



# RICHMOND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Quality Lives for People with Developmental Disabilities

Fall  
2022  
Newsletter

## A letter from our President and CEO



Dear Friends,

The holiday season always brings with it a reminder of gratitude. As I sit here writing this, I am reminded of how much there is to be grateful for within the Richmond Community.

First and foremost, Richmond's staff. In September, we celebrated Direct Support Professional (DSP) Week, honoring the employees who work tirelessly to make sure the Individuals have not only the best and most capable support but are also living lives filled with joy surrounded by people who truly care. The Human Resources department, under Su-Zann Tracey's leadership, has been enormously creative this year, introducing new initiatives such as active community outreach to help mitigate the staffing shortage. The Community Habilitation program, which offers support to individuals at home and in the community, has a new leader in Jeffrey Greenberg. Jeff has been busy forging new relationships with local schools and communities to grow the program with a robust offering of pre-employment and employment support, along with respite services.

I can hardly wait for you to see what Workforce Development has been up to. Trust me when I say that it is a truly innovative way to train and engage staff that will benefit not only Richmond but agencies around the country.

I am also extremely grateful for our greater Richmond community. Your support allows us to be more successful in all that we do. Thank you to everyone who attended and generously contributed to our Rooftop Reception and Golf Outing. It was such a pleasure to be together again, enjoy a laugh with good friends, and meet new ones. And thank you to everyone who has taken the time to send notes and write beautiful stories about employees who have brought smiles and a helping hand where it is needed most. These always make it a brighter day.

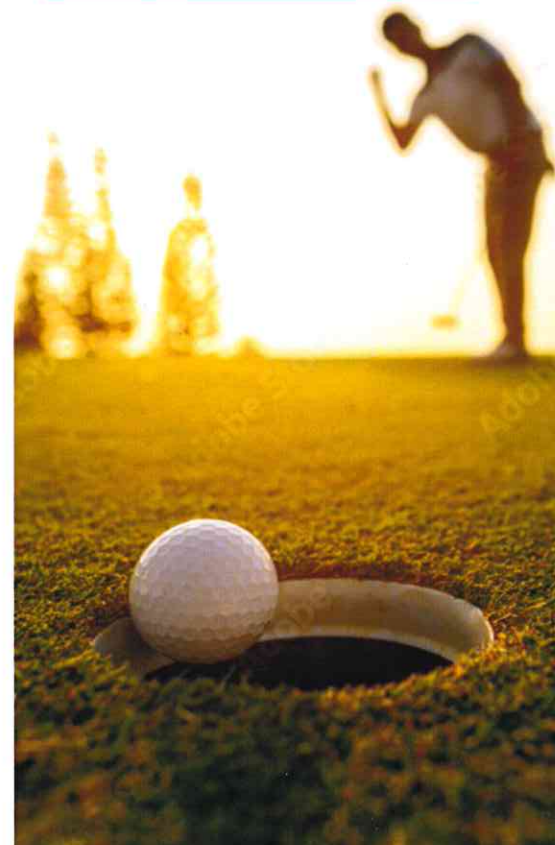
As you read the heartwarming stories filling these pages of all the activities around the agency, I hope you will also feel the same sense of gratitude. May you and your family enjoy a wonderful holiday season!

**Paca Lipovac**



### Golf Outing

Blue skies and warm weather made for the perfect day at this year's Golf Outing, held in memory of Paley Goldman. The plentiful buffet and beautiful evening featured the auctioning of Harry Styles concert tickets, luxurious trips to Bermuda and Italy, and a golf trip to Monterey. We gratefully report that 89 donors generously contributed to a whopping \$112,000 raised! Thank you, everyone!





# Around the Agency

## Quality Matters Program Returns

When all efforts were focused on COVID during the height of the pandemic, RGS temporarily paused the Quality Matters recognition program. We are thrilled to report that the program started again in May. Quality Matters seeks to recognize the numerous employees who have demonstrated Richmond's core values by making significant differences in the lives of individuals and families. Richmond's core values include:

**Person-centered Excellence ♦ Transparency & Trust ♦ Accountability, Ethics & Expertise  
Communication & Collaboration ♦ Quality ♦ Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

To date, 35 employees have been nominated with 12 award recipients. Nominations are reviewed monthly and are continually accepted.



Dilia Rohdenburg receives her award from Badru Murphy.



Daniel Laux and Henzel Cole receive awards from Monique Johnson.



**Do you know of someone you'd like to nominate?**

Use the QR code to access a nomination form or send an email to:

[quality@richmondcommserv.org](mailto:quality@richmondcommserv.org)

In your message, please provide the name and work location of the nominee along with a detailed description of the event(s) that prompted your nomination.

