

March 2023



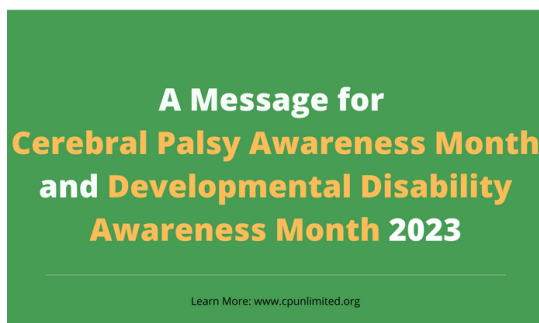
What's Happening in Our World This Month?

CP Awareness Month, Annual Report, Advocating in Albany, Colorful Clothing, & More

Dear CP Family,

This has been a monumental month as CP made our voice heard in more ways than one! We hope you had the chance to see the 2022 Annual Report, available at Day Habs, Hudson Valley, and Central in print, as well as [online for viewing!](#)

And, we encourage you to watch the video below from CP President & CEO Joseph M. Pancari on March as Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month and Developmental Disability Awareness Month!



We hope you will all participate in the colorful expressions of community on March 21 and 24/25 (see page 4) too! We also want to wish a happy upcoming Ramadan to our Muslim colleagues!

Don't forget to check your email for more announcements. Thanks for all you do for the people we support!

Advocating in Albany for DSPs



On Monday, February 13,, nearly 100 members of the CP family, including members of our Board, executive team, frontline staff, and self-advocates, assembled at the New York State Capitol in Albany as part of the New York Disability Advocates rally in support of increased wages, starting with an 8.5% Cost of Living Adjustment, for DSPs across NY state.

[See a video of our self-advocates speaking to Assembly Member Dana Levenberg \(District 95\), alongside photos and more, in our online story >>](#)

And, Join us in Albany AGAIN on March 23!

CP Unlimited will field a group to make our voices heard for our DSPs and persons supported at the upcoming New York Disability Advocates rally on Thursday, March 23! **Email Tamara Das at tdas@cpofnys.org to reserve your CP Transport seat.** Buses will leave from all boroughs and Hudson Valley.

Upcoming Day Hab and Article 16 Open Houses



Share All Four Events Throughout March

Join us IN-PERSON or ONLINE to learn about CP Unlimited's comprehensive Day Habilitation classes, programs, and supports, and Article 16 therapies, for people 18+ with intellectual & developmental disabilities at:

Brooklyn on March 22

Long Island City, Queens on March 28

The Bronx on March 30

Staten Island on March 31

The events are posted on our Facebook and LinkedIn pages and we encourage you to RSVP and share the events on your feed so we can bring our services to a wider population than ever before!

You can also share this custom link: <https://bit.ly/3ZuyHjo>

March: Get Colorful to Support Our People



Show Off Your Socks (March 21) & Wear Green (March 24/25)

March 21 (World Down syndrome Day): WEAR MISMATCHED / COLORFUL SOCKS

CP Unlimited joins with providers, parents, advocates, and friends from across the globe to raise awareness of Down syndrome. In support, we will present a collage of our staff #rockingoursocks to signify the extra chromosome that people with Down syndrome usually carry.



March 24/5 (Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day): WEAR A GREEN OUTFIT

