Richmond Community Services

Quality Lives for People with Developmental Disabilities

Winter 2020 Newsletter

A letter from our President and CEO

Dear friends,

The winter is about to leave, and we are looking forward to the spring and the exciting new programs that we are starting. 2020 will be a busy year for Richmond.

This month we are starting Sunday respite program for children ages 5-18. The program will take place once a month at Day Program North from 10-3. This is exciting to all of us at Richmond since we are starting to work with children again for the first time in 15 years. The plan is to expand the program to every weekend and to include trips and outdoor activities for children.

In addition to the respite program, we are happy to start a Community Habilitation program that will provide people living at home as well as a group setting with an opportunity to go to their favorite places and do things they enjoy. Participants of this program are offered services such as cooking classes, academic courses at Pace University and other local colleges, going to the gym and learning skills that will allow them greater independence. For some participants, this program can prepare them to live an independent life in their apartments.

We are busy renovating the Goldman house making it an excellent space for six young women living there. Once done, this home will be a beautiful space with six single bedrooms, a great living room and an outdoor area that will offer the young women living there a chance to enjoy warm spring and summer days.

In March, we expect to launch a telemedicine system that will have all medical issues triaged by an Emergency Medicine doctor. We expect a significant decrease in the number of unnecessary visits to emergency rooms. Telemedicine equipment will be installed in all Richmond sites and will allow a doctor to see and examine residents using a stethoscope and blood pressure monitor and decide about the needed medical care.

This is just a sample of things that we are doing, expect more in the coming months. We will keep you posted.

Warm regards from

Paca Lipovac

The Self-Advocacy Group

The Self-Advocacy Group at Richmond Community Services started in October 2018. As we are now just about one year removed from its establishment, the Independent Familia (the members of the group selected the name) has soared to incredible heights. Just about one year ago, the Independent Familia was comprised of two members. Today, that group has over 12 members, with its membership trending upward. Independent Familia has attended two statewide advocacy conferences in Albany, NY, where the members learned about advocacy and their rights. The group has gone to Albany and the local offices of NY State legislatures to advocate for increased wages for Direct Support Professionals. Independent Familia went on vacation to this past summer, where they visited the Baseball Hall of Fame, attended a minor league baseball game, and karaoke. The group has attended several professional sporting events, seeing the Mets and Jets on multiple occasions. The group is learning about their rights and empowers each member to advocate for a better life for themselves. The members are working with their peers to empower them as well and educate them on their rights.

Staff News

Mildred Delgado

DSP... LPN ... RN... Nurse Educator... Director of Admissions... Director of Professional Services... Family Liaison

No... these are titles and positions not held by various people... only one person.

Mildred Delgado has been an integral member of the Richmond Community for 45 years, surpassing her 42 year marriage to her husband, Joe.

In 1973, the beautiful building located at 919 North Broadway in Yonkers was purchased to house what was then called Richmond Children's Center. Mildred, then and still now a resident of Yonkers, was hired as a "child care technician" and thus began her long and illustrious career.

Over the years and in her various positions Mildred has seen vast changes in the care for significantly developmentally, intellectually, and medically compromised individuals. Genetic syndromes are recognized sooner, infections are caught earlier, equipment is safer and more effective and early intervention is now a standard of care. Perhaps the most significant change, Mildred says, is the fact that "these individuals no longer are sent to languish in nursing homes but are now given a chance to actively deal with their disabilities and participate in positive and stimulating social settings."

As Richmond's Family Liaison, Mildred has worked with families in dealing with the challenges faced by their loved ones. Many of these families, she says, are grateful for the life Richmond has provided for their family members while others struggle to accept the challenges. Being honest, respectful and a good listener has been key in establishing trust with the families and the staff. She has great respect for the Direct Support Professionals who have the "hardest job in the agency both physically and emotionally" and for those staff member who have grown within the agency to become managers.

Mildred is thankful for the many generous donors and volunteers who have contributed in many ways to elevate Richmond's standards of care. Even though she has raised three children and spends time with five grandchildren, Mildred says that Richmond is, and will remain, a big part of her life. The entire Richmond Community thanks Mildred Delgado for her years of service and dedication.

Staff Appreciation Ball

On Sunday May 5, 2019 a delegation from the Chour-Thai Reformed Church in Yonkers and The Thai Royal General Consulate came to Richmond Community Services to encourage friendship and to present a most generous donation on behalf of the celebration for the coronation of the King Rama 10th of Thailand.

This year's successful Wine Tasting Event raised funds to pay for a renovation of 919 nurses station.

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Events

Visit Our Website at
richmondcommserv.org

Quality Matters

Wednesday,
February 26, 2020
8:00 am

Castle Royale
Yonkers, NY

An event to show support, appreciation and thanks to the hard working men and women of Richmond Community Services.

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.

RICHMOND COMMUNITY SERVICES
272 North Bedford Road
Mount Kisco, NY 10549

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