



The Frederick Flying Cows NON-PROFIT OF THE NIGHT



Colleen T. with The Frederick Flying Cows Basketball Team



Bobby holding a "MAD COWS" sign



Jesse and Antonio in the Mad Cow Section at a home game

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Community Living is so excited to be an official Non-Profit Partner of The Frederick Flying Cows Professional Basketball Team for the 2026 season! Our official game date is Sunday, April 12th at 3PM. Please join us for an unforgettable experience at the barn this season.

By using the promotional code **COMMLIVING** during the purchase of Flying Cows tickets and merchandise, Community Living will receive 10% of the proceeds from all sales with the promo code used. You will also enjoy a 10% discount off your order using our promo code!

Thank you for your support! Go Cows!





Spring Connections

Welcome to the Spring 2026 edition of Connections! Things are slowly warming up from winter, and we have some very exciting updates from some of our departments. In this issue, we highlight how people supported by Community Living are building connections, gaining independence, and participating in their communities.

We're excited to bring you some recent highlights from around Community Living! Residential Services provides updates on what they have been doing this winter. Quality Assurance shares more about their partnership with the Frederick Flying Cows this season. Support Services has a special dedication to Jeb. Meanwhile, Meaningful Day welcomes two new members into our Day Program and a collaboration with Cowgirl Clay Studio in Walkersville. We will also receive an important message about DD services and advocacy from our CEO, Michael Planz.

If you're interested in learning more about these amazing happenings, then keep reading!



Community Living Day Program participants dressed in green for St. Patrick's Day



Community Living at the Frederick Flying Cows preseason practice



A Message from our CEO, Michael Planz

If you have ever seen the movie Groundhog Day, you'll understand what it feels like to work for a DDA provider every year during the legislative session and budget time. For as long as I can remember, every year when the Governor's budget is released, there are proposed cuts to DDA services. When the State was transitioning to a \$15 minimum wage, rate increases were a fraction of the minimum wage increase, which essentially meant a budget cut. If you have to pay your staff more without a corresponding increase in your funding, you are being asked to do more with less. For the past few years, the State has determined that the rates being paid to providers are too high (based on their own rate study) or we are receiving too much money for services for people with the most significant needs.



Starr, a self-advocate whom we support and Michael at rally

Organizations like Community Living had to scrape by for years and only recently have we gotten to a place we can offer our staff a wage that entices them to make a career out of supporting people with developmental disabilities and makes them want to stay long term.

Every year, our industry's advocacy group, MACS (Maryland Association of Community Providers) and their partners work tirelessly to spread our message to legislators and rally providers, families and self advocates around the cause. I recently attended a rally in Annapolis with another staff and someone we support, to let our legislators know how important this issue is. As we stood in the rain and snow chanting "We can't go back, We won't go back" we were joined by hundreds of other saying the same message. People came from all over the State, many of them in wheelchairs being pushed by elderly family members because they understood the importance of making their voices heard.





A Message from our CEO, Michael Planz

So, although the legislative session is winding down, you can still make your voice heard by contacting your State Senator or Delegate (they can be found here <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Members/District>) and letting them know that Maryland’s fiscal problems should not be solved on the backs of some of the State’s most vulnerable residents. Even when the legislative session is over, keep this issue on the top of their minds by contacting them throughout the year.

If you are reading this, there is a reason that the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are important to you. Make sure the people making decisions know why!

- Michael, CEO



DDA Services Rally in front of State House



Starr holding a “We Can’t Go Back” sign at rally



Starr holding a “We Can’t Go Back” sign with another advocate at rally





RESIDENTIAL



We've had a frigid and icy few months and are so excited to swing into the warmer weather! Our staff remained dedicated to keeping the people we support warm and safe this winter. Our homes were well stocked with food, staff, and fun! Despite the weather, we still went out to various activities including movies, concerts, theatrical performances, and a cooking class at the Ballenger Creek Testing Kitchen, which we partnered with Frederick County Parks and Recreation.

The people who receive residential services will be attending many games in the upcoming months. Orioles, Towson Tigers, and the Frederick Keys. We cannot thank the Flying Cows enough for their dedication to the people we serve, and we look forward to cheering them on during games and an awesome basketball season ahead!

It is with a heavy heart that we mourn the loss of our dear friends Jeb and Debbie. Both will be sorely missed, and in our hearts, forever!

- Debra,
Director of Residential Services



Janet, Bill, and Antonio making cookies with Instructor Krystal



Janet making sliders



Antonio cutting dough to make bubble pizza



Support Services

In Memory of Jeb

Jeb loved to walk to everywhere with his signature walking stick. Years ago, when I met him, his routine was taking late night walks at 2AM in his neighborhood where he lived with his mom after moving to Frederick.

Many people knew and loved Jeb, and he went on his merry way with a lot of watchful eyes. This included us here at CLI, as well as new friends he made along the way. One of them was Ray Arnold, our fleet manager for CLI vehicles, who would see Jeb on his walks and encouraged him to drink some water and keep that stick away from the street and moving vehicles.

Jeb loved to do so many things, and his infectious excitement got us involved. In Frederick City, it was no doubt that he loved the Frederick Flying Cows games and their recent CowFest event, as well as the Frederick Keys and the Frederick fair. We miss him dearly, but his memory lives on.

In that same spirit of community and connection that Jeb loved so much, we've continued to stay active this winter. We had a great winter exploring Maryland. The highlights have been theatrical productions in Hagerstown, Columbia, and Frederick. Trips to Wisp Resort, Washington College, and St. Mary's College for Special Olympics.

- Carlota,

Director of Support Services



Jeb with Carlota and DSP Laura at CowFest 2025



Jeb and the Frederick Keys Mascot Keyote playing Jeb's iconic air gutair



Michael R. and Timmy R. at Wisp Resort for Special Olympics Winter Games



Meaningful Day Program

It's been a good start to the new year, and we recently welcomed Katie and Greg into Meaningful Day Services. Both have been making friends while participating in a variety of activities in the community and Katie will soon begin exploring employment opportunities. Apropos of employment, congratulations to Feivel, who recently began working full-time with Horizon Goodwill at Ft. Detrick in Frederick. Additionally, Feivel was married in the fall, and he and his wife will soon be supported by CLI's residential services, in a home close to Feivel's new job.

We recently hosted Andrea Horine of Cowgirl Clay Studio at our Meaningful Day Services site. Andrea brought supplies and instructed eight people we support in crafting clay flowers. She will return soon to supervise the glazing of the pieces to complete the project. Thanks, Andrea!

After more than 14 years of being a kind and reliable presence while supporting people with Community Living's Meaningful Day Services, Boonlook "Oiy" Scheiter retired in late February. Oiy will be greatly missed by our team and those we support. She received a heartfelt send-off into retirement, including some thoughtful gifts and a cake. Many thanks to Oiy and our other direct support professionals, who enrich the lives of those we support in discovering and living their best lives!

- Tom,
Director of Meaningful Day Services



Katie and Bradley singing karaoke



Martha and DSP Glenda working with clay



David S., Oiy, and Wesley at Oiy's retirement party



Moments of connection, growth, and community





Connect and Stay in Touch with us!



Community Living, Inc. (CLI) is a nonprofit that provides supports and services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Every day, people supported by Community Living are building meaningful lives in their communities and your support makes that possible.



clifrederick ...
Community Living, Inc. (CLI)
2,567 posts 2,091 followers 4,387 following

Nonprofit in #frederickmd serving people who have intellectual/developmental disabilities thru residential and day... more
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Following Message



What we do Why I Volunt...



Stay connected, get involved, and see the impact your support makes.



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