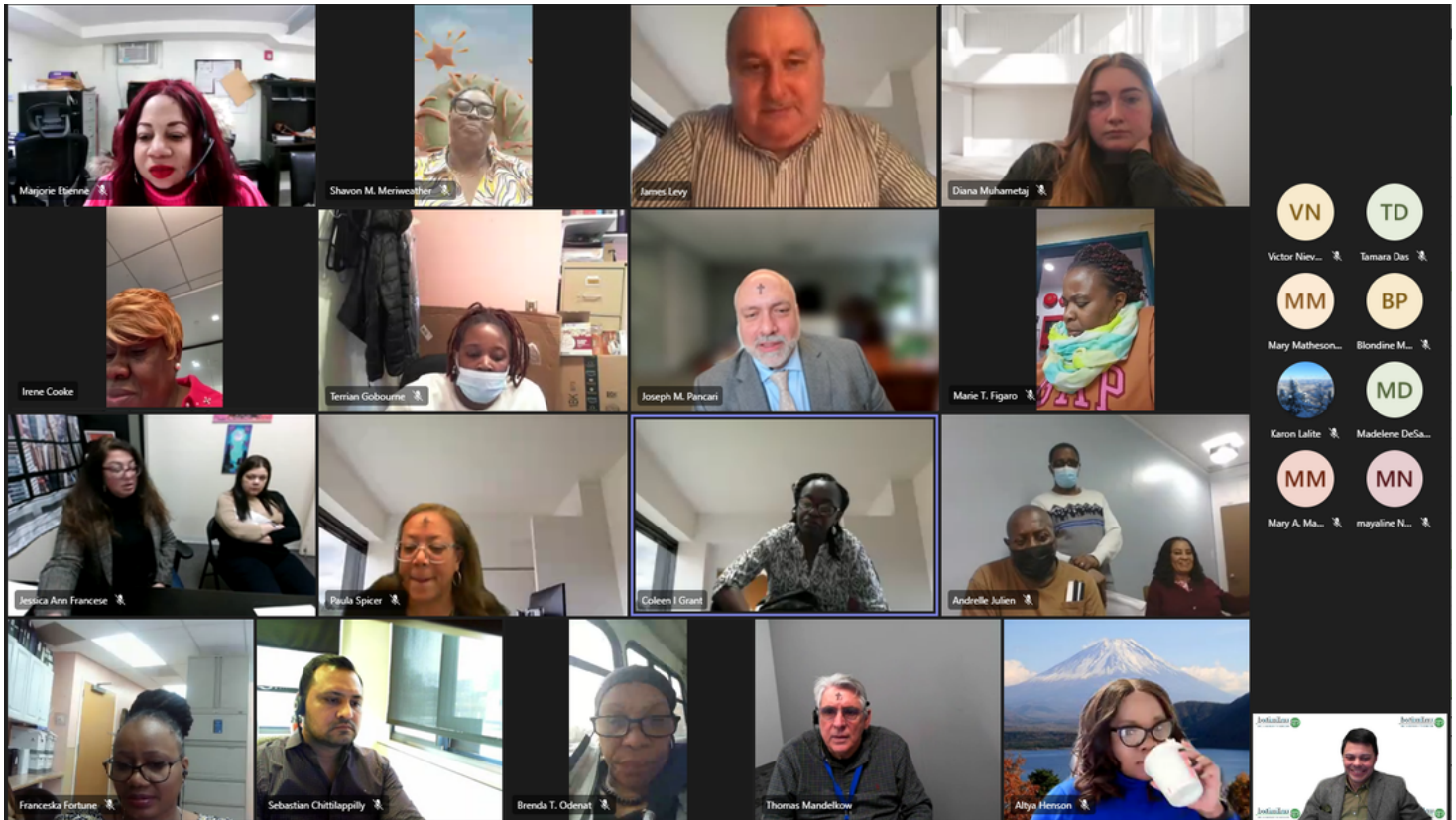
Our team will #gogreenforCP on March 24 for our weekday workers and March 25 for our weekend warriors to raise awareness and support for our mission and the people we support with Cerebral Palsy.



SEND YOUR IMAGES TO: communications@cpofnys.org

FIND OUR PHOTOS ONLINE ON CP's WEBSITE AND SOCIAL PAGES

Employees of the Quarter: Q4 2022



The CP family honored a special cohort of team members at our Employee of the Quarter Awards for Q4 2022. These outstanding individuals are going above and beyond in their work to provide opportunities for people with I/DD to achieve fulfilling lives. [See more, including quotes, online >>](#)

Q4 2022 Winners Include:

