

Connections

The quarterly newsletter of Community Living, Inc.

A word from our CEO

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As we wind down the year and enter the holiday season, people's thoughts turn to gifts and being thankful. This is the time of year when many of us try to spend time with family and friends. But every year I serve as CEO of Community Living shows me just how different the holiday season can be for care staff. While many people we support have families to visit for the holidays, many do not. For whatever reason, they are no longer connected. In several of our homes, the role of surrogate family falls to the staff.

Every year I am thankful for and amazed by our staff who spend their holidays away from family and friends to ensure individuals living in our homes have happy,

meaningful holidays. Those dedicated staff are a gift to all of us. They are the most critical part of creating a good quality of life for people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.



When looking for ways to show your thanks this holiday season, I ask that you keep Community Living in mind, and remember that your contributions help ensure that the people we serve have support during the holidays and every other day of the year.

Wishing you and yours a beautiful holiday season, from all of us at Community Living.

—Michael Planz

Recent events

Saying Farewell

In November, we said good-bye to two amazing members of our administrative staff.

Jeff Griffin was CLI's CFO for five years. He has moved on to exciting new career opportunities, and we wish him the

best of luck in his future endeavors. His contributions to CLI over the years were so very appreciated.



Sandy Illig served as CLI's residential director for four years. She is now settling into retirement, and we couldn't be happier for her. She was a dedicated member of our team, and her presence around the office and in our CLI homes will be missed.

Special thanks to Jeff and Sandy for their time, energy and commitment to what we do. Good luck to both!

Best wishes!

Recent events

Greetings from CLI's new CFO!

Howdy all!

My name is Tom Evans and I'm the new CFO here at Community Living. I have been in the accounting field over 26 years with a wide array of experiences and business types.

Recently, I was the Finance Director at Service Coordination, Inc. I am a CPA in Maryland and belong to the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants (MACPA).



I am excited about the opportunity to work at Community Living to really get in touch with the people we support. In several past positions, I was too far removed from understanding and getting to know the folks on the front line, as well as the people with whom we work. Knowing the individuals we serve and being around them really helps to make this organization real for me.

I live in Hagerstown and have been married for almost 23 years to my wife, Ashley. We have 3 high school-aged kids who are into sports and very active in youth groups. I strive to have an open door and encourage everyone to stop by, say hello, or try to stump me with a trivia or joke of the day.

Welcome!

Recent events

Alex & Ani

We had so much fun back at [Alex & Ani in Montgomery Mall](#) in September! Our fundraisers there are always so great — the staff is kind and helpful, and the customers are so personable and polite! We can't wait to go back in [December](#)!



Recent events

Unity Campaign for Frederick

We were honored to participate in this year's Unity Campaign for Frederick. We stood alongside 30 other worthy organizations, asking the community to help us make a difference.

So much of what we do centers around the people we serve, but we also feel a responsibility to care for our amazing staff.

The funds raised through the Unity Campaign this year will be used to aid our staff, many of whom fall below the ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) threshold.

Thanks to your generosity, we exceeded our original goal of \$10,000. We are so excited to be able to make a difference in the lives of our staff — people who devote their days to helping the people we support every day.



Text UnityFrederick43 to 71777



Team
Community Living, Inc.



\$10,783.30 Total Raised



\$12,500 Goal ↗

12 Donors

1 Fundraiser

Make a Donation

Thank you!

