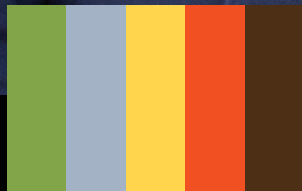




Inspirations





INSPIRATIONS MAGAZINE

is published twice a year by Springbrook
in Oneonta, NY.

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Desiree Simpson
Melanie Sines
Tamara Sines

PHOTOGRAPHER

Luke Moran

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Alexandria Coleman

EDITORS

Michael Basso
Tristan Pokorny

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Cover: Nate, participant in Springbrook's
Pathway to Employment, with Employment
Specialist, Haywood Edwards

Springbrook is the leader in providing innovative support
for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
With locations across New York State, we offer service
options that span all aspects of a person's life.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



I love this time of the year when the Christmas decorations are put away and the days are getting longer and brighter. It is a time when I reflect on the past year and begin to plan for the new year at home and at Springbrook. There is so much to be thankful for and proud of.

Springbrook has seen unprecedented growth and transformation from a small, local organization in eight counties to a commanding agency that functions in 14 counties and employs 1,500 people. We grew from providing services to 200 people to supporting 2,500 people with disabilities, as well as their families. Through this growth, we have created a continuum of services that can span the lifetime of every person supported by Springbrook.

Over the past 25 years, Springbrook has seen the implementation of the area's only fully integrated preschool program that offers education to children with and without disabilities. It also became possible to build the Tom Golisano Center for Autism, the cafeteria and gym extension at The School at Springbrook, and the Family Engagement Center (FEC).

In the past ten years, Springbrook has connected people with disabilities with jobs at over 150 participating businesses across service regions.

Springbrook has been given gifts, both large and small, and every one of them has gone toward bettering the lives of the people we support. Day-to-day operations and events like Winter Wonderland, Halloween Hayrides, Trunk or Treat, Friendsgiving, and many more bring joy to all.

I want to call out Springbrook's employees and offer them a great round of applause because Springbrook would not be what it is today without them. I have had the opportunity to work alongside some of the most dedicated people who are passionate about what they do. I am so proud to lead the effort for continued growth and care, and I am humbled by the support employees offer every person who chooses Springbrook.

In this upcoming year and beyond, I know that each donor, employee, board member, and individual is essential to our continued success. We are a team, and we have our mission; with strong leadership and open-hearted support, Springbrook has thrived. I treasure your trust to ensure our future.

Patricia E. Kennedy

Patricia E. Kennedy
CEO

"I have had the opportunity to work alongside some of the most dedicated people who are passionate about what they do."

- Patricia E. Kennedy

2022

Celebrated the 10-year anniversary of The Tom Golisano Center for Autism

2015

Revitalized Century Sunrise building to create 26 apartments for independent living and became the In-House Service Provide

2006

Established Self-Directed Services and completed expansion of Community Homes in the five-county region with 28 community homes.

2004

Initiated a capital campaign for a school renovation with designated spaces for therapies and nursing services

Springbrook

Best Non-Profit Organization

1998

Began renovations on Main Campus to build six homes for students at The School at Springbrook

1996

Created Kids Unlimited Preschool, the first integrative preschool in the county.

1996

Established three new Individual Residential Alternatives (IRAs) and Community Services program.

1994

Began Home and Community-Based Waiver services.

Honoring 25 Years of Dedication
With \$14.7 Million, Springbrook Nears Goal

State Sen. Jim Goward, right, confers with Springbrook CEO Patricia E. Kennedy and board President Jim Piskis after announcing the \$14.7 million allocation at a Tuesday, March 23, press conference.



DSP APPRECIATION WEEK

Celebrating Commitment & Support

Written by: Tamara Sines

Springbrook was buzzing with excitement during **Direct Support Professional (DSP) Appreciation Week** from September 11th to the 15th, 2023. A festive food truck traveled through the regions we serve, including Sidney Plains, Chenango, Binghamton, and Oneonta, treating DSPs to complimentary coffee and ice cream, lifting spirits, and spreading smiles. The atmosphere was filled with gratitude as

DSPs enjoyed the delights of the food truck and received their Springbrook hoodies, which proudly stated "Making the difference for a lifetime" on the back. This heartfelt tribute went out to DSPs whose tireless efforts enrich the lives of people with disabilities. Thank you to the DSPs of Springbrook, whose kindness and compassion make our community shine brighter every day!

*We want to express our deep appreciation for DSPs who tirelessly support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities at Springbrook, offering care across every aspect of daily life. **Your commitment will always be recognized!***



Your dedication and compassion is remarkable!





THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM

An Evening of Music

Written by: Desiree Simpson

On Wednesday, November 1st, *An Evening of Music* was held at the Morgan Library & Museum in New York City after a three-year hiatus due to COVID-19. This event featured world-renowned musicians and Springbrook parents **Carmit Zori** and **Robert Rinehart**. Carmit is a violinist who regularly appears as a soloist and chamber musician worldwide and is on the faculty at Rutgers and Bard; Carmit also serves on the faculty at SUNY Purchase. Robert, a violist, is a member of the New York Philharmonic and is on the faculty at the Manhattan School of Music. Cellist **Eric Bartlett** accompanied them to perform some of their favorite chamber music pieces.

