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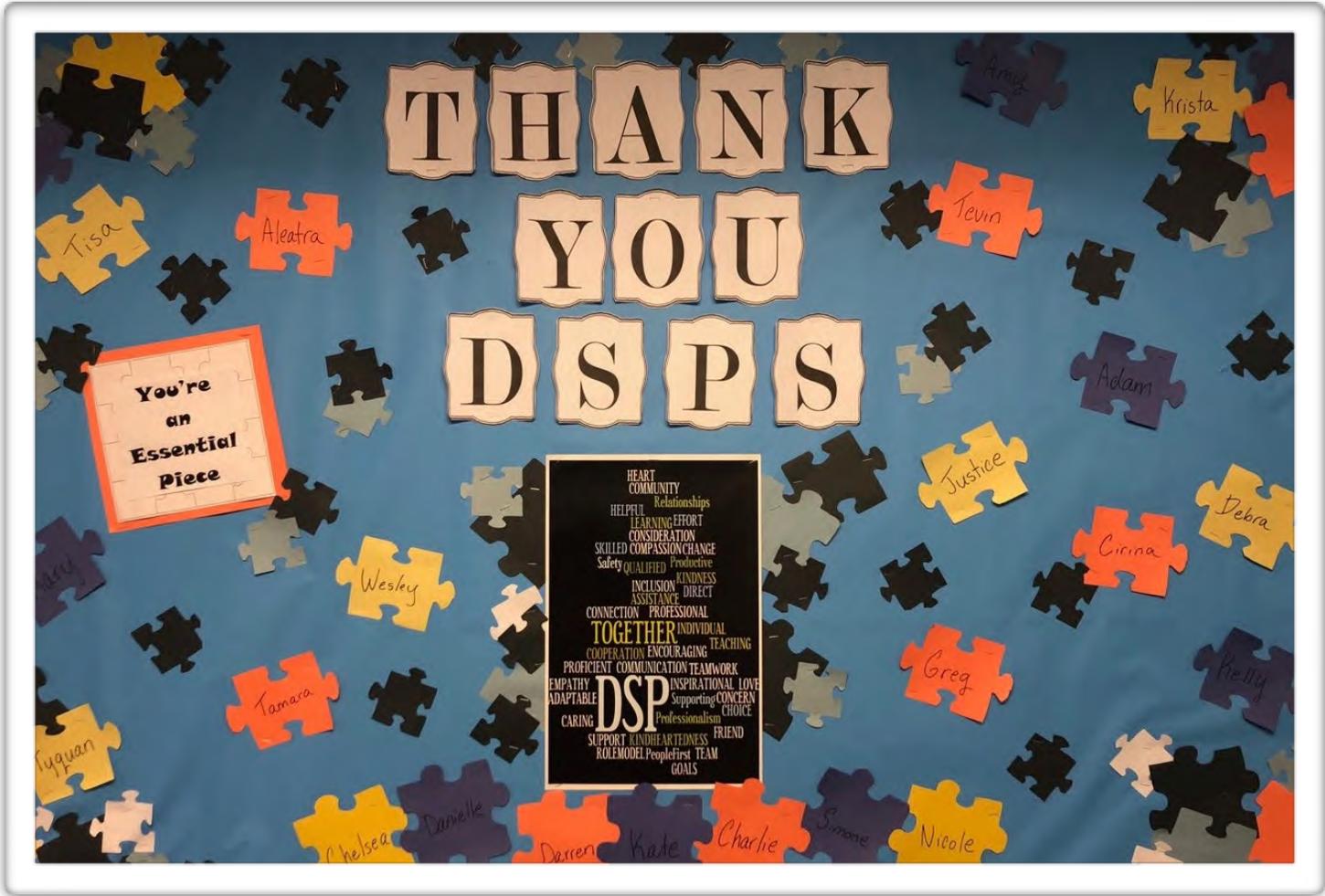
THIS IS ME

THE EEDA READER

NEWS FROM EAST END DISABILITY ASSOCIATES, INC.



