lawrence Johnson, Sn. Staff Development Coord.

Jerome Luke, Medical Case Mgr Counselor
Elizabeth Lyon, QI Specialist / Investigator
Pamela Middii, Residence Counselor
Teresia Mwaura, Residence Counselor
Barbara Nuccio, Registered Nurse
Adeyinka Oluwasusi, Residence Manager
Catherine Otieno, Residence Counselor
Aimee Yona Paller, Licensed Physical Therapist
Arlene Perricone-Saumell, Sn. Coord. of Billing & Compliance
Mary Poris, Human Resources Generalist
Rhonda Powell-Ashe, QIDP Coordinator
Samira Sita, Residence Coordinator
Joann Sniffen, Residence Counselor
Sandra Thorney, Residence Manager

And, We Are Not Done Yet!

CP Family Members From Catholic Charities Will Be Honored on Friday, October 20!

EMPLOYEE LONGEVITY EVENT INVITATION

Celebrating The Catholic Charities Team



We are celebrating the tenure and contributions of our Catholic Charities cohort to CP Unlimited. Invites have already gone out to this special group and we look forward to seeing them to honor their work.

Join us **October 20 from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM** at **Giardino D'Oro** at 5 Gold Street in Lower Manhattan. RSVP by October 13 to tdas@cpofnys.org!

Remembering *Timothy Buyund*

To honor the life and 41-year career of Tim Buyund, we came together to hold a memorial program and share stories at our West Farms Center.

We also dedicated our Grab N' Go Cafe in Tim's name as this community space where people with I/DD work and engage with our Bronx neighbors encapsulates his efforts to create fulfilling lives for the people we support while making it a more inclusive and accepting world.



[See photos, videos & more from the program >>](#)

Media & Art Previews: Very 'Constructive Partnerships'

The Agency recently agreed to present a monthly program on *Staten Island Community Television* highlighting new resources from the organization and developments in the I/DD provider field.

The first episode has just concluded filming and features Diane Peruggia of the Staten Island Developmental Disability Council and a conversation with Sebastian Chittilappilly, CP's Chief of Programs and Marleen Whitman, Director of Programming at Cora Hoffman Center.

Stay tuned for the first episode, airing soon!



Also on Staten Island, photographers from CP's Progressive Vision Photo Club are finishing their exploratory visits and developing the images in anticipation of our exhibition with the National Lighthouse Museum coming in **February 2024**.



We look forward to planning our opening night event and welcoming people from all over the world to see the talented interpretation of the Staten Island lighthouse grounds through the eyes of the people we support!

Wheelchair Clinics Cover the Map in October

CP Unlimited brings our transformative wheelchair clinics to The Bronx on **October 7** and to upstate New York at the CP State conference on **October 11!**



Saturday, October 7 in The Bronx: Complimentary Wheelchair Cleanings For People with I/DD, Seniors, & Veterans

CP Unlimited invites people who use wheelchairs to book a free evaluation, cleaning, and *sanitizing session to help maintain chair hygiene and personal mobility.

**Sanitizing for non-powered chairs only*

**West Farms Center
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**1880 Bryant Avenue
Bronx, NY 10460**

Transport Services Available



Join us at the CP State Annual Conference to Receive This Helpful Service for People Who Use Wheelchairs!

October 11 at the CP State Conference: Complimentary Wheelchair Cleanings For People with I/DD, Seniors, & Veterans

1:00 - 4:00 PM

**Saratoga Hilton: Broadway 2 Room
534 Broadway, Saratoga Springs**

CP Unlimited invites people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, veterans, and others who use wheelchairs to book a free evaluation, cleaning, and *sanitizing session at the conference to help maintain chair hygiene and personal mobility.

**Sanitizing for non-powered chairs only*

To reserve a slot for either event, email Ester Giraldo at egirald@cpofnys.org with the time you want to attend and your contact information.

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Our DEI Committee offered an opportunity to taste and learn more about Hispanic history and culture at two back-to-back programs on October 3; the first online in partnership with El Museo Del Barrio and the second at Central office- and other settings- with a tasting of empanadas, ceviche, plantains, and other treats.

We love celebrating the diversity of New York City and the CP Family. Stay tuned for additional messages and events (and share your ideas) via DEICommittee@cpofnys.org.



More CP News: Steps Forward Across NYC

WELCOMING COUNCILMEMBER MARJORIE VELAZQUEZ TO CP AT REVERE AVENUE

The nearly one dozen residents at our setting on Revere Avenue in the Bronx- and the fantastic staff supporting them in this colorful, woman-only space- welcomed local Council Member Marjorie Velazquez of the 13th District at a special meet-and-greet on Wednesday, September 27.



