

FOCUS

A YEAR IN REVIEW



2016 ANNUAL REPORT



A Message from A. James Forbes, Jr.

Executive Director

It's only natural that at the end of every year, we pause to reflect on the things which impacted us during the past twelve months. "Team New Hope" should all take great pride in what we have accomplished and will carry forward into our future.

Together, the hard work and dedication that everyone at New Hope Community put forth to support people in leading truly self-directed lives does not go unnoticed. Today's human services environment can be challenging through required changes, but it also serves-up opportunities. New Hope Community has risen to these challenges and is taking steps in approaching the future with high energy towards an even greater operational excellence.

This is an exciting time for New Hope Community. We continue to promote and develop strong partnerships in the public/private sector to enhance and optimize the best possible levels of support. One particular initiative that exemplifies this ideal is our relationship with SUNY Sullivan on the collaboration of Hope Farm. Through much planning and hard work cultivating the ground, Hope Farm is harvesting fresh, organic vegetables for our on-campus homes and the culinary program at the college.

This edition of FOCUS Magazine highlights the accomplishments and spotlights the many activities that our dedicated team worked hard to achieve. As we look to the future, it is with a sense of commitment that we continue to strive to offer the best services for the people we support and to our community.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



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A Message from Annabel Lindenbaum

Board Chair

As we begin the New Year, we reflect upon many things. The election is over and the new administration is in office. Our country is polarized like it has never been before and, hopefully, we will begin to unite with our neighbors. It has been said that what has moved us from our beginnings to today, won't necessarily get us to the next stage of our development. Change is inevitable. As we face change in this country, we are also embracing change at New Hope Community.

We are in a climate of change in funding and in the laws that govern us. The New York State Revitalization Laws have already exacted the emphasis of the direction that ours, and other human service agencies, will go. We will be affected. The onset of managed care will influence us. In this transition of changes in regulations, we must first look to ourselves. We have always considered New Hope Community to be a premier agency – the finest – the best. So we must continue to maintain that position and ensure that each and every one of the people we support receive the outstanding care we believe they are entitled to.

To be able to be part of a growing organization with unlimited potential is quite an opportunity. Today's human services environment is changing in many ways, continually presenting challenges, but opportunities as well. New Hope Community has risen to the occasion and is moving towards the future with renewed knowledge, focus and enthusiasm, while remaining

focused on our mission and a person-centered approach. Our Executive Director, Jim Forbes, has guided New Hope, along with our incredible staff, to maximize and continue our dedication to New Hope's mission. Our chief role, as the Board of Directors of New Hope Community, is our guidance in overseeing policies and to strategically plan our direction for the future.

At our recent Board Retreat, preliminary strategic planning discussions were begun. What will we look like in five years? – in ten years? – in twenty years? We may not have all of the answers, but we are embarking on the journey with a strong will to take on the challenges. We will continue to explore funding streams that will enable us to maximize the quality of life for the people we support.

As dreams morph with reality, your participation will be needed. Perhaps this will be the time when the entire New Hope family will need to step up and take a front seat in helping us continue to excel.

Looking forward to 2017, we welcome our two outstanding new Board Members, Juliette McKerrell, Vice President/Commercial Loan Officer for Wayne Bank and Michael O'Hara, Chief Financial Officer for the Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB) and Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

We wish a fond farewell, and give our gratitude to Dr. Abby Wasserman, who has served our Board for many years and to Leni Binder, a Sullivan County resident, who served as a Board Member in many capacities.

A special resolution was recently passed honoring the memory of Mort Bleetstein, an early founding member of New Hope Community, who helped lay the groundwork for the lasting footprint of what is New Hope. Mort was a passionate and fierce advocate for New Hope Community, serving as chair of numerous committees and as overall Chairman of the Board. Both Mort and his wife Pat served New Hope Community for many years. I am proud of our employees and I

thank and congratulate them on an outstanding year. I'm excited by the dedication, compassion and enthusiasm of our staff and look forward to many successes and achievements in the coming year.

Best wishes to all for a Happy and Healthy New Year,

A Special Thanks to Ken Kloper

A special recognition goes to Ken Kloper, a founding member of New Hope Community, who has recently retired from the New Hope Community Board of Directors.

Ken Kloper was also the first chair of Friends of New Hope and it was through his strength, determination and love, that his passion is reflected in what we know today as New Hope Community. We are in awe of the lifetime service he has given to the creation and ongoing development of New Hope Community. Ken has served in every capacity within New Hope from committee member to Chairman of the Board. Ken has given countless hours with passion and advocacy to those we serve and has involved others in honoring the mission of New Hope Community for the past 40 years.

We are honored to bestow upon Ken the title of Board Emeritus, the first Board Emeritus in the history of New Hope.

Our sincere thanks to Ken and his lovely wife Sheila for their guidance through the years. The legacy that Ken Kloper left us is reflected in all the individuals we support and, to this, we owe a lifetime of gratitude.





