



## WHAT'S INSIDE

*Fall 2021 Newsletter*

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# A LETTER FROM THE CEO

*Michael Planz*



In July, everyone felt like they were turning the corner. Cases were way down, mask mandates were going away, and businesses were re-opening at full capacity and without restrictions. Then came August and Covid number began to go in the wrong direction again.

While the positivity rate was at .3% in mid-June, it's back over 6% by mid-August. In spite of this, Community Living has forged ahead to safely try to restore some normalcy to the lives of the people we support. While many people continued to receive personal supports and get supports on the job over the last several months, the majority of the people who live in CLI homes have not been attending day programs in the way they are used to. Most of those people have been spending the day at home, going out with their housemates and residential staff.

We, and most other day program providers have, however, begun to re-open for in-person services. In addition, the people we support have begun to participate in more recreational activities.

Community Living is not just a name, it is a philosophy. A philosophy that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are active members of their communities and have opportunities to participate in community life. We have many dedicated staff who work to make that philosophy a reality and I cannot thank them enough.

So while there is still risk, we will continue to do our best. The vast majority of people we support have been fully vaccinated and there have been no new cases among people supported or staff since February. We will, to the extent possible, strive to live up to our name - Community Living.

## WHO WE ARE

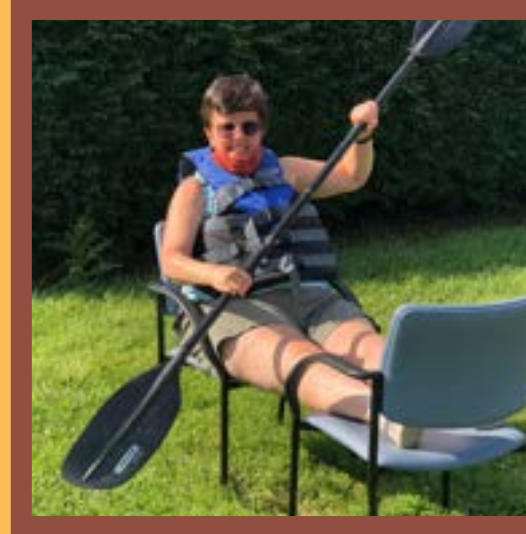
Community Living, Inc. (CLI) is a nonprofit that supports people who have Down syndrome, autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We were founded in 1979 as a residential-only organization, and have expanded since then to offer services across the span of adult life.

Our residential department consists of 25 group homes here in Frederick. They're fully staffed and operated in a way that promotes the highest level of independence possible.

Our Meaningful Day Program offer supports for everything from employment (finding jobs for the people we support and coaching once the jobs are secured) to tasks of daily living, like going to the doctor or grocery shopping. This includes our retirement program, which gives the people we support the chance to have fun and participate in enriching activities after they've reached retirement age.

Our goal is to make sure that the people we support have the means and opportunity to live full, independent lives. Many organizations serve children with I/DD, but not many serve only adults.



## WHAT'S NEW

Although CLI suspended all facility-based meaningful day services in mid-March 2020, we have always been providing at least some in-person supports (mainly employment-related services) to a small number of people, who were considered “essential employees.”

For those that were not working, we have also been offering virtual supports for more than 15 months.



These sessions have enabled people to see and interact with one another and have included activities such as yoga, educational activities, games, and music therapy (pictured).



While many people we support, who are considered “essential employees,” never stopped working, others have recently returned to previously held jobs and another four individuals, who were not working prior to the pandemic, were recently hired into new positions. Here are a few of them!



## WHAT'S NEW

Caraline L. has been working as a server at Spring Arbor in Frederick since January. She began working part time, but soon was working full-time hours. Her supervisor describes her as a hard worker, and in July he upgraded her status to full-time with benefits. She is happy that she “knows her job” and has really gone above and beyond to help cover shifts created by employee vacations and illnesses and by staff shortages. She says the best part of her job is the residents that live there.