Recent events

Touching Lives in Frederick County

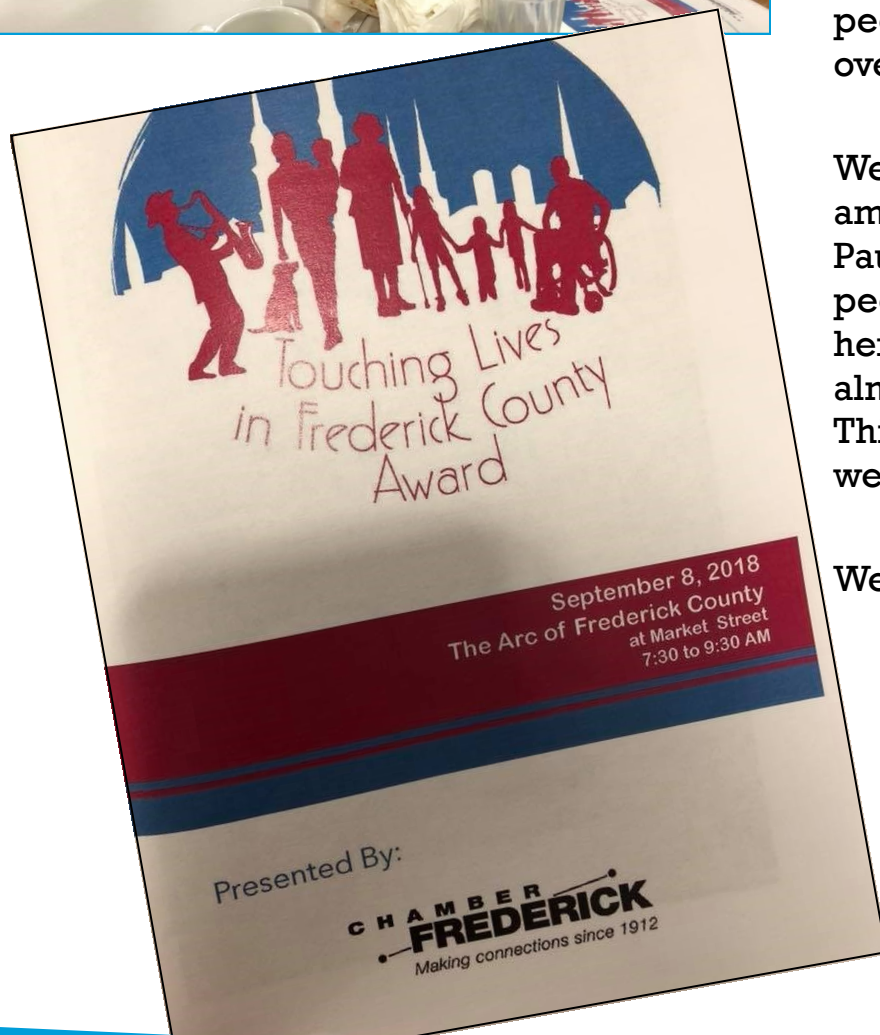


In September, we were able to honor our longest-serving employee, Paula, at the Touching Lives in Frederick County Award breakfast.

Paula is such a huge part of our staff. In fact, she has worked at the same house, with the same three people we serve, for over 20 years.

We are so proud of the amazing commitment Paula has shown to the people she supports, and her job in general, for almost three decades. This award was very well-deserved.

Well done, Paula!



Recent events

Pot Lucks

In October, we had our two bi-annual pot lucks. These events for our staff and people we serve are always so fun!

Everyone brings a favorite dish, and we enjoy time laughing, talking and catching up together.

Can't wait for the next ones!



Recent events

Frederick Goes Gatsby

We had our first-ever gala, Frederick Goes Gatsby, on Friday, November 16th! What a fun night! The 20s-themed event featured a caricature artist, a photo booth, and music played by [The Dapper DJs](#), with accompaniment by singer Sarah Pete Rizzi. [Ceresville Mansion](#) was an absolutely perfect venue — from the décor to the amazing food.

Thank you to everyone who came out to party with us! We're already looking forward to next year's event!



Recent events

Frederick Goes Gatsby

Thank you to our amazing Gatsby sponsors: [Woodsboro Bank](#), [PSA Financial](#), and [Shockley Honda](#). This event wouldn't have been possible without the support of these amazing community partners!



Recent events

Outreach Programs

Planz guest speaker at FCRSPA meeting

Courtesy photo Nov 2, 2018 0



Planz guest speaker at FCRSPA meeting

Buy Now

The Frederick County Retired School Personnel Association (FCRSPA) had their fall luncheon at the Lewistown Fire Hall recently. The guest speaker was Michael Planz, CEO of Community Living. He described how the nonprofit organization provides supports and services to empower adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live their lives to the fullest. Planz also explained ways members could volunteer with Community Living. Membership in the FCRSPA is open to all those who have retired from FCPS. For membership information, email myfcrspa@gmail.com or call the FCRSPA member chairperson at 301-788-1117.

