



Ted, DSP Bryan, David, Jesse, Bill, Danny, and April at an Orioles Game

Summer Connections

Welcome to the Summer 2026 edition of Connections!

This issue highlights exciting news and accomplishments from across Community Living, including Residential Services, Quality Assurance, Support Services, and our Meaningful Day Program. We are also pleased to share a special message from our CEO, Michael Planz.

Inside, you'll learn about the summer activities keeping the people we support active and engaged in our residential program, how Support Services is using Assistive Technology to enhance independence, and recent updates from the Special Olympics Summer Games and USA Games. Quality Assurance shares details about CLI's partnership with the Frederick Keys for an upcoming fundraiser, and Meaningful Day celebrates the success of the Spring EmployABILITY Showcase.

We hope you enjoy reading about the many ways our staff, supporters, and the people we serve continue to make Community Living a vibrant and thriving community.



A Message from our CEO

When an organization receives government funding, oversight comes with the territory. Community Living, along with other organizations that support people with disabilities, is subject to extensive regulatory review. We receive site visits from Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) staff, annual licensure surveys from the Office of Health Care Quality, and investigations when reportable incidents occur.



Michael Planz

Several years ago, DDA contracted with a Utilization Review organization called Liberty Healthcare. Each quarter, Liberty reviews random samples of our billing to ensure compliance with Medicaid Waiver requirements. More recently, Liberty has conducted reviews to verify compliance with the Community Settings Rule issued by CMS in 2017. These reviews certainly keep us on our toes. In addition, three years ago, CLI voluntarily began pursuing accreditation through The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL), a rigorous process that challenged us to examine how we promote inclusion and protect the rights of the people we support.

While keeping up with these requirements can be demanding, the oversight and review process has made us a stronger organization. The people we support have opportunities to lead meaningful lives, participate in activities they enjoy, and remain safe and healthy. Our DSPs go above and beyond every day, and our management team provides the leadership and support needed to help people succeed.



DSP Oluu, Josh, and Brian going to an appointment

I share all of this because supporting people 24 hours a day, 365 days a year is not easy. It means balancing health, safety, independence, transportation, housing, and countless other responsibilities while ensuring that houses remain homes and that people can live the lives they choose. Yet our staff rise to that challenge every day. I am proud to be part of an organization that does so much for so many people.

More from Michael
on the next page!





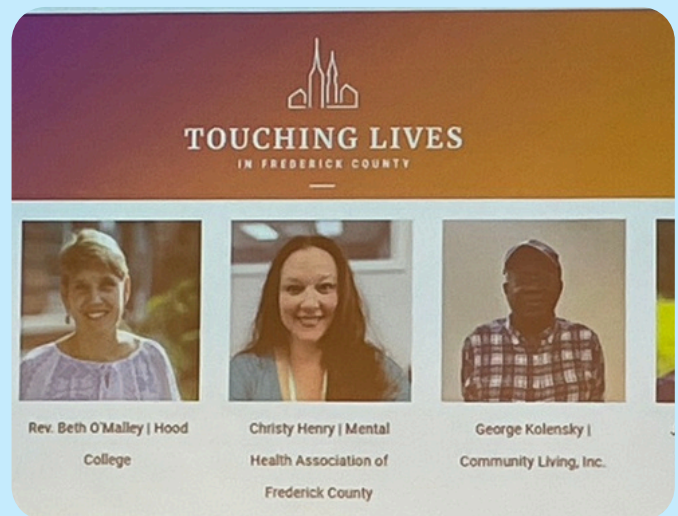
A Message from our CEO

In June, one of our staff members was recognized by the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce with the Touching Lives Award. Congratulations to George, House Manager in our Residential Department, on receiving this special honor. The Touching Lives Award is presented to front-line staff at local nonprofit organizations. It warms me to be able to recognize our staff for the work they do every day. Please be sure to thank them every chance you get!

- Michael, CEO



Frederick Nonprofit Summit



Frederick Nonprofit Summit Touching Lives Awardees



CLI's Board of Directors,
Michael, Thomas and George



Thomas, George, and Brushaun





Residential Department

Beautiful weather has brought plenty of opportunities for fun and community involvement across our Residential Services program. Over the past few months, people have enjoyed outings to Frederick Keys, Baltimore Orioles, and Frederick Flying Cows games, cooking classes at Ballenger Creek Teaching Kitchen, and performances at Toby's Dinner Theatre, with many more activities planned for the summer.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Feivel and Sydney, who recently joined one of our residential homes. They come to CLI from another residential program and have already brought positivity and enthusiasm to our community. We are delighted to welcome them to Community Living.

