



SPRINGBROOK

Inspiration



SUMMER 2024 EDITION



INSPIRATIONS MAGAZINE

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Cover: Ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Ford on Main

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.



"Leadership is not confined to senators or philanthropists. It is present in the everyday leadership of people working at Springbrook and in the local community."

- Patricia E. Kennedy

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Within our community, we are given any number of possibilities to foster independence and promote personal growth within ourselves, our loved ones, and our friends. What matters most in any community is our ability to set aside differences and nurture a sense of belonging. One person who took this mantra of community to heart was my dear friend, State Senator Jim Seward. Jim deeply loved his family, community, and district, but his reach went beyond that. He supported Springbrook when it was needed most and was crucial to the foundation of some of our programs. He was a leader whose vision of a unified New York, a New York where people from across political spectrums work together to better the lives of every person, continues to inspire us.

Tom Golisano is another example of someone who leads and inspires in their day-to-day interactions with the people around them and through their philanthropic work. Including a time, he promised to match donations given to Springbrook, which encouraged others to do the same. Tom helped complete the beautiful main campus and the Golisano School for Autism at The School at Springbrook. Springbrook is very grateful for his work, the work of Jim Seward, and people like them.

Leadership is not confined to senators or philanthropists. It is present in the everyday leadership of people working at Springbrook and in the local community. The frontline staff, including direct support professionals, teachers, and assistants, at Springbrook are exemplary leaders. They demonstrate leadership every day by ensuring that the people they support have every chance to integrate with their local community through vocational training and employment, residency, and attending events.

Our goal is to create a community of inclusion where everyone feels valued, respected, and supported. And we have a strong foundation laid beneath us and outstanding leaders before us to help make this vision a reality.

Patricia E. Kennedy
CEO





UNVEILING THE FORD ON MAIN

THE FORD ON MAIN

Springbrook celebrated a significant milestone with the successful unveiling of The Ford on Main, a transformative mixed-use development in downtown Oneonta. The event, held on May 30th, 2024, brought together community members, local dignitaries, and notable speakers, including Congressman Marc Molinaro, U.S. representative for New York's 19th congressional district, from whom they received a Congressional Proclamation in recognition of the ribbon cutting.

Springbrook also received a citation from Brian Miller, member of the New York State Assembly, 122nd Assembly District, on behalf of the New York State Assembly to commemorate this momentous occasion on the grand opening of The Ford on Main.

The afternoon was kicked off with a VIP reception in the lobby of The Ford on Main, featuring private tours, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres. The reception was sponsored by Air Temp and catered by Social Eats. Attendees were treated to music, enriching conversations,



Patricia receiving the award from U.S. representative on behalf of The Ford on Main.

and a preview of the innovative residential spaces within the historic building. After the VIP reception, a ribbon-cutting ceremony took place at Muller Plaza. Congressman Marc Molinaro, alongside Springbrook's leadership, highlighted the project's importance in addressing Oneonta's housing needs, expanding job opportunities and employment through local employers and the Employment Hub, and preserving the city's historic character.

New York Secretary of State Walter T. Mosley provided a statement saying, "Governor Hochul has established housing affordability and diversity as key components of downtown revitalization and economic development in New York State. The Ford on Main project is an excellent example of the transformative role that the Downtown Revitalization Initiative plays in creating vibrant, sustainable, and equitable communities, both here in Oneonta and throughout the State. We congratulate Springbrook and the City for this remarkable addition to their burgeoning downtown."

The Ford on Main project received \$885,000 from the Downtown Improvement Fund as part of the DRI. The City of Oneonta was named a Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) round 1 winner in 2016. The Downtown Improvement Fund made 52 awards that funded façade improvements and added 24 housing units to the downtown. Other projects awarded DRI funding include the Dietz Street Lofts, the Market Street Transportation Improvements Project, and the City of Oneonta Branding and Marketing Campaign.



Seth Haight, COO with staff member Loren Hoepfner.



Springbrook staff receiving a tour of The Ford on Main apartments.

The event included a kids' zone, a beverage garden featuring Brewery Ommegang, and guided tours for the public of the newly renovated building. Guests enjoyed tastings available in the third-floor apartments from a variety of local restaurants, including the Autumn Cafe, Bella Michael's, B Side, Latte Lounge (which announced the expansion of their storefront at the event), Vêsucré, and Wise Guys Sammy's, adding a culinary delight to the celebration. Springbrook wishes to extend its heartfelt gratitude to the sponsors who made this event possible: Key Bank, Community Preservation Corporation, OneGroup, Townsquare Media, and Air Temp. Their generous support underscores the community's commitment to fostering development and enhancing the quality of life in Oneonta.

