28th Annual “My City, My Place”
Brighter Futures Awards
Friday, March 27, 2020
NEW! Hilton Hotel
4200 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131

Lift Every Voice:
Advocacy in the 21st Century

It’s all about community!
PROCLAMATION

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH
March 2020

WHEREAS, people with a developmental disability are of all racial, ethnic, educational, social, and economic backgrounds, and all are valued members of society who find fulfillment living everyday lives; and

WHEREAS, we value what is important to people with disabilities and their families who are striving for everyday lives no different than those of all other citizens; and

WHEREAS, I signed an executive order to increase integrated employment opportunities among people with disabilities in Pennsylvania because I recognize that individuals with disabilities have the capacity to positively contribute to the development of Pennsylvania’s economy; and

WHEREAS, my administration and the Department of Human Services launched the Supporting Families Initiative, which provides grants to regional collaboratives to encourage families of individuals with developmental disabilities or autism to have high expectations for full and purposeful lives that include meaningful jobs in the community, friendships, health, safety, and spiritual and social opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services continues to increase opportunities for competitive, integrated employment across the Commonwealth for those with developmental disabilities who wish to work; and

WHEREAS, educational opportunities for those with developmental disabilities have increased with the implementation of inclusive secondary education certificate programs at Pennsylvania institutions of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services continues to offer opportunities to individuals and family members through a growing complement of training initiatives and services that allow them to increase their knowledge about advocacy, supports, and disability services; and

WHEREAS, early intervention, education, employment, and home and community-based services continue to be vital to enabling citizens with a developmental disability to enjoy the rights of citizenship and to participate in the life of Pennsylvania’s communities.

THEREFORE, to recognize the many accomplishments and contributions of people with a developmental disability, I, Tom Wolf, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim March 2020 as DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH. I encourage all citizens to support Pennsylvanians with a developmental disability and their families in all aspects of Pennsylvania community life.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, this twenty-eighth day of February two thousand twenty, the year of the commonwealth the two hundred forty-fourth.

TOM WOLF
Governor
CITATION

The City of Philadelphia is known as the City of Brotherly and Sisterly Love because of the compassion, care, and respect we show all of our residents. It is that incredible spirit that helps and encourages all Philadelphians to break through any potential barrier they face. For our residents who deal with some form of disability, the City of Philadelphia and its people work diligently to ensure they have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. Philadelphia supports and celebrates the achievements and accomplishments of those who are disabled, and is grateful to those individuals and organizations that support them in a number of different ways so they can live their lives to their fullest potential.

The City of Philadelphia’s Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS) proudly provides our residents with substantial behavioral health care, intellectual disability supports, and early intervention services in one comprehensive integrated system. The department strives to educate, strengthen, and serve individuals and communities so that all Philadelphians can thrive – especially our City’s most vulnerable populations. Through their many programs they highlight the remarkable work performed by themselves and others in our City and region on behalf of our residents with disabilities.

On Friday, March 27, 2020 during National Intellectual Disability Month, the DBHIDS will host the 28th annual My City, My Place Brighter Futures Awards. The event, which has a theme of “Lift Every Voice: Advocacy of the 21st Century,” will be a day of celebration, recognition, resources, and a recap of the successes of the past year with a look ahead to 2020.

The event will honor 15 award recipients in different categories who reach out to our residents and provide opportunities for employment and inclusion in public events. The winners exemplify the mission of DBHIDS to provide choice in everyday lives; meaningful personal relationships with friends, family and neighbors; presence and participation in community; and dignity and respect as valued residents of Philadelphia.

It is fitting and appropriate, therefore, that the City of Philadelphia officially recognize with this Citation the

28TH ANNUAL MY CITY, MY PLACE BRIGHTER FUTURES AWARDS

and congratulate all of the award winners for the amazing things they do in our area to make our world a better place and commend the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services for their outstanding work to benefit our residents with intellectual disabilities.

James F. Kenney
Mayor
March 27, 2020
March 27, 2020

Greetings,

Welcome to the 28th Annual My City, My Place Brighter Futures Awards. We invite you to join us as we reflect on our rich history and advance into the future. This year’s theme: “Lift Every Voice: Advocacy of the 21st Century” will highlight the importance of self-advocacy, political and parental advocacy. This year also marks 30 years since a major milestone in our nation’s history—the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Through dialogue and collaboration, today’s event will leave you feeling inspired and motivated for continued growth and development.