Direct Support Professionals ~~WEEK~~ ~~MONTH~~ **YEAR!**



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

I recently attended the **World Congress Conference for Inclusion for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**. I was part of more than one thousand people representing over 70 countries. It was amazing to learn about universal and cultural perspective from others around the world, regarding inclusion, independence, support, relationships, education, and work. The conference utilized the global network to create a clear agenda that will be used to advocate at the United Nations (see text box). As we recognize DSPs in this issue, let us celebrate them and the work they do, remembering them every day they make a difference in someone's life. I would further the call to action by adding the following:

- Families are the pathway to inclusion.
- Direct Support Professionals (DSP) open the many gates along the path.
- Every point agreed to cannot be attained without the dedicated work of DSPs.
- The skill set of the DSP requires diversification, to be highly responsible, compassionate, inclusionary, patient, and kind.
- DSPs are asked to do an impossible job that they do with success at EEDA every day.
- DSPs are the most flexible people on the planet, changing priorities at every shift based on the needs of those they support.



Many Thanks,

Lisa Meyer Fetal

Inclusion International - Call to Action:

- We are a united network of families and self-advocates.
- We demand to be included and be part of our communities.
- To be included we need:
 - Affordable, accessible and safe housing.
 - The right support, information, and transportation.
 - To vote and be active citizens.
- We demand to be valued and for the discrimination that we face to end.
- To be valued, we need:
 - An end to abuse and violence.
 - Our rights and choices to be respected, including our right to have a relationship and a family.
- We demand real jobs in the community with real pay and the support we need to be successful.
- We demand that all boys and girls with an intellectual disability go to school and are included in the same classrooms as other children.
- We demand that we are given the support we need to learn at all stages of our education.
- We demand that all institutions are closed and that no new institutions or institutional type settings are built again.
- Families are a pathway to inclusion. They need support to be part of the calls to action.

EEDA LOVES OUR DSPs!

Adam Weyant was nominated by his peers at Riverhead Day Hab to be featured in EEDA's Newsletter for his hard work as a Direct Support Professional. He started working at EEDA in 2016, and has worked at both Riverhead Day Hab and the Creative Arts Program. The co-workers who nominated Adam mentioned how much everyone loves that he plays guitar and sings for the guys. They also expressed how easy he is to work with, what a great attitude he has, how compassionate he is, and how he's always willing to help anyone. Adam's positive attitude and friendly nature make him a pleasure to work with. His supervisors expressed their appreciation for how Adam integrates music therapy into his work as a Direct Support Professional. On top of all these great qualities he's also reliable, stays late when needed, and always shows up on time to work. Thank you Adam for being a DSP who goes above and beyond every day!

[Click here to watch a short interview with Adam!](#)

EEDA's Riverhead Day Hab provides day services to forty people. This summer, Riverhead Day Hab participants enjoyed growing foods such as basil, cucumbers, peas, and spinach in Selma's Garden. The garden is located in the backyard, making it possible for program participants to grow their own food and then cook it in the kitchen. Riverhead Day Hab participants also attend a yoga class every week, volunteer at FoxRun Farms, and keep the Riverhead train station clean. Every day, staff take the people they support into the community. Some of their favorite activities include bowling, going out to lunch, apple picking, pumpkin picking, the Gingerbread University, Trick-Or-Treating, the Ecology Center, AHRC's Sensory Gardens, Maryhaven's plays, Wildwood State Park, and the Riverhead Free Library. Riverhead Day Hab's Direct Support Professionals assist people on these adventures, and help program participants complete goals and enhance a wide-range of skills and abilities every day. Thank you to all of the staff at Riverhead Day Hab for your hard work and dedication!



Each issue, the EEDA Reader will recognize an exceptional DSP staff member from our programs. All nominations are from fellow DSPs!



Other nominees from Riverhead Day Hab are Aleatra Eleazer and Krista Robinson.

Way to go!

I'M A DSP!



WHAT'S YOUR SUPERPOWER?

New York Alliance

Long Island DSP Conference

November 13, 2018 9:00AM-4:00PM

Atlantis Banquet Center

431 East Main St, Riverhead, NY 11901

Register Today!

The New York Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation is excited to announce that registration is **NOW OPEN** for the Long Island DSP Conference taking place on **November 13, 2018 in Riverhead, NY.**

This conference offers Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) in New York State the opportunity to learn about best practices, share stories, network and gain insight on building direct support excellence.

The conference is a day-long educational program including a keynote session and participant choices of breakout sessions.

[Registration is now available on the New York Alliance website, click here!](#)

For more information, please contact Susan Kittle, Senior Director of Member Engagement at skittle@nyalliance.org or 518-861-4138.