Carmit and Robert have hosted *An Evening of Music* at the Morgan Library & Museum since 2016. The event was inspired by their son Danny, a former student and graduate of the Tom Golisano Center for Autism, who is now supported by Springbrook Community Homes. Carmit and Robert saw the positive growth and extraordinary experience their son was having during his time at the Golisano Center. They knew he would be provided an equally safe and caring environment in a community home. *An Evening of Music* has been their way of bringing awareness to the work that Springbrook does.

All proceeds from the event benefit The Springbrook Foundation and its work on behalf of Springbrook. The Springbrook Foundation inspires donors to partner with Springbrook to enhance high-quality programs, build capacity, seize opportunities, and ensure long-term success.



Some of the guests that attended *An Evening of Music*.



Musicians Eric Bartlett, Robert Rinehart, and Carmit Zori getting ready to perform.



Lead Sponsor, Hodgson Russ LLP; Concerto Level, Michael & Diane Christian, OneDigital, Sterling Farm, Vibrant Creative; Sonata Level, Alera Group, Inc., Bryans & Gramuglia CPAs LLC, Fenimore Asset Management, Inc., Hinman, Howard & Kattell, LLP, LeChase Construction Services, LLC, Patricia O'Brien.





The Founders Award

The inaugural Springbrook Founders Award was presented at this year's *An Evening of Music* at the Morgan Library & Museum. This award will be presented annually to an individual or couple who has passionately devoted their efforts to the unwavering realization of the mission and vision of Springbrook and for being an outstanding ambassador for the organization. This accolade embodies not only their steadfast commitment but also their profound generosity in providing invaluable financial support. The Springbrook Founders Award celebrates the people whose legacy is intertwined with the very essence of Springbrook's cause.

The Springbrook Founders Award was presented to long-time supporters and Springbrook Board of Directors President Tom Maggs and his wife, Amy Maggs.



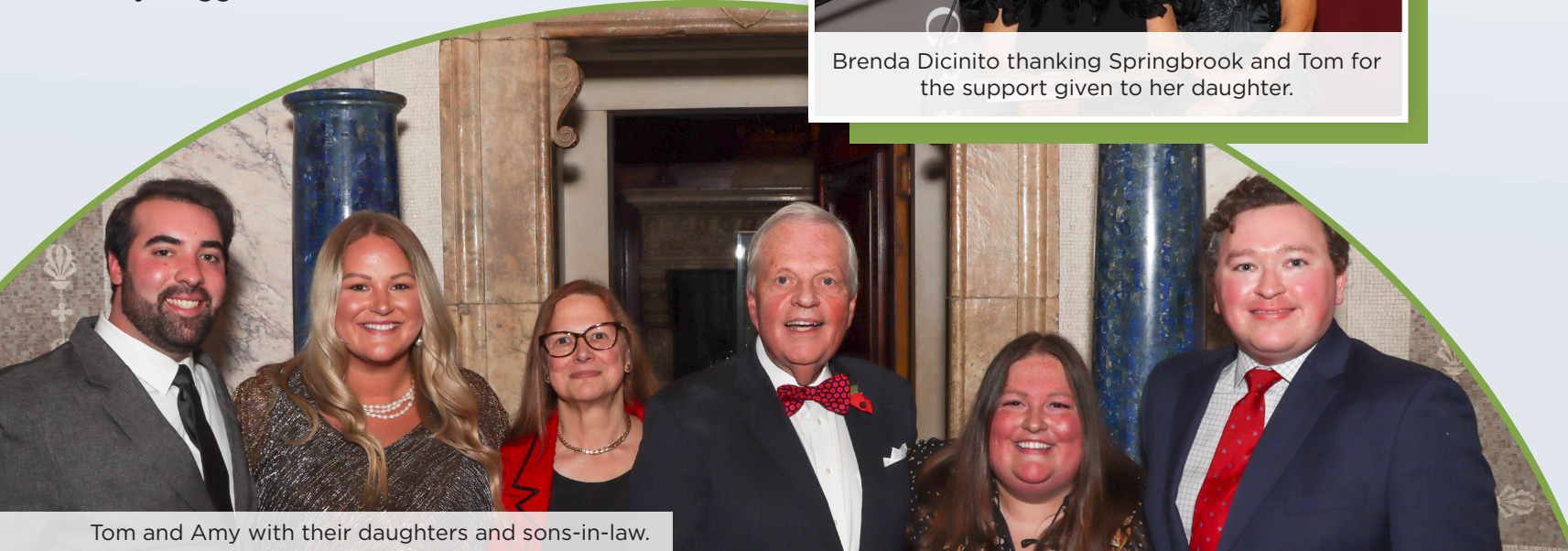
Tom and Amy Maggs accepting their award.

“We are honored to receive this special recognition from an organization we respect so deeply. Our family is inspired by each and every member of the Springbrook community.”

- Tom and Amy Maggs



Brenda Dicinito thanking Springbrook and Tom for the support given to her daughter.



Tom and Amy with their daughters and sons-in-law.

“The heart and soul of the organization are in the right place... I'm comfortable knowing that those who invest their time and resources in Springbrook will be pleased to see their donations used to their full potential. - Tom Maggs

Tom & Amy Maggs

Tom and Amy Maggs, along with their family, have been great advocates at local and state-wide levels for the organization and the people who choose to make Springbrook their provider. Tom has always shown his appreciation to the staff and given attention to recruitment for the Board of Directors. Together, Tom and Amy have demonstrated their lifelong commitment to Springbrook through 18 years of support and advocacy, including the launch of the inaugural *An Evening of Music* fundraiser.