We look forward to an eventful day of activities, various breakout sessions, and a traveling Penhurst exhibit on site. We also hope the day will serve as an opportunity to share resources, increase coordination, and strengthen local families and communities. “My City, My Place” provides us an opportunity to recognize individuals outside of the DBHIDS system who consistently provide support to individuals and families with intellectual disabilities and physical challenges.

We want to thank the Philadelphia Intellectual disAbility Public Awareness Nomination Committee for bringing together a group of people to include, supporters, presenters, exhibitors, and elected officials. We extend a special thank you to our keynote speaker Councilmember Kendra Brooks, Philadelphia City Council At Large.

Thank you for joining us. Have a great day!

Sincerely

David T. Jones
Commissioner
Welcome Everyone!

Thank You for joining us today for our 28th Annual, My City My Place: Brighter Futures Awards Celebration. We are so pleased to have you celebrate with us today.

The theme this year is “Lift Every Voice: Advocacy in the 21st Century”. This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA]. This is a meaningful milestone because if it were not for those early advocates who labored to bring the needs of the disAbility community to the attention of the Federal Government, we would not be enjoying some of the changes and benefits that came from the passing of the ADA.

The work of advocacy is never ending, and we want to give a special thank you to Kendra Brooks and Ben Hartranft our speakers for the day who will share their advocacy stories with us. We also want to thank our valued Early Intervention and Intellectual disAbility providers and collaborators who will present the workshop sessions. These leaders in our field advocate daily for the rights of the individuals that we support. Their informative workshops promise to educate us all about some of the critical components to successfully advocating in the 21st Century. community involvement.

We have invited the Honorable James F. Kenney, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia to deliver the lunchtime address. Mayor Kenney has had a lifelong commitment to the disAbility Community and has been a staunch advocate for this population. We hope that his schedule allows him to join us again this year to bring encouraging and insightful words during this, our 28th annual celebration.

Congratulations to each of our 2020 Brighter Futures nominees and award winners who have by their hard work and caring spirit, contributed to the lives of people with an intellectual disAbility or autism in the Philadelphia communities where they live and work.

Thank You to the Public Awareness Committee for planning this exciting event and to the DBHIDS Staff and other volunteers who work to make the Brighter Futures Awards Celebration a success. We anticipate that you will leave today energized to continue your work so that those we support will have an even Brighter Future!

Denise Taylor Patterson
Director,
Philadelphia Intellectual disAbility Services
A division of:

It’s all about community!
MORNING PROGRAM

Grand Ballroom

9:00-9:15 AM

Welcoming Remarks

Charlotte Wroton
Assistant Director, Intellectual disAbility Services
Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

KENDRA BROOKS
PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember Kendra Brooks’ lived experiences guide her focus on City Council. She was raised in Nicetown, Philadelphia, where she still proudly resides with her four children. As a young single mother, Kendra worked her way to pay her way through Philadelphia Community College as a nursing assistant. She was a proud member of 1199C and grew to understand the importance of the labor movement to working families. She received her undergraduate degree from Temple University and went on to receive a Master’s in Business Administration from Eastern University.

Kendra Brooks is the first Working Families Party member elected to Philadelphia City Council in history. She has deep roots working across movement-building organizations in Philadelphia, where her work has focused on fighting school privatization efforts, standing up to gun violence, and implementing restorative justice practices in trauma-inflicted communities. Her legislative commitment as a councilmember is to lead and support work that will stabilize communities and support Philadelphia’s working families.

Brighter Futures-Award Presentation
Transitional Award of Excellence
Jane Cordero and Abena Osei, School District of Philadelphia
10:00-11:45 am
Grand Garden Ballroom

COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR

RELAXATION ROOM-Gladwyne Room

PANEL PRESENTATIONS

10:05-10:45-Workshop Session A

1 “Self-Advocates Leading the Way”
Haverford
Self-Advocates have been very prominent in leading the way to ensure that everyone is able to live a good life and are recognized as valued members of the community. This panel is very passionate and have dedicated their time to increasing opportunities and awareness that everyone is entitled to have an Everyday Life (Live, Love, Learn, Employment, Socialization.)
Moderator: Cheryl Nichols, IDS

2. “ADD+VOTE+2+SEE=CHANGE”
Bryn Mawr Room-2nd floor
This panel presentation will focus on the power of the vote. Our presenters will discuss advocacy, community outreach efforts, and building and maintaining relationships with government officials. They will advise on how to use your skills to advocate for the representation needed for inclusion and empowerment of individuals with disabilities at the intersection of race and gender. Moderators; Christopher Florence, IDS, Mary Rose Cunningham, IDS Public Awareness Committee

