

# AHRC

N A S S A U

A Communication from Human Resources

## EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

May 2023

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## Message from the CEO

Dear Fellow Employees,

Spring has sprung!

I hope that you are getting out and enjoying this great weather. The walking groups at Plainview and Brookville are in full blast. Each day your colleagues walk and talk with each other. What a healthy way to get to know each other while soaking in the sun and fresh air.

The last few months have been filled with much advocacy, with some of you traveling to Albany, writing letters, making phone calls, and engaging in the one-click campaigns to raise awareness that our staff deserves better pay and recognition for the challenging work they perform each day. Thanks to all of you for whatever you did to let your voices be heard on issues of importance to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and your colleagues.

We concluded National Autism Awareness Month at the end of April. Celebrating the successes of people with ASD, their families, and the dedicated staff members who work with them is one way of promoting awareness. Throughout April, our family of organizations highlighted the achievements of individuals with ASD. Achievements can be defined in many ways; a new job, reaching a personal goal, doing something new, moving out of your comfort zone, etc. Success comes in all shapes and sizes, and we are honored to support hundreds of individuals with autism. Special thanks to our dedicated employees who find innovative and creative ways to ensure the success of people supported, including those with ASD.

Cinco de Mayo is a yearly celebration held on May 5th, which commemorates the anniversary of Mexico's victory over the Second French Empire at the Battle of Puebla in 1862, led by General Ignacio Zaragoza. Happy Cinco de Mayo!

Wheatley Farms has been serving Nassau County for over 20 years. We are known for a diverse American & International style menu created with old-world recipes and locally sourced plants, flowers, and vegetables grown at The Wheatley Farms Greenhouse. We are offering an extensive selection of plants and hanging baskets. Contact Nanette ([nmuzante@AHRC.org](mailto:nmuzante@AHRC.org)) at Wheatley Farms to order your Spring plants, holiday wreaths, floral table decorations, and Spring planting. I order table displays each year, and I am never disappointed by the high-quality work performed by Nanette.

Wheatley Farms is pleased to serve you with high-quality catering services. Please use [wheatleyfarmsli.com](http://wheatleyfarmsli.com) to order your desserts and catering services. We all know what an excellent job Chef Percival and his team do. Please do not forget our new line of soaps and candles, which make wonderful gifts, especially for birthdays, graduation, and anniversary gifts. Let us support our own businesses!

Thanks for all you do throughout the year to provide person-centered services to thousands of people on Long Island. We remain leaders in high-quality services because of each of you. I am proud to call you friends and colleagues.

As always, your feedback and comments are welcome.

Best,

Stanfort

# Executive Appreciation

- Barry Donowitz, Chief Administrative Office, Nicky Faranda, Director of Employment Services and Social Enterprises, and Caesar Fuentes, Business Operations Manager, for their hard work in achieving the launch of our first commodities contract.
- Nicky Faranda, Director of Employment Services and Social Enterprises, Percival Aquino, Supervisor of Culinary Services, and the team for their excellent hosting and culinary presentation on all events hosted in the Brookville ballroom for the month of April.
- Dr. Hassan, VP of Talent Acquisition, Development, and Engagement; Denise Lamb, Employee Health Manager; Laura Betancurt, HR Specialist; and Jim Stock, Assistant Director of Talent Acquisition, on the successful hosting of the Employee of the Quarter luncheon at the Brookville Mansion
- Sylvester Naraine, VP of Finance, for consistently working on the Workforce Stabilization Initiative and managing the Finance Department.
- Brian Wahl, Accounting Supervisor, for the successful management of the HUD audits.
- Sally Burgess, VP, and Shaun Weathers, VP, for their creditable management of the oversight of salaries in the Residential programs.