"The Ford on Main is more than a building; it's a community hub that will serve as a catalyst for future growth and prosperity in Oneonta," said Patricia Kennedy, CEO of Springbrook, who is excited about the renewed vibrancy that housing and employment will create downtown.





UNVEILING THE FORD ON MAIN

"The Ford on Main is more than a building; it is a community hub that will serve as a catalyst for future growth and prosperity in Oneonta."

- Springbrook CEO Patricia E. Kennedy



Ribbon cutting ceremony at The Unveiling of The Ford on Main.



Oneonta locals enjoying a tour of The Ford on Main and Vêsucré's samplings.



Marc Molinaro with soon-to-be residents of The Ford on Main.



Staff from B Side prepare samples in the kitchen of one of The Ford on Main apartments.



One Group insurance agents enjoying the festivities.



THE FORD ON MAIN



For more information about The Ford on Main visit www.thefordonmain.com



Marc Molinaro addresses crowd.



INTRODUCING SPRINGBROOK'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Written by: Desiree Simpson

Thursday, June 13th, we announced the nominations of **William Mirabito** and **Gerald Pondolino** to the roles of president of the board and vice president. **Cailin Purcell** will serve as treasurer, bringing her expertise in operations to ensure the organization's financial health. **Dr. Alberto Cardelle** was elected secretary, with his public health knowledge set to enhance Springbrook's programs.

Bill Mirabito will succeed former president Tom Maggs. Bill is excited to continue his work as president with many short- and long-term goals. He expects to bring on new board members and assist the Springbrook Foundation in raising funds. "I feel blessed to spend the last third of my life helping others," said Mirabito. Speaking on the mission of Springbrook, he said, "I'll do whatever I can to help families, their children, and residents. That's what I'm going to do." Along with the Springbrook Board, Bill also served 12 years on the Foundation Board, where his leadership and vision were invaluable. Throughout his tenure, he was deeply involved in and supported various initiatives, including the Special Olympics, demonstrating his unwavering support for athletes with intellectual disabilities and his passion for fostering inclusive communities. Former Secretary of the Board, Mr. Pondolino, said he will continue to do what he can to support the board and Mr. Mirabito in his role.

All positions on the board play a pivotal role in guiding the organization toward fulfilling its mission of supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The president provides leadership to the board, ensuring effective governance and fostering relationships with key stakeholders. The President also collaborates with the CEO and management team to set strategic priorities, oversee program development, and ensure financial health and organizational sustainability. With the Board of Directors, Springbrook can provide continued support to the people we serve.



President
WILLIAM MIRABITO

*"I'll do whatever
I can to help
families, their
children, and
residents."*

- William Mirabito, Board of
Directors President



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THE SCHOOL AT SPRINGBROOK

Charlie's Recycling Challenge

Written by: Lila Ingersoll

Charlie, a 15-year-old student at The School at Springbrook, initiated a recycling program through the Nextrex recycling challenge program. He had the assistance of Physical Therapist Faye Huntington and Teacher Jessica Elliot. NexTrex containers have been strategically placed at various locations, including the Kids Unlimited Preschool, The School at Springbrook, and the Capstone Day Habilitation Center at the Oneonta Campus. New collection bins have been added to the White Building and The Family Engagement

Center on the Main Campus, further expanding the reach of this initiative. The goal is to reach 1,000 pounds of plastic, which will be recycled into a bench. After learning about the program in a local newspaper, Charlie organized the initiative and has used this opportunity to work on his communication skills by drafting letters and emails to local retail shops and businesses in Otsego County.

ACE Hardware has collaborated with Charlie to recycle their plastic, and a new



Charlie at the ReUse Center.



The machine to weigh the bags of plastic.

collaborative effort is underway with a local Dollar General. After Charlie arranges for plastic collection and pick-up it is brought to the Otsego ReUse Center on Duane Street in Oneonta, New York. There, Charlie records the weight of the bags and takes pictures of the collection, which he later uploads to NexTrex.

