



What's Happening in Our World This Month?

New Day Hab Hours and Open Houses, Wheelchair Clinics in the News, Sharing at ANCOR '24, & More!

Dear CP Family:

Happy May! This is an important time for CP Unlimited as we welcome Spring and the community as we open our doors in different ways.

From extended hours for Day Hab participants, to open houses at these very programs to recruit additional people to experience the CP difference (page 2), we have opportunities aplenty for our network and new friends.

Several of our CP team also took time to open doors for people who use wheelchairs in new communities by sharing our legislative successes at a national conference (page 4) while our Rehabilitation team opened new avenues of independence at recent wheelchair clinics (see page 3, and also *News12*).

And, speaking of opening doors to new achievements, I want to congratulate Ann Whitty who just received a new height-adjustable wheelchair allowing her to better access devices as part of her helpful work with the Secur-E-Doc program.

There is more in the pages ahead. Thank you for your work creating thriving spaces across New York!

Joseph M. Pancari, President & CEO



Day Hab Extension in New York City

Supplemental Day Habilitation Services



Building on our leading daytime programs for people with disabilities across New York City, caregivers can also take advantage of this additional afternoon offering focused on creative recreation, art, games, and socialization provided from 3:30 – 5:30 PM on weekdays.

Inquire about this service in Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island by emailing communications@cpofnys.org.

And Day Hab Open Houses All May Long!

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PROGRESS WITH PURPOSE & CARE

May 14: Day Hab & Article 16 Open House

Join us for two available sessions to learn about CP Unlimited's comprehensive therapies, classes, programs, and support for people 18+ with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Times on Tuesday, May 14:
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM and 4:30 - 6:00 PM

Location:
LC Day Hab Program
16-40 27th St.
Long Island City, NY 11101

RSVP to Madeline Delapage to confirm: madepag@cpofnys.org

Since 1946, Constructive Partnerships (CP) Unlimited has promoted opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve fulfilling lives.

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PROGRESS WITH PURPOSE & CARE

May 15: Day Hab & Article 16 Open House

Join us for two sessions to learn about CP Unlimited's comprehensive therapies, classes, programs, and support for people 18+ with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Tour the LEED-certified space and Metro Community Health Clinic.

Location:
West Farms Center
1880 Bryant Avenue
Bronx, NY 10460

Times on May 15:
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
and 4:30 - 6:00 PM

RSVP to Candice Priole to confirm: cpriole@cpofnys.org

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May 22: Day Hab & Article 16 Open House

Join us to learn about CP Unlimited's comprehensive therapies, classes, activities, unique gardening program, and caring supports for people 18+ with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Brooklyn.

Time on Wednesday, May 22:
10:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Two Distinct Programs in a Co-located Space:
Linda Ruth Glusker Center
721 East New York Ave. (at Eastern Pkwy)
Brooklyn, NY 11203

RSVP to Nandana Subbiah to confirm: nsubbiah@cpofnys.org

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May 29: Day Hab & Article 16 Open House

Join us to learn about CP Unlimited's comprehensive therapies, classes, programs, and caring supports for people 18+ with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including the transformative M.O.V.E. program and the SMILE Farm Greenhouse!

Location:
Cora Hoffman Center
234 Foster Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10313

Time on May 29:
12:00 - 2:00 PM

RSVP to Jessica Francisco to confirm: jfrancisco@cpofnys.org

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Queens, Tuesday, May 14 from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM and 4:30 – 6:00 PM

The Bronx, Wednesday, May 15 from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM and 4:30 – 6:00 PM

Brooklyn, Wednesday, May 22 from 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Staten Island, Wednesday, May 29 from 12:00 – 2:00 PM

Join us to see, first-hand, CP Unlimited's comprehensive therapies, classes, activities, and vocational programs alongside unique offerings in each borough.

More on CPunlimited.org

WHEELCHAIR CLINICS: Recap & Up Next

FREE WHEELCHAIR CLEANING AND SERVICE SESSION on MAY 18



CP UNLIMITED WILL INSPECT, CLEAN, SANITIZE, REPAIR, AND FIX YOUR POWERED OR NON-POWERED WHEELCHAIR

TRANSPORT AVAILABLE

THE BRONX

The third wheelchair clinic (complimentary sanitizing, inspection, and repair) of 2024 will be in The Bronx at CP's West Farms Center at 1880 Bryant Avenue from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM on **Saturday May 18, 2024.**



One Day, 30 Chairs Serviced in Brooklyn

On April 18 in Brooklyn, the CP team was able to work on more than 30 chairs and help people with disabilities from Independent Living Association, ADAPT, and other groups. We also were featured on News12 encouraging people to attend this transformative clinic. [See more online in our recap >>](#)

SHARING KNOWLEDGE AT ANCOR 2024



Members of the CP team traveled to New Mexico to attend and present a session at the ANCOR Connect 2024 conference.

