

## What's Happening at EEDA

Join our Day Services Program at the next Virtual Talent Show on Friday, May 21st at noon on Zoom.

All are welcome!

Meeting ID: 824 9380 7163—Passcode: 107

Make sure to check out the [www.eed-a.org](http://www.eed-a.org) home page for our ongoing basket sweepstakes!

New baskets added monthly and all proceeds support EEDA. Good luck!



Save the date for EEDA's Golf Classic on Monday, September 27th, 2021 at the Westhampton Country Club.

## Jocelin and Nick



Jocelin has worked at EEDA since 2016. During that time she's developed meaningful relationships with the people she supports and one of those people is Nicholas. During the interview, their special bond was evident. Nick was all smiles when Jocelin spoke about things they love doing together, like going to the beach to watch the waves. Jocelin said that taking Nick to McDonald's is her favorite thing to do with him because he gets excited to go there. Nick also loves his new dinosaur toy, playing the matching game, working with flashcards, and doing activities on his iPad.

Jocelin is great at finding new places to visit and experience, like a Christmas tree farm with purple and blue trees! She's always quick to cover a shift or work wherever she's most needed. Her friendly and considerate demeanor makes her a pleasure to be around. Jocelin has worked with Nick for years, but it wasn't until day services reopened on a smaller scale that they developed a special bond—it was in this environment that she began to really understand Nick as a person and learn the nuances of his speech. She now trains other staff on how to best support him. Jocelin said, "I won't always be on the van with him, and it makes me happy that I can help him to be better understood."

On a recent trip to Adventureland with day services, Jocelin went on the pirate ship ride for the first time—a ride she swore she would never go on—but one individual was desperate to go on that ride. She went on the pirate ship and was shocked to find that she loved it! Jocelin said, "I love coming to work with everyone, and Nick's smile just touches your heart. There's something about his smile that can turn your whole day around. People think we change their lives, but they change ours."



OPWDD is moving forward with the May 1 residential rate cuts. You can still add your name to the petition in opposition at:

<https://www.cpstate.org/advocacy/>

## New York State Vaccination Update

All New Yorkers age 16 and older are now **eligible** for the vaccine. While the vaccination process is underway, New Yorkers should continue to wear a mask, social distance, avoid large gatherings and follow all other health guidelines.

FDA fact sheets for recipients and caregivers on each vaccine are available:

[Pfizer](#); [Moderna](#); [Johnson & Johnson](#).

COVID-19 vaccines are widely available at pharmacies, local health departments, clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers and other locations across the state. Visit [Vaccines.gov](http://Vaccines.gov) to find appointments near you or contact your local pharmacy or provider.

To schedule an appointment directly at a New York State-run site, go to [New York State's vaccine scheduler](#) and follow the instructions. **Walk-in appointments are also accepted at New York State mass vaccination sites for all eligible adults.**

## Day Services Life



EEDA's Day Services consists of three sites, one based in Riverhead and two in Calverton, providing programming for approximately 105 individuals. When EEDA had to close our programs on March 16th due to the COVID-19 pandemic we had to quickly change the way we thought about Day Hab service delivery. Individuals living in EEDA's residences remained home while Day Hab staff provided essential services and created a new routine with the residents. We were not able to provide in-person services to people who live with their families or on their own, but we quickly developed a virtual platform option so everyone had the opportunity to connect.

On July 22nd, EEDA was given guidance to reopen the day programs at a very limited capacity. We are happy to report everyone complied with the new regulations by wearing masks, social distancing, constant cleaning, and hand washing—working together made our re-opening a success. Day Hab participants work on personal outcomes during the day and also enjoy community outings. Planned on-site activities include: fitness, meal preparation, craft projects, scavenger hunts, dance parties, and of course, the virtual classes EEDA offers. On May 10th we reopened our Riverhead Calverton sites to accommodate fully vaccinated IRA residents. Additionally, our other Calverton location is available for community participants. Although services are still limited, we are confident that with social distancing, mask wearing, and people continually getting vaccinated, we will be able to open fully in the coming months.