The NexTrex Recycling Challenge Program sponsors the program, which encourages private and public institutions to recycle their plastics. Every participating entity chooses

a 12-month collection time frame to collect a minimum of 1,000 pounds. Recyclable plastics can include pallet wrap and stretch film, grocery bags, bread bags, case overwrap, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, Ziploc and other resealable food storage bags, produce bags, product wrap, retail bags, air pillows, bubble wrap, plastic shipping envelopes, electronic wrap, and more.

Great Job, Charlie!



Charlie (middle) with Teacher Jessica Elliot (left) and Physical Therapist Faye Huntington (right).



Charlie with bags of collected plastic.

With the help of local businesses and Springbrook, Charlie has collected **532 lbs** of plastic since November 2023. He is ever closer to the 1,000-pound goal!

If you would like to assist Charlie in meeting his goal, please contact Faye Huntington at **(607) 286-7171**.





SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Written by: Desiree Simpson



Springbrook Scorpions

Donor-funded programs like Springbrook Scorpions and Sprouts offer people the opportunity to get outside the classroom or their home and engage with the community, make friends, and try something new. Special Olympics programming is open to anyone eight years of age and older and has been identified by an agency or professional as having a developmental disability. It includes basketball, soccer, and track and field, in which athletes can compete in individual skills or join a competitive team.

"Playing sports with the Springbrook Scorpions has brought a lot of joy into my life. I love socializing and competing, so it's been a lot of fun!"

- Kim, Special Olympics Basketball Player

While practice takes place at The School at Springbrook gym, athletes travel with their team to local games, state and national championships, and tournaments across NYS. In 2018, teams attended the USA Games in Seattle.

This past Spring, Springbrook hosted the 9th Annual Special Olympics Basketball Invitational. The event welcomed teams from across New York State, including the Saratoga Wildcats, Broome Tioga, Pathfinder Village, Onondaga Wildcats, Onondaga Cougars, Onondaga Mosquitoes, Phoenix Fire Skills Team, Springbrook Team Orange, Springbrook Team Black, and Springbrook Skills Team. The tournament was a huge success and enjoyed by all.



Your support is invaluable in making programs like The Springbrook Scorpions possible.

Consider sending a gift today!

Sprouts Program

The Springbrook Sprouts program is a Special Olympics program for young athletes ages 2-7 that take place from mid-April to early mid-May. This integrated program lets children with and without disabilities participate and introduces basic sports skills like running, kicking, and throwing. Sprouts Coach Deb France says, "I am always amazed to see the growth that occurs over six weeks. In the first week, the kids are shy and do not leave their parents' side. By the last week, their skills and confidence have grown tremendously, and they are working together as a team with their new friends." Jessica Elliot, the mother of a recent Sprouts participant, witnessed the program's positive changes on her daughter. She shared,

"My daughter learned new skills and had the opportunity to meet and interact with other kids. I watched as she grew significantly in her gross motor and social skills development throughout the six-week session."

This fully donor-funded program is a testament to community members' commitment to bringing local children together. Your support is invaluable in making programs like Sprouts possible.





SELF-DIRECTED SERVICES

Springbrook Partners with Commonspace Apartments to Provide New Supported Housing Initiative

Written by: Lila Ingersoll

Exciting developments are on the horizon as Springbrook continues its mission to provide certified supported housing for people who choose self-directed services (SDS), housing navigation services (HNS), or are self-directed. In July, Springbrook welcomed future residents Dan and Matthew into the new Commonspace Apartments in Syracuse, New York. This innovative, urban living complex offers comfortable apartment spaces and emphasizes community and connection with shared amenities such as a reading room and lending library, a sun lounge, a gaming space, and more. Residents can engage with each other

through monthly mixers, shared Slack groups, and other community activities.

The Commonspace Apartments' approach to housing aligns with what Springbrook envisions for the future of housing for people with developmental disabilities. Director of Community Innovation Hank Lobb and Supportive Housing Program Manager Cassandra Jackson, both Springbrook employees, have been instrumental in establishing the partnership with Commonspace. "When I started [in August 2023], it became immediately clear that

"Springbrook is continuously striving to meet the needs of the people who choose Self-Directed Services and housing navigation services. The Commonspace Apartments is a perfect example of this commitment. We are eager to see how this new living arrangement will positively impact the lives of these residents." - Hank Lobb



Hank Lobb with Commonsapace property manager Shauna.



Future residents of Commonsapace.

there was a significant need for certified supportive housing," said Cassandra. "I am passionate about creating these new housing opportunities and ensuring that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can transition from Community Homes to independent living environments."