Over 900 participants came from across the United States to learn more about leading services and innovations in the disability field, and our CP Family was on hand to help advance useful information and learn more to help deliver on our mission to create opportunities for people with I/DD to achieve fulfilling lives.

Penny Pagliaro, Executive Director (left), and **Christine Mattson**, Associate Executive Director (right) of CP Unlimited's Hudson Valley Division led a well-attended panel on Effecting Change Through Public Policy, building on our work supporting the "Traveling with Dignity" Act and other legislative and community action.



[SEE MORE, INCLUDING THE FULL PRESENTATION, FROM THE CONFERENCE >>](#)

FROM THE FIELD COMMUNICATIONS

JUNE EXPERIENCES AT THE BALLPARK



Join us to support CP Unlimited and cheer on the Hudson Valley Renegades on **Wednesday, June 12** at Heritage Financial Park in Wappingers Falls, New York!

[Get \\$15 Tickets Online >>](#)



Bring the family for a fun experience at the ballpark on **Friday, June 14!** Every ticket helps CP Unlimited provide opportunities for people with disabilities on Staten Island.

[Just \\$17.29 gets you a ticket >>](#)

JUNE 23: ACHILLES HOPE & POSSIBILITY RACE

Sunday, June 23 in Central Park



Join the CP Team to participate in one of the largest inclusive races of its kind in the U.S.! Come together with CP Unlimited on **Sunday, June 23** and friends to get active and raise awareness for persons with disabilities in NYC!

[Email Tamara Das to Sign Up for the CP Team >>](#)

CP Unlimited: New Hires and Promotions

Recognizing the accomplishments of team members who received recent promotions:

Taheeda Brock is now a Habilitation Counselor

Yonette Dey is now an Administrator of Residential Services

Unwana Edet is now QIDP

Glory Etim is now Team Lead

Paula Harris-Forbes is now QIDP

Welcoming new members of the CP Family to our team:

Angela Akalonu, Direct Care Counselor

Olajumoke Akinjeji, Direct Care Counselor

Destiny Bennett, Independent Living Skills Trainer

Marjorie Brewer, Direct Care Counselor

Jessica Brown, Habilitation Aide

Marcus Coleman, Employment Specialist

Ahimo Colbourne, Direct Care Counselor

Dionne Collins, Driver's Aide

Jamie Cornwall, Evening Shift Supervisor

Angelo DeAngelis, Physical Therapist Assistant

Cecilia Desselle, Habilitation Aide

Froylan Flowers Jr., Administrative Assistant

Shante Hill, Direct Care Counselor

Herschel Howell, Day Shift Supervisor

Federico Jaen, Residential Aide

Dudrey Jean Pierre, Licensed Practical Nurse

La'Neasia Jenkins, Direct Care Counselor

Rebecca Johnson, Habilitation Aide

Rohan Johnson, Benefits Administrator

Stephari Joiles, Case Manager

Vanessa Jolliffe, Direct Care Counselor

Saymare Marte Montero, Residential Aide

Kwadwo Nyamekye, Rehabilitation Counselor

Amarachukwu Oralete, Habilitation Aide

Upama Pokharel, Rehabilitation Counselor

Shanece Ross, Direct Care Counselor

Karina Szklanny, Direct Care Counselor

Nancy Varghese, Direct Care Counselor

Ramesan Cholleyil Velayudhan, Human Resources Assistant

Nyasia Williams, Residential Aide

Russell Zimmerman, Residence Counselor

Employee of the Quarter Winners: Q1 2024

Thank you for going above and beyond for the people we support!

Donna Andrews, Residential Supervisor, Simpson Road (HV)

Oluwabunmi Akano, Hab Specialist- LIC Day Program (Qu)

Carol Anagostos, DCC- 1832 South Railroad (SI)

Mia Baird, Charge Nurse- Unit 2 (Qu)

Dexter Bobb, Shift Supervisor- 174 Java Street (Bk)

Frederick Byron, III, Day Program QIDP Coordinator (HV)

Tania Carcamo, Habilitation Counselor (SI)

Shannel Carrington, Direct Care Counselor- Cherry Street (Mn)

Mirlene Cetoute, Program Coordinator- Unit 2 (Qu)

Icynthia Corcho, Senior Program Administrator (Bx)

Andrea Crosby, DSP Jamaica ICF (Qu)

Carol Damon, 1619 3rd Avenue (Mn)

Wanda Davila, Program Manager, Carmen Aquilone (Bk)

Timothy Gallina, Bus Driver, West Farms Center (Bx)

Natalie Jones, ILS Trainer (Bx)

Giovanna Lopez, Rehabilitation Counselor, Wappingers (HV)

Stacey Louverture, Shift Supervisor (Manhattan)

Delrose Murphy, DCC- 540 Ocean Parkway (Bk)

Monica Perez, DSP, Donald Savio Residence (Mn)