Tom has been a visible presence at Springbrook and has used his role in the community to bring attention to the many facets of the organization, the dedicated staff who provide their expertise, and the service recipients and their families. “At events, you will often find Tom introducing himself to employees, service recipients, and their families, and listening intently to their stories. It is one of the things about Tom I appreciate most, his sincere interest in and concern for the people who make up the Springbrook community,” said Patricia Kennedy.

Tom and Amy have made Springbrook their philanthropic priority. As members of The Kraemer Society, the Magg's have committed to the long-term future of Springbrook through a legacy gift. “The heart and soul of the organization are in the right place,” offers Tom. With great thanks to donors like Tom and Amy, who have given their financial support and lifelong commitment, Springbrook remains a strong organization that will continue to support staff, students, and families for a lifetime.

“At events, you will often find Tom introducing himself to employees, service recipients, and their families, and listening intently to their stories.”

- Patricia E. Kennedy



Tom saying hello to Ryan Benz.



Amy Maggs, Erik Kulleseid (Commissioner of NY State Parks & Rec), Tom Maggs, and Patricia Kennedy during cocktail hour.



WELCOME, DR. ANGELINA NITTO

Providing Safe & Inclusive Medical Care



Written by: Desiree Simpson

Springbrook is pleased to welcome **Dr. Angelina Nitto** as the inaugural medical director of the wellness clinic at Springbrook, which will support people in the community with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Dr. Nitto received her Doctor of Medicine degree at the St. George University School of Medicine in St. George, Grenada. She previously attended the Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Science in Albany, New York, and the Saint Elizabeth Family Medicine Residency in Utica, New York. Today, Dr. Nitto is the primary physician at the clinic, subcontracted through the Bassett Healthcare Network, and provides service to 124 people supported by Springbrook.

Dr. Nitto has long believed in equal access and consistent care for everyone across their lifespan. The clinic will provide service to people of any age for as long as they need it. This opportunity for Nitto, one she has been waiting for since she started her studies as a physician, fills a significant gap in healthcare provision for people with Down Syndrome, Autism, and other intellectual or developmental disabilities. Historically, it is difficult for people with I/DD to find a provider who understands their development across the lifespan. This may be because they have long been misunderstood and underserved by the medical community at large. They have had to fight for reasonable accommodations and policy modifications, practices, and



I will be an advocate for the people I serve, their family members, and their caregivers and ensure they are provided with the best medical care.



- Dr. Angelina Nitto

procedures in clinics and hospital settings. The clinic will offer various services, from medical prescriptions to removing stitches and annual check-ups. The clinic is also expected to support those not receiving services from Springbrook. This will save patients and people needing care time and grief by avoiding large hospitals and clinics that may be overwhelming and overstimulating. The clinic is a fully accessible facility with providers like Dr. Nitto, who will take the time to get to know the whole person to meet their every need.

Dr. Nitto is excited to have found her dream job of supporting the I/DD population so close to home. She is “looking forward to opening the clinic to a wider range of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.”



Ribbon cutting ceremony and opening of the clinic in 2017.



BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYST

Achieving My Degree

Written by: Lila Ingersoll



Jessica Jester has been working at Springbrook for almost ten years. She began her career as a shared classroom aide with several promotions through the years and is now a board certified behavior analyst. Jessica earned her Bachelor's degree in Applied Psychology and a Master's degree in Behavior Analysis through the Springbrook Scholars program. She earned both degrees in a total of four years, with hard work and support from Traci Lanner and the behavior team at The School at Springbrook.

Behavior analysts work with students to develop personalized plans to reach goals, including assessing challenges, preferences, and skills, communicating with families, identifying obstacles to success, and monitoring each student's progress.

Jessica shares, "I was motivated to achieve my degrees because of the students at The School, who have grown, learned new skills, and overcome obstacles through the help of the behavior team at Springbrook." One of Jessica's favorite parts about working at the school is witnessing



Jessica with Ryan, a student from The School at Springbrook.

student growth over the years she has worked with them, knowing that every employee contributes to individual success and the achievement of goals. Jessica is a valuable addition to the behavior team and is grateful for all the support she has received from Springbrook to reach her dream.

Jessica earned two degrees through Springbrook Scholars, a donor-funded program that offers educational avenues for employees to advance their careers. The program has two tracks: **Springbrook Scholarships** (tuition-free programs) and **Springbrook Tuition Reimbursement**, as well as opportunities for professional development, degree completion, and advanced training. We are proud to partner with academic institutions to continue expanding offerings so that Springbrook employees can pursue educational opportunities at no cost.

I was motivated to achieve my degrees because of the students at The School, who have grown, learned new skills, and overcome obstacles through the help of the behavior team at Springbrook.

- Jessica Jester



CORTLAND RIBBON CUTTING

Expanding Community Services



Mike Rehbein cutting the ribbon at Springbrook's new office in Cortland, NY.

Written by: Lila Ingersoll

On August 14th, Springbrook celebrated the grand opening of its newest Community Services location in Cortland, NY. The celebration included a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a passionate speech by U.S. Representative Marcus J. Molinaro. Mike Rehbein, who receives self-directed services from Springbrook, officially cut the ribbon.

The opening of a new Community Services location marks an exciting expansion for the Cortland area. Springbrook's Community Services include programs such as Self-Direction, Housing Navigation, and Employment Services. The combination of services offers a comprehensive approach to living well in the community for people with disabilities, including finding a support team, managing a self-directed budget, preparing for job interviews, finding an accessible living space, connecting to inclusive community groups and activities, and more. In addition to Cortland, Springbrook's Community Services division operates in Oneonta, Norwich, Binghamton, Johnson City, Syracuse, and Ithaca.