Dan and Matthew will move into the Commonsapace Apartments and are excited to settle into their new living arrangements. Dan shared that he enjoyed moving his stuff in and decorating his room, while Matthew is looking forward to making new friends and trying new things. Both share the goal of one

day getting their own apartment, but until then, Matthew and Dan look forward to welcoming a third roommate. Aside from the support they receive, Springbrook House Manager Kay Singh will be on-site at Commonsapace to provide additional support when and where residents might need it and to ensure the environment continues to promote independence and social engagement.

Stay tuned for more updates on this groundbreaking project, and join us in celebrating new beginnings at Commonsapace Apartments!

Supported Housing

In partnership with Regan Development Corporation, Springbrook will open Cortlandville Commons in Cortland, New York. This early housing initiative began in October 2023, when the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) selected Springbrook as the housing support provider for the development.

The four-story building will provide affordable, residential multifamily housing targeting a mix of household's representative of the local community and workforce. It will offer integrated supported housing (mobility-adapted units) for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Opportunities for the people residing at Cortlandville Commons will include community integration, independence, and



Digital rendering of Cortlandville Commons.

maximum potential for self-direction and choice, some of which may be facilitated by Springbrook's integrated service options. According to Springbrook's Director of Community Services, Kimberly Corbett, Cortlandville Commons was envisioned as "more than a building—we anticipate it will be a beacon of hope with just the right touch of services for people who have previously been underserved in the I/DD space." Springbrook hopes to break ground on this project in 2025.





SELF-DIRECTED SERVICES

Celebrating 10 years OF SDS AT SPRINGBROOK

Self-Directed Services (SDS) is a unique opportunity that allows for greater autonomy and personalized support for people with developmental disabilities. At its core, SDS is about putting control back in the hands of the people receiving services, allowing them to craft their support with the guidance of Springbrook staff.

Traditionally, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) often rely on agencies to provide a set range of services. These agencies make decisions regarding the type of support offered and the staff involved. With self-directed services, the person with I/DD is in the driver's seat, making crucial decisions about the support they receive. This includes choosing their staff, setting schedules, and determining how their budget is allocated. The goal is to foster independence and ensure that the support provided is directly aligned with personal goals and preferences. Springbrook's SDS program serves over 934 people with I/DD and employs over 750 dedicated staff to support them. Our staff consists of direct support professionals,

administration, FI coordinators, support brokers, program analysts, and directors.

A feature of Springbrook's SDS program is its Startup Navigator, a role uniquely filled by Erin Palmer. The Startup Navigator role is designed to simplify the often complex and overwhelming process of beginning self-direction. It ensures a smooth and consistent starting process for people entering self-directed services. Unlike other programs, Springbrook offers a standardized approach to onboarding, with Erin providing comprehensive support for the person receiving the services and their families until they are fully comfortable and knowledgeable about their services and budget.

Erin Palmer's involvement ensures that every person receives consistent information and guidance, tailored to their specific needs. This role is exclusive to Springbrook, setting it apart from other agencies that may not offer such dedicated, personalized support at the start.



"I like working at Springbrook because the work we do is meaningful and valuable to the people we serve. To me, it's not work when you love doing something that brings joy to others. I love being able to interact with the families and individuals and seeing how happy they are when they are finally able to," said Erin.

Self-directed services represent a significant advancement in support, offering people the opportunity to direct their own lives with confidence and autonomy. Springbrook's dedication, supported by a large team and unique services like the Startup Navigator, underscores its commitment to fostering independence and providing high-quality, personalized support. As Springbrook continues to grow and adapt its services, it remains true to its mission to empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, providing each person with the tools and support they need to thrive on their own terms.



Casia's Decade of Achievement

WITH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

In January, Springbrook celebrated a decade of employment services, a program within self-directed services for people with disabilities. This milestone was marked with Casia, the first person to enroll in employment services at Springbrook. Casia started her journey at fifteen at The School at Springbrook and joined employment services in January 2014 after graduation. Today, she thrives at McDonald's, working diligently two to three days a week. Casia takes pride in maintaining the lobby and dining area, describing her job as where she "grew up." She enjoys a positive rapport with her manager, John, who values her customer service skills. Congratulations, Casia, on reaching this achievement with Employment Services.

2014

Transitioned from Consumer Supports & Services (CSS) to Self-Directed Services (SDS). Housing Navigation launched at Springbrook. Three offices opened in Oneonta, Binghamton, and Norwich.