Melissa Perriott, Direct Care Counselor- Castle Hill (Bx)

Simone Richards, Residential Coordinator- Unit 2 (Qu)

Monica Roper, Hab Aide, West Farms Center (Bx)



Virtual Lecture: May 8 at 6:00 PM



The **ACTIVISM** of **ELIZABETH LEE** & **LILLIAN HALL**

**NEW INSIGHTS
ON THE CLOSING OF
WILLOWBROOK STATE
SCHOOL**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024
6 PM VIA ZOOM

Jennifer Hall Lee, daughter of Elizabeth Lee and grand-daughter of Lillian Hall, will share the powerful story of Lee's and Hall's involvement in the closing of Willowbrook State School on Staten Island, New York. Elizabeth Lee was a Willowbrook social worker in the early 1970s and was fired, along with Willowbrook doctor Michael Wilkins, MD, for her whistleblowing and parent-organizing that revealed the abuses there. *Staten Island Advance* reporter Jane Kurtin and ABC telejournalist Geraldo Rivera covered the story. Elizabeth Lee's mother, Lillian Hall, joined the activism by advocating for group residences for people with Down's syndrome on Staten Island. Their activism spurred deinstitutionalization in the United States and the inclusion of people with disabilities in public school education.



Free!

Scan the QR to Register or
visit bit.ly/WLP2024

Jennifer's visually-rich presentation shares a personal story of what she witnessed during this tumultuous time in our history and gives a fuller picture of the fight for rights for developmentally disabled people. Shaped by family experience with IDD, the powerful activism of these two women helped bring about key change at Willowbrook and beyond.

Jennifer Hall Lee will share the powerful story of Lee's and Hall's involvement in the closing of Willowbrook State School on Staten Island, New York.

This Zoom event is free and open to everyone. People with disabilities, their families and friends, advocates, students, and professionals in the field are encouraged to register.

Contact willowbrook@csi.cuny.edu with any questions.



CC CLUE



A Vital Op-Ed from AHRC CEO

Published April 23, 2024 in the *New York Daily News*

N.Y. lacks support for people with disabilities

New York State's final \$237 billion budget fails to meet the needs of New Yorkers with disabilities, their families, the workforce that supports them and the nonprofit provider agencies.

Awareness days and months serve as important reminders of the challenges facing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. Yet, these efforts, combined with the voices of advocates urging support and resources once again went unheard.

Recently, within the halls of the Legislative Office Building, voices rose in unison. Hundreds of people with IDD, their families, and the dedicated professionals who support them gathered to demand recognition and additional funding.

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are the unsung heroes of our community, providing unwavering support to people with IDD. However, their contributions are often undervalued economically, mirroring broader societal attitudes toward discrimination. This undervaluation extends to the nonprofits that employ and support frontline staff.

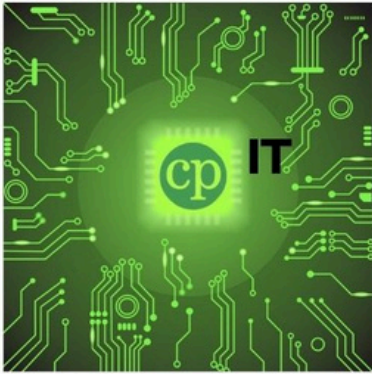
The governor's budget offered a mere 1.5% cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA), while the state Senate and Assembly proposed a higher adjustment of 3.2%, albeit with significant restrictions on fund usage. During last-minute backroom negotiations, it was watered down even further. The 3.2% dropped to an effective 2.84% COLA and a requirement of a 1.7% wage increase for frontline staff.

It's important to recognize that the COLA reflects trends in Medicaid rates paid to agencies where DSPs work. However, over the past decade, there has been a devastating lack of investment in the system of care delivered through nonprofit agencies. We've seen investments totaling only 10%, leaving us 20% behind inflation.

This discrepancy is unsustainable. Even without rate trends, nonprofits did the right thing, giving their staff wage increases whenever they could afford it. A couple of years ago, when a 5.4% COLA was (finally) provided, nonprofit agencies gave, on average, a 7.2% increase to their frontline staff. That's what I call a commitment to the mission.

[**CONTINUE READING ONLINE >>**](#)

CP Unlimited: IT UPDATE



VIRTUAL TRAINING: Microsoft Applications

MS TEAMS-based training for **Excel, CoPilot, OneDrive, Sharepoint,** and **Teams** to help the CP network utilize these programs.



**Multiple Sessions
All May 2024**

SIGN UP: cpofnys.sharepoint.com/sites/ITExternal

SCAN:



**Training Recordings will also be made available*

**Morning and Afternoon sessions will be offered*

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month



Celebrating the richness of AAPI
culture, heritage, and history



Join the CP Community Online



Facebook.com/ConstructivePartnershipsUnlimited



Linkedin.com/company/constructive-partnerships-unlimited-cp-unlimited/



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