*A Huge Congratulations to the Outstanding  
Employees chosen by their peers as*

**“EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER”**  
*First Quarter of 2023*  
**Congratulations!**



Bria Parker, Facilities and Maintenance Office Administrator, AHRC Admin

Vincent Cirillo, Maintenance Specialist, AHRC Admin

Louise Polito, Patient Rep Coordinator, Advantage Care

Suzann Doyle, Teacher Asst III, BCCS – BCW Woodbury

Heather Ferguson, Special Education Teacher II BCCS- Cissy Birnbaum

Craig McNeil DSP, Citizens Residential

Davie Prashad, Assistant House Manager, CLS

Candace Skeete, Assistant House Manager, BCCS - CRP

Robin Erhart, Program Coordinator, Day Hab

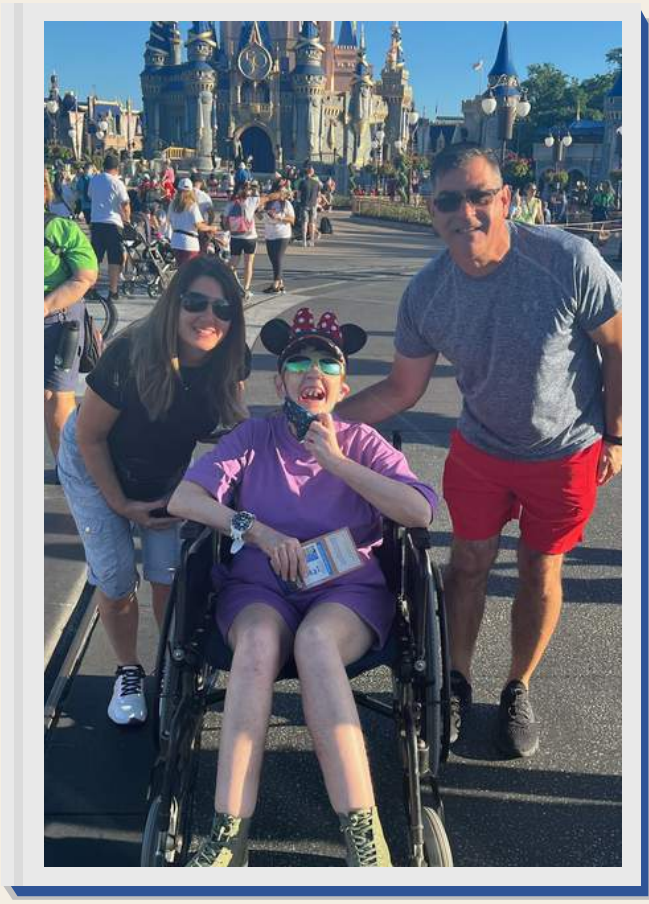
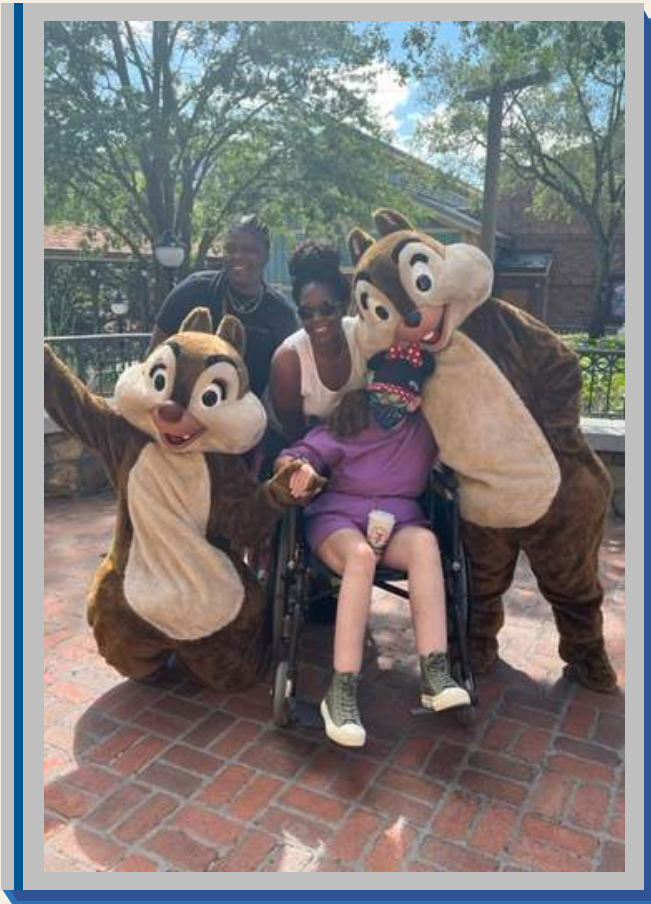
Kim Nistal, Assistant Farm Manager, Social Enterprises