2015

The first people supported by SDS moved out of a certified setting and into independent housing. At this time Springbrook supported 95 people within SDS and employed five staff.

2016

The program nearly doubled with over 120 people supported by six staff members.

2017

Self-directed Services created the Program Analyst and expanded the service area to the OPWDD Capital District region. We began supporting over 230 people and employed eight program staff.

2018

Support Brokerage service was established within SDS. Century Sunrise apartments opened in June of 2018 in Johnson City. A Self-Advocacy group was created that Springbrook supported.

2019

Support Brokerage services expanded to all counties Springbrook served and to OPWDD Taconic region. Four offices in Ithaca opened.

2020

In the height of COVID-19, SDS successfully transitioned to allow remote access to better support the people we serve.

2021

Offices in Binghamton opened to better support Court St, Binghamton office opens – moved out of State St so still 4 total offices.

2022

SDS created the Start-Up Navigator Position and expanded its service area to the Central NY region.

2023

Partnered with InclusiveU at Syracuse University to provide SDS services to students. The FI Coordinator Assistant position was created.

2024

Seven admin staff trained as Housing Navigators to focus on finding sustainable housing for the people we support.



DONOR DOLLARS *at Work*

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you and our dedicated community partners, Springbrook can provide continuous, lifelong support to the people we serve. Every dollar you contribute helps fund activities like the Annual Basketball Invitational and the Community Art Show at the Fenimore Art Museum, and the Valentine's carnations drive.

Your support enables Springbrook to carry on vital work and secure a bright future for those we serve. Thank you for making a difference!



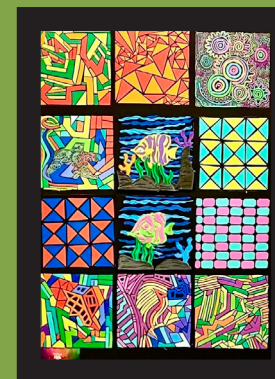
To make a gift, scan the QR code to visit www.springbrookny.org/giving or text SPRINGBROOK to (607) 400-8008 today!



2024 Springbrook Community Art Show “Follow Your Heart”

In April, we celebrated the opening of the 2024 Springbrook art show, Follow Your Heart, at the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown. The exhibition, which ran throughout April, featured inspiring works by Springbrook artists who use Springbrook services and employees. The artists beautifully visualized what following their heart means to them, showcasing their passions and activities, people, or things that make their heart sing.

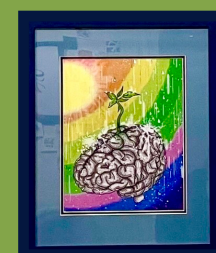
Featured Artists



Nate / *Sculptures*



Kevon / *Colored Pencil on Canvas*



Jeffrey Bourgois / *Digital Graphics*



Carnations Bring Smiles to Springbrook

The Springbrook Foundation team distributed 900 carnations to different Springbrook sites, residences, and educational establishments across 14 counties. Nearly 100 individuals, including family members, students, residents, and colleagues, bought a Valentine's Day surprise for someone they care about at Springbrook.



DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK



MOVE Empowers Springbrook's Mobility

Representatives from MOVE, which stands for Mobility Opportunities Via Education and Experience, shared their knowledge of mobility equipment with Springbrook. Kids from The School at Springbrook, alongside physical therapists and teachers, participated to learn about and utilize the mobility equipment. This equipment is designed for people with limitations due to a physical disability to try new things and experience the world from a new point of view. Occupational Therapist Karen Sacco says,

"MOVE allows people to reach their maximum potential because the goals are personalized it's about the person and what they want to achieve."



9th Annual Special Olympics Basketball Invitational

Springbrook hosted the 9th Annual Special Olympics Basketball Invitational. The event welcomed teams from across New York State, including the Saratoga Wildcats, Broome Tioga, Pathfinder Village, Onondaga Wildcats, Onondaga Cougars, Onondaga Mosquitoes, Phoenix Fire Skills Team, Springbrook Team Orange, Springbrook Team Black, and Springbrook Skills Team. Thank you to all the volunteers, employees, and teams for making this such a fantastic day of competition and fun!



Prom in NYC Lights

This year, The School at Springbrook held a New York City at Night-themed prom! The decorations and dazzling attire perfectly captured the spirit of the Big Apple. Students enjoyed an evening filled with dancing, snacks, and laughter, creating unforgettable memories. At the end of the night, the seniors were recognized and given a gift to celebrate their upcoming graduation.