3. “Organizations: Advocating with Individuals to Influence Political and Social Systems”
Merion Room
This session will allow attendees to engage with a variety of representatives from local organizations to explore how they support individuals to advocate for themselves. The Panel will also discuss ways that advocacy is achieved at a community and legislative level. Attendees will have the opportunity to share ideas and ask questions. Moderator: Corinne Thornton, Liberty Resources, Inc.
4. "From Classroom to the Boardroom: A Panel Discussion of the Parental Role in Advocacy"
Borghese Room


Join us as we invite our diverse parent panel to engage around the parental role in advocacy on how that role has evolved for them and their children through their own lived experiences, intersectionality and various methodologies. Participants should expect to gain insight on the importance of parent engagement, advocacy and support. All of which are vital in championing high expectations, a strong vision for the future and improved life outcomes for individuals with disabilities. **Moderator: Amy Millar, Vision for Equality**

Break--10:45-11:00

11:00-11:45-Repeat of All Workshops in same rooms- Session B

1. "Self-Advocates Leading the Way"
Haverford Room


2. "ADD+VOTE+2+SEE=CHANGE"
Bryn Mawr Room-2nd floor

Peri Jude Radecic, Dynamic, Disability Rights Network, Imani Barbarin, Disability Rights Network, Suzanne Erb, Networks for Training & Development, Disability Rights PA, Mary Rose Cunningham, Public Awareness Committee, Christopher Florence, IDS

3. "Organizations: Advocating with Individuals to Influence Political and Social Systems"
Merion Room


4. "From Classroom to the Boardroom: A Panel Discussion of the Parental Role in Advocacy"
Borghese Room

11:45-Noon GRAND BALLROOM

SPIN CHOIR

OPENING
BEN HARTRANFT

LUNCHEON AWARDS PROGRAM

WELCOME

Loraine Ballard Morrill
Mistress of Ceremonies
iHeartMedia Philadelphia

~

Invocation
Elder Christopher Florence

~

Welcome
Honorable Mayor James Kenney

~

David Jones, Commissioner
City of Philadelphia
Department of Behavioral Health and
Intellectual disAbility Services

~

Denise Taylor Patterson, Director
Intellectual disAbility Services

~

A Tribute to the 30th Anniversary of ADA
Thomas H. Earle, Liberty Resources

~

Representative Stephen Kinsey
PA House of Representatives

~

The Honorable Derek Green
Philadelphia City Councilman-at-Large
Citation

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PRESENTATION OF BRIGHTER FUTURES AWARDS

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28th ANNUAL BRIGHTER FUTURES AWARD WINNERS

Jen Fischer & Lizzie Richardson, MARGIE AUSTIN ADVOCACY AWARD,
Nominated by IDS

Emma Kimenhour & Orlando Salas, Volunteers of America Delaware Valley,
BRIDGING THE GAP AWARD, Nominated by Ruth Fell, Partnership for Community Supports

Officers Monica Monroe, Philadelphia Police Department, Nominated by Carol Frangicetto, Partnership for Community Supports, and Officer Christopher Denshuick, University of Pennsylvania Police Department, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARD,
Nominated by Lynette Borum, IDS

Steve and Emily Lieber, Clarke School for Hearing & Speech,
COMMUNICATION CHAMPION AWARD--Nominated by Jeana Novak, Clarke Schools

Brickstone Reality, COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARD, IDS Special Recognition

Jana Viljoen aka Ziya, CULTURAL ARTS AWARD--Nominated by Amy Millar, Vision for Equality

Ann Hornback, Free Library of Philadelphia, EDUCATION AWARD, Nominated by Donna Heard, PATH Center

Ann Dolloff & Recreation Therapy Department, Temple University,
EDUCATION TEAM AWARD, Nominated by Antoinette Hinkle, SPIN

Scott Jacobi, Acme, EMPLOYMENT AWARD, Nominated by Michele Felix, SPIN

Joseph Kelly & McGillan’s Olde Ale House, EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP AWARD, Nominated by Lynn Youngman

Erin Ellis, Philadelphia Federal Credit Union, FINANCIAL AWARD, Nominated by Laura Princiotta, SpArc Philadelphia

Eileen Friedman, HOUSING ADVOCACY AWARD, Nominated Sandy Harris, Overbrook Friedlander Program
DaVita Huntingdon Valley Dialysis Center, PHYSICAL AWARD, Nominated by Mindy Lutts, SPIN

Megan Rivera, SELF-ADVOCATE AWARD, Nominated by Tyler Kammerle, Variety of Philadelphia

Luke McKetta & Anita Mariani, Marconi Older Adult Center, SOCIAL AWARD, Nominated by Barbara Smithy, CATCH

