

Happy Holidays
and
Happy New Year



JANUARY: Congratulations to our Adult Education Graduates



"My son, Akeedo Fisher, is very happy to graduate today. CP is perfect; we plan on continuing this journey with CP for life!"

Over the past year, these 22 students enjoyed courses in writing, technology, cooking, budgeting and banking, fundamentals of reading, health management, and social hour. In fact, several of the classes were conceptualized by one of our persons supported and offered to the group to diversify the learning options. For 2023, we are already working on adding Astronomy, Spanish, and American Sign Language!

Congrats to all the Graduates!

Sherina Abdelghafar
Marta Colon
James Cumo
Anthony Desimone
Raymond Estella
Frank Ferebee
Akeedo Fisher
Elvis Gebko

Atara Graham
Rosalind Glasper-Gregg
Francis Hernandez
Helen Lam
Jessica Nieves
Emiliano Perez
Tanya Pettus

Viviana Rivera
Tony Bennett-Rivers
Willie Ryan
Daniel Shaw
Leonardo Vincent
Katrina Wells
Ann Marie Whitty

JANUARY: Welcoming Author Jesse Saperstein to CP HV



Close to 25 staff and persons supported were able to experience a booktalk and reading from author Jesse A. Saperstein on January 30!

Jesse read from his best-selling works *Getting a Life with Asperger's: Lessons Learned on the Bumpy Road to Adulthood* and his first book *Atypical, Life With Asperger's in 20 1/3 Chapters* and took time to share his experiences hiking the Appalachian Trail (a more than seven month journey), navigating the dating world, and learning from his mistakes—a lesson everyone can relate to.

Quotes from Jesse include:

“Your weakness can turn into a strength.”

“Not everything is in your control, you have to take them one increment at a time.”

“We all have disabilities or abilities regardless of a diagnoses.”

MARCH: Showing Our Colors for Down Syndrome & CP Days

The CP Family showed off their colorful socks for **World Down Syndrome Day** and we sported our green ensembles to recognize **Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day**!



APRIL: Breaking World Records in Staten Island!

A team of CP Unlimited staff and people we support joined 2,400 families and friends from across Staten Island to break the Guinness World Record for Largest Human Puzzle Piece in support of raising autism awareness.

As an organization with a long history in the borough, we were proud to join in this home-run effort and acknowledge the work of The GRACE Foundation in helping coordinate the event on April 19 at The Staten Island Ferryhawks stadium.



APRIL: NYS Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton Visits CHC!

Senator Spanton met our CP family and persons supported taking part in our M.O.V.E. (Mobility Opportunities Via Education/Experience) program, vocational program participants at our SmileFarms greenhouses, as well as the many, musical Day Hab attendees who enjoyed singing their favorite songs as a lyrical backdrop to her tour on April 28.



MAY: Spring Fling in Hudson Valley

On Saturday, May 6, CP Unlimited-Hudson Valley welcomed more than 115 guests at Sharpe Reservation in Fishkill to the Agency's much-anticipated Spring Fling.



JUNE: The *Cars Care Show* Showcases Cars and CP Unlimited

The smell of gasoline mixed with morning dew as the first collectibles rumbled into the parking lot just before dawn at the College of Staten Island for the first Cars Care Show put on by the Verrazano Kiwanis Club on June 25, benefitting CP Unlimited and our work with people with I/DD on Staten Island. By mid-morning, more than 150 additional cars would join as the local Chevy Club, Cadillac Club, Mopar devotees, auto modification groups, and enthusiasts of all types showed up.

When it came time for judging, a diverse list of categories including “Dirtiest Vehicle” “Best Luxury Car” “Best Resto-Mod” and “CP Unlimited Choice” awaited vehicles on display. After several hours, the winners emerged and were given trophies in a fun ceremony. Congrats to the owner of the white 1972 Mercedes 480SL convertible, selected the “CP Unlimited Choice”!



Cadillacs Lined Up for Judging



A Collection of Chevrolet Corvettes



Assemblyman
Sam Pirozzolo
& Joe Pancari

See and
Read
More:



JUNE: CP Cheers on the Hudson Valley Renegades

CP's persons supported and team members enjoyed a night out at the ballpark in the Hudson Valley on June 14.

