



What's Happening in Our World This Month?

An Exhibition Premiere, Albany Advocacy, Open Houses, Adult Ed. Graduation, & More!

Love is in the air throughout the CP Unlimited network!

We know that our team has an abiding love for the people we support—this much is abundantly clear to anyone who spends more than two minutes with CP staff. Whether it is in the special way they approach their responsibilities with equal parts dedication and tenderness or the respect and dignity they seek to inspire in the people we support, every day is an opportunity to demonstrate this loyalty and attachment.

The CP Family also demonstrates this affection in the ways we seek to help people with I/DD achieve fulfilling lives; so it is our duty to advocate in the halls of power for increased investment (see page 2), celebrate and encourage their educational development (page 3 for details) identify new ways to spotlight the talent of our persons supported (check out page 4), and expand our abilities to better serve our community (more on page 6).

Ask any of our 2,200+-strong workforce: we know our work makes a real difference. So, this month where we celebrate Valentine's Day is an appropriate time to reflect the love I see on a daily basis back to you. Your time and efforts means so very much to the families of the people we support and all those with I/DD throughout New York.

Sincerely,

Joseph M. Pancari, President & CEO



ADVOCACY at CP Unlimited:

Expanding Services for People
and Elevating the Field

ADD YOUR VOICE TO GROW ACCESS

CP Unlimited is a partner in advocacy for all peoples with disabilities as well as for those entrusted with their care. Our work in this area emphasizes increased funding and access for the disability field and centers the narratives of our self-advocates and our committed team to emphasize the impact of focused action. The result has been deeper public awareness, a more open pipeline of communications, grants, and other funding, and most importantly a more diverse range of services and options for people with I/DD.

How to Make a Difference



Will you be in Albany with us on February 12?

Over 100 team members and advocates will be at the NYDA rally at the NYS Capitol requesting more investment for DSPs and the passage of the “Traveling with Dignity” Act, and meeting with key legislatures to advance our interests.



Send a Letter to Your Elected Officials

Download a letter to support the “Traveling with Dignity” Act, which will mandate the installation of height-adjustable adult changing facilities at venues across New York that can host more than 2,500 visitors.

[See resources and learn more online >>](#)

Adult Education Graduation 2023



CP Unlimited celebrated nearly forty of our persons supported as they marked their graduation from our 2023 Adult Education Series of classes on February 1, led by **Melissa D'Accordo**, Curriculum and Training Specialist and **Virginia Zelhof**, Director of Training.

These courses included Reading, Writing, American Sign Language, Money Management, and many more. Their shared success is testament to their determination, dedication, and desire for personal improvement.

The ceremony also honored the efforts of two of our Direct Support Professionals, **Carol Sampson Bradford** and **Sandra Gomez**, who were instrumental helping students participate in the Adult Education Series.

[See more from the ceremony, including video, a photo slideshow, and the full list of our AES 2023 Graduates >>](#)

Through the Lens Opens to Public



After months of preparation, *Through the Lens: New Images from the Progressive Visions Photo Club* premiered on Staten Island at The National Lighthouse Museum to a huge crowd of supporters and art enthusiasts, alongside local leaders, exhibition sponsors, and museum members. The exhibition, featuring nearly a dozen images of Lighthouse museum exhibits, grounds, and local monuments, captured and edited by Frank Ferebee, Lemar Jackson, and Kimberly Bland runs through March 3, 2024.

The opening program featured remarks from **Linda Dianto, Executive Director of The Lighthouse Museum, Joseph M. Pancari, President & CEO of CP Unlimited, Assemblyman Michael Reilly, Assemblyman Sam Pirozzolo, and Photographer Frank Ferebee.**

[**See more from the event including media clips and video of opening remarks >>**](#)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The DEI Committee is sponsoring two programs for our CP Family of team members and persons supported.



Partnering with *Furious Flower Poetry Center* and the *Rooted Theater Company*, we hope to see you to learn more and engage with our shared history.



CLICK THE FLYERS BELOW TO RSVP >>

Black History Month Poetry Program

Contribute, Learn, Write, and Discover with CP Unlimited as we partner with the "Furious Flower Poetry Center" to virtually explore African-American culture through poetry.

February 15, 2024 | 10:00 - 11:00 AM

This program will include a live poetry reading, a discussion on the legacy of poetry as art, and an opportunity to read your own poem celebrating Black History Month!

RSVP TO DEICommittee@cpofnys.org

Black History Month Theater Program

Join the CP Family at our Brooklyn Day Habilitation setting for a Black History Month theater program with members of the *Rooted Theater Company*.

They will perform excerpts from *Yellowman* by Dael Orlandersmith exploring the issue of colorism and lead a meaningful discussion on the topic with us.



February 28, 2024 | 1:00 PM

**Linda Buch Gherardi Center
921 East New York Ave. Brooklyn, 11203**

RSVP to Chanel Roper at CRoper@cpofnys.org

A New Grant Grows Our Fleet



Helping People with I/DD Access Programs, Resources, and More



of Their Local Communities



Cerebral Palsy Transport, Inc.

Cerebral Palsy Transport, the transport division of Constructive Partnerships (CP) Unlimited, has received a major infusion of funding from the New York State Department of Transportation to expand mobility transport services throughout New York City and the Hudson Valley.

Provided under the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals Section 5310 Program, the grant allows the transport division to modernize and grow our fleet by six vehicles with capacities between 6-8 wheelchairs and 20-36 ambulatory people with disabilities. This will help the people we support access the cultural and educational tapestry of New York City and the CP network in greater comfort and safety.

Further, the grant includes funds to cover Mobility Management personnel, thereby guaranteeing a deeper pool of trained operators and managers from which to guarantee more reliable and frequent transit options. The DOT Grant will also reimburse the Agency for COVID expenses not previously covered and reduce overall operating expenses to create a more sustainable foundation for the transport division to build on its routes and timetables.

From the Field Communications

Staten Island Disability News



Presented By
cp unlimited
PROGRESS WITH PURPOSE & CARE

Third Episode Out Now *Staten Island Disability News*



Exploring Programs and Projects “Taking Root” on Staten Island

Our third episode explores different programs taking root on Staten Island. The borough is home to a number of exciting partnerships and projects that are growing opportunities for people with disabilities and we highlight two special initiatives in a dynamic half-hour program: Smile Farms, Inc. and *Through the Lens: New Images from the Progressive Visions Photo Club* at The National Lighthouse Museum.

[Watch Online and Browse All Episodes >>](#)

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CP SPRING FORMAL

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SAVE THE DATE

Spring Formal

May 4, 2024, 6:00 - 10:00 PM

Curry Estate

2737 Route 52 | Hopewell Junction, NY 12533

Save the Date for CP Hudson Valley’s annual evening of springtime sparkle: **Saturday, May 4, 2024 at Curry’s Estate in Hopewell Junction from 6:00 – 10:00 PM!**

CP Unlimited: New Hires and Promotions

We recognize the accomplishments of team members who received recent promotions:

Jennifer Aduna is now Program Manager

Willie Barley is now Assistant Director of Support Services

Claudette Daley is now Residential Coordinator

Jennifer Daley is now Program Coordinator Supervisor

Kwadwo Ofori is now VP of Day and Vocational Services

Denise Rattigan is now Habilitation Aide

Welcoming new members of the CP Family to our team:

Adesola Arogundade, Direct Care Counselor

Aaliyah Christiansen, Community Habilitation Specialist

Angel Colon, Direct Care Counselor

Kimberly Cudal, Rehabilitation Counselor

Vladimir Desir, Residence Counselor (Registered Behavior Technician (RBT))

Mary Folorunso, Habilitation Aide

Doreen Grey, Direct Care Counselor

Rama Jean, Evening Shift Supervisor

Gladstone Jones, Direct Care Counselor

Kathyann King, Driver's Aide

Venetia King, Residence Counselor

Andrew Kofflert, Habilitation Counselor

Aishat Lawal, Direct Care Counselor

Yessica Marquez, Purchasing Assistant

Ronesha Medouze-Cordis, Habilitation Assistant

Dana Mitchell, Independent Living Skills Trainer

Twumasi Ankrah Nkansah, Habilitation Aide

Christine Naddumba, Rehabilitation Counselor

Carline Noel, Program Coordinator (CLS)

Nagusta Paul, Residence Counselor

Victoria Reeves, Direct Care Counselor

Jamila Richards, Direct Care Counselor

Johnathin Rodriguez, Direct Care Counselor

Jamia Sanders, Direct Care Counselor

James Schocher, Residence Counselor

Emmanuel Ssemukoteka, Rehabilitation Counselor

Atul Sso, Accounts Receivable Specialist

Taneisha Sumlin, Day Shift Supervisor

Davant Thompson, Habilitation Aide

Confidence Ubi, Rehabilitation Counselor

Barbara Watson, Licensed Practical Nurse

CP Unlimited: IT Update

As part of our efforts to strengthen security and reduce loss of important and sensitive data, we will be enabling new Data Loss Prevention (DLP) policies.

Going forward, emails that contain Personally Identifiable Information (PII) will automatically be encrypted when leaving our secured environment.

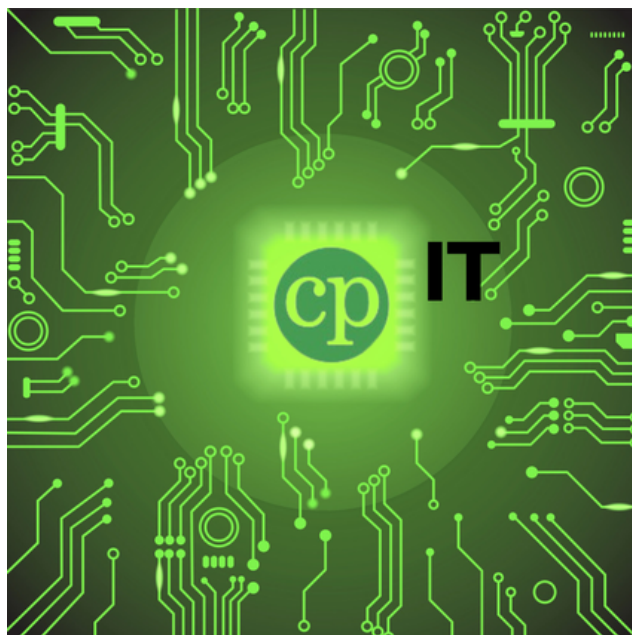
Personally Identifiable Information can be considered but not limited to:

- Social security number
- Medical Information
- Credit Card Details
- Passport Number



Once you hit the send button on your email, the information will automatically be encrypted without the need to put “Confidential” in the subject line. The DLP policy is not limited to Outlook, but includes other Microsoft 365 services such as OneDrive, Teams, and SharePoint.

To learn more about DLP, what it is, and how it protects data, please visit [Microsoft Security-DLP](#).



The Interboro Winter Olympics Returns to CHC!



Persons supported from across the CP Day Hab network had determination in their eyes as they heartily competed to take home the gold in our first Interboro Winter Olympics, held at our Cora Hoffman Center! [See photos and who brought home the gold >>](#)

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](#)