



A letter from our President and CEO

Celebrating 80 years of Providing Quality Lives for People with Developmental Disabilities

It's been 80 years since Ellen Richmond, a registered nurse, started bringing children with developmental disabilities born at Mt. Vernon hospital to her home. She could not bear to see those children left at the hospital by their parents. In 1938 doctors advised parents whose children were born with disabilities to leave them at the hospital since their life expectancy was short. Ms. Richmond brought many children to her home and soon outgrew the space, so she needed to move to a larger building. On September 19th, 1941, the first child was admitted to what was then known as Richmond Sanatorium on Lincoln Boulevard in Mt. Vernon. In 1973 through the joint efforts of Dr. Henry Kaessler, the Medical Director of the facility and Henry Sturman a philanthropist, the former cardiac hospital building located at 919 North Broadway in Yonkers was purchased as a new home for Ellen Richmond's children. This beautiful four-story building is situated on five acres overlooking the Hudson River and is dedicated to providing the highest standards of care, treatment, therapy and quality life for 83 residents with developmental disabilities and complex medical needs.

Many things have changed since 1938. The most important thing is the way that people with developmental disabilities are viewed. Now they are essential members of the society who deserve

the same treatment and the same quality of life as everybody else. Doctors no longer advise parents to leave their children at the hospital. Most people with DD have the same life expectancy as any person without DD with similar health issues.

Richmond has also changed a lot; we grew from just one location at 919 North Broadway to adding 16 more group homes throughout Westchester. We now support 181 people through our residential services.

Richmond Community Services strives to provide a "home forever" for all people we support in a residential setting. This means that the design of our homes meets and exceeds ADA standards (wide doorways, wheel-chair accessible bathrooms and kitchens, ramps,). We either purchase existing homes in Westchester and then remodel them to meet the needs of our residents, or we buy land and build a modular home. Homes are one level, and each of our newer group homes has single bedrooms. Even if at the time of moving into a house the person does not need all accessibility features, we offer the same design since we want the home to be forever even as they get older or develop medical and physical needs.

RCS also operates two Day Programs that provide services to people with various disabilities, medical issues and people with autism. The newest addition to our programs is the Commu-

***We're Proud to Achieve
Quality Assurances Accreditation***



**CQL | The Council on
Quality and Leadership**

nity Habilitation program that offers personalized community integration and allows the program participants to spend their day in a way that they like and to go to activities they enjoy.

A lot has changed, but one thing remains the same. Richmond Community Services continues its commitment to providing quality lives for people with developmental disabilities. Our goal is to help them lead lives that are rich with meaning and personal growth, and to be contributing members of their communities. We believe that everyone deserves to live a life filled with happiness, dignity, and respect. Our dedicated staff work hard every day in making that happen.

Paca



Laurel Road Home



Rick Lane Home

Care Coordination

A More Comprehensive Approach

The Care Coordination Service is a new, more comprehensive service which, over time, will replace the Medicaid Service Coordination. The services that you know and rely on are not changing. Whether you or your family member live in a residence, attend a day program, receive a community habilitation service, respite service, work support or any related service, it will not be affected in any way by this change. You will not need to change providers, there will be no changes in eligibility, and virtually every aspect of the current Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC) service which you are currently receiving will be incorporated into this new service.

And, we're not going anywhere. Richmond's Service Coordination will remain on site through the transition period which, in the case of LIFEPlan, will be until the CCOs are fully implemented. That is not expected to be until July 2019. Beyond that

Richmond, HVSP, and LIFEPlan will be where you need us to be to ensure that your services are effective, local and responsive.

The staff you know, your MSC, we have been and will be working with to develop as an essential part of our local care coordination team. Joining them will be nurses and other professionals who will enable the delivery of this more comprehensive service. A key to our success and a priority for our group will be to preserve important established relationships whenever possible. And, on behalf of our MSC staff, be assured of our resolve to offer them the best possible incentives to stay with you and with us as we make this change together.

Care Coordination is new and to offer it required a new kind of organization. In response to the challenge posed by the state's transformational agenda and after much research and thoughtful

consideration of our responsibility to the people we serve, Richmond Community Services joined with other provider agencies to become a part of the formation of a group now called the Hudson Valley Service Providers (HVSP). This collaboration of like-minded organizations, all based in the Hudson Valley, was created out of a collective commitment to our service recipients and for the MSC staff who will be at the center of this transformation. HVSP joined with LIFEPlan to become their partner in our region to meet better the needs of those we serve locally as well as to conform to the state and federal requirements.

Most importantly, we hope that you find a welcoming home in HVSP / LIFEPlan for your service needs and a voice for your advocacy as we work together to make this service the very best it can be.

Staff News

New Human Resources Director



Francesca LaRosa joined Richmond Community Services in March of 2018. Francesca has over 10 years of experience working in not-for-profit settings; her background has been in the long-term care field. Francesca is

a graduate of Empire State College with a BS degree in Human Resource Management and is currently pursuing a Masters in Mental Health Counseling. She also holds a Professional in Human Resources (PHR) Certificate from the HR Certification Institute and is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). In her spare time, Francesca enjoys volunteering at local animal shelters.