The minor-league Hudson Valley Renegades took on the Rome Braves and eventually emerged victorious with a score of 4-2, while the intermittent rain did little to dampen the spirits of those in attendance.

Each of our persons supported cheered on the home team alongside their dedicated Direct Support Professional, and got to meet the mascot for a fun photo-op!



JULY: After One Year: An Update from Joseph M.

Pancari

After one year in the role of President & CEO of this remarkable organization, I wanted to share how we are working to shape the future of CP Unlimited.

While this has been a period of growth and change, the ability of our team to think creatively, respond gracefully, and maintain the highest level of care for the people we support has remained unwavering and inspiring.

To reflect that commitment, CP Unlimited has shifted strategies to grow flexible funding streams, deepen and diversify our expertise, and add new IT infrastructure and technology to facilitate more fruitful collaboration.

Continue Reading:



JULY: Welcoming Blanca J. Ramirez to the CP Board of Directors

CP Unlimited has appointed leading housing advocate and authority Blanca J. Ramirez to the Agency's Board of Directors, deepening its proficiency in this vital area of support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Since 2012, she has served as Vice President of Acquisition and Origination for Hudson Housing Capital in New York City where she helped develop the organization's portfolio and grow their reputation and contacts among needed parties across the state. With additional exposure in community and neighborhood supportive housing organizations and committees, she brings a wealth of knowledge and practical know-how, allowing CP Unlimited to more efficiently and effectively expand our residential offerings.

"Blanca has already become a strategic partner for CP Unlimited and we look forward to her contributions to our Board as we further build out the Agency's capabilities and services," said Ross B. Levin, Chairman of the Board of Directors.



JULY: SI Borough President Vito Fossella Tours CHC

CP Unlimited warmly welcomed Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella to the Agency's Cora Hoffman Center on Wednesday, July 19.

Mr. Fossella and his team took advantage of their time, meeting persons supported and members of the CP Family during their tour and discussion. During his first stop at CHC's Grab n' Go Cafe, Mr. Fossella was impressed with two of our people manning the cafe, James and Carmen, who helped him review the tasty snacks and refreshing drinks for sale. Next in the experience was a visit to our M.O.V.E. room and classrooms where they were able to speak with additional people and see some of our educational programming in action.

The tour concluded with a stop at our Smile Farms greenhouses, and a gift of a bottle of branded hot sauce to enliven any future meal!



AUGUST: NYS Assemblyman Anil Beephan Visits HV

The CP Hudson Valley Division welcomed Assemblyman Anil Beephan, Jr. (District 105) to one of our residences to meet some of the people we support and share more about the Agency on Tuesday, August 1.

Assemblyman Beephan's visit was a productive and pleasant experience that allowed each of us the opportunity to envision new ways of partnering to help people with I/DD, seniors, veterans, and other groups throughout the Hudson Valley.



SEPTEMBER: Dedicating the West Farms Grab n Go Cafe

To honor the life and 41-year career of **Timothy Buyund**, we came together to hold a memorial program and share stories on September 28.

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 Tim's efforts to create fulfilling lives for the people we support while making it a more inclusive and accepting world.

Thanks to our CP Family and members of Tim's family who came out to remember him.

See more, including video, at:



OCTOBER: Premiering *Staten Island Disability News*

Staten Island Disability News is a monthly program on Community Media of Staten Island (Spectrum Channel 34), seeks to demystify these options and bring to light new developments from the field.

The program features a range of prominent guests and experts from throughout Staten Island and the greater New York City area who can contextualize and inform a diverse audience about innovative programs for the I/DD community and beyond.

Additionally, the monthly episodes serve as a platform for cultural institutions to share educational opportunities for people with disabilities.



OCTOBER: CP Unlimited at the CP State Conference

The Agency made a splash at the recent CP State Conference on October 11-12 in a variety of ways benefitting both the field and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In addition to bringing our wheelchair clinic and 'Heat with Heart' hot sauce to Saratoga Springs, we also celebrated the recognition of several of our team honoring their great impact and innovative work.