Bishop Samuel B. Adkins, First United Baptist Church, SPIRITUAL AWARD, Nominated by Christie Maher, PATH

Lorraine Bucci, Morris Arboretum, Lisa Bailey, University of Pennsylvania, TEAM ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION AWARD, Nominated by Andrea Consigny, SPIN

Dr. David Williams, Public Health Dental Advocate, WELLNESS AWARD, Nominated by Melissa DiSipio, PMHCC

add 20 award winner pages in above order
Jane Cordero and Abena Osei, School District of Philadelphia, have made tremendous efforts to ensure that District students with intellectual disabilities and autism have access to quality career development programs and services. Their collaboration with key personnel, students and families, service providers, and experts in the field has been instrumental in creating several specialized programs that help students with disabilities prepare for the workforce and experience a successful transition from school to work and meaningful community participation.

Their role in the creation of the Project SEARCH Program at Drexel University was a monumental achievement that required a complex coordination of partners and multi systems collaboration. Jane and Abena served as strong advocates and collaborators throughout the process and, with the program now in its fourth year, continue to support students in a total work immersion program that prepares them for competitive integrated employment post-graduation. With Drexel's SEARCH success, Jane and Abena saw an opportunity to expand the program's impact. They were able to successfully secure a second SEARCH site at the District Administration Building. They helped facilitate the hiring of two SEARCH graduates to positions in the District, and connected CIS to the District's talent acquisition department, which has now resulted in 30 quality District jobs for Philadelphia citizens with disabilities. Jane and Abena assisted with the District's participation in Project Career Launch, a new program with AJ Drexel Autism Institute and CIS, as well as a new Extended School Year summer employment program. Students with disabilities who gain work experience in high school are more likely to choose employment as an adult. Jane and Abena's work have made new opportunities for community-based career exploration to students with disabilities. This collaboration can move children from the classroom to the community as they transition from high school to adult life.
THE MARGIE AUSTIN ADVOCACY AWARD

This award is given in honor of Margie Austin’s tireless and relentless efforts to secure legislative measures and supports that are necessary for parents of children with disabilities to reach their greatest potential.

Margie’s advocacy began when her son Isaiah was born with Down syndrome. As a representative of these children and their families in many organizations and on several boards, Margie offered suggestions that promoted inclusive communities. She provided insight for early intervention programs and continued to work and advocate for children and families.

In May of 2019 she took her last breath in Harrisburg advocating for a federal bill in support of parents. That bill will be passed in 2020.

This award is given to parents who demonstrate conviction, devotion and tenacity in support of human services and children with special needs. They work closely with their community and legislators throughout the year on matters that impact the lives of children.
Emma and Orlando are part of the bigger team at Volunteers of America Delaware Valley who have organized volunteers in the community to “adopt” families in need during the holidays. For the last 3 years, Emma, Orlando and VOADV have supported our EI program by providing help to our families. By using prepared wish lists by our service coordinators, VOADV makes sure the children will all get toys, clothing, bikes and sports equipment. Supermarket gift cards are given to families for food. Many of our families must choose between household bills or holiday gifts. The generosity of these volunteers makes a world of difference for the families we identify as most needy.

Emma, Orlando and the other volunteers give the gift of joy to children and families. Often those who have been helped end up being helpers themselves when they find themselves in a position to help. The generosity of VOADV inspires all to be generous themselves.

Three years ago when we were searching community resources to help our families, we were lucky to stumble across VOADV. That began our relationship with Emma and Orlando. While they have supported our 20 families, VOADV have extended their generosity to so many other families who have needed support. Emma continues to work hard to organize this amazing holiday giving program. The commitment of this organization truly supports the mission “It's all about community.”
28th BRIGHTER FUTURES AWARDS
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

OFFICER MONICA MONROE

Officer Monica Monroe has served the citizens of Philadelphia for almost 25 years. Her duties as an officer have provided her with a variety of experiences throughout the city. She utilized her parent's wisdom, visualizing her passion, to see light within herself by giving. She understood what it meant to give of her time as a volunteer, but her passion to service became infectious. She channeled her drive to become a Certified Nursing Assistant and spent time serving elder citizens outside her roll of a police officer.

While Officer Monroe was recovering from an accident, she channeled her energies to create “Monica’s Gifts from Heart Baskets” to support families with small children. She heard about the program initiated by Partnership for Community Supports that involved an annual Thanksgiving food drive. She quietly brought a wide variety of food and turkeys for ten families so they could enjoy this celebration. These ten families were being served by our Early Intervention Service Coordination and had young children under three years of age with developmental delays.