In June, April K. began working 2 days a week, bagging groceries at the Weis on Thomas Johnson Dr. In addition to doing her job, April is very personable with both coworkers and customers. She recently independently requested additional hours and responsibilities. She now works 3 days per week and will soon begin helping to package online orders in addition to bagging for the cashiers.

The McDonalds in Walkersville finally reopened its lobby in June, enabling Michael R. to return to his job after nearly 14 months. He is currently working four days per week ... and is thrilled.



**April K. at Weis.**



**Michael R. at McDonalds.**

## WHAT'S NEW

Participating in social and recreational activities have kept folks happy and involved. The people we support in our 25 group homes, as well as those supported through day programs, have been enjoying the summer in spite of the heat.

Some folks are staying fit and happy by hiking, swimming, golfing, kayaking and biking. The Frederick Keys games are a big hit.

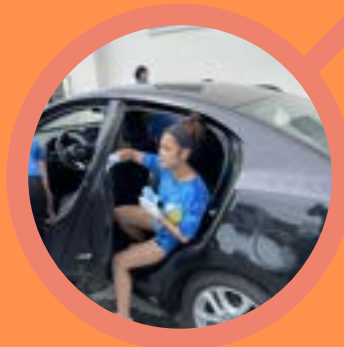
Many have gone on vacation to places like Ocean City, Deep Creek Lake, and Virginia Beach.



## THANK YOU!

Special thanks to Power of Change Frederick, A2LA, and Rosati's Pizza for hosting fundraisers for CLI over the last few months.

And special thanks to our incredible volunteers who never cease to amaze us!



## HAPPENING NOW!

SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE!

The logo for Mug Love, featuring a small red flower icon above the text "MUG LOVE" in a bold, sans-serif font.The logo for Community Living, featuring a stylized flower icon with eight petals and the text "Community LIVING" to its right.

*Courtesy of Mug Love*

A hand holding a white ceramic mug. The mug has the text "There is such beauty in difference" written in a cursive font. Below the text is a small logo that appears to be the Community Living logo.

40% of the proceeds from the sale of this specially designed mug will be donated to Community Living!

On sale from September 1-30.  
Order online at [www.etsy.com/shop/shopmuglove](http://www.etsy.com/shop/shopmuglove).

Community Living is a nonprofit that supports people who have Down syndrome, autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. For more information, visit [www.communitylivinginc.org](http://www.communitylivinginc.org) or follow them on IG: @clifrederick.

Visit [Mug Love's online store](http://www.etsy.com/shop/shopmuglove)  
to purchase your limited  
edition mug!



## HAPPENING NOW!

Also happening now...



Noma Laundry is donating 25 cents from every load to Community Living until September 30th! #WashDryFoldGiveBack

Learn more by visiting their Facebook/IG: @nomalaundry.

## WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

*Here are some ways you can help!*

### **Make a donation**

As a nonprofit, CLI is always in need of donations. If you are interested in supporting us, please visit [www.communitylivinginc.org](http://www.communitylivinginc.org).

### **Spread the word**

One of the biggest things you can do to help is to spread the word, not just about our organization, but about the importance of inclusion. Be an advocate!

### **Apply for a Job**

Interested in a career with CLI? We have open positions available! Contact our HR department at [kimd@clifrederick.org](mailto:kimd@clifrederick.org) or call 301-663-8811 for more info!

### **Volunteer**

We love our volunteers! We cater volunteer opportunities to each person, so you can do whatever is most fulfilling to you. For more information, email Elaina at [elainal@clifrederick.org](mailto:elainal@clifrederick.org).



## STAY CONNECTED

*Keep up with CLI! We're basically everywhere, but you can definitely find us in these four places:*

### Email List

Sign up for our email list to stay up to date on events, volunteer opportunities, and more. We don't spam (we email about once a month).

[Sign up here.](#)

### Website

To learn more about what we do, feel free to visit our website:

[www.communitylivinginc.org](http://www.communitylivinginc.org)

### Facebook

We're on Facebook!

"Like" our page and please share it so your friends can do the same!

[Visit our Facebook page here.](#)

### Instagram

We're on IG too!

Give us a follow and ask your friends to follow, too!

[Find us on IG here.](#)