Most significantly, **Paul DiGiovanni**, Associate Director of Rehabilitation, was awarded the Joseph Dutkowsky, MD Clinician of the Year Award for his innovative wheelchair clinic maintenance and cleaning program. Additional CP team members received Staff Recognition Certificates marking their efforts going above and beyond for the people we support, including: **Arlene Perricone-Saumell, Jennifer Tetor, Karon Lalite, Kristina Sellers, Lawrence Johnson, Mary Grace Whitehead, Raquel Mays-Judge, and Yonette Dey.**



SEE MORE ONLINE, INCLUDING



NOVEMBER: Announcing the “Traveling with Dignity” Act

The CP Unlimited offices in Hudson Valley hosted New York State Senators Peter Harckham (D- District 40) and Rob Rolison (R- District 39) for an important press conference and announcement of Senator Harckham’s “Traveling with Dignity” Act that will soon be submitted as legislation in New York State.

The bill mandates the installation of adult changing facilities at venues across New York that can host more than 2,500 visitors. For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, alongside veterans and seniors, this will mean the ability to access the full program and event at spaces where they previously were not accommodated.

The issue was brought to Senator Harckham’s attention by CP Unlimited self-advocates and championed by his office. See more:



NOVEMBER: Cutting the Ribbon in Yonkers



CP leadership including Penny Pagliaro, Executive Director of our Hudson Valley division, and Joseph M. Pancari, President & CEO, joined **Tasha Diaz** (Majority Leader, Councilwoman, District 3) and Yonkers Deputy Mayor **Tony Landi**, alongside a representative from the office of **Nader Sayegh** (Assemblyman, 90th District) to officially cut the ribbon for this barrier-free residence!

[SEE](#)

[MORE:](#)



DECEMBER: CP Celebrating the Holidays



DECEMBER: Mother Cabrini Awards CP Expanded Grant



Mother Cabrini
HEALTH FOUNDATION

The award will help CP Unlimited offer more frequent and mobile wheelchair clinics that help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, seniors, veterans, and others use their chairs with greater comfort, safety, and reliability. The increased funding will also permit CP to service power wheelchair users, purchase an additional wheelchair cleaning machine for our Nassau affiliate, and launch a train-the-trainer program for I/DD partners statewide.

SEE MORE:



Congratulations to our Employee of the Quarter: Q1 2023 Awards

We recognize the CP team members who have gone above and beyond for the people we support, with our Q1 2023 Award.

A certificate ceremony will be held June 22, with photos and quotes to come.

Yvette Brooks, Direct Care Counselor
Aneita Daley, Direct Care Counselor
Robin Dubose, Community Skills Specialist
Sheila Floyd, Direct Care Counselor
Paula Harris-Forbes, Rehabilitation Specialist
Raquel Judge-Mays, Residential Placement Coord.
Mary Lemor, Direct Care Counselor
Donna Matar, Direct Care Counselor
Ciciley Paternella, Habilitation Aide

Melinda Rivera, Day Shift Supervisor
Jennie Romero, Housekeeper-Union8
Jean Seide, Direct Care Counselor
Kristina Sellers, Secretary/Special Projects
Jeremiah Shaw, Direct Care Counselor
Jacob Vosper, RESSUP
Christopher Walker, Habilitation Aide
Sandra Willis, Medical Case Manager



Employees of the Quarter: Q2 2023



We congratulate the following employees on their commitment to the people we support and the mission of CP Unlimited.

A recognition event is scheduled for **September 6** to honor them formally at a special luncheon.

Melissa Cacciola, Habilitation Aide- HV
Viktor Cortese, Behavior Intervention Specialist-II
Paul DiGiovanni, Associate Director of Rehab Services
Rene George, DCC
Shavon Merriweather, Residential Coordinator



Herve Oxin, Program Coordinator
Angeline Totaram, RN
Jen Tetor, Director of Quality Management-HV
Robenson Vilsaint, DSP
Rachel Williams, Night Supervisor

Employees of the Quarter: Q3 2023

We recognize the impact and work of our employees of the quarter for Q3 2023:

Anthony Zaccheus, Direct Support Professional- 225 Brooklyn Avenue

Bernice Mirville, Direct Support Professional- Manhattan – 50 Battery Pl.