Courtesy photo

Outreach is a huge part of what we do here at CLI. Most recently, our CEO, Michael, got the chance to serve as guest speaker at a Frederick County Retired School Personnel Association (FCRSPA) meeting.

We value every opportunity to share what we do, and impart the importance of inclusion and acceptance.

We truly believe the world is a better place when we work together. If you think your school, church, youth group, workplace, or organization could benefit from a disability training seminar, please contact [Elaina](#).

News from Support Services

One thing that makes CLI so special is our staff's commitment to giving back, not just within the organization, but on their own, as well. During the fall, two staff from CLI's Support Services volunteered during their free time to give back to the community. Job coach Tim Rifenberg volunteered at Disaster Aid USA (pictured), and Supported Employment and Scheduling Manager Donna Fuss continued her participation in Unified Sports with Special Olympics. We are so proud of our staff and their continued efforts to brighten our community through volunteer work.



In other news — we did it! Our Vocational and Support Services departments have officially moved from Wisner Street to a building on Hayward Road. The move was quite a project, and we are so grateful to all who helped, especially our volunteer Jack Folweiller, who assisted with the dismantling of the kayak storage racks.

Special thanks to all the staff who helped make the move as smooth as possible, and the people we support who eagerly sorted and set up things the way that they wanted them to make it their own, and assisted in a very smooth transition.

We're so excited to see what 2019 has in store!

News from our Vocational Program

At CLI, we are always looking for ways to improve the services we offer, especially when it comes to employment. The goal we are trying to achieve is to provide employment within the community — jobs that the people we serve enjoy and learn from, and through which they can contribute.

The DD Council and Maryland Works, Inc. recently awarded CLI a TIP (Transforming and Improving Practices Through Customized Technical Assistance) grant to fund technical assistance from a subject matter expert. This expert came on board to help us coordinate resources so that the people we support will have improved employment outcomes and opportunities for meaningful participation in the community.



Searia (middle), poses for a picture at TJ Maxx, where she works, with job coach Denise, left, and manager Madalein.

In March, CLI retained Mark Wurzbacher as its TIP Project consultant. Since then, we've done quite a bit of work, including forming a project steering team with representatives from major CLI stakeholder groups, which meets monthly to provide guidance and monitor employment prospects and current opportunities.

Since starting these efforts, our community engagement has increased, meaning the people we serve are spending more time making meaningful connections outside of CLI. This is important because inclusion is at the heart of what we do. Inclusion cannot be achieved within the confines of any agency.

Nearly all of the people supported by day services have been getting out into the community more than they did prior to the TIP Project, and there has been an increase in job discovery, development, placement, and follow-up activities.

We're looking forward to keeping the project's momentum going through the holidays and into the new year! Thanks to everyone for your support!!!

News from Retirement Our Way

ROW has been busy the past few months! Between Halloween, Thanksgiving, and birthday celebrations, it seems there's been a party every week! ROW participants are enjoying the holiday season and all the fun it brings.



News from Residential

The people we support in the Residential Department have had such a fun and eventful fall! From the Great Frederick Fair to Redskins games; from shows at The Weinberg Center to the annual Tree Lighting at Westview Promenade — this fall, which has certainly felt more like winter at times, has been a blast. Everyone is excited for the annual Christmas party at Trinity United Methodist Church coming up in December. We can't wait to get our holiday spirit on with presents, great food, and the joy of spending time with one another.



Thank you

We're so thankful for our volunteers. From Boy Scouts rebuilding our bocce courts, to the Yellow Springs Lions Club hosting their annual Halloween party, there is never a shortage of people looking to help us make a difference.

We are so grateful for the contributions of our amazing community. Thank you!



Thank you

Special thanks to [Wegmans](#) for donating 30 5-lb bags of mashed potatoes for our houses this Thanksgiving! We are so grateful for the continued support of our friends at Wegmans. Their endless generosity means so much to us and the people we support!



Thank you!

Upcoming Events

Brunswick Includes Everyone



Inclusion Matters.

Because everybody has something to offer.

Presented by the City of Brunswick in conjunction with
Community Living, Inc.

Learn more: www.communitylivinginc.org.