Community Services team at the Cortland ribbon cutting ceremony.

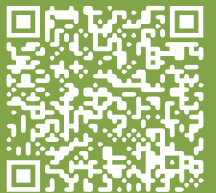
“ Having been a part of services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Cortland and surrounding counties for more than 20 years, I am thrilled to add value to the local service delivery system, collaborating with friends and partner agencies to improve the health outcomes and quality of life for the people we serve. ”

*- Kimberly Corbett
Director of Community Services*



“ The Rehbein family is a delight to work with. They are open, and they trust my abilities. More than anything, they are fiercely independent. Mike is an inspiration—he always finds a way to achieve his goals. ”

- Jessica Schifilliti



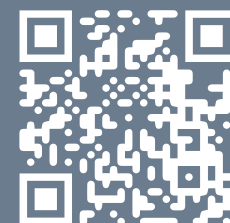
Mike's Facebook business page, "Mike's woodshop"

For Mike Rehbein, Community Services has assisted in developing his dream career in woodworking. Through care coordination and self-directed services from Southern Tier Connect, Mike receives support in accessing new providers and locating funding and reimbursement for services. Today, Mike designs and builds birdhouses, napkin and phone holders, mug and wine racks, picnic tables, accessible furniture, and more! Almost everything in Mike's workshop was made or acquired by Mike, including the tools and tool kits.

What may come as a surprise is that Mike does all this with only the right hemisphere of his brain intact. At age seven, the entire left hemisphere of his brain was removed through invasive surgery to subdue a seizure disorder that started when he was four. As an adult with a traumatic brain injury, Mike excels with some guidance in his home, at his workshop,

and with someone to help him advocate for his needs. Mike and his family have worked with care manager Jessica Schifilliti for years and have developed a trusting and effective working relationship.

More recently, Michelle Brickey, a full-time community habilitation employee, has been helping Mike with some direct care needs. Quickly recognizing Mike's talent and passion for woodworking, Michelle suggested that Mike get his work out into the world. Together, they arranged to sell his work at craft fairs and flea markets. Besides contributing to Mike's business success, this has also spread awareness about traumatic brain injuries (TBI) to the community of Cortland and beyond. We are so grateful to Mike for his advocacy work, and we are glad to see him honored in cutting the ribbon for the Cortland Community Services office.



If you are interested in partnering with Springbrook Community Services or receiving services, contact Assistant Director of Community Services Michele Gravel at **607-644-5780** or **gravelm@springbrookny.org**.

Scan the QR code to learn more!



BELDEN AND TRIUMPHANT AWARDS

On October 6th, we celebrated the winners of the **2023 Charles A. Belden Merit Citation** and the **2023 Triumphant Life Award** at The Otesaga in Cooperstown, NY.

The Belden Award was presented to **Alyssa Horton**, newly appointed principal of The School at Springbrook. **Eric Fish**, resident of Blackstone Community Home, was presented with the Triumphant Life Award.

The Charles A. Belden Merit Citation was established in 1994 by the Board of Directors in honor of Charles Belden, who served Springbrook in many capacities, including 40 years as a board member. The recipient of this award has demonstrated a compassionate spirit and dedication to a high level of care for the people served by Springbrook, as exemplified by Mr. Belden during his many years of service.

The Springbrook Triumphant Life Award is an annual award intended to honor and give special recognition to a person with a disability who receives services from Springbrook. The Triumphant Life Award acknowledges an individual's positive attitude and triumphs.



Patricia Kennedy, CEO, Alyssa Horton, and Seth Haight, COO.



Eric thanking Patricia Kennedy, CEO.

“Springbrook has invested in me as a professional, and I am forever grateful for the support they’ve provided me.”

- Alyssa Horton



Alyssa Horton with family.

“My whole family is so proud of me. Everybody is proud of me. I’m proud of myself, too.”

- Eric Fish



Eric Fish with family.

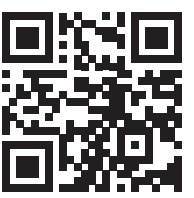
Scan the QR code to learn more about Alyssa!



Alyssa Horton
Charles A. Belden Merit Citation

Before becoming the principal of The School at Springbrook in Fall 2023, Alyssa was a special education teacher at The Tom Golisano Center for Autism and lead teacher at The School at Springbrook. She has been at Springbrook for over ten years and began her career as a non-certified teaching assistant (TA). Alyssa obtained her Master’s degree in Special Education and a post-master’s advanced certificate in Educational Leadership through the Springbrook Scholars program. One of Alyssa’s favorite memories was taking her class to Gilbert Lake in June 2022 for an end-of-year field trip. They spent the day hiking, swimming, and enjoying the sunshine. Alyssa was proud of her class for being brave, safe, and kind, and she was happy to see everyone enjoying themselves at the lake.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Eric!



Eric Fish
Triumphant Life Award

Eric is forging a future for himself while utilizing resources provided by Springbrook’s Employment Services, Community Homes, and the Day Habilitation Without Walls program in Binghamton, NY. Through Employment Services at Springbrook, Eric has gained confidence and takes pride in his work. He is in a pre-vocational program facilitated by Springbrook, where he volunteers at a horse farm. Eric loves the opportunity to work with horses and has improved his routines through regularly scheduled responsibilities. Eric is also First Aid and CPR certified, preparing him for any situation.

