



What's Happening in Our World This Month?

State Conference & Awards, A Letter from Joe Pancari, New Board Members & More!

Dear CP Family,

We kick off November with excitement coming off of the CP State Conference in late October where dozens of CP team members were able to learn, partner, and advance our mission in the field. More about the experience, including the recognition of several employees chosen to receive special awards at the event on page 3.

In addition, CP leadership recently convened a meetings between OPWDD and OMH, bringing together these agencies for the first time to better provide comprehensive supports for individuals with I/DD throughout the state. This meeting was outlined in detail in a letter sent to our network, and included here for you on page 2. Speaking of leadership, we also brought on three new board members and we welcome their strategic expertise and advisement (more on page 7).

And we are looking forward to November 5 as we celebrate our people and supporters at the first Fall Formal and Silent Auction in the Hudson Valley. Get your tickets and bid on memorable items and experiences online!

As we transition into the fall season with momentum and a greater sense of identity as a convener and motivator of true change, we thank everyone for their work and commitment to CP. Onward!

A Letter From Joseph M. Pancari on Advancing our Mission

In recent months, CP Unlimited has taken several steps forward towards growing our organizational presence within communities throughout New York City and Hudson Valley, as well as our relationships in State Offices devoted to supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

As we move into the last quarter of the calendar year, I wanted to provide an update as to how the Agency is advancing our mission, facilitating partnerships, and elevating the standard of care for many of our most vulnerable.

In August, we organized an initial meeting with the Office of Persons With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and presented a concept paper outlining important pathways to greater cooperation between the NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) and their team, in service towards more comprehensive systems of support and processes for people with I/DD in residences and especially in transitional housing.

I am encouraged to share that we just had a follow up meeting, bringing together these teams for the first time (with an assist from Mike Alvaro at CP State) with the mutual goal of providing more inclusive and diverse support options. Further, we were able to spotlight the pressing need for more flexible psychological and psychiatric supports, and how greater cooperation can motivate these constructive solutions. The Agency also advocated for increased co-training and proposed technological collaboration to help deepen knowledge and skills throughout the field.

Our focus on these areas is borne out of both the history of the organization and the real-time data provided by the work we do and the people we support. And our growing role as a convener and innovator is one that we are comfortable satisfying given our evolving responsibilities and expanding capacities.

None of this would be possible without the commitment of our team—the people in our residences, day habilitation programs, Article 16 clinics, and Central Office—working in tandem to create opportunities for people with I/DD to achieve fulfilling lives. The significance of our work is only eclipsed by the passion we bring to it. Thank you for your support of CP Unlimited.

Connecting to Employees

CP Unlimited at the CP State Conference

A contingent of team members from CP Unlimited attended the annual CP State conference in Saratoga Springs, New York from October 24-26 to build our network, hear updates from the field, and spotlight our services to fellow providers.

In addition, we celebrated several awards bestowed on several CP employees and we share their recognitions below:



Virginia "Ginny" Zelhof, CP's Director of Training, was recognized with the Natalie Rogers Employee of the Year Award honoring her decades-long work educating, inspiring, and leading the ongoing instruction of literal generations of CP employees. From the nomination text: "Ginny has trained thousands of employees. ...She is a role model not only to the people supported at CP Unlimited, but to every level of staff in the organization."

In addition, we applaud **Maureen Doherty**, Executive Assistant Supervisor, **Ronald Hetsberger**, Direct Care Counselor, **Ruby Rodriguez**, Billing Specialist, and **Craig Swedin**, Facilities Manager (not pictured) as well as **Rhonda Powell-Ashe**, Residential QIDP, **Frederick Byron**, Habilitation Specialist, **Sheila Banks-Pitcher**, Habilitation Specialist, and **Laura Herdman**, Residential DSP (the latter two not pictured) who received Staff Recognition Awards. [See more in our online story >>](#)

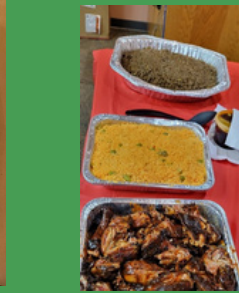


Celebrating Global Diversity Day on Oct. 20



CP's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee celebrated Global Diversity Day on October 20 with a variety of cultural potluck events at Central Office, Hudson Valley, and Res. Progress.

Attendees sampled a variety of cuisines from around the globe, representing the diversity of backgrounds among the CP team. A joyous and delicious time was enjoyed by all!



Videos for National Disability Employment Awareness Month

While this was an observance celebrated in October, we did want to point you to two new videos promoting the professional success of people supported by CP Unlimited:

Karen Rodriguez and Armando Perez

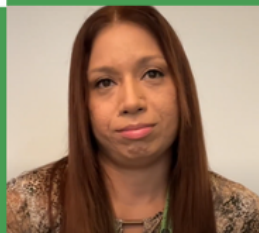
Click the image below to watch!



