

Community Connections

Dear Families and Friends of JCL,

As I approach my final days at JCL, I just wanted to take a few moments to thank each and every one of you for your unflinching confidence in our mission and the ways in which we worked to stay true to that mission over the decades so to keep your confidence. Our work goes on and will for decades to come. The women and men we support may not be able to appreciate what you mean to JCL but everyone else does. Please continue to support JCL in the years ahead so we can be our very best at all times.

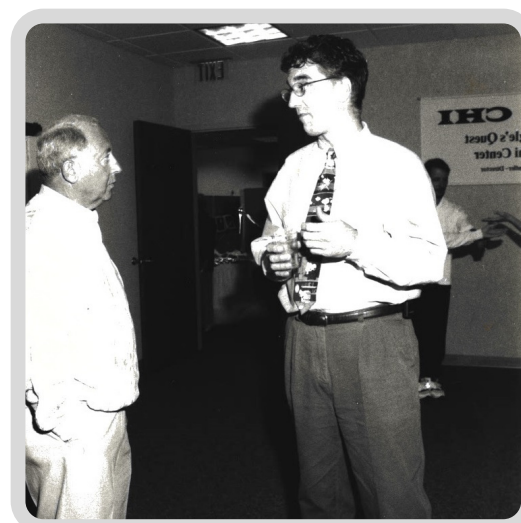
JCL is in very competent hands with Gloria Carlson as our new executive director and all the management and frontline employees who endeavor every hour of every day to make JCL one of the top workplaces in Greater Hartford as determined by the Hartford Courant. You helped make this happen. Your support allows us to go the extra miles on behalf of our employees and this helps motivate them to do their best.

JCL is blessed to have a Board of Directors that is always at the ready. We have been served selflessly over the decades by so many talented and committed lay leaders who tirelessly volunteers their time, talent, and treasure. Our board knows how to govern but also knows when to let our professional leadership lead. It's a delicate ballet requiring mutual trust and transparency. As donors, you can rest assured that your investment in JCL is honored by ensuring we deliver on the confidence you have shown in us each time a donation is made.

I've had some key mentors in my life and some wonderful jobs along the way. It's been 45 years since I cut my teeth as a summer camp counselor for women and men with I/DD. I never left this field. However, nothing will compare to the privilege I have had here at JCL for nearly 30 years. It's been the ride of a lifetime for me and my family. My wife Faith supported me every step of the way and our children, Conor and Norah, know JCL almost as well as I do. I am eternally grateful to them for journeying along by my side.

Wishing you peace and all things good. 10-42.

Denis Geary



Dearest JCL Family,

Greetings of the season. I am honored to continue my tenure at JCL as the incoming Executive Director. While I am keenly aware I have big shoes to fill as Denis's successor: I am also aware there is nothing Denis would wish for me more than to wear my own shoes and create my own path. His guidance, care and true friendship throughout the past 33 years is a large part of why I am in this position to lead this wonderful organization. Thank you Denis for your years of service and may you find peace and some relaxation as you embark on this next chapter of your life.

They say the only constant is change. I believe this in my soul. JCL stands on the precipice of change. Not only because of new leadership but also because our world has changed. The last 3 years throughout the pandemic, so many of us needed to turn inward, to protect ourselves and those around us. It was and can continue to be a daunting task to keep our individuals safe in uncertain times. So much of the world around us needed to have that same response of turning inward. As we begin to emerge from the pandemic and explore, learn and respond to our new normal it feels time to reengage with each other and our community, to turn outward. JCL has been and continues to be benefactors of a very generous community of supporters both financially and through time, talent and service. I am excited to embark on how we can give back to our community, how can we be impactful? How JCL can live its mission to be "Community Active and Community Strong".

I could not ask for a more supportive board of directors, caring families, creative and determined individuals and dedicated and loyal staff to embark on this journey with. I thank you all! Here we go!!

Gloria Carlson



We're excited to share that we are participating in second phase of the Endow Hartford 21 program. This giving opportunity is a way for donors to invest in JCL's future. All gifts made between \$250 and \$10,000 will be matched at 50%. Additionally, if you gave during the first phase, you're still eligible to give and have your gift matched in the second phase. If you have questions or would like to learn more about the matching program call Sarah Winiarski at 860-522-5225 ext. 2239.



We are so grateful for your continued support throughout the year.



JCL's Employee Recognition Event

November 9th was a very special night for JCL. It has been 3 years since we held our last employee recognition event, and we were due for a big celebration! This year's event honored employees who met milestones in 2020, 2021, and 2022. There were enough laughs, hugs, and smiles to make up for the last 3 years.