Springbrook Community Homes has provided a home for Eric since December 2005, but he has long dreamt of moving into an apartment. Soon, that dream will become a reality for Eric. In 2024, he will move to a supervised apartment with one of his peers. Eric is thrilled to move into his own apartment and shares, “I am very excited. I never thought I would come this far.”





MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT

Nate at Gilbertsville Farmhouse & NY Goat Yoga



Written by: Lila Ingersoll

Nate began his career journey with **Springbrook's Pathway to Employment**, a one-year pre-vocational program that focuses on discovering what type of employment best suits a person's individual skill set and goals. Now, Nate works two jobs as a direct hire and loves what he does. On the weekends, he works at Judy's Corner Kitchen restaurant in Mt. Upton, New York and two days a week at Gilbertsville Farmhouse & NY Goat Yoga, where he has been employed for two years. In this time, Nate has achieved goals such as learning new skills, and making great friends. At Gilbertsville Farmhouse, Nate's primary responsibilities are to care for the goats, guide them during goat yoga sessions, and travel with Vanessa, one of the goat yoga instructors, to local colleges and events across New York State to share the stress-relieving qualities of spending time with goats.

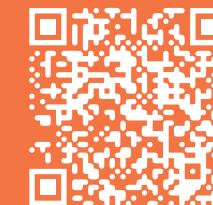


Sharon and Aldo Boustani, owners of Gilbertsville Farmhouse & NY Goat Yoga, were introduced to supported employment offerings at Springbrook when they met Haywood Edwards, an employment specialist at Springbrook who has helped Nate through every step of his employment journey. Sharon believes employment services are essential for both the participant and the employer because they provide new perspectives and create learning opportunities for both parties. The program has broadened their horizons at Gilbertsville Farmhouse, and they enjoy working with Nate to find ways to ensure continued success.

“ My confidence has grown because I am comfortable with my coworkers. I don't have to worry about anyone judging me; I can learn without fear. I have also gained many new experiences, like traveling to new places with Vanessa for goat yoga events. ”

- Nate

Employment Services goes above and beyond to support people with disabilities on their journeys to achieve the career of their dreams. Whether through resources like a pre-vocational program, on-site employment coaching, or problem-solving transportation, Employment Services works with each person they support to ensure their needs are met.



Scan QR code to check out our **Employment Services.**

Haywood excels at helping Nate with anything he needs; with effective communication, Haywood connects Nate with the necessary resources whenever he expresses a struggle or encounters an obstacle. Recently, Nate felt lonely while working in the barn and communicated that to Haywood, who came right over to keep him company. Both are grateful for the comfort in their working dynamic. Haywood assisted Nate in earning his driver's permit a year ago, and Nate has been learning to drive the farm tractor, one of his favorite parts of the job.



One of Nate's favorite jobs at work is driving around the tractor!

Nate enjoys drawing, photography, and creating sculptures, and mosaics in his free time. He is creative and talented in various artistic mediums and always has a project in the works. Haywood and the team at Gilbertsville Farmhouse support Nate in all his endeavors, and Nate "always has someone who can help him." Not only has Nate succeeded in becoming employed, he has discovered environments where he is safe to learn and grow from mistakes with coworkers who care about him. Everyone who works with Nate expresses immense pride in his progress and they look forward to his future success.



Nate cleaning out the barn.



MEANINGFUL EMPLOYMENT

Brendan at Nina's Pizzeria

Brendan has been working at Nina's Pizzeria & Restaurant in Norwich, NY for over six years, where he goes in two days a week to wash dishes. He works with Employment Specialist Mary Richardson, who has seen Brendan become more confident and easy-going. Brendan aspires to earn his GED and go to college so that he can eventually own a restaurant. He is passionate about healthy eating for personal health reasons and wants to offer food for people who are diabetic, gluten-free, or vegan. Brendan is also interested in recipes from the 1700s and 1800s and owns many cookbooks, which inspire him to cook new dishes. Mary shared that Brendan has become much more sociable and comfortable at his job with the support of Springbrook Employment Services, and she is proud of the progress Brendan has made.



Emily at Price Chopper

Emily began her career at Price Chopper in March 2022, when she started volunteering to bag groceries. Since then, Emily has progressed to work the night shift. She stocks and arranges displays and aisles to look pristine. Emily is loved throughout the Price Chopper store for her impeccable eye for detail and how quickly she picks up new skills. The store manager, Bill, shares, "Emily is a wonderful employee. We all notice when she is not here because the store is not nearly as neat and tidy. Working at Price Chopper has been an excellent opportunity for Emily to develop skills that put her in a job-holding position, which is the goal of supported employment." Emily has been working with Employment Specialist Mary Richardson for eight years. Mary shared that she is proud of Emily's progress but is happy that she has become more comfortable showing her personality and socializing with customers and coworkers.



Alexis at the YMCA

Alexis has been working at the YMCA in Norwich, NY, for four years. She works in the child care center, where she enjoys leading craft activities, especially with Play-Doh or Legos. Alexis has also been working with Employment Specialist Mary Richardson since her first day at the YMCA. Alexis and Mary work well together; they are comfortable with each other and have a strong foundation of trust, making coaching easy. Alexis has grown a lot in the past four years. She has become more confident in using her voice to maintain a safe and calm environment in the classroom, and she takes the initiative to come up with new activities and complete annual trainings. Alexis remarked that she "always has such a good time" working at the YMCA and would like to continue her career there far into the future.