The meeting was a great chance to interact with some of our residents as they made their way to Day Habilitation programs and out into the community for lunch, and chat about area services and chances to collaborate.

MARCH IN THE DISABILITY PRIDE PARADE OCTOBER 22

Join the CP Unlimited Team at The 2023 Disability Pride Parade



Sunday, October 22, 2023

10:00 AM Kickoff in Madison Square Park, Manhattan

Email Tamara Das (tdas@cpofnys.org) to march with us!

From the Field Communications

STAYING AWARE OF COVID THIS WINTER

From Ira L. Salom, MD MSc(Med) FACP CPE, Chief Medical Officer of CP Unlimited

Everyday signs of COVID are hard to spot now: few on the street wear masks, you don't have to show proof of immunization to enter public spaces. It's hard to know how many people have or get COVID, now that so much testing is done at home and not reported. Yet, COVID is still with us and we can expect a doubling of hospitalizations and ICU admissions by this year's end.

Those with other illnesses or live in group settings are more likely to get sick with COVID, be hospitalized, be put on a ventilator, or die from the disease.

CP leadership will closely monitor national and local COVID trends, infection rates, recommendations from health authorities, and developments in our settings. We will review and, if needed, update policies and procedures to better protect our community: those we serve, our colleagues, and families.

PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT OF UPDATED, FEDERAL DEFINITIONS OF DISABILITY



In response to the HHS request for public comments, CP Unlimited submitted the below in service of a more accessible, equitable, and contemporary lens through which to create a world where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can achieve fulfilling lives:

“The Executive Leadership of Constructive Partnerships (CP) Unlimited, supports the proposed amendment by HHS to Section 504. The clarified rules allow for a more equitable outlook towards persons with disabilities, ensuring that they are seen by medical providers with the same lens as other individuals, while expanding access to programs and defining standards for equipment that were previously lacking. Applying these parameters and guidelines, we also believe, will create a safer and more independent environment through which people with disabilities can achieve fulfilling lives...”

[Continue Reading Online >>](#)

HR: New Hires at CP

Welcoming New Members to the CP Family and Recognizing New Promotions!

Sunday Abe is now Director of Program Coordination

Jacqueline Bingham-Henry is now Assistant Director of Day Program

Nikea Clark is now Associate Director of Program Coordination

Janelle Coles is now Quality Assurance Quality Improvement Specialist

Andrea Coleman-Thompson is now a BIS

Lesley Pickersgill is now VP of Residential Services

Mataya Alamo, Community Habilitation Specialist

Jumoke Alausa, Residence Counselor

Jennepit Aranas, Residence Counselor

Nyasia Boyd, Direct Care Counselor

Zarita Deas, Residence Counselor

Scottnajour Dennis, Residence Counselor

Vioutou Doffon, Direct Care Counselor

Claudius Esama-John, Direct Care Counselor

Mabinty Esama-John, Direct Care Counselor

Dorette Fernandez, Direct Care Counselor

Ramel Gantt, Direct Care Counselor

Dana Hughes, Employment Specialist

Sekinat Idowu, Direct Care Counselor

Marika Jones, Habilitation Aide

Junie Joseph, Direct Care Counselor

Jeremiah Kendall, Evening Shift Supervisor

Lisa Lawrence, Habilitation Coordinator

Christina Lynch, Direct Care Counselor

Lunden Mclean, Residence Counselor

Tevin Mitchell, Direct Care Counselor

Sherian Moses, Direct Care Counselor

Bertram Nwansi, Program Coordinator (CLS)

Jamiah Taylor, Employment Specialist

Alejandro Ortega, Driver's Aide

Shaundraya Pittman, Residence Counselor

Shantell Ragin, Direct Care Counselor

D'mari Smith, Direct Care Counselor

Eunice Smith, Direct Care Counselor

Judelyn Soriano, Rehab. Counselor

Leila Spangler, Registered Nurse

Gamini Sudasinghe, Dir. Care Cslr

Shakera Taylor, Direct Care Counselor

Jawayne Williams, Res. Counselor

Boogie-ing Down in The Bronx



Our Bronx team enjoyed some time together in the sun at our annual BBQs for CP team members and the people we support!

Thanks to this team that always shows up strong for our folks!

Join the CP Community Online



[Facebook.com/ConstructivePartnershipsUnlimited](https://www.facebook.com/ConstructivePartnershipsUnlimited)



[Linkedin.com/company/constructive-partnerships-unlimited-cp-unlimited/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/constructive-partnerships-unlimited-cp-unlimited/)



Find us here: [CP on YouTube](#)