THIS IS ME: SONGS OF HOPE AND HEART



On Friday, August 24th, EEDA's Creative Arts Program starred in *This is Me: Songs of Heart and Hope*. This moving performance featured Broadway musical classics, and each song was introduced by a Creative Arts Program member delivering a heartfelt monologue. At the core of this show was the struggle to



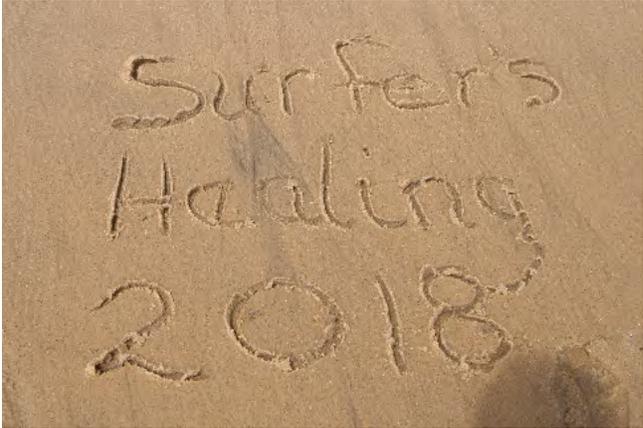
overcome adversity, and the strength of character that comes with that struggle. Program participants also received rave reviews when they performed a number from this production for Leisure Villages located in Ridge. This show was directed by The Gateway, Performing Arts Center of Suffolk County, and was our first show that was produced entirely under their direction. *This is Me: Songs of Heart and Hope* was directed by The Gateway's professional director, Megan Minutillo. You can catch a performance from the Creative Arts Program if you attend the John V. Beltrani Memorial Golf Classic on October 22, 2018!



SURFERS HEALING

EEDA partnered with Surfers Healing to run a one-day surf camp for children (and adults) with autism and I/DD for the 11th year in a row on September 14th, 2018 at Ditch Plains Beach in Montauk. The waves were high and the beach eroded due to the hurricane out in the Atlantic, but the Surfers insisted we keep the event going, resulting in one of the most exhilarating Surfers Healing events ever for the kids, surfers, families, and volunteers. This event was made possible by the generosity of event funders The Rockwell Family, and the Southampton Bath & Tennis Club Charitable Fund. A special thanks to all the EEDA volunteers, the East Hampton Lions Club, Ocean Rescue, Parks and Recreation, and the Montauk Police Department, and all who helped make the day on the beach a huge success.





ANNUAL PICNIC AT INDIAN ISLAND



EEDA's Annual Picnic at Indian Island State Park was a day full of warm breezes, great food, music, and friends! The picnic is always so well organized and fun that it's easy to forget how much work goes into making this day a success. We have Lisa Kennedy to thank for organizing this great event every year. She enlists the help of EEDA's supervisory team to make the picnic possible. Great job everyone!

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM GOINGS ON



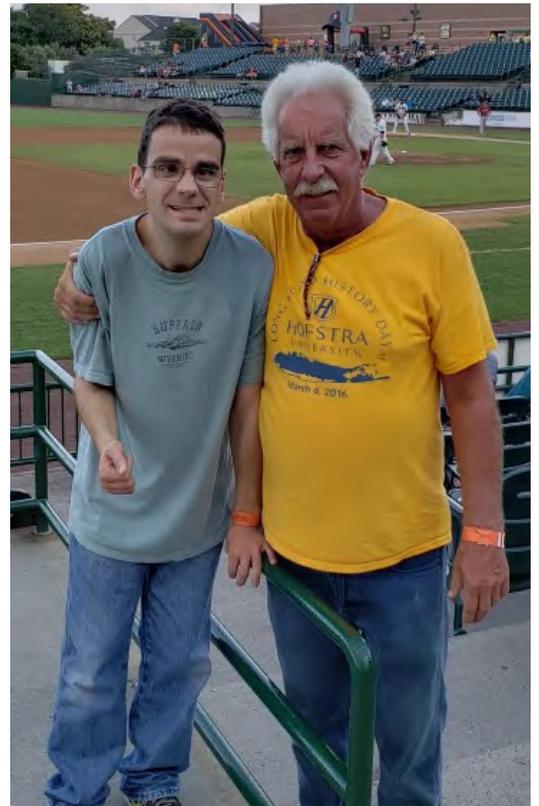
EEDA's Employment Program has been *really* busy! Suzanne Cascio is the Program Coordinator for our Employment Program, and through this program she helps ten people build the skills they need to become employed. The program packed backpacks at the Salvation Army for underprivileged children.