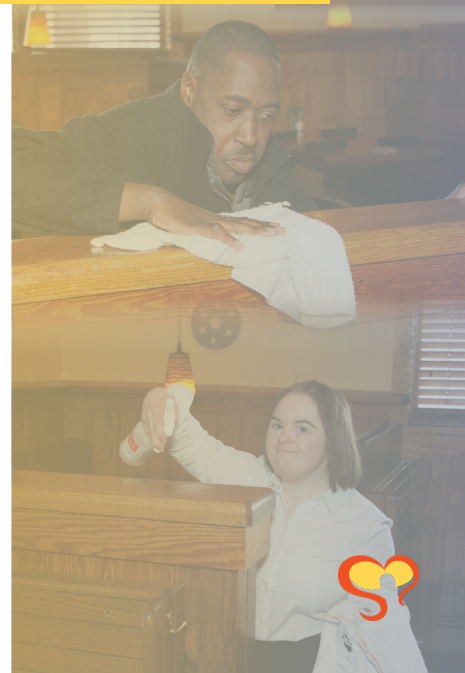


Rob & Meg at Outback

Rob and Meg, both individuals who utilize employment services, have worked at Outback Steakhouse for eight years. They both love what they do, and it shows. Receiving the Employee of the Year award in their first year of working, Rob and Meg are an excellent addition to the Outback Steakhouse team. They each work two days a week, and their joyful presence is missed when they are off. Most of their work occurs before the restaurant opens, when they prep the space for the day ahead. Daily tasks include cleaning tables, setting up chairs, sweeping, dusting, refilling supply bottles, and ensuring the space looks tidy before the day begins. They also perform hosting duties like greeting customers and opening the door for them. Rob shared that one of his favorite aspects of the job is talking to regular customers.



Both Rob and Meg are working towards goals. Meg is building skills to create her own business and feels she has gained confidence since beginning at Outback. Rob's goal is to move into a place of his own where he can live semi-independently. Meg and Rob have worked with Employment Specialist Mike Hague since they started at Outback Steakhouse. Mike shares that he enjoys "building up the spirit of the people I work with" and is happy to see Rob and Meg thrive in their employment.





DONOR DOLLARS *at work*

Thanks to the support of generous donors like you, as well as our community partners, Springbrook can offer lifetime support to the people who choose our services. Your donations go toward providing additional activities, therapeutic and recreational equipment, and support for educational programs for employees like the Springbrook Training & Education Program (STEP). Because of your continued generosity Springbrook can provide support for a lifetime.

To make a gift, scan the QR code to visit www.springbrookny.org/giving or text **SPRINGBROOK** to (607) 400-8008 today!



Welcome,

Kimberly Johnson & Audrey Benkenstein to the Springbrook Team!



Kim Johnson (top photo) brings 18 years of experience to the position of Director of Annual Giving for Springbrook. In this position, Kim is important in identifying and cultivating annual donations. She is working alongside the development team to meet fundraising goals through regular engagement with the community and fostering the support of local partners, businesses, and current donors.

In the past, Kim worked in elementary, secondary, and higher education and the environment of non-profit community-based services. She has successfully managed diverse groups of people to implement and meet fundraising goals. Kim is excited to share her wealth of experience and knowledge with Springbrook.



Springbrook also welcomes **Audrey Benkenstein** (bottom photo) as the new Director of Corporate, Foundation, and Government Grants. Audrey brings 18 years of experience and extensive knowledge in the development, implementation, and administration of federal and state-funded grants and programs.

"I am excited to contribute my best skills and abilities to positively impact the amazing services Springbrook currently provides and help the organization achieve its goals for the future."

Thanksgiving at KUP

On Tuesday, November 21st, Kids Unlimited Preschool celebrated Thanksgiving with a shared meal. Each table had a paper tablecloth decorated with festive art created by a different classroom. It was a perfect opportunity for the preschool to enjoy the holiday season. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible!



This September, over 5,000 donors throughout Mohawk Valley gave to more than 250 nonprofits, like Springbrook.



We are amazed by the generosity of our community and those who gave to Springbrook during Mohawk Valley Gives. Each gift made to Springbrook as part of this initiative played an essential role in allowing us to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Thank You,

**Country Club Motors and
Country Club Nissan**



Country Club Motors and Country Club Nissan provided a gift of \$750 to Springbrook. Several years ago, Country Club Auto Group started an employee program that allows their personnel to wear blue jeans on Fridays if they donate \$5 or more to a cause for that month. Springbrook was chosen as the July recipient of "Jeans for a Cause."





DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK

Congratulations

to Springbrook Scholars fall semester graduates, Roseann O'Neill, Rachael Scoones, and Jay Froio (left to right)



Thanks to our generous donors, these employees join other Springbrook Scholars in their pursuit of free or reduced-cost educational opportunities.

Springbrook Scorpions Soccer State Games

In October, the Special Olympics Soccer State Games took place, showcasing remarkable talents and achievements. In their respected skills division, Taylor Carden earned a silver medal, Daniel Ceroaletti earned a gold medal, and Clare Deignan proudly took home a bronze medal. In another skills division, Ryan Glenn secured the gold medal, and Ryan MacMahon and Kacper Skowski both received a bronze

medal. The Springbrook Scorpions displayed exceptional skills, defeating the Onondaga Strikers 3-0 in the initial round, then the Scorpions went on to play the FC City Hawks. Despite their incredible efforts, the Scorpions lost 2-1 after the overtime period. The competition showcased the strength, determination, and sportsmanship of all the athletes who attended.