A special thank you to our Residential Services staff for their dedication and commitment to ensuring the people we support are well cared for and have opportunities to participate in meaningful outings, activities, and experiences throughout the community.

- Debra,
Director of Residential Services



A group of people from Residential and Support Services at the Keys Hawaiian Shirt game



Bobby and David at a Frederick Keys game



Danny, Stephen, and Buster at a Frederick Keys game



Janet and Antonio at a cooking class



April making pasta at a cooking class



Georgia and Wesley at Trinity's Spring Party



Support Services

Support Services continues to explore and implement assistive technology that helps promote safety, independence, and quality of life for the people we support. Current examples include security cameras, reminder alarms, magnetic-base lanterns that remain in a consistent location for use during power outages, and medication dispensing machines that support accuracy, timeliness, and independence.

We look forward to finding new ways to use assistive technology to support greater independence and success.



Linda with her medication dispenser



David winning a medal at a States Competition for Bowling

Congratulations to Daniel and David, who were selected to represent Team Maryland at the Special Olympics USA Games in Minnesota from June 20–26.

More than 3,000 athletes will compete in traditional and unified sports, joined by 1,500 coaches representing all 50 states. The event will also include approximately 10,000 volunteers and 75,000 spectators, making it one of the largest Special Olympics events in the country.

Daniel will compete in bocce, while David will compete in bowling. Kathy Axline, a volunteer with Team Maryland, will serve as a bocce coach during the games.

The USA Games will be broadcast on ESPN, with coverage available throughout the week. We wish Daniel and David the best of luck as they compete on the national stage!

While Daniel and David represented Team Maryland at the USA Games, many other athletes participated in the 2026 Special Olympics Maryland Summer Games held June 12–14.

CLI was proudly represented by swimmers, traditional and unified softball teams, traditional and unified bocce teams, a unified hip hop team, and a Poms team. We are proud of all the athletes whose hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship were on display throughout the competition.

- Carlota,
Director of Support Services



PJ, Bradley, and Nick at Summer Games

Connections

Newsletter for Community Living, Inc.



SUMMER 2026

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Quality Assurance Department has been busy supporting a variety of activities and opportunities for the people we serve. From cooking classes and sporting events to Warehouse movie nights, karaoke, and bingo, there has been no shortage of fun and community involvement.



Crystal in the Gazebo

Last year, one of our long-time donors generously provided the funding to build a gazebo at our Meaningful Day site. This year, the gazebo was relocated to a more accessible location, allowing more people to enjoy it throughout the day. It has quickly become a popular gathering space where people can spend time with friends, enjoy lunch, and relax outdoors.

We are grateful to the donor who made this project possible, as well as to all of our donors whose generosity helps create meaningful opportunities and experiences for the people we support.

Keys FUNdraiser Announcement



This summer, Community Living is participating in the Frederick Keys FUNdraising program! Support us by buying General Admission ticket(s) to the August 1st game and come out to enjoy a day full of baseball and fun. Bring your family and friends for a good time! We have 100 tickets available, and they are \$15 per ticket.

How to Purchase Tickets:



1. Scan the QR Code to visit our donation page or click [here](#).
2. Make a one-time donation of \$15.00 and in the line that asks "Is this donation in honor or memory?" type "Keys Fundraiser" in the answer line.
3. Once completed, you will receive an electronic copy of your ticket.
4. If you haven't received your ticket after a few days, please reach out to pr@clifrederick.org.

- Jena,
Community Outreach & Quality Assurance Coordinator



Connections



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SUMMER 2026

Meaningful Day Program

We've had a great spring and recently welcomed Crystal and Liz to Meaningful Day Services. Crystal is interested in volunteer opportunities, and Liz hopes to return to work soon. Both have been making friends, building connections, and participating in a variety of community activities.

Congratulations to Michael on starting his new job at Black Ankle Vineyards! After several weeks of training with the support of a job coach, Michael is now working independently. His responsibilities include watering plants, weeding, cleaning and arranging chairs, and taking out the trash. He is doing a fantastic job.

In April, we celebrated the retirement of one of CLI's long-time staff members, Judy Barker. Judy began her career supporting people in their homes before transitioning to Meaningful Day Services. She received a heartfelt send-off that included thoughtful gifts and cake in recognition of her many years of service.

Thank you to Judy and to all of our direct support professionals for the important role they play in helping the people we support pursue their goals, build relationships, and participate fully in their communities.