Another Successful Cody Classic Hockey Tournament

Over 75 family members and friends of Tommy Needham gathered at the Inman Sports Complex in Edison, NJ, to watch the showdown between Team Rugged and Team Penguins in the Cody Classic Hockey Tournament. Team Rugged took the trophy this year, beating the Penguins 6 to 3. Needham organized the tournament in honor of his cousin, Cody Meyers, who passed away from a rare kidney disease in early January 2023. He is passionate about fundraising for disability services, including Parents of Blind Children of New York State, which he became involved with after his own vision loss in 2003. He learned about Springbrook after connecting with his neighbor, Dana Jackson, whose son, Aidan, receives Springbrook services.





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.

Vibrant Brands X OPWDD

Springbrook collaborated with marketing agency Vibrant Brands to craft compelling content for the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) marketing and recruitment campaign. A heartfelt thank you to everyone at Springbrook who played a crucial role in making this day a success.



Wheel of Fortune

People at Springbrook's Capstone Day Habilitation Program (Day Hab) had a blast during an interactive game of 'Wheel of Fortune!' Cheers erupted as hands raised to be selected to guess consonants and reveal the mystery word. The game was brought to life with the homemade wheel and Springbrook's very own 'Vanna White,' donned in a stunning red gown while revealing letters on the board. It was a popular event for everyone who attended.



Celebrating 34 Years of Love

Springbrook residents Brian and Mary have been in a relationship for 34 years and enjoy every moment they spend together. Some of their favorite activities include going out for a meal at Denny's, playing dominoes, coloring, dancing, and going to bingo at Day Hab. They share many happy memories, like roller skating at this year's Halloween party at Interskate 88. Last year, they won the best couple costume when they went as Popeye and Olive Oyl. Congratulations on 34 years together, Brian and Mary!



Mardi Gras

Festive jazz music, decorated parade "floats," colorful eye masks, beads, and more were seen at The Capstone Day Habilitation Program (Day Hab) Mardi Gras parade. People who attended the parade danced, cheered, and joined the festivities throughout the Oneonta Campus halls.



Building Skills at the Susquehanna SPCA

As part of Springbrook's Employment Services Program, people in the program receive pre-vocational training to develop job-readiness skills in preparation for supported employment. Tyrone Lohr, a career coach at Springbrook with nearly 19 years of experience, leads groups in various volunteer settings, such as the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals (SPCA). Currently, JR and Hannah are volunteering at the SPCA, assisting with various tasks, including cleaning the "cat condos" and litter boxes, sweeping and mopping floors, folding laundry, and taking out the garbage. JR and Hannah enjoy being around the animals and are eager to continue learning with Tyrone through the pre-vocational training.



Bonding Over Books

The Capstone Day Habilitation Program (Day Hab) recently created a weekly book club where people gather to read, discuss, and delight in the world of books. At one of their March meetings, they read "Why the Sun and the Moon Live in the Sky," a retelling of an African folktale about the origin of the world. We are happy to see people at Day Hab bonding over books!



Solar Eclipse

To celebrate the solar eclipse on April 8th, The School at Springbrook hosted an eclipse party. Students and staff enjoyed watching the eclipse with protective glasses while snacking on sun chips and half-moon cookies.





GOOD NEWS ROUNDUP



Happy 80th Birthday Patty!

Springbrook celebrated Community Homes resident Patty on her 80th birthday with a lively bash! Patty's family and friends gathered to celebrate her with a DJ, lots of dancing, food, flowers, gifts, and rose gold and pink décor. Patty enjoyed the dance floor, where she rocked a pair of cowboy boots, beaming with her friends all around her. Patty's family shared that the party was "the best thing they could have gotten for her" and delighted in the event's success.

Congratulations Brandy

Brandy, a resident of Springbrook Community Homes, began a new journey this year. In October 2023, Brandy was accepted to Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) with the plan to study Forensic Psychology and will graduate in 2027. Brandy is grateful for SNHU's support with online study groups, writing centers, and speech-to-text software for writing assignments and communication with her classmates. Brandy is excited to continue to learn new things and reach goals like writing her first college essay. We are so happy to hear that Brandy is thriving at SNHU and look forward to following her journey as a college student!



Michael's Journey at Colgate University



Michael utilizes Springbrook's Self-Direct Services for independent living and works at Colgate University. He lives in his apartment with his dog Max. He's an advent gardener, and he grows various vegetables each year. He hopes to eventually own a home for more gardening space and for Max to run.