Backyard BBQ

The six women who live at Springbrook's Broad Street Community Home all enjoy time spent together in their backyard. They especially love to have friends and family visit for summertime cookouts. Thanks to the Anna L. Mabey Foundation of Norwich, residents like Jewel and Joell are enjoying new backyard furniture and barbecue equipment this summer.

For several years, the Mabey Foundation has provided generous grants to benefit Springbrook's community homes residents and Capstone Day Habilitation Program in Norwich.



Thank you, Susquehanna Valley Quilters!

In July, the Susquehanna Valley Quilters provided several handmade blankets to both The School at Springbrook and Kids Unlimited Preschool. The plush blankets are designed to provide warmth for students during fire drills and other outdoor activities when the cooler months arrive.

Based in Oneonta, the Susquehanna Valley Quilters are an energetic group that meets monthly to share their quilting knowledge and skills with each other.





BOARD MEMBERS

Welcome to the Board

Members of the Springbrook Board of Directors are engaged across disciplines and work toward a common goal: the betterment of the people Springbrook supports. Board members work to enhance high-quality programs and seize opportunities by overseeing projects and initiatives that ensure Springbrook's long term success. President of the Board of Directors Tom Maggs said, "I am grateful to have such dedicated community members and leaders on our board who are focused on bettering the lives of others. I look forward to our collaboration."



Dr. Reginald Knight

Dr. Reginald Knight is vice president for Bassett Healthcare Network and chief integration officer. Dr. Knight graduated from SUNY Oneonta and received his medical degree from the State University of New York at Upstate Medical Center. He continued his professional training at New York Medical College, where he completed a residency program in orthopedic surgery. He then completed a fellowship in spinal surgery at the University of Rochester's Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, NY, and a Master of Health Administration focused on health policy from Capella University.



Richard Keehle Jr.

Richard Keehle Jr. is the associate vice president of support services and supply chain at United Health Services Hospitals, Inc. (UHS Hospitals). Mr. Keehle received his Master of Business Administration from Empire State College and has worked in healthcare at UHS for the past 23 years in various operational roles. Mr. Keehle has a daughter with a developmental disability who has been directly supported by Springbrook and has a first-hand understanding of the excellent services the organization provides. He is excited to be directly involved in strategic planning and continue to provide those served by Springbrook with an even better future.



Cailin Purcell MBA, MA, FACHE, CMPE

Cailin Purcell is vice president of operations for Bassett Medical Center and the Bassett Healthcare Network executive leader for the departments of radiology, laboratory, dietary, and environmental services. Ms. Purcell holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a master's degree in counseling psychology from Lesley University. She received her MBA from the State University of New York at Albany. Ms. Purcell is co-chair for the Otsego County Chamber Board of Commerce. She is excited to share her commitment to quality and excellence, combined with a collaborative spirit, to better the lives of those at Springbrook and the community.





GOOD NEWS Roundup



Scan the QR code to sign-up for the Good News Roundup (GNR) and get a little joy delivered to your email inbox every month! The GNR is full of good news and important Springbrook-related information.



Milestone Employee Bash

On Thursday, July 13th, Springbrook held a celebration for 10-year-plus milestone employees at Ommegang Brewery in Cooperstown, NY. Gathered under a beautiful outdoor porch area, everyone socialized with their coworkers, ate delicious food, and played cornhole! Thank you to all the dedicated employees, who have contributed so much to our growth.

Chenango County Pig Roast

On Thursday, August 3rd, the Chenango County region of Springbrook Community Homes gathered together for a pig roast. This annual event brings together all seven of the community homes in the Chenango County region with delicious food, yard games, and music!



Hayrides, Pirates, and Treats, Oh My!

On Tuesday, October 31st, Kids Unlimited Preschool celebrated Halloween with hayrides and trick-or-treating! After the hayride, the kids donned their costumes and trick-or-treated in the building, visiting administrative offices and the Capstone Day Habilitation program. They were cheered on with festive Halloween music and words of encouragement.



Spirit Week Splash

Kids Unlimited Preschool had a week of themed days, including superhero or princess day, fun hair day, wacky Wednesday, tropical Thursday, and pajama day. On Thursday, the party included water activities, like a sprinkler, two water activity tables, and bubble machines. The playground was festively decorated with tropical flowers and summery decor. The kids had a blast!



A Visit from Mrs. Tom the Turkey

On Wednesday, November 22nd, participant's shared Friendsgiving snacks, good food, and laughs with one another and Mrs. Tom the Turkey!



GOOD NEWS ROUNDUP



Holiday Bazaar

In December, The School at Springbrook hosted a Holiday Bazaar with handcrafted gifts made by students and staff such as ornaments, desserts, holiday cards, crochet apparel, artwork, and more! The funds raised will go toward organizing fun activities for each classroom. The school also hosted a holiday raffle to raise money for local warming stations and donated additional items like hats, scarves, and mittens.



Skating in Costumes

On Tuesday, October 24th, Capstone Day Habilitation held a Halloween party at Interskate 88 in Oneonta, NY. The party included roller skating, a costume contest, games, and pizza! Best Group went to the characters from Shrek, Most Unique went to the ladybug, Most Creative went to Jimi Hendrix, Funniest went to the taco, and Scariest went to The Phantom.