**- Tom B.,
Director of Day Services**



Liz in the Gazebo



Bill, Judy, and Katie at
Judy's Retirement Party



Michael at Black Ankle
Vineyards



Meaningful Day Program

Spring 2026 EmployABILITY Showcase Highlights

The Spring 2026 EmployABILITY Showcase was held at The Arc at Market, bringing together 21 participants from The Arc, Community Living, Inc. (CLI), Scott Key Center, Spectrum-Support, and Way Station.

In preparation for the event, participants took part in activities designed to build confidence and strengthen job-seeking skills. These included resume development, creating and delivering 30-second elevator speeches, designing professional displays and presentations, dress-for-success guidance, and mock interview practice.

The showcase featured an impressive variety of displays that highlighted each participant's experiences, talents, skills, and employment goals. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about participants' work histories, educational backgrounds, and interests through presentations and one-on-one conversations.

The EmployABILITY Showcase continues to provide a valuable opportunity for participants to share their strengths, explore employment possibilities, and connect with members of the community. Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's event a success.

- **Randy Kiser,**
Senior Business Development Manager



Randy and Michael at The EmployABILITY Showcase

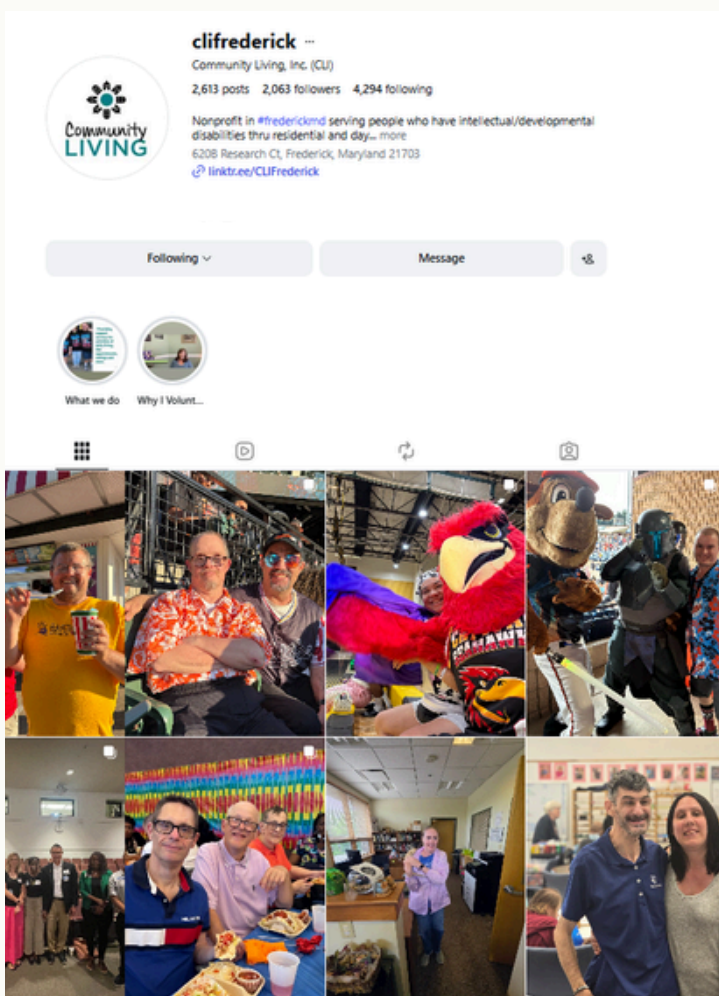


Valerie, Starr, Pamela, Anita, Misha, and Brian at
The EmployABILITY Showcase



Connect with us!

Community Living, Inc. (CLI) is a nonprofit that provides supports and services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To learn more about CLI and what we do, visit <https://communitylivinginc.org>



Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Tik Tok for updates, events, and stories from across CLI.



@CLIFrederick

MORE PICTURES FROM OUTINGS AND ACTIVITIES



James, Jessica, and DSP Laura with Master Gardiner Tim at CLI's Community Garden



Danny, Richard, Ted, Jesse, and DSP Bryan at a Flying Cows game



Linda and Barbara at Special Olympics Summer Games for Swimming



Michael, Timmy, Michael, DSP Ebenezer, Daniel, and Dylan at Trinity's Spring Party



April, Crystal, and Linda at a cooking class



Barbara, Shauna, Starr, and DSP Delores at a Flying Cows game



Shauna, Crystal, Starr, Barbara, Susie, Antonio, and Linda at Warehouse Cinemas



Lukas and Tim at Special Olympics Summer Games