A Message from Karen Russell

Assistant Executive Director

How do you define Community? I know my definition, but I will come back to that. When I did some research, I found the following: community is 1) a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common; 2) a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests,

and goals; 3) joint ownership or liability; 4) a group of interdependent organisms of different species growing or living together in a specified habitat. In some ways, all of these definitions hold true. Community is whatever a person wants it to be; whatever they determine it to be. For some, it is being a member of the local Temple or an employee at the local supermarket. For others, it simply means having a friend next door. At New Hope Community, we embrace these ideas and also embrace the discovery process of each person's hopes and dreams – this is what is at the heart of our mission. "We challenge ourselves to enhance the lives of those with intellectual and other disabilities..." We employ people who share this belief and live it every day.

Our staff help people supported by New Hope build community. As a thriving resource in Sullivan County, we want to share with those around us and be good neighbors. Therefore, our doors are open and we are building

partnerships. We have collaborated with Sullivan County Community College on a planned organic farm project – Hope Farm. We support the Fallsburg Community Coalition's free community soup and sandwich lunch program by providing local locations with soup prepared in our Community Bistro. We assist the local food banks and the Sullivan County ASPCA through donations. We make new friends at our annual Art Show at Catskill Art Society and our new Dart Team has developed a following of fans.

Now, back to my definition. To me, community means an opportunity for relationships. Community is about people, not about a place. It's about the collaboration and sharing of ideas culminating in coming together to learn and inspire one another. At New Hope COMMUNITY, we exemplify the goodness of sharing, the engagement of collaboration and the compassion of caring. We are a community within a community, and the building of these communities rests in all of our hands.

Meet Our New Board Members!

We are excited and honored to welcome two new members to our Board of Directors. Juliette McKerrell and Michael O'Hara are passionate and ambitious advocates and bring valuable experiences and perspectives to enhance the mission of New Hope Community.

Juliette McKerrell

Juliette McKerrell is currently Vice President/Commercial Loan Officer for Wayne Bank. Throughout her 16 year professional career, her highest priorities are to act with integrity, to lead by example and to build strong relationships based upon a foundation of trust and respect. Juliette is a lifelong resident of Sullivan County and also serves as a Board Member of the Sullivan County Chamber Foundation Board and volunteers with the



American Youth Soccer Organization as a referee and coach. Juliette has over 10 years of banking experience and is currently attending the ABA Stonier Graduate School of Banking.

Michael O'Hara

Michael O'Hara is currently the Chief Financial Officer for the Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB), and a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Prior to joining CMMB in 2012, he held a number of senior positions at the



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) over a 32 year career in the areas of Finance, Planning, Management and Programs, at both the corporate and country office levels. Michael looks forward to providing strategic and fiduciary expertise to New Hope Community. By gaining first-hand awareness of and appreciation for the people that New Hope Community supports, Michael expects to become a strong and informed advocate on their behalf.

New Hope Community Special Olympics Bring Home the Gold!

The New Hope Community basketball team of extraordinary athletes took home the gold medal for their division at the Special Olympics competition held on June 11, 2016 in Brockport, New York.

Focusing on defense and running, the team of 10 trained twice per week since January. Having placed in several regional Special Olympic Games qualified the team to compete in the finals. "I am proud of the team's work ethic and proud of the coaches

for dedicating their time in preparation for the games", said New Hope Community Athletics Coordinator, Taylor Van Keuren. "The players are so dedicated. They want to win, but never lose their sense of teamwork and sportsmanship. I am proud to be their head coach", said New Hope Community's 2016 Head Coach, Mike Ballard.

This win marks the third gold medal in a row won by New Hope Community's basketball team. The team won a



Division 9 gold medal in 2014 and a Division 8 gold medal in 2015.

According to the Special Olympics, basketball is one of the top sports at the Special Olympics. Players participate in the sport at all abilities and it's also one of the favorite sports at the event.



CQL Journey
Amy LeRoy

Director of Staff Training
& Development

New Hope Community began our journey with the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) in August of 2014. CQL's philosophy on improving the personal quality of life for people with disabilities was an ideal that we, too, were passionate about. We acknowledged that we needed additional tools and direction to push beyond the constriction that service delivery often creates.

Our training began with an introduction to the Personal Outcome Measures (POM). A group of twelve staff members were joined by Martha Thompson from CQL and we spent four days being encouraged to think in new ways, interviewing the people we support utilizing the Personal Outcome Measures tool and fiercely "debating" that we were supporting people in order to achieve all of the POM's 21 outcomes. The stark reality was that, in many instances, people did not have outcomes that were present. This of course was not meant to indicate that New Hope Community was providing inadequate support, but it caused us to recognize that there are many more opportunities for us to develop creative approaches to assist people to live their lives as they desire. Martha returned on two more occasions to certify myself as a POM trainer and interviewer. As a result, we continue to provide this eye-opening experience to the staff at NHC.