Join Community Living, the City of Brunswick, and Brunswick Main Street for Brunswick Includes Everyone, an event taking place during Hometown Holidays. Come on out to Main Street in Brunswick from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, December 8th for fun holiday activities! Special events will commemorate the partnership between Brunswick and CLI, while highlighting the importance of including everyone! And, several businesses will be donating a portion of the proceeds from the day's sales to Community Living!



Upcoming Events


Alex & Ani Fundraiser

We're thrilled to be back at Alex & Ani in Montgomery Mall for a **holiday fundraiser!** Come on over between 3 and 6 p.m. Friday, December 14th to get the rest of your holiday shopping done. Alex & Ani will donate 15% of the profits of sales while we're there to CLI! Plus, we'll have tasty treats to snack on while you shop. Check out our Facebook page for more info!

ALEX AND ANI[®]
CHARITY BY DESIGN

LET'S MAKE
A POSITIVE IMPACT
TOGETHER



SHOP TO GIVE BACK
to causes close to your heart

15% of all ALEX AND ANI sales* will be donated to:

Barnes & Noble Fundraiser

Got gifts? We'll be wrapping presents at **Barnes & Noble** on Wednesday, Dec. 19th! Plus, a portion of sales while we're there will be donated to CLI! Come on out between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to say "hi," or use the bookfair ID with your online purchases between Dec. 19-Dec. 24 for CLI to receive a portion of the proceeds! Visit our Facebook page for more info!

SAVE THE DATE

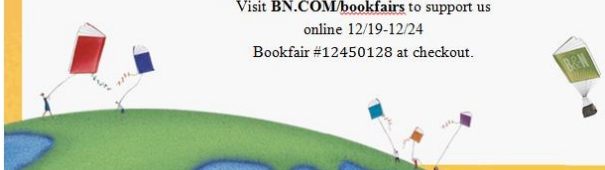
Community Living, Inc. Bookfair!

Barnes & Noble Bookfair

Wednesday, December 19, 2018
Barnes & Noble
Francis Scott Key Mall, Frederick MD

Please join us for the Community Living Bookfair fundraiser! Get your holiday shopping done, as a portion of all proceeds goes to benefit this local group!

Can't attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?
Visit BN.COM/bookfairs to support us online 12/19-12/24
Bookfair #12450128 at checkout.



Barnes & Noble Bookfair

Community Living, Inc. Bookfair!

Wednesday, December 19, 2018
Barnes & Noble
Francis Scott Key Mall
Bookfair ID # 12450128

Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase. A percentage of the net sale will be contributed to your school/organization.*

*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, textbooks, magazine subscriptions, video games, purchases made at Caffé owned and operated by Starbucks, and other items Barnes & Noble may exclude from time to time in its sole discretion are not eligible for bookfair sales. Institutional discounts may not be applied. See BN.COM/bookfairs for more details and to shop online.

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Upcoming Events

CLI Turns 40!

Next year, Community Living, Inc. will be celebrating a special birthday — we're turning 40! Keep an eye out beginning next month for special activities and giveaways — plus ways you can get involved and join in the celebration all year long.



Welcome, new employees:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Favor Nwankwo | 14. ThiTuyet Pham |
| 2. Bibiane Tchoupe | 15. Gwen Karibo |
| 3. Conchita Acosta | 16. Marcelle Ntienou |
| 4. Krista Maddos | 17. Annette Brooks |
| 5. Brady Oehler | 18. Thomas Evans |
| 6. Dennis Waters | 19. Jeanette Oliverio |
| 7. Bailey Coop | 20. Alexis Bah |
| 8. Saratu Tanyi | 21. Margo Hale |
| 9. Jesse Proctor | 22. Michael Rivers |
| 10. Bibian Gooding | 23. Gladys Abankwah |
| 11. Anita Kaboua | 24. Danae Iyamu |
| 12. Mariam Arouna | 25. Sumaya Rodriguez |
| 13. Nando Doumbia | 26. Carla Adjibodou |



We'd love to stay connected!

**Please send us your updated contact information
(phone number, address and email) so we can keep you
up to date on everything going on at CLI!**

**Send your info to
elainal@clifrederick.org.**

And be sure to follow us on social media:

www.facebook.com/CLIFrederick

[@CLIFrederick](https://www.instagram.com/CLIFrederick)