Claudette Campbell, Direct Care Counselor- 2616 Beverley Rd.

Darlene Savary, Direct Care Counselor- 64 Madsen Ave.

Dorcas Olatuja, Habilitation Aide

Eduardo Linares, Maintenance Worker

Ellen Hoffman, Medical Case Manager- Bronx residential team

Gerald Harrison, Direct Care Counselor- West Farms Center

Glory Etim, Rehabilitation Counselor- Watermelon

Jeanette Evans, Senior Administrative Assistant

Jennifer Aduna, Employment Specialist

Kellyann Dawes, Direct Care Counselor- West Farms Center

Kevin Bede Anywanu, Direct Care Counselor- 175 Ardsley Loop #2G

Loretta Orelie, Charge Nurse

Maria Cofano, Direct Care Counselor- 333 Heberton St

Numin Nuhn, Behavioral Intervention Specialist- Manhattan / Queens

Sarah Edwards, Speech Pathologist

Tanisha Bailey, Community Skills Specialist- Carmen Aquilone

Tasha Walcott, Behavioral Intervention Specialist

Vertrell Collins, Residence Counselor- Bronx

Yvette Gonzalez, Habilitation Counselor- West Farms Center



Employees of the Quarter: Q4 2023

We recognize the impact and work of our employees of the quarter for Q4 2023:

Madeline DeSantiago, Asst. Dir. LIC Day Pro

Wilisha Griffin, Habilitation Aide- Cora Hoffman Center

Binbin Li, Sr. Staff Accountant- Central Office

Elizabeth Lyon, QI Specialist

Oliver Melton, Habilitation Aide- Cora Hoffman Center

Christine Sikpe, Assistant Director- West Farms Center Day Program

Asheena Turner, DCC, 150 West 255th Street

Darlene Vaughn, Staffing Coordinator, Staten Island

Damaris Ward, PM Shift Supervisor- Queens CPNS Unit V



Recognizing Employee Dedication: CP Unlimited Longevity Events

Celebrating the CP Team with 10-40+ Years in 2023 at Special Programs



This population of over 400 of the CP Family truly deserve our admiration and gratitude. See the recap of these programs, with photos, a message from Joseph M. Pancari and m



Highlighting Employee Longevity in Hudson Valley

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

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 Paler, 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



Recognizing Our Catholic Charities Cohort

In 2016, CP Unlimited formally brought on a large cohort of the Catholic Charities team (435 employees), residential settings, and Brooklyn Day Habilitation programs to great fanfare and success.

Said Rev. Msgr. Alfred LoPinto, then-CEO of Catholic Charities, in 2016: *"We remain committed to keeping [our people] connected to the very special services we have provided them for years. The agreement with [CP Unlimited] has achieved that and I am grateful that OPWDD worked with us to implement this plan."*



THROUGH THE LENS

New Images from the
Progressive Visions Photo Club

Opening Breakfast Reception:
February 4, 2023, 9:30-11:00am (see below)
Exhibition: February 4 - March 3, 2024



Photo Credit: Lemnar Jackson

A [New] Exhibition of Photography by CP Unlimited Photo Club Members

February 4 - March 3, 2024



NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM
STATEN ISLAND, NY

"Through the Lens: New Images from the Progressive Visions Photo Club" will feature around a dozen images of local monuments, exteriors, and permanent displays captured during excursions in late 2023. The Progressive Visions Photo Club is comprised of creative amateur photographers with I/DD who shoot and develop images, alongside a love of photography and community engagement. **SEE MORE:**



DEI at CP Unlimited: Join the Committee

The CP Unlimited DEI Committee is dedicated to incorporating values, systems and policies that are a product of an inclusive, diverse, and equitable culture.

We strive to deepen cross-cultural understanding and want you to help our efforts:

Email DEICommittee@cpofnys.org to join us in 2024!



Follow Us!