- **Angelia Welcome-Bligh**, Direct Care Counselor
- **Angella Ellis**, Direct Care Counselor
- **Arlene Perricone-Saumell**, Sr. Coordinator of Billing and Compliance (HV)
- **Brenda Odenat**, Direct Care Counselor
- **Evita Daniels**, Community Skills Specialist
- **James Briggs**, Housekeeper/Cook
- **Karla Bobb**, Habilitation Aide
- **Karon Lalite**, Behavioral Intervention Specialist
- **Larry Johnson**, Staff Development and QI (HV)
- **Leslie Sealy**, Residence Counselor
- **Lukshman Liyanagamage**, Direct Care Counselor
- **Marie Fiagro**, Direct Care Counselor
- **Mayaline Noel**, Direct Care Counselor
- **Rhonda Powell-Ashe**, Residential (HV)
- **Rita Bektor**, Habilitation Coordinator
- **Victor Nieves**, Direct Care Counselor
- **Yaritsza Guzman**, Sr. Day Habilitation Coordinator

Inspiring Stories From the CP Team

MAKING PEOPLE MOBILE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS

Paul DiGiovanni, Associate Director of Rehabilitation Services, recently shared a story about a woman trapped in her home for *three years* due to a lack of a working wheelchair, access to transportation, and clinical services such as adaptive equipment.

Our wheelchair grant from the Mother Cabrini Foundation allowed us to provide these needed services and have our team arrange transportation to get an appropriate wheelchair for her!

He also got to see a father of two take delivery of a power seat lift for his motorized chair after much advocacy and work by Danielle King OTR/L. Dad exclaimed "Now I can go shopping on my own and reach a box of rice on store shelves!"

These are the types of heroic stories our team gets to facilitate!

MEET OPEYEMI MOGAJI, COMMHAB AND ISS SUPERVISOR



Opeyemi Mogaji, Community Housing and ISS Supervisor for Staten Island talks about the number of apartments he has found for the people we support and the importance of living independently.

He also discusses his role and how the COMMHAB and ISS programs make an impact in the lives of our persons supported. We applaud Opeyemi's dedication to the CP mission! [Watch his videos on the CP YouTube Channel >>](#)

HR: New Hires at CP

Welcoming new members to the CP Family!

Tuhin Akter, Community Habilitation Specialist

Dawn Blackwell, Residence Counselor

Jeffre Gravely, Community Habilitation Specialist

Paula Harris-Forbes, Rehabilitation Counselor

Queen Johnson, Direct Care Counselor

Reni Mathai-George, Nurse Administrator

Clarence McCallum, Housekeeper/Cook

Allison Paul, Program Coordinator (CLS- NE)

Sieadah Triplett, Direct Care Counselor

Aniebietabasi Ubom, Rehabilitation Counselor

Amanam Umo-Otong, Rehabilitation Counselor

Hillreth Williams, Residence Counselor/Medical Coordinator

Councilman Eric Dinowitz Visits West Farms on Feb. 28

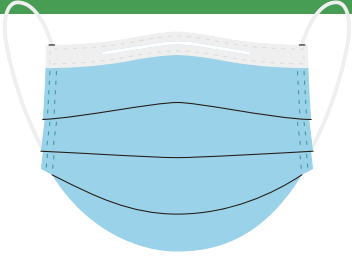
Council Member Eric Dinowitz of District 23 in The Bronx visited our West Farms Day Hab and Metro Community Health Center to learn more about our work and meet some of the CP team.

We look forward to continuing to develop connections to share our resources and benefit our share communities.

Eric Dinowitz (L) with several of our persons supported and Joseph M. Pancari



Final Announcements



Mask Requirements for CP Properties and Offices

The State and City requirements that masks be worn within health centers have expired and have not been renewed. **However, CP Unlimited policy still mandates that masks must be worn by patients, visitors, staff, and all others within our Residential, Day, and Clinical settings.**

Please continue to do your part to protect our people, your colleagues, yourselves and your families. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding!

Join the CP Community Online



[Facebook.com/ConstructivePartnershipsUnlimited](https://www.facebook.com/ConstructivePartnershipsUnlimited)



[Linkedin.com/company/constructive-partnerships-unlimited-cp-unlimited/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/constructive-partnerships-unlimited-cp-unlimited/)



Find us here: [CP on YouTube](#)