Additionally, we are using the responses we received from the interviews to best adjust and implement services in order to ensure they are afforded opportunities that meet their definition of quality. In March 2015 New Hope Community submitted our Request for Engagement with CQL to begin the process of earning our Person-Centered Excellence Accreditation. There was a tremendous amount of work to do assessing the organization prior to their site visit. The

organization came together and developed a very honest evaluation of the services and supports that we provide. During August 31 to September 4 two CQL representatives were at New Hope Community meeting with the departments within the organization, conducting two POM interviews and leading focus groups with self-advocates and Direct Support Professionals. They also held a Stakeholder's meeting that included family members, people we support, staff and community members.

We developed plans titled "What Really Matters" that they would follow over the next 18 months and then again in 4 years. All of our efforts paid off and New Hope Community's accreditation was announced by the CQL representatives prior to the representatives leaving on September 4. We have set the bar very high for ourselves as we move forward to continue to engage in constant self-reflection, manage change and get comfortable with taking well-thought out risks. Our three ongoing accreditation plans focus on three areas.

1. Development of a Person-Centered Plan
 - a. Helping people achieve and attain personal goals.
2. Supports and Services
 - a. Helping people get connected to meaningful daily activities as defined by them.
 - b. Develop a family/individual orientation.
3. Workforce
 - a. Recruitment and retention.
 - b. Win-win workforce.

As an agency, we applaud our many accomplishments, but we are also aware that those we support are holding us accountable to live out our Mission Statement and to "challenge ourselves" in ways that, perhaps, we never imagined. It actually reminds me of a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail". We are up to that challenge and look forward to being an agency who overcame barriers that now afford people opportunities never thought to be possible.



All Things Grow with Love

Hope Farm is a planned organic farm project initiated in collaboration with SUNY Sullivan's Sustainability Team and Culinary Program. This health-focused, community-centered project led by Jon Jon Thomas, New Hope Agricultural Leader, is being cultivated on a three acre plot that was provided by SUNY Sullivan.

Our three year goal is to develop the three acres of land in three phases to support intensive vegetable gardens, perennial small fruits and an orchard that will offer a variety of staggered crops during the growing season with the intent to create a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).

Hope Farm is an expansion of our Greenhouse Program offering hands-on educational, therapeutic and recreational benefits that encourage people with developmental disabilities to learn about agriculture and horticulture providing a new nutritional approach to healthy eating. Using permaculture principles, diversified planting, irrigation swales and composting, the CSA will teach New Hope individuals about the importance of eating food they have grown themselves.

Our aim is to increase experiences and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to become self-reliant and to develop their capabilities, allowing them to become active members of the community through agricultural jobs and community volunteer work.

This year, the people that New Hope Community supports discovered the rewards of planting, growing and harvesting their first natural crop while developing sustainable growing abilities this season.

Through harvests and chicken coop cleaning, during afternoons of building and mulching garden beds and planting seeds - our community has greatly benefited and is most appreciative of our fresh produce.

Hope Farm's first growing season provided weekly seasonal nutritious bounty to twelve New Hope homes. We intend to produce natural fruit and vegetables for all forty homes in 2017. SUNY Sullivan's Culinary Program also reaped rewards from the collaborative farm effort. Students were provided with applied learning opportunities on producing food through natural farming techniques, as well as harvesting and utilizing the fresh produce for community events. The Hope Farm project is not only providing education and direct access to high quality, locally grown fresh produce, but is also a social investment that supports job creation for people with developmental disabilities.

Together, we are transforming lives through experiences and opportunities that promote a health focused community and environment. You are helping make a difference by powering education, fostering health and wellness, environmental sustainability, offering work/ career opportunities, doing good in your community, and so much more!







Congratulations Robert Dinerstein

New Hope Community Board Member, Robert Dinerstein was recently elected as a Fellow of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD). Fellows are individuals who have had at least seven years of continuous, active membership in the Association at the time of their nomination and shall have participated in the professional and business affairs of the Association and have made a meritorious contribution to the field of intellectual disability.

Contributions consist of program development or administration and the improvement of services for people with intellectual disability, contributions that benefit people with intellectual disability through skillful and diligent

advocacy and contributions to the field of intellectual disability through academic achievements, research, publications and presentation of professional papers.

Robert Dinerstein states, "AAIDD is the pre-eminent organization for those professionals who work with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It defines its mission as 'to promote progressive policies, sound research, effective practices, and universal human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.' As one of only a few lawyers to achieve Fellow status in the organization, I am honored to be recognized for my work on behalf of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities."

There are currently 225 AAIDD Fellows.

The Lindenbaums at the White House



Manny Lindenbaum, husband of New Hope Community Board Chair, Annabel Lindenbaum, is a child Holocaust Survivor. In 1939 when he, along with his brother, were 7 and 9 years old, they were on the last boat out of Poland on the Kindertransport. England had agreed to welcome 10,000 Jewish children when no other country would take them. Sadly, Manny's sister Ruth age 14 and his parents did not survive. Last year, the Lindenbaum family returned to Manny's home town in Germany with 3 of their children, their spouses and 7 of their grandchildren. They retraced Manny's roots, bicycling the last two hundred miles of the tour. Manny has always identified himself with the more than 65 million refugees and has dedicated his return to Germany to helping those less fortunate through the organization HIAS (HIAS stands for a world in which refugees find welcome, safety, and freedom.)

When President Obama heard about Manny's trip and how an 83 year old man cycled over two hundred miles, the Lindenbaum family was invited to the White House to light the Menorah at the White House Hanukkah party.

Manny proudly carried a picture of his sister, Ruth, to the event and a wonderful family picture was captured.

Staff Recognition & Awards

Last year several of our staff were acknowledged for their dedication, passion, longevity and selfless acts of kindness. Challenging ourselves to go above and beyond seems like a small part of our mission, but it is one of the most important components of what is needed to be successful at our jobs, regardless of the position one holds.

Jesse Towey

Young Professionals

Each year the Sullivan County Democrat highlights a handful of up and comers under the age of 40, who are making an impact in and around Sullivan County. Jesse Towey, New Hope Community's Music Coordinator for the past 3 and-a-half years was 1 of 14 to be selected. The enthusiasm Jesse demonstrates within the Music Department led to his nomination and selection for this recognition. He spends his days planning and facilitating musical activities, monthly leisure activities and events for the people we support, as well as our staff. Jesse also takes pride in New Hope Community's original band, Bright Woods. He played an instrumental role in bringing this band together and encouraging their performances, such as playing during our 40th Anniversary Gala. "Above all, I enjoy the satisfaction of witnessing how music can inspire such joy and excitement in the individuals we support... I'm in awe of the transformative and therapeutic aspects of music," said Jesse.

Patricia Lamb

Professional Women & Women in Business Recognition

Patricia (Pat) Lamb was honored in the November 2016 Professional Women & Women in Business edition of the Sullivan County Democrat. Pat was 1 of 14 women selected within the counties of Sullivan, Orange and Ulster. Pat was selected based upon her 30 years of service with New Hope Community and dedication to our mission of enhancing the lives of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Not many people can say

they have held as many positions as Pat over the past 30 years. Pat began her career as a LPN. She then assumed the roles of Case Manager, Program Manager, also holding several Director positions and, once again, an LPN. Pat plans on retiring as an LPN. Pat stated that her favorite part of the job is, "the folks and the unpaid rewards from daily interactions with the people we support." Congrats and thank you Pat for your many years of service!

Mike Noren

2016 Maxine Belson Award

Each year New Hope Community recognizes a Direct Support Professional who best demonstrates the qualities that were exhibited by Maxine Belson. She was a passionate advocate for quality of life for the people we support. This past year, at our annual Staff Recognition Brunch, New Hope Community was honored to present Michael Noren, an employee of 6 years, with the Maxine Belson Award. While Michael accompanied a person he supports on a visit to a friend receiving treatment, he noticed that, even though the visit went well, the gentleman's spirits were low. Michael knew the gentleman they were visiting was a huge fan of the WWE and went out of his way to write a letter to the WWE explaining the situation. He asked if there was anything they could do to help lift his spirits during his recovery. Within days the WWE selflessly responded by sending a box of merchandise to the gentleman. Michael always demonstrates compassion and attentiveness by



Jesse Towey



Patricia Lamb



Mike Noren



Melissa Martinez

going above and beyond to provide the best quality of life for the people he supports as well as others. Congratulations Michael! We are proud you are a part of our team!

Melissa Martinez

2016 Deirdre McCoy Award

New Hope Community was proud to present an unexpected employee with the Deirdre McCoy Award. This award is presented to a staff member who has been employed for a minimum of 10 years and shows a unique commitment and dedication to our mission. New Hope presented the Deirdre McCoy Award to Melissa Martinez, an employee of 14 years. Melissa has grown over the years moving from an Assistant House Manager, House Manager, to a Residential Coordinator. In addition to her full-time role at New Hope Community, Melissa is working toward her second Associate's degree in Human Services and Psychology. Melissa has gone above and beyond to provide and create different opportunities for the people we support. She has taken the initiative to start up new activities such as Lights of Love, a memorial done once a year for the people we support to remember their loved ones. Melissa is known for putting her heart and soul into all she does.

Thank you Melissa for being a cornerstone in our foundation!



13TH Annual Sibling Network Picnic

It was a damp and drizzly day, but that didn't stop over 60 siblings of the people New Hope Community supports from enjoying the festivities at the 13th Annual Sibling Network Picnic.

Held every year, the New Hope Community Sibling Network Picnic is for siblings to gather in a family atmosphere and strengthen their bond while enjoying great food and activities. Siblings get a chance to socialize and network while sharing relationships and life experiences.

The day was filled with bingo, chess, coloring books, bubbles and making paper airplanes while enjoying a BBQ of chicken, hot dogs and hamburgers provided by New Hope Community's Community Bistro and salads, veggies, fruit and desserts prepared by the Siblings.



Up On Weekends

"Respite" as defined by Merriam Webster is a short period of time when you are able to stop doing something that is difficult. For the 6th consecutive summer, New Hope Community has opened its grounds on Saturday afternoons to 20 children ages 4 to 19 who reside in Sullivan County to partake in the "Up On Weekends" Summer Respite Program.

Thanks to a grant program through OPWDD (Office for People With Developmental Disabilities), we are able to offer this to the children and their families free of charge. As those in the role of providing direct care know, supporting a person with special needs presents constant challenges. When those challenges are compounded with the everyday stress of a household, a respite can be a necessity. The Up On Weekends program allows the families a 4 hour mini summer vacation of their own for 10 Saturdays, from the end of June to the end of August. The program, staffed with skilled, trained New Hope Community employees, gives parents peace of mind that their child will be provided for and supported with a high level of quality care.

The children who participate are given the opportunity to develop friendships and learn skills for appropriate social interactions. Each day the children participate in activities and exercise. As the summer rolls on, each child finds his or her level of independence that so many crave and show that they have the potential to achieve it. The program offers experiences like horseback riding in our



Thrip Program, swimming, science experiments, sports and exploring cooking, art and music. And, like any summer activity, we have our share of skinned knees.

While each child has their own set of unique traits and particular challenges, our trained staff challenge themselves in handling the youthful energy and rapid pace. Each staff gains a different perspective and set of experiences working with a younger group of people. Working as part of a different team from their usual colleagues, they enhance their own professional and personal skills, allowing them to be stronger Direct Support Professionals at New Hope Community.

Both child and staff are rewarded through participating in the Up On Weekends program. Evidence of so many repeat participants and staff indicates that this is a rewarding and special part of everyone's summer. Families and the children develop trust, and the child learns that their loved ones always come back and are happy to see them after a little Respite.

2ND Annual Hope Around The World Event

Together with our Direct Support Professionals (DSP), we are working to increase the skill sets by providing leadership development to promote a highly experienced and knowledgeable workforce.

We recognize that people needing support are more likely to fulfill their life dreams if they have well-trained, experienced, and motivated leaders at their side. On July 31st, the second annual 2016 Senior Direct Support Professional's six month enrichment training program was completed by ten employees. Their final project "Hope Around the World" was born during the first training program last year from the concept of diversity encompassing acceptance and respect, understanding that each individual is unique, and recognizing individual differences.

The group's project celebrated the importance of appreciating and recognizing diversity within the organization. Activities came alive through cultural dishes, international dance and real stories around different histories and heritages, promoting greater understanding of our uniqueness while encouraging conversations that helped us learn about our commonalities and adding strength to our community.



Celebrating & Recognizing our Staff

On May 1, 2016, we gathered at The Sullivan in Rock Hill for our annual Staff Recognition Brunch. It was a time to celebrate our staff, longevity, their dedication to New Hope Community and our mission. With over 200 people in attendance, New Hope was proud to have honored 67 employees who represented a culmination of over 906 years of service.

Michael Noren, a Direct Support Professional, was presented with The Maxine Belson Award. This award honors a Direct Support Professional who best exemplifies the qualities exhibited by Maxine Belson, a passionate advocate for the quality of life for people we support.

The Deirdre McCoy Award is presented to a New Hope Community staff member who has been employed by New Hope a minimum of 10 years and demonstrates a unique commitment and dedication to our mission. Melissa Martinez, Residential Coordinator who has been employed at New Hope Community for 14 years, was presented this award by Robin Pettinato and Gayle Grogan, daughters of the late



Deirdre McCoy. We thank each and every employee for being an integral part of New Hope Community. Whether providing direct care or providing indirect support, the continued service to the people we support helps foster dreams and expand potential.

Camp Keowa 2016

Under the warm sun of the summer months, twice a year in July and August, the people New Hope Community support get to go on a fun getaway. Camp Keowa, located in Narrowsburg, NY, is where they get to experience a broad range of activities, many of which they may not otherwise have the opportunity to take part in. These activities include speed boat rides, ATV's, swimming, BB guns, nature hikes, field sports and creative arts and crafts. New Hope Community's mission is to enhance the lives of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. One hundred and forty campers participated in these activities and we strongly believe their lives have been enriched through this camp experience.

Summer camp is a valuable experience for everyone. Participating in Camp Keowa helps to teach and maintain independence in activities, but also provides the freedom for our individuals to engage in a wide range of activities that are designed to enhance social skills while being challenging and fun. By being introduced to new skills and activities in a safe environment, our campers build self-confidence, self-esteem, social skills, make new friends, gain in their experiences and willingness to try new things and, most importantly, build independence.



Staff Training 2016

Our staff are our greatest asset. New Hope Community is known for making investments in their staff and one of the greatest examples of this occurs every year during Staff Training Day. In years past, we have scoured the country to find speakers to provide education and motivation to enhance our staff's ability to continue to provide quality services. This year we decided that in order for staff to be at the top of their game, the focus needed to be on mental, physical and spiritual well-being. The theme this year was "We Challenge You to Focus on You." We were very fortunate to be able to invite Dr. Stephen Birchak Ed.D to be our Keynote speaker. Dr. Bird, as he is often called, is an author, professor at College of Saint Rose, counseling psychologist, and former college wrestling coach. Discussing 'The Happiness Code-5 Active Reflections of Really, Really, Really, Happy People', he helped us answer questions such as, how do we re-energize when life seems to drain us? How do we remove the tension that is created by change? How do we stay positive when things are getting tough? The filled theater was buzzing with laughter and several people could be heard saying that Dr. Bird's message was just what they needed to hear. Dr. Bird was also gracious enough to stay with us to hold a workshop that provided strategies for creating strong relationships in our work. There was such positive feedback from the staff that we will be asking him to come back for additional training opportunities. After such a tremendous start to the day, one would think that it might

be difficult to top, but the staff were prepared to continue on to the breakout workshops. Staff had to make some tough decisions regarding the workshops that they could attend and it wasn't an easy decision to make with so many opportunities. There were programs for staff to learn about Kundalini Yoga, get an extreme workout with Turbo Kick, de-stress with pet therapy, improve their financial IQ, learn the latest nutritional news, recognize that anyone can be an artist with Paint & Sip (the sip portion was sparkling cider) and learn tips to make their paychecks go further by utilizing the science of couponing. Not only did staff enjoy themselves, but the presenters had such positive comments about the day and, most importantly, about the wonderful people who are employed here.

The day wouldn't have been complete without the wonderful breakfast and lunch served up by our very own Community Bistro. The menu selection reinforced our dedication to the "healthy" theme from the parfaits to the turkey chili; everyone left satisfied and with full stomachs. The day ended with the raffle drawing of prizes consisting of Beats headphones, iPad mini, Fitbit and yoga gear to name a few. All staff also received a New Hope Community logo windshirt.

In all, 267 employees were able to attend and unplug for a meaningful day of just focusing on themselves. If smiles and laughter are an indication of success, then the day exceeded expectations. Our new dilemma will be how in the world can we beat Staff Training Day of 2016. **Stay tuned.....**



A Day for Family & Friends

September 18 was the perfect day for New Hope Community's country picnic themed 41st Annual Family Barbeque. Fueled by sunshine, family and friends, we collectively celebrated life, fun and each other. Excitement was the overall feel of the day with a turnout of more than 400. It's really nice that our family members can get together and have a good time. Gathering everyone together is a reward that goes beyond the goal of strengthening a community.

It wouldn't be a country picnic without great food like barbeque brisket, chili, cornbread, hot dogs, hamburgers and corn on the cob; fun deserts of ice cream and tasty treats; music, dancing and entertainment; bounce houses and our favorite activities that were hosted by the people we support – tattoos, face painting, limbo, scavenger hunt, to name a few.

We sang our hearts out at Songfest, showed off our artistic talents at the Art Sale, made some yummy treats for the Bake Sale, took great pictures in the country picnic themed photo booth, danced to great music by the DJ, cheered on at the pie eating contest, raffled off great prizes and sang karaoke.

Many thanks to staff, vendors and all of the people involved with this event for helping make this year's Annual Family Barbeque a huge success!





New Hope Community Celebrates National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week

New Hope Community hosted several special events in honor of National Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Week during September 11 through September 17, 2016. This special week is set aside each year to honor the work of Direct Support Professionals who provide support services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our community.

"Our Direct Support Professionals are the backbone of New Hope Community. They are hard-working, dedicated men and women who make many sacrifices to support the people with disabilities whom we serve," said New Hope Community Executive Director, Jim Forbes. "DSP Recognition week is a way to say "thank you" and to show our appreciation."

Our Direct Support Professionals enjoyed special deliveries of coffee and donuts; a tug of war contest against administration; flag football; soccer; karaoke; an obstacle and relay course; and a barbeque and ice cream sundae gathering.



6TH Annual Wallace Berkowitz Golf Tournament



On Monday, May 23, New Hope Community held its 6th Annual Wallace Berkowitz Golf Tournament. Thanks to our golfers and to our many sponsors, \$50,355 was raised to benefit the continued support of those individuals served by New Hope Community and in support of New Hope's mission of enhancing the lives of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The day included a breakfast, a full day of golf, dinner and raffle drawings. Additionally, funds were raised by selling 50/50 raffle tickets, obtaining numerous generous sponsorships and golf course raffles.

Congratulations to the winning foursome of this year's tournament Nolan Levine and Steven Levine of Fallsburg Lumber and Ira Steingart and Nathan Steingart of Steingart Printing.



SAVE THE DATE

7th Annual
New Hope Community
Wallace Berkowitz Cup
Monday, May 22, 2017
West Hills Country Club
Middletown, NY



2016
Tournament
Winners



Helping the Community

Thanks to the generosity of our employees, our Food Drive was a huge success.

New Hope Community is proof that a group of people can make a real and positive difference. Because of your efforts, we were able to fill 15 bags with food. Members of our WithOut Walls (WOW) Program presented the food to St. Andrews Episcopal Church in South Fallsburg on Tuesday, November 22.

Cynthia Johnston, of St. Andrews Episcopal Church, received our food donations with great appreciation.



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Thank You!

Thank you to all of the donors who gave blood this year during our blood drives. Also, much thanks to the many volunteers who gave time, supplied baked goods, or provided support and encouragement to our donors. Three blood drives were held this year and a total of 125 pints of blood were donated to this life-saving effort.

You all helped save 375 lives!

one pint of blood



can save up to **three** lives

3..2..1.. Go for Launch!

New Hope Community's New Website!

We are excited to unveil to you our newly redesigned New Hope Community website:

www.newhopecommunity.org

We have been working hard over the past several months to update our website design and expand the information and tools available to you. The website has been designed to provide a user-friendly experience with improved navigation, functionality and mobile usability, in addition to more comprehensive site content.

The new newhopecommunity.org is more representative of our mission and values and allows visitors to quickly and easily learn more about us. It reflects the true passion and spirit that is New Hope

Community. The redesign is much more than just a change in the look of the website. Our goal was to develop a site that will provide information when it is needed. This is just the beginning of an ongoing process to optimize one of our communication channels to continue to be a resource and help keep our community informed.

Most importantly, New Hope Community is committed to providing access to our website for individuals with disabilities. The new website was designed in compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) standards for Accessible Design to ensure accessibility to people with disabilities.

ADA features include:

1. Descriptive links and providing alternative text to help people using assistive technology, such as screen reader software.
2. Increased contrast between fonts, backgrounds and images to make pages on our website easier to read.
3. Easier website navigation without the need to use a mouse.

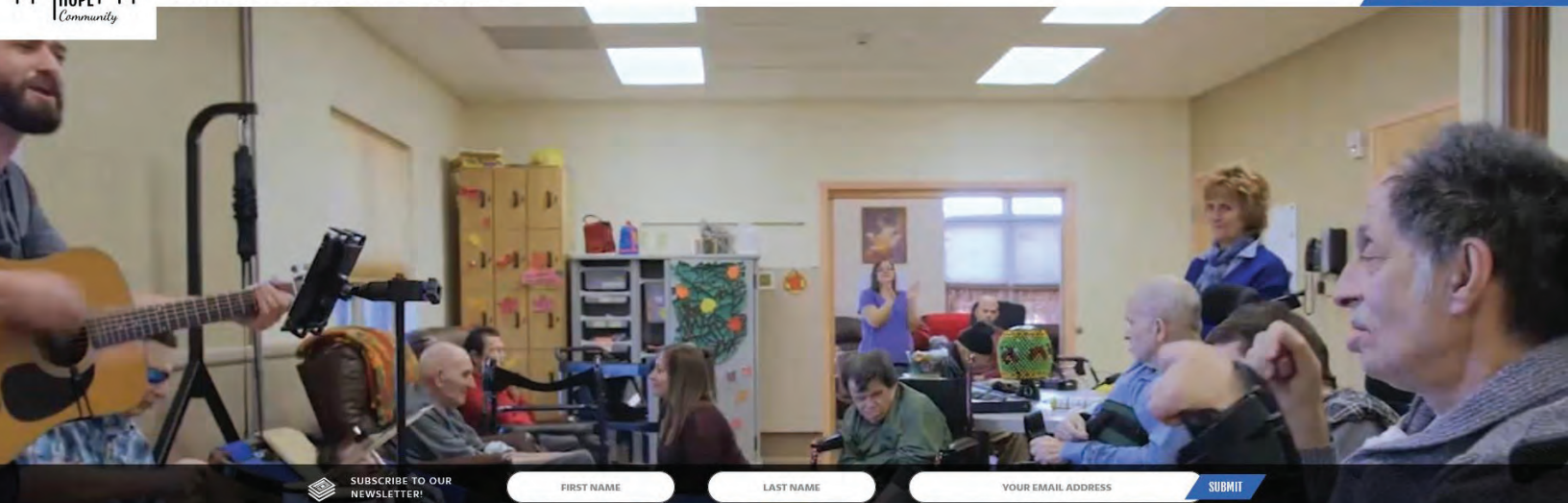
The redesigned site will enhance New Hope Community's already well-established position as a leading provider in the human services field. Check it out at www.newhopecommunity.org.



[HOW WE HELP](#) [OUR FAMILY](#) [SUPPORT](#)

BULLETIN

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YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

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JOIN

Become part of our network of Family Members, Staff and Donors.

EXPLORE

Learn how New Hope's quality might help your loved one.

DONATE

Support the Ongoing Actions of the New Hope Foundation



Welcome to the Neighborhood!

On November 16, the staff and residents of our newest community home located in Liberty held an open house in celebration of the official opening of the home.

New Hope Community employees, in addition to neighbors, Board of Directors, leadership gathered to commemorate the hard work that went into the remodeling of the house and making it a beautiful home.

Visitors had the opportunity to tour the new home and also enjoy great food catered by the Community Bistro.

Taking AKTION

For those that are unfamiliar with the AKTION Club, it is a "member-led" community service organization and a division of the Kiwanis Club. Created to empower adults with disabilities, the AKTION Club organizes events and projects that foster relationships and benefit their communities and is the only service club for adults with disabilities, with more than 12,000 members worldwide.

One of the AKTION Club's core values includes leadership which is the ability to listen, communicate, serve and guide others. Electing and placing members into positions of leadership helps to foster these skills.

We are excited to announce that Verna, one of those supported by New Hope Community, was recently elected to the role of President! As President, Verna will play an active role with every member and function of the club. She will be responsible for calling all meetings to order, attending functions and conventions and to guiding the Club in the development of new community activities.

Verna was installed in October during an inaugural celebration and will hold a one year term.

Congratulations Verna!



Lake George or Bust



After a lot of planning and preparation, seven people we support and seven staff members of 308 Stupell Circle packed up and loaded into three agency vehicles for a four hour drive up to Lake George for a four day getaway.

The house staff and nursing wanted to take the people they support on a vacation and polled everyone in the house for suggestions and ideas.

Once Lake George was determined, the staff went into overdrive with the planning process. Looking for accommodations, prepping and shopping for food, packing medical supplies and making arrangements for daily activities, was no small task.

They found a cabin that would accommodate everyone. Although not fully handicap accessible, one of our staff members brought ramps to ensure everyone could enter and exit the cabin safely.

Over the four days, everyone enjoyed a boat tour with a catered luncheon; a Halloween excursion to Great Escape where everyone dressed up in superhero and villain costumes and enjoyed rides; window and souvenir shopping, a relaxing day at the cabin playing games, spending time outside by their private waterfall, listening to music and watching movies while enjoying homemade chili and sleeping late.

The trip is a true testament to the commitment and collaboration of our house staff and nursing. It exemplifies the mission of New Hope Community to enhance the lives of those with disabilities.

The staff is currently brainstorming for Summer 2017. Stay tuned!





'Tis the Season!

As the holidays approached, so did the New Hope Community annual Holiday Party. A very warm thank you to everyone who joined us on December 10! As always, we had a great time and it was a wonderful gathering with friends, associates and colleagues to celebrate the season. The night was filled with many fun and authentic moments. A red and gold tree sat in the entrance inviting people to take a snapshot memory before the night began.

The white table cloths had been accented by the shimmer of red wrapping paper, a gift of the holiday spirit. Lanterns centered each table illuminating the smiles and laughter coming from all who attended. A chocolate fountain lined with biscotti, rainbow cookies, strawberries and melon caught everyone's eye and was an indulgent treat!

Then, Jim Forbes, Executive Director at New Hope Community, walked to the dance floor and with a few short words, expressed his gratitude on a wonderful year of dedication and hard work. It had been an outstanding year and the holidays were a time to share an eloquent appreciation.

As Jim took his seat, the soft bass from the DJ booth began to fill the air and the quick step of guests began to make their way towards the dance floor. The night carried on with the twirls of dancing. The photo booth stayed busy, as one guest after another got in line and donned Santa hats and jumbo sunglasses to capture their moments of merriment.

The guests said that the holiday party is the event to look forward to each year. New Hope Community isn't just a job, it is a community that not only works together but celebrates together. Many thanks to the Marketing Department for doing a great job setting the stage for holiday cheer.

Every guest left with a smile and a selfie stick, and the thought of what's to come next year.

Giving to the NHC Foundation

We are thankful for the generosity of those who supported New Hope Community this year. Your donations benefit the continued support of those people served by New Hope Community and support New Hope's mission of enhancing the lives of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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