In September 2023, Michael got a part-time job in a dining hall at Colgate University through Self-Direct Employment Services. He enjoys the independence, socialization, and routine his job brings, and his supervisor and co-workers are very pleased with his performance. Thank you, Michael, for your positive attitude!



Vêsucré's Sweet Sampling Soiree at the Springbrook Oneonta Campus

CEO Sarah Hartmann of Vêsucré was joined by Operations Director Charlie Shaw and Operations Associate Gwen Calchi to share samples of two hand-crafted sweet treats that will be produced and offered at the Springbrook Oneonta Campus. Vêsucré employees presented samples of milk chocolate plant-de-crème and chocolate chip corn muffins to Capstone Day Habilitation (Day Hab) employees and people attending the Day Hab program.

Spirit Week

The School at Springbrook and Kids Unlimited Preschool celebrated Spirit Week in February. Each day focused on celebrating what you love, like dressing as a favorite character or spreading love by wearing red or pink. Thank you to everyone who participated in Spirit Week and brought cheer to the school day!



Kyle's Mailroom Success



Kyle has worked in the mail room at Preferred Mutual in New Berlin since early 2023, where he folds and stuffs envelopes and uses the stamp machine to send out essential mailings. He knows everyone at the post office and would love to work for the U.S. Postal Service one day. Kyle is a delight to talk to, and you cannot help but smile around him. He shared: "I am so grateful to work in the mail room at an insurance company; it is my dream job." Thank you, Kyle and Preferred Mutual, for showing us what you do!

Kacper's Creations

Kacper's love for music shines through every note, especially in music class, where he enjoys playing the piano, his favorite instrument. Outside of music class, Kacper uses a piano app on his iPad to mix and match different beats and rhythms. With his warm and outgoing personality, Kacper spreads joy wherever he goes and loves talking with friends and teachers. Kacper's teacher, Holly Wilkinson, shares, "Having Kacper in the classroom is a true joy. His positivity and presence light up the room, making every day brighter for all of us."





Congratulations

to

THE SCHOOL AT SPRINGBROOK'S CLASS OF 2024!

We are incredibly proud of these outstanding graduates and their many accomplishments. They have worked diligently to achieve their goals and are ready to embark on their next adventures.



Kimora Fredericks
Best Dancer



Simon Kutacek
Most Candid



Jacob LoBello
Best Smile



Ryan MacMahon
Most Positive



Kimberly Marra
Class Influencer



Mia Torani
Most Athletic



Unlimited **PRESCHOOL**

AT  SPRINGBROOK

The Kids at KUP

say hello to another adventure!

Congratulations to the children at Kids Unlimited Preschool for their growth and achievements during preschool. After a year of learning to play and playing to learn, they are finally ready to embark on their next adventure in Kindergarten.





An Evening OF MUSIC

11 NOVEMBER 2024 • 5:00-9:00 P.M.

AT THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM

225 MADISON AVE, NEW YORK, NY 10016

Honoring longtime Springbrook advocate and supporter,
William Mirabito.

We are delighted to present the 2024 Founders Award to William Mirabito. We present this award in recognition of Mr. Mirabito's historic commitment to the Springbrook mission. His contributions to Springbrook have been fundamental in organizational decision-making and resonated with employees and those who choose Springbrook services. The legacy Mr. Mirabito has pledged to the future of Springbrook will be essential in supporting individuals and families and creating ever-lasting memories for all.



RSVP

Scan the QR code
for more information
and to RSVP.



SAVE *the* DATE

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SPRINGBROOK



Springbrook Family Fun Day at Hard
Rock Cafe and Lion King on Broadway

Scan the QR code to RSVP.



November 10th | New York City, NY



**An Evening of Music
at The Morgan Library & Museum**

November 11th | New York City, NY



Small Business Saturday

November 30th

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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.



Paulette Marcil

04/23/1951 - 05/04/2024

Paulette Marie Marcil, 73, passed away on Saturday, May 4th, 2024. She was born in Attleboro, Massachusetts, grew up in Plainfield, New Jersey, then in Sidney, New York, where she resided at the Mountainside Community Home. Paulette loved being an aunt and is survived by many nieces and grand-nieces, nephews and grand-nephews, and extended family members throughout the United States and Canada.