Although each recognition was special, one in particular rises above the rest. This is the recipient of the Denis Geary, Connecting Mission to Life Award. This award was created to honor Denis' 30 years of service to JCL and will continue to be awarded annually at our recognition celebration.

There are a number of qualities we look for in a recipient, some of which include leading by example, challenging those around them to put forth their finest effort in the betterment of those we support, eagerness to assistance in anyway needed, and possesses a no job too big or small belief. We are pleased to announce that this year's recipient is Maurice King a Life Skills Instructor at our Brewster Road group home. Congratulations to Maurice and thank you for your commitment to JCL.



Denis Geary and Maurice King.



Jaime and Marianne enjoying the celebration.



Jeff and Jodi are happy to reunite and have a fun time.



Conor Geary (Denis's son) celebrating with Josh and David.



Sally Huebner, Mira, Jackie Fountaine, Kerry Arru, and Beena all smiles.



10 year honorees; Teresa Channer, Stella Agakhanova, Cynthia Neives, Norah Geary, and Carol Robinson-Bauchanan.



Bonnie Eisenberg-Greene, Aretha Grimes, and Sandra Lockett celebrating 15 years with JCL.

JCL Day Programs bringing pride and joy

Day Programs are a vital part of our work and important programs that bring much joy, pride, and purpose to our residents. There are many different types of day programming which include individualized day programs and day programs outside of JCL at other service provider agencies.

Some residents who live in our Community Residential Supports receive day programming from our wonderful Life Skills Instructors. Our individualized day programs allows residents to do activities that they feel bring joy and value to their lives. We are fortunate that, the Jewish Community Foundation, has supported us in this endeavor. Their generosity has helped us support job coaching and training.

One of the residents who benefits from our day programming is Arsenia. Arsenia lives in an apartment and with the help of Life Skills Instructor, Samantha Rudolph, enjoys working on a weekly basis. In the Spring, Summer, and Fall Arsenia volunteers at a Levo which is a local hydroponic farm that sells vegetables to its local customers. Arsenia's paid job is to assist with jobs in the office. Each day of the week, Arsenia can be seen at the JCL office shredding papers, collecting recycling, delivering mail, as well as delivering coffee and tea orders.

Receiving a pay check is a source of pride for Arsenia. When asked about work, she exclaimed "I like it!". She is able to go out and purchase things that she wants, her paycheck gives her freedom to do that.

Sam says, "Working with Arsenia has it challenges but she has come a long way already. I am proud of her and seeing her progress feel very rewarding."

Matt is another resident who lives in his own apartment and works at the JCL office. Once a week, Matt, along with Life Skills Instructor Jasmine Thompson, comes in to clean each of the seven offices in the two suites JCL occupies along with the kitchen and common areas. Matt is responsible for vacuuming, wiping down surfaces, and emptying garbage bins.

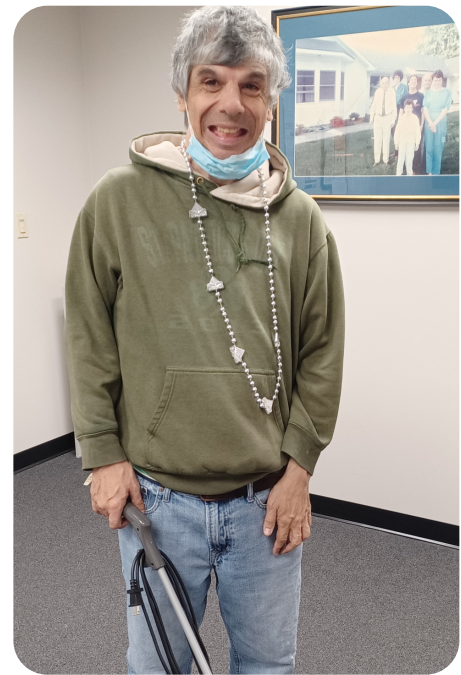
Matt says, "I like to make make. I live to out to eat to Max Burger, Friendly's, and A.C. Peterson's."

"I'm happy he is able to work. It's a pleasure to be able to help Matt!", says Jasmine.

For many of us work can be a means to an end, we depend on our paycheck to pay bills, buy groceries, etc. Paid work for Arsenia and Matt equates to independence in a life that they depend on so many others for help.



Arsenia excitedly showing off the seedlings she's replanting at Levo.



Matt finishing his work at the JCL office.