Springbrook Scholars at Social Eats

On Thursday, September 21st, we celebrated the graduates of the Springbrook Scholars program. The group of ten scholars enjoyed an evening at Social Eats Café with delicious food, refreshments, and recognition for their accomplishments. Seth Haight, chief operating officer, shared, "Congratulations to the Springbrook Scholars graduates for your incredible achievements. We take immense pride in this program, as it signifies our commitment to fostering the professional growth of our staff." As we concluded the evening, we issued a challenge to our current graduates: to actively participate in building the next class of Springbrook Scholars by sharing their successful experience in the program.



3rd Annual Trunk-or-Treat

During this event, over 200 students and residents, alongside staff, "trunk-or-treated" on our main campus. The day was filled with costumes, festive decorations, and-of course-treats!

Springbrook's trunk-or-treat event has been successful over the years because of the support from our community. We rely on the generosity of local businesses to help make it a great day with donations of sweet treats and refreshments.





GOOD NEWS ROUNDUP

Springbrook Sponsors Oneonta Festival of Lights

Springbrook proudly participated in the Oneonta Festival of Lights in Neahwa Park for another year. Presented by First Night and Five Star Subaru in Oneonta, the festival was admission-free and family-friendly. The light display was open to the public from Saturday, December 16th to Monday, January 1st. On opening night, December 16th, a pedestrian area featured a visit from Santa and live entertainment by Cosmic Karma Fire, Mike the Juggler, DrumQuest, and the Hill City Ice Queen and Friends.



Buddy the Elf Spreads Holiday Cheer

In December, Kids Unlimited Preschool turned into a winter wonderland with a merry visit from Buddy the Elf! As Buddy pranced into the classrooms, little ones were already immersed in festive fun—coloring holiday prints, reading holiday-themed books, and jingling to the tunes of holiday music.

In true Buddy fashion, he took it upon himself to spread even more cheer by asking each student what they wanted for Christmas this year. With their wishes in tow, Buddy promised to deliver the precious intel to his best pal, Santa.

Thank you to Buddy the Elf for bringing smiles, laughter, and holiday cheer to KUP!



6th Annual Community Homes Scarecrow Contest

Congratulations to the winners of our 6th Annual Community Homes Scarecrow Contest. There were so many amazing entries this year, and we wish to thank all the homes that participated in this year's competition.

Here are the winning submissions:

- Most Traditional - Grandview (photo 1)
- Most Unique - Pierstown (photo 2)
- Most Scary - Kelly Corners (photo 3)
- People's Choice - Kelly Corners (photo 3)



Sharing Thankfulness

In November, Springbrook celebrated Thanksgiving by sharing quotes from employees and residents about what they are thankful for this season. We received over 35 submissions with many reasons to be thankful. Thank you to everyone who submitted!

Scan the QR code to read through the heart-warming quotes from staff and residents.



IN *Loving* MEMORY

At Springbrook, employees take immense time and pride in getting to know the people they support to provide the best care at every stage of their lives. We treasure every moment we have shared with those who recently passed, from laughter to tears, outings, celebrations, and milestones. In this section, we commemorate the people we have lost and take a moment to remember the impact each has made on us and those around them. We are honored that they have shared their lives with us and will forever keep the memory of them in our hearts.



Richard Fluskey
1959 - 2023

Richard James Fluskey passed away on October 8th, 2023. Richard was born on December 23rd, 1959 in Greenwich, Connecticut to his mother Sandra Walker, and father Richard Fluskey, who predeceased him. Richard is survived by his brother Brian Fluskey.

Richard lived in the Sidney area and was cared for by his mother before moving for a short time into a nursing care facility. Richard joined the Mountainside Community Home in 2014, where he quickly made everlasting friendships. Richard was known for his engaging smile and his characteristic socks. When he was not cuddled up in his favorite spot watching the Three Stooges, Richard enjoyed going on van rides to the park where he would people-watch over a cup of coffee. He also enjoyed sitting on the swings and walking the trails at the park.



Marie Knott
1980 - 2023

Marie Ann Knott passed away in Binghamton, New York, on August 1st, 2023, at the age of 43. Marie was born on March 26th, 1980, and was known for her great sense of humor and smile.

Marie resided at the Bird Avenue Community Home, where she was known for singing her favorite tunes and always presenting staff, residents, and friends with a heartwarming compliment.

Marie will be greatly missed by her family, as well as residents, friends, and staff at Bird Avenue Community Home.



Nick Hrywnak
1957 - 2023

Nicholas W. "Nickie" Hrywnak passed away on October 30, 2023. Nick was born on May 12th, 1957. He was predeceased by his parents, William and Anna (nee Biconish) Hrywnak; he is survived by his sister, Barbara (Warren) Ball, his brother, John (MaryAnn) Hrywnak; and extended family members.

Nicholas lived at the Bird Avenue Community Home where he enjoyed the company of those around him. Nicholas was known for his compassion toward others and will be greatly missed by family and friends.



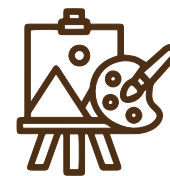
SAVE *the* DATE

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SPRINGBROOK



• Wear Orange for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM)

• March 1 - 31st



• Springbrook Art Show Reception at the Fenimore Art Museum

• April 4th



• Wear Blue for World Autism Month (WAM)

• April 1 - 30th



• 9th Annual Springbrook Scorpions Basketball Tournament

• April 13th



• An Evening of Music at The Morgan Library & Museum

• October 9th

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MAKING THE DIFFERENCE FOR PEOPLE WITH
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES **FOR A LIFETIME**



Mother of Kids Unlimited
Preschool Student.