Paulette loved to share a hug and her joy of crafting. She enjoyed latch-hooking rugs and pillows and hand-sewing clown dolls and yo-yos. Among her creations were beaded necklaces, which she loved to share with others. When she wasn't crafting, Paulette enjoyed swimming and participated in several programs, including the Special Olympics for several years. Paulette was an outgoing and curious person who loved to ask questions. Paulette will be deeply missed by her friends, family, and everyone at the Mountainside Community Home.



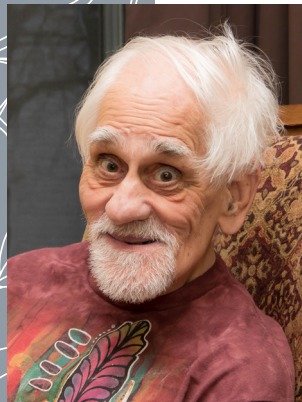
Ronveer Claude Teekasingh

07/19/1990 - 3/20/2024

Ronveer Claude Teekasingh passed away on March 20th, 2024, at the age of 33. Ronveer is survived by his parents, his mother, Deokie, and his father, Ronald Teekasingh. He was a loving son, brother, and uncle who was the joy of his family.

Ronveer was a great friend to those around him at Johnston Circle. His cheerful personality and warm smile were a source of joy for everyone he met. Ronveer will be remembered for his loving and cheerful personality.





Frederick Cook

11/15/1947 – 5/29/2024

Frederick Cook, 76, passed away peacefully at his home on May 29th, 2024. Fred, as he was known, was born November 15th, 1947, in Fort Covington, New York. Fred was a resident at Springbrook for over 50 years, 40 of which were spent at Ford Avenue Community Home.

Fred was known for his impeccable dressing style, often seen in his favorite button-up shirts. He had a passion for cooking and home improvement shows. His love for sweets and meatloaf was unmatched. Fred loved to take leisurely drives through local towns in the region and admired the diverse architecture of each one, which was a testament to his appreciation for beauty. He will be dearly missed by staff and residents to whom he was a beloved friend.



Anthony Liubicich

07/15/1996 – 5/18/2024

Anthony Ryan Liubicich, 27, passed away on Saturday, May 18th, 2024. Born in Brooklyn, NY, Anthony was a bright and joyful presence at the Morris Community Home in Morris, NY.

Family vacations were a highlight of Anthony’s life, with trips to adventure and water parks in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. He enjoyed fast boat rides and could spend hours relaxing in pools and hot tubs. At the Morris Community Home, Anthony’s playful spirit brought endless joy.

Anthony found joy in the simple pleasures of life. He loved his iPad, cartoons, and listening to Mariah Carey’s “All I Want for Christmas Is You” on repeat. He enjoyed his Day Hab program, especially riding bikes, gym time, and van rides. Anthony’s big smile and playful spirit taught everyone around him to find happiness in small moments. His presence will be deeply missed, but his memory will live on through the countless stories, laughter, and love he shared with his family and friends.



Joyce Reynolds

03/30/1947 – 06/03/2024

Joyce Reynolds passed away at 77 at Pine Creek Community Home. At Pine Creek, Joyce enjoyed the outdoors and the flowers in the garden, especially with Baby at her side. Baby was Joyce’s favorite doll and companion—everyone knew Baby. When Joyce traveled, which she loved to do, Baby would be with her to experience everything Joyce did, even to Niagara Falls, where she enjoyed a ride on the boat, Maid of the Mist. Joyce got a thrill from riding in the van on frequent trips around town, to go shopping, dine out or eat lunch in the park, and have ice cream. When Joyce was at home, she would sit and color, flip through her favorite magazines, watch a film, or sing and dance with Baby.

Joyce will be missed for the tremendous love and light she shared with those around her.



Ron Cole

08/14/1976 – 6/25/2024

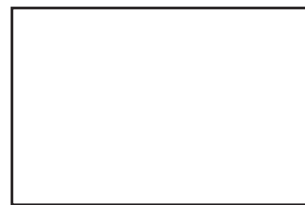
Ronald Alan Cole, 47, passed away at home on Tuesday afternoon, June 25th, 2024. Born on August 14th, 1976, in Oneonta, New York to his father, Russell J. Cole II, and his mother, Laurane Wunsch Cole.

In the words of Ron’s family,

“We all gained empathy, unconditional love, and compassion. He taught us love without words and without limits.”

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated staff at the Springbrook Community Home in Sidney, where Ron resided.





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