Officer Monroe made sure these deliveries were made before her police work began before 6 AM. She is a kind and giving person who has enjoyed working with Partnership for Community Supports to connect and support others. Her kindness extends beyond the Partnership. She carries gift cards to hand to people in the community as she moves through the neighborhood. Officer Monroe along with many other members of the Philadelphia Police Department support our individuals with their selfless acts of kindness to improve our communities.
A real-life "Superman" came to the rescue of a disabled man after his bag was stolen at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. It's a miracle to even meet 36-year-old Ira Printz. Six weeks ago, he almost died from pneumonia. In a Channel 6 ABC account, Ira's mother shared that Ira has this secret strength. Ira has Down Syndrome and everyone calls him “Superman.” He even has the clothes to go with his name.

While he wore his gown at the hospital, Ira kept all of his Superman clothes--and his phone--in a bag. On Monday, that bag disappeared. His mother made a police report but was sure the bag wouldn't show up. That's until the police officer showed up the next day with a new phone and a new shirt. The officer arrived in his police attire and appeared like an “angel.” It was Officer Denshuck from the University of Pennsylvania Police Department.

The Superintendent for the Penn Police Department shared that this Officer has been there for a long time and this is just one of the thousand things he's done that was so sweet and kind and yet just him. While the officer doesn't want any recognition, Ira would like to see him again. He's doing so well and he's leaving the hospital soon. His mom says he'd like to thank his real-life “Superman.” These heroes live in every community and share their acts of kindness so often. Thank you to all our Officers throughout our communities.
EMILY AND STEVE LIEBER

Emily and Steve Lieber made a choice to dedicate themselves to providing their son, Ethan, with as typical a life as possible even though he has been diagnosed with hearing loss and the debilitating Hunter Syndrome. They have become advocates for other children who share this diagnosis by educating and raising much needed funds for clinical research projects to cure this Syndrome. Steve is also volunteering to create a STEM curriculum to enhance Ethan’s education along with his friends from the Clarke School.

Emily and Steve have embraced the support of their Jewish community, the medical world of CHOP, the educational world of Clarke School and the members of the Hunter Syndrome community. Their unending optimism has infused each group with hope for the future of Ethan as well as other with this disease.

With early intervention services in place and Ethan accepting hearing aids, the Liebers felt they were on their way to the supports they needed on this journey. Genetic testing with other medical recommendations followed and a diagnosis of Hunter Syndrome was evident. This is a degenerative disease with a challenging prognosis. Ethan became a regular at CHOP and the Liebers adjusted their lives and became fully engaged in providing the necessary support for their son. Steve shared every bit of knowledge about this disease with the Clarke staff so Ethan would develop confidence in his everyday school activities.

Recognizing that their son is only one of 500 boys in the US burdened with this diagnosis, the Liebers expanded their efforts to a national level by raising funds to help finance clinical research to find a cure. They believe in the possibilities that their son and others will enjoy, thrive and be included in all life has to offer. The future is brighter for Ethan and the many others because of the love and dedication of Emily and Steve Lieber.
Brickstone Realty is where The office of Philadelphia Intellectual disAbility Services (IDS) is located. The building is also known as the Lits Building and is-the former Lit Brother’s Department store, located at 701 Market Street in Downtown Philadelphia. Brickstone Realty has demonstrated a supportive and collaborative approach to the work of IDS. Brickstone Realty did not disappear into the background once the rental agreement papers were signed.

The staff at the Lits Building interface with many of the individuals we support who come to our office space for meetings and interviews. The staff have consistently treated them with understanding and respect.

Brickstone has demonstrated their support for the IDS’s Public Awareness campaigns and have demonstrated community inclusion by approving the use of their public spaces for Public Awareness and community education opportunities. IDS has been allowed to use space in the Historic Atrium and Lobby areas to host the SPIN, Inc. choir, the Annual disAbility Art Shows and multiple community education opportunities through resource tables, bake sales and much more. Many times, these activities have spilled over to the common retail hall where the activity receives the highest attention of people in transit, shopping or having lunch. Such opportunities have validated the hopeful experience for persons with an intellectual disAbility or autism, with an interest in employment and promoted the idea that inclusion is possible for all.

As a result of our successes with Brickstone Realty, the IDS’s Public Awareness Committee has ventured into the newly renovated Shopping District [formerly the Gallery] and sponsored an employment activity that was very successful. We wish to especially thank and acknowledge Mark Merlini, owner and Marie Williams, building manager who have both supported the mