

# Community Connections

## A new season at JCL

In June, we officially celebrated one year in our Bloomfield office but, the changes have not ended there. In April, Denis Geary, our Executive Director of nearly 30 years announced his retirement targeted for the end of 2022.

Additionally, Glenn Baglin, Life Skills Supervisor at our Arapahoe Rd. group home since 1994 has announced his retirement. Although Glenn will be retiring, he won't be too far away as he will continue to help during this transition period. Happy retirement to Glenn!

Stepping into the Life Skills Supervisor position will be Tonya Kellett, the current Assistant Life Skills Supervisor at Arapahoe. Tonya also began working at our Arapahoe Rd. home in 1994. Congratulations to Tonya!

This fall begins a new year of Board commitments. We are excited to announce that we have welcomed four new members to board ship. Welcome to Don Neville, Alison Sjoberg, Dr. Felice Heller, and Bridget Arndt. All of these members will bring their unique experiences and backgrounds to enhance the JCL Board.

In addition, the following were elected a officers:

- Incoming President: Steve Basche, replacing Don Tardif
- Incoming Vice President: MaryAnne Charron, replacing Meredith Smith
- Incoming Treasurer: Stephanie Patz Kudler, replacing Erica Tirado
- Incoming Secretary: TBD

JCL is grateful to all incoming and outgoing directors and officers for their selfless commitment to our mission. We are looking forward to another fruitful year of engaging relationships with all of our Board members!

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Thank you to our friends at the Jewish Community Foundation and The Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

The continued support that we receive from these two community partners ensures that we are able to provide exceptional service to the men and women in our care. These funds also allow us to provide Judaic Programming throughout the year to our residents and the community.



Glenn Baglin and Tonya Kellett.

# JCL's Annual Beach Day

Each year, the JCL folks take a day to get together and have fun at the beach. In CT we are fortunate to have access to an accessible beach at Camp Harkness. For the day our folks get to just hang out, play games, swim, read, and chill out on the beach. Thank you to our Life Skills Supervisors, Life Skills Instructors, and Program and Services Coordinators for making this day possible.



Life Skills Instructor Dawn and Brian arriving for Beach Day.



Life Skills Instructor June, Lauren and Jaime enjoying time at the beach.



Kelly, Marianne, LSI Vicki King (pink shirt), LSI Teresa Channer (black hat), and Arsenia getting ready for a swim.



Coordinator of Programs and Services, Larry catching some rays with Josh.



Jeff, Jay and Josh relaxing in the sun.

## Meet Deidre & David

Deidre Reichenbach is a Life Skills Supervisor for JCL. She oversees part of our IHS program and has been with JCL for 15 years. Deidre was gracious enough to answer a few questions for our newsletter, to help our supports to get to know JCL and our people better.

### 1. What is your favorite memory of JCL?

I have so many memories of (JCL). But I really just love when everyone from JCL gets together at any big events. Just watching everyone dance, laugh, reunite and having a great time together.

### 2. What do you like most about JCL?

I really like the fact that JCL is so family oriented and they make me feel comfortable. It's going on almost 15 years working with this company, and sometimes it doesn't even feel like work. You enjoy the environment you're surrounded by. The participants, staff, management and the participants' families treat you as their own. I always feel welcome!

*3. What has surprised you the most working at JCL?*

During the pandemic, people were scared, frustrated, confused, stressed and all of the above which caused a lot of mental health distress with a lot of people. We get caught up in our routines and everyday life and then everything just stopped for the participants and everyone else. But JCL always found a way to help us feel happy and checking in on us to see if we're okay, making us feel appreciated and every Thursday they were dropping off gifts. We were all in this together. Just staying positive.



Deidre Reichenbach, JCL Supervisor

*4. What do you find the most challenging about working with people with disabilities?*

Getting close and then just letting go. We get so comfortable with our participants, we watch them grow and we treat them as if they're our own family. A lot of the times we're with them more than our own family at home. So when one gets sick or any other complications, you worry and stress. So it's hard to face the fact as we're getting older so are the guys and ladies at JCL.

**David Baine, JCL Resident**

*1. What's your favorite memory of being part of JCL?*

I love the staff. They are nice and understanding. They celebrate my birthday and that means a lot to me.

*2. What do you like most about living with JCL?*

I like the independence. It helps me to relax more. When I do need the help from JCL, the staff come in and make me feel comfortable and help me get used to being around more people.

*3. What do you like to do for fun?*

I like to watch movies, shopping at Best Buy, and looking at electronics.

*4. What is one thing you wish you could change about JCL?*

Nothing. Keep it the way it is, there is nothing to change. I like how it is now.



David Baine, JCL Resident



We are please to announce that JCL will be participating in phase two of the Endow Hartford 21 Campaign which begins in September.

Just as in the previous phase, all gifts made between \$250 and \$10,000 will be matched 50%. If you are interested in learning more about the matching program please contact Sarah at 860-522-5225 x2239 or [swiniarski@jcl-ct.org](mailto:swiniarski@jcl-ct.org).

# Busy times at JCL

This summer, our folks have been busy enjoying outdoor concerts, the beach, vacations, etc. Check out what we've been up to!



Happy 59th birthday Keith! Pictured are David, Lee Lapuk (Keith's Mom), Keith, Jon, and Elizabeth.



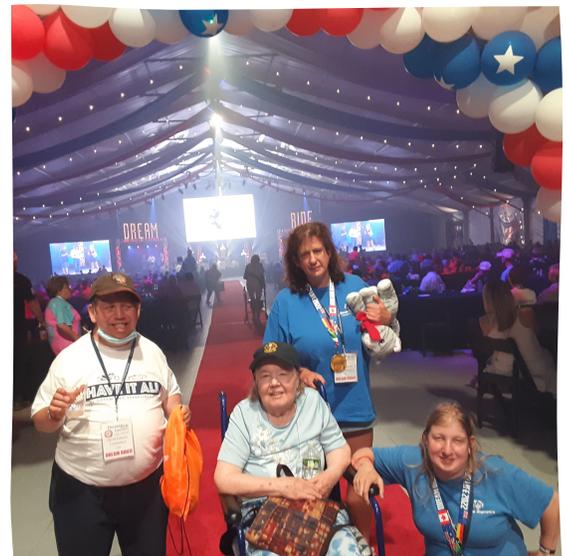
Marianne (foreground) and Jaime participating in a local art class.



Tammy, Jaime, and Melissa enjoying an outdoor concert in Simsbury.



Thank you to Marlene and Jerry Scharr for hosting lunch for David, Jon, and their daughter Elizabeth.



David, Kendy, Jaime, and Marianne posing at the Dream Ride fundraiser.