Teresa Perret Recreation Coordinator

"I am blessed to work with the Richmond community and the residents every day. Even though they have been offered numerous challenges, they give so much in their special way, their smiles and their thanks", so says Teresa Perret, the Recreation Coordinator of Richmond Community Services.

Teresa, a former professional ballet dancer and dance teacher, has been at Richmond for almost five years and is responsible for the daily recreational activities for the residents at 919 North Broadway.

The In-house activities include creative arts and crafts, movement, dance and singing classes, a book club and holiday celebrations. At one of the community residencies, martial arts is offered and we are proud to say Richmond now has its martial arts team.

Also, there are daily community inclusion trips such as bowling, movies, concerts, local festivals and visits to Sportime and Dave & Busters.

Teresa's priority is to make each resident content



and comfortable, no matter how significant their physical limitations may be.

Her team of Recreation Leaders and DSPs are continually

developing creative opportunities to enrich the lives of the residents.

FunFest, Teresa says, is a day that the entire Richmond community, residents, families, friends, and staff come together to have fun. "Tailor-made activities include decorating wheelchairs, races, a balloon and caricature artists, an arts and crafts booth, a martial arts demo and so much more. It's time we celebrate our differing abilities."

Despite the many challenges, Teresa looks forward every day to working with these extraordinary people, enriching their lives within this supportive and inclusive environment.

Meet Bocker

Our adorable Labradoodle “Bocker” is well on his way to becoming a certified Therapy Dog and will be making the rounds to our residents at 919 North Broadway shortly.



Bocker and Desalina

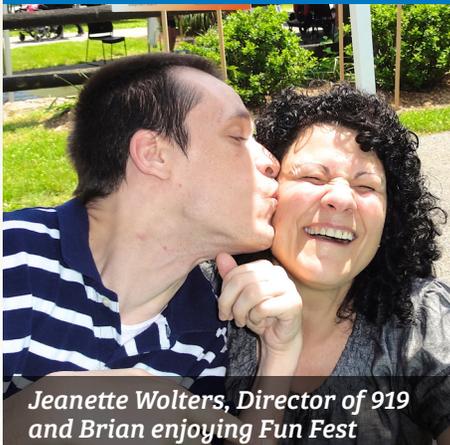
Mission Statement

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.

Invest in Us

Your generous support helps pay for, among other needed things, specially designed lifts and tables, comfortable and inviting residential rooms, tracking systems, adaptive and assistive technology, as well supporting our direct care professionals doing physically and emotionally demanding work every day.

Donate at richmondcommserv.org or our Facebook page.



Jeanette Wolters, Director of 919 and Brian enjoying Fun Fest

Welcome to Our Newest Board Member, Robert R. Lane

Mr. Lane is the Chief Development Officer at Blythedale Children’s Hospital. A graduate of Binghamton University, he has over 26 years of executive level development and marketing and community relations experience. Most recently, he held the position of Vice President for Development and External Relations at Phelps Hospital in Sleepy Hollow. Prior to that he served as President of the Saint Francis Healthcare Foundation in Poughkeepsie where he completed a \$15 million capital campaign, which financed the construction of the Hospitals’ new level II trauma center. Mr. Lane also served as Executive Vice President for External Relations at EcoHealth Alliance, an international conservation organization focused on the field of conservation medicine. He started his career and spent 16 years at the renowned Culinary institute of America. As Vice President for Development, he led the successful completion of a \$40 million capital campaign. We welcome his expertise and leadership.

Board of Trustees

Nick Spano, Chairman

Dr. Eugene Buccini

Renee Cook

Warren Rosenberg

Pamela Dingee

Duane Schielke

Joseph Pugni, Jr.

Alan Reid

Susan Goldman

Ravi Sarma

Pauline M. Galvin, Esq.

Robert Lane

The Honorable Robert A. Spolzino

Akeem Jamal

Events

Visit Our Redesigned Website at
richmondcommserv.org

FunFest 2018 *Raising Funds and Spirits*

Our annual FunFest Event, our 35th, was a day to remember for everyone. Friends, family and staff all contributed to the lively, fun time. This year we honored Mayor Mike Spano of Yonkers and support was provided by our generous

sponsors and families.

It's always gratifying to see our residents and their families and friends enjoying the festivities together.



Annual Golf Outing *Tuesday August 28, 2018*

*Honoring Edward S. Rudofsky
Old Westbury Golf and Country Club
Westbury, NY*

Sponsorship opportunities available.

Your support will improve the quality of life of the people supported in our programs and residences.

Further information will follow.



Wine Event *November 15th*

Location to be announced

Sponsorship opportunities available.

Further information will follow.

Quality Matters Breakfast *December 4th*

Do you work with someone who deserves to be recognized for their performance/efforts? Has someone you know done something to add to the quality of an individual's life, to assist a family, to save money or to improve communication? Why not let this person and everyone they work with know they have made a difference. Nominate them for a "Quality Matters" recognition award!!! It doesn't have to be something huge. Sometimes the seemingly insignificant can change a person's life.

Spring 2018 Newsletter

277 North Bedford Road
Mount Kisco, NY 10549