Roselene Sylvestre, DSP, Helen Kaplan

Kristie Walter, LPN, Shoreham

Shayna Staton, House Manager, Shoreham

*Please join us in congratulating these employees on their  
exceptional and outstanding work every day!*



In December 2022, Donna from AHRC's West Seaman IRA suffered the unimaginable loss of her mother. Donna's life was instantly changed, and incredibly, that change also included reconnecting with her brother, who lived in Florida.

Through her grief and heartache, she began to develop a bond with her brother, who she hadn't seen for years. This was a slow process, made possible by Donna's House Manager Princess Thomas. Princess ensured Donna could receive daily Facetime calls with her brother. Princess made sure Donna had positive interactions with her brother, and that she could spend quality time with her brother. He would fly up at least once a month to visit with Donna.

Dennis, Donna's brother, expressed that his heartache was comforted by knowing how well Donna was taken care of. Dennis learned why his late mother loved Princess so much. She, indeed, was part of Donna's family. Dennis spoke about wanting to bring Donna to Florida for her birthday. Although that would take a lot of coordination and planning, as Donna had not been on a plane since childhood and did not do well in crowds or unfamiliar places, Princess immediately began brainstorming. Princess reached out to Donna's team to find a way to make this happen, and she did.

In March, Donna boarded a plane bound for Florida with AHRC support staff Princess and Sarah. The crew and passengers sang happy birthday when she boarded, gave her hugs and well wishes, and helped her ease any fears she had about flying. This could not have been possible or successful without Princess by her side. When she arrived, her brother and sister-in-law surprised her with a trip to the most wonderful place on earth... Disneyworld. She enjoyed so many wonderful activities and interactions that did not seem possible considering her struggles and enormous life-altering loss.

Princess and Sarah made sure that Donna enjoyed all the amazing activities that her brother had planned for her. They witnessed Donna express emotions of pure joy and happiness. Donna enjoyed time with her family, the blood-related ones and the AHRC-adopted ones. She celebrated her birthday in the most amazing way anyone could have imagined, and it was all because of a Princess, not the Disney kind, the AHRC kind.

## "Hooked on Books"



"Hooked on Books" is a reading group that the Glen Head Hub site started a few months ago with the Glen Cove Public Library and the Carle Place Hub site.

The group reads and then does an art project that relates to what they are reading.

## Tobie Lane's Trip to Chocolate Works



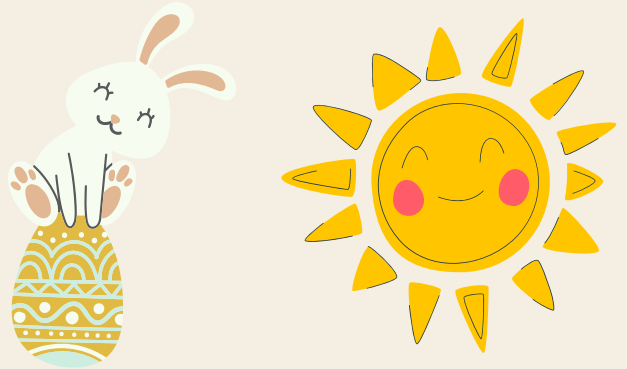
They got to make and decorate their own supersized chocolate bars! !

## Sea Cliff Day Program:

The Easter Bunny made an appearance on the fire truck, much to the delight of the volunteers, and gave them modest gifts.

Every week, the hub site still conducts art projects in the gym. Every week at bingo, the volunteers really love winning prizes. Everyone is overjoyed to go outside and enjoy walks about our hub site.

Additionally, the volunteers have delighted in creating seasonal decorations and putting them up all around the structure.



## Levittown Day Program:



**Sophia Blackett, Debbie Perez Escalante, and Paula Reinertsen**, DSPs from the Levittown Day Program all completed the **NADSP** Program. They all worked very hard in completing the course! Congratulations to all of them!!!!

## Seaford Day Program participated in the Autism flag ceremony



**Art Club making bracelets and necklaces at Brookville this month.**





The art gallery had a great month preparing for its "A Day at the Beach" exhibit. We even had a day at Jones Beach! We attended an art exhibit at Hofstra University and took an art class at their education center. The group is having a ball, greeting visitors, and showing off their artwork.



## Glen Cove Hiring Event April 15, 2023



Raymond Dillon assisting candidates with their applications.

## Glen Cove Hiring Event April 15, 2023



House Managers meeting with Dr. Hassan, Gregory Pandaliano and Andrew Mott sharing ideas on recruiting and filling the vacancies in the CLS residences.



## The Story Behind Our Shop

The **One Stop Gift Shop** values giving as a way to spread kindness worldwide. That starts with how we're run. The One Stop Gift Shop offers people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities supported by AHRC Day Services an opportunity to participate fully in the running of the gift shop. People supported are creating and crafting handmade items, answering the phone, taking online orders, packaging and delivering merchandise, and keeping inventory tracking.

<https://one-stop-gift-shop.square.site/s/shop>

**Use Code "ahrcn" at checkout to save an additional 15%**



# Internal Mobility Job Announcement



## Assistant Site Manager - Dayhab

**Job Req #**2023-5471 / 2023-5436 / 2023-5610

**Schedule:** Monday-Friday, 7:30am-3:30pm

**Program:** Day Hab

**Location:** Freeport PWW 6 / Sea Cliff Seniors / Syosset Hubsite (respectfully)

**Salary Range:** \$17-18

### Job Profile:

AHRC Nassau provides OPWDD-approved Day Habilitation Services for adults with IDD in over 30 locations across Nassau County, Long Island. We offer both traditional, site-based day habilitation services in a community-based setting, as well as Program Without Walls (PWW) options. PWW provides an additional opportunity for men and women to learn new skills, build relationships and develop self-esteem through volunteerism outside of the traditional setting. All day habilitation services are designed to support each person in discovering their personal interests, while improving their communication and socialization skills. The services are designed to include a special focus on opportunities for building successful and meaningful interactions with other members of our community.

- Works with Site Manager to ensure meaningful community related opportunities for the volunteers as well as ensure all required documentation is appropriately completed and maintained.
- Transports volunteers to and from program site as well as to volunteer job opportunity locations or other community outreach-based activities.

### Requirements:

- High School Diploma or equivalent required
- Good oral and written communication skills.
- Valid NYS Driver's license and needs to be and remain a Qualified driver. AMAP/First Aid/CPR/SCIP-R Training preferred.
- Minimum 6 months experience supporting people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities but 1 year is preferred.

To be considered for a transfer, orientation must have been completed and you must be in good performance standing.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer, Proud of Workforce Diversity

Submit your application by going to:

[ahrc.org/careers](https://ahrc.org/careers)

Click the link for CURRENT EMPLOYEES



# Internal Mobility Job Announcement



## House Manager

**Job Req #** 2023-5568

**Schedule:** Sunday 7am-3pm, Monday-Thursday Flex/Live In

**Program:** CLS

**Location:** Neubrech Ct, Jericho

**Salary Range:** \$58,500

### Job Profile:

AHRC Nassau operates the largest residential program on Long Island. With over 100 supervised and supportive settings, each home reflects the interests of its residents. Direct Support Professionals work with each person supported toward reaching their goals and desired outcomes. Registered Nurses and licensed dietitians provide ongoing care planning and support to ensure that each person maintains their best possible health. Behavioral health services and positive behavioral supports are provided by Masters level Behavior Intervention Specialists (BIS).

### Requirements:

- High School diploma or equivalent required
- Minimum of 2 years' experience supporting people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities
- Supervisory experience required
- Valid NYS Driver's License
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Good organizational and administrative skills
- AMAP certified
- Prior domestic household experience required.

To be considered for a transfer, orientation must have been completed and you must be in good performance standing.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer, Proud of Workforce Diversity

Submit your application by going to:

[ahrc.org/careers](http://ahrc.org/careers)

Click the link for CURRENT EMPLOYEES



**AHRC**  
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On behalf of the Employee Health & Wellness Team, we want to thank everyone who has participated in the IncentFit challenges thus far.

For those who haven't had a chance to participate, there will be plenty more wellness contests to join.

Please check your IncentFit account regularly for your progress and challenge updates.

**Great job to the AHRC team members below for completing the IncentFit "250,000 Steps Challenge"**

Barry Donowitz	Judith Bresler
Brandon Lyons	Kerry Ann Beckford
Carolyn Clarke	Kimberly Bonne
Christina Yaloz	Kristen Angiuli
Christopher O'Connor	Lamya Clarke
Danielle Clukies	Loie Dixon
Deanna Allen	Louisa Prince
Deanna Ramsey	Melissa Carroll
Deborah Francis-Ojo	Regina White
Gina Capobianco	Robert Busa
Inna Mozil	Sandrina Francis
Janet Stack	Wisner Dorce
Joseph Reinhart	Zdravka Dobra

*Protect your loved ones with*

# Employee's Whole Life Insurance

*We know why you work so hard!*

When you purchase Employee's Whole Life Insurance, you'll receive these valuable benefits:

When you leave AHRC, it goes with you. You OWN it!

## Life-long Coverage.

Since you own the policy, it remains with you regardless of where you work or even if you retire. Policy remains in force as long as premium is paid when due.

## Guaranteed cash value.

Your permanent policy builds cash value, which you can access, to help pay for unexpected emergencies or any other reason .

## Convenient payments.

Your premiums will be deducted from your paycheck.

## No physical exam.

Only answer a few medical questions.

## Expandable family coverage.

Your spouse/domestic partner, children, and even grandchildren (ages 15 days to 25 years) may be eligible for coverage.

## Chronic Care Rider.

Optional rider for purchase that helps cover the costs associated with chronic care events .

Rates are guaranteed to never increase

For more information, please access the link below provided by New York Life and you will then be contacted by Lauri or Ellyn

Click  
Here



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**Or contact them directly:**

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**(516)507-4663**

**lloquercio@ft.newyorklife.com**

**Ellyn Campuzano**

**(516) 978-4025**

**ecampuzano@ft.newyorklife.com**

# Employee Assistance Program



**LIFE HAPPENS.**  
**WE UNDERSTAND.**  
**YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**

Even when we have our day planned out, life can sometimes take us by surprise. No matter what, it's always good to know you have support to help you move forward.

**YOUR EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

24/7/365 access to EAP counseling services and online resources for you and your immediate family members.

- ✓ Mental health and wellbeing
- ✓ Child care, elder care, and family support
- ✓ Work and career growth
- ✓ Grief and addiction
- ✓ Legal and financial needs
- ✓ Pre-qualified referrals to providers, specialists, and resources



U: AHRC  
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Just call or log on to get started