The school supplies were donated to Salvation Army by members of our community, and our Employment Program sorted them based on the gender and grade of each child. These backpacks gave sixty-six children the tools they need to succeed throughout the school year. The Employment Program also partners with EEDA's Day Programs to keep the Riverhead train station looking good! Every week they water the gardens, pick up all the garbage, and make it more presentable for our community. They're also collecting and transporting all the generous donations made to ReWearable, our clothing donation program. What's next? You'll find them collecting and organizing donations for EEDA's Thanksgiving Food Drive (which was a huge success last year). Thank you for all the hard work you're doing in our community. You're really making a difference!



The EEDA family enjoyed an incredible summer evening at the Bethpage Ballpark on August 13th. Individuals and staff from EEDA's programs attended a barbecue dinner at the stadium and then watched the Long Island Ducks defeat the Maryland Blue Crabs 5-4 in extra innings. Go Ducks!!!



IN MEMORY OF ROY PROBEYAHN

Today EEDA fondly remembers Roy Probeyahn Jr. who passed away at the age of 56 on September 7, 2018. Roy has been a member of the EEDA family since 2001, attending the Center Moriches and then Calverton Day Habilitation Program and receiving supports and services in his home which he shared with his family, including his two brothers Glenn and Michael. Some of his favorite pastimes were going to the opera, classical music concerts, LI Duck's games, swimming and riding horses.

"Roy was a gregarious individual who loved music of most genre's and played the drums often at 5 a.m., to the distress of the neighbors," Mr. Probeyahn Sr. said in describing his beloved first son, "He had a wicked sense of humor and delighted in fooling people. The outpouring of love, admiration and gratitude upon Roy's passing from the hundreds of people he touched in his life is overwhelming. So many of those lives were molded into paths of important careers of nursing, education, human services leaving a legacy unequalled by most, of which, even I as his dad, was unaware, as it should be, since Roy lived an independent life as an adult."



"It is with profound sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Roy Probeyahn Jr. He has been part of the EEDA family since 2001 and will be missed by all. Our condolences go out to Roy's brothers, Glenn and Michael, his dad, Roy Probeyahn Sr., and the staff who worked closely with him," said Lisa Meyer Fertal, CEO of EEDA.

"Roy was definitely unique and had a warm personality. His love of music was infectious and he never ceased to amaze staff at his knowledge of different artists. Calverton Day Hab will never be the same without him, he has left an emptiness in our hearts. Every time we hear Elton John we will smile and wave at Roy,

for in our hearts it will be him saying a quick hello," said Cheryl Rutkowski, Day Habilitation manager.

Roy was loved by his friends and staff at EEDA and will be greatly missed.



Getting the Most Out of Life!



2nd Annual Life Skills for Independent Living Symposium

Join us for a full day of activities and educational workshops about living independently in the community with person-centered supports. People receiving I/DD services (self-advocates) may attend at no cost with one support staff/family member. For all others, the registration fee is \$30. Advanced Registration Required.

LIFE SKILLS SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, November 10, 2018
8:30 am to 3 pm
Student Activities Center
Stony Brook University

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Details and registration at www.stonybrook.edu/lifeskills

FEATURED SPEAKER



John Maltby, Co-chair of the NY Housing Resource Center, is a parent pioneer in independent housing. John will discuss new housing options, how to navigate current systems and advocacy issues arising from system change.

SPONSORS



Developmental Disabilities Planning Council



Seeing beyond disability.



“Giving is not just about making a donation, it’s about making a difference”

We are looking for donations for the people we support and for the staff that support them.

EEDA Food Drive

**Please drop off nonperishable donations by Nov 16th to Riverhead Day Hab:
784 Harrison Ave
Riverhead, Ny 11901
631-581-2832**



**Sponsored by
East End Disability
Associates**



East End Disability Associates (EEDA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides supports and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

EEDA's Mission Statement: "Your Challenge... Our Commitment. Dedicated to creating practical solutions and providing innovative supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities on the East End of Long Island."

www.eed-a.org



Your Challenge... Our Commitment



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