Karen Rodriguez

Empowered Through Employment
at CP Unlimited

Learn More: www.cpunlimited.org



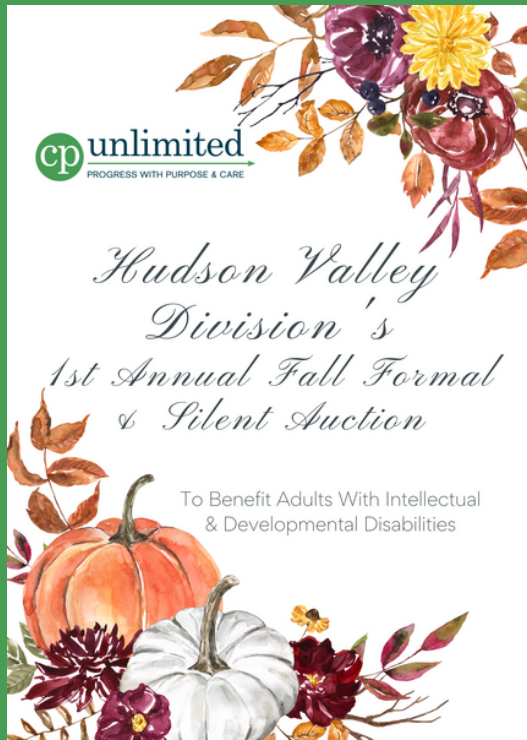
Armando Perez

On Working at American Express
for Eight Years

Learn More: www.cpunlimited.org

Upcoming at CP Unlimited

FALL FORMAL & AUCTION IN HUDSON VALLEY NOVEMBER 5



Join persons supported, local leaders, CP team members, and area friends for an afternoon/evening of sparkle and shine as we celebrate CP Unlimited together.

A silent auction will also be held featuring exciting experiences and items, with all proceeds benefitting the Agency.

[You are invited to browse the auction and get your tickets today >>](#)

BROOKLYN WHEELCHAIR CLEANING ON DEC. 3, 9AM-4PM



Families and folks are encouraged to bring their chairs to our East New York Avenue Day Hab for free cleaning and sanitizing on December 3! RSVP to Ester Giraldo at egiraldo@cpofnys.org

SAVE THE DATE: CP'S HOLIDAY PARTY IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9!

More information and an invitation coming next week via email from communications@cpofnys.org!

FYI: Borough-based events are also planned for direct care staff.

HR: New Hires at CP

Welcoming Family to the CP Team:

Kayla Adeluwoye, Residence Counselor

Brentsley Allicock, Residence Counselor

Janine Ayers, Direct Care Counselor

Tracy Bellamy, Independent Living Skills Trainer

Anna Beran, Day Shift Supervisor

Kiara Davis, Direct Care Counselor

Sandra DuBarry, Director of Day Services

Maureen Eigbe, Direct Care Counselor

Talera Elliott, Residence Counselor

Ippolita Fata, Maintenance Worker

Eshawnay Gray, Direct Care Counselor

Yaqueiry Hidalgo, Employment Specialist

Linda Isaac, Direct Care Counselor

Bai Kamara, Direct Care Counselor

Rafiat Kassim, Program Coordinator (CLS- NE)

Kalougo Kone, Direct Care Counselor

Abosedo Makinde-Lidge, Direct Care Counselor

Joshua Mason, Direct Care Counselor

Christine Mattson, Associate Executive Director, Hudson Valley

Loreen McPherson, Direct Care Counselor

Anna Mohamed, Employment Specialist

Diana Muhametaj, Human Resources Coordinator

Adedoyin Olaloko, Registered Nurse

Chinyere Onyemaizu, Direct Care Counselor

Denesh Persaud, Chief Technology Officer

Kweisha Ross, Direct Care Counselor

Esther Solomon, Direct Care Counselor

Patricia Stewart, Direct Care Counselor

Jessica Stingle, Registered Dietician

Fatoumata Toure, Direct Care Counselor

Imma Turay, Direct Care Counselor

Final Announcements

Welcoming Three New Board Members to CP Unlimited



CP Unlimited announced three prominent additions that add to the diversity of expertise on the Agency's Board of Trustees: established marketing consultant **Tracy Belmear**, social innovator **Everson Gibson**, and leading parent advocate **Carol Kirkman**. [Read our full press release online >>](#)

2023 OPEN ENROLLMENT INFO

Stay tuned for information about the 2023 Open Enrollment period.
Don't miss the opportunity to enroll in qualified health plans

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