## Careers on the Go

Have you spotted our beautiful, wrapped van outside the building on North Bedford Road in Mount Kisco or our swag-filled table at a local fair? As part of a new recruitment initiative, Richmond has been focusing on engaging in community events to help minimize the staffing shortage. Spearheading this initiative is Samuel Young, former Transportation Coordinator turned Recruitment Liaison. A champion of community outreach, Sam is an ambassador for Richmond at numerous events from the Bronx to Carmel. By meeting with job seekers in-person, Sam answers questions and provides insight into Richmond's services, job opportunities, and culture. At the events, interested candidates leave contact information and details about the kind of job and/or location they desire for follow-up by Human Resources. So far, the initiative has led to several new hires. Looking toward the future, Richmond hopes to retrofit the van to be a mobile interview station.



Richmond's new wrapped van.

**Do You Follow Us on Social Media?**



Sam Young at the Yonkers WWR Event.





# Fall Festivities

## DPN Bake-Off

Day Program Senior Supervisor, Mary Randolph, was looking for a fun, unique way to celebrate fall. Inspiration struck with an idea for a bake-off for Day Program North! Each room reflected on their favorite activities, characters, and seasons to devise a theme and gather materials to make a matching cake. Props, music, decoration, and, of course, lots of sweet, yummy goodness brought each theme to life. Individuals assembled the cakes and DSPs presented them before a panel of judges.

The results? Simply amazing.

Glamorous colors and a flower-draped cake was the theme in Classroom A. Next, judges entered the spooky realm of Classroom E filled with Halloween décor, coffin-shaped confections, and cupcakes with just the perfect pinch of eyeball on top. Classroom D returned judges to the land of the living with a lively carnival theme complete with balloons, festive music, and cupcakes topped with funnel cake. The Disney Pixar movie, *Inside Out*, plus a favorite cooking show inspired Classroom M. Handmade figurines from the movie topped the cake and—the biggest surprise—when the cake was cut, a cascade of M&Ms spilled out from the center! The sights and sounds of Hawaii drew the judges into Classroom B. Bakers in this room produced a Moana-inspired cake with characters from the movie standing at the precipice of an icing waterfall.

After visiting each room, the judges began difficult deliberations, trying to choose winners of the bake-off. They carefully considered the theme, creativity involved, and participation from Individuals. Congratulations, Classrooms A & B on well-deserved wins!



## Thank You, DSPs!

**September 11-17 marked the celebration of DSP week, an annual event filled with fun activities to say thank you to all the hard-working DSPs throughout Richmond.**

During the week, DSPs were treated to catered meals, ice cream, gifts, a car wash, and cookies provided by Colletty's Cookies, a company operated by a young woman with Down's Syndrome. To end the celebration, each DSP was entered into a raffle to win one of four prizes: a 43" Samsung Smart TV, Amazon Echo Show 8, Keurig K-Mini Plus, or Apple AirPods Pro. Congratulations to raffle winners Gouriamma Nair, Chyna Francis-Blake, Doraine Pitter, Tamiaka Lockhart, Izache Hester, Vladan Sinodinovic, Mary Jones, and Claudette Murray!

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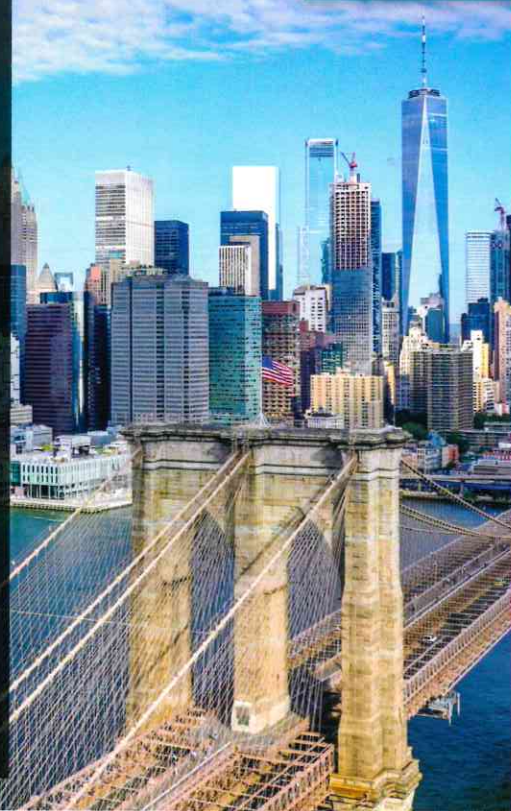
# Out and About

Visit our website at  
[richmondcommserv.org](http://richmondcommserv.org)

## Cruising Manhattan

Residents of 919 recently spent a stunning fall day cruising on the Circle Line Tour!

Crystal-clear blue skies and mild temperatures made for beautiful views and calm water as the Individuals caught glimpses of the Statue of Liberty. "It was an incredible moment to see the look on our Individuals' faces as the boat sailed around Manhattan," said Julia Mullin-Rahming, 919 Residential Assistant Manager.



## Mission Statement

Richmond Community Services, in partnership with all members of the community, supports children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families, to achieve the highest quality of life through individualized services, life enhancing strategies, education, and advocacy, with particular expertise in meeting the needs of those with complex health issues.

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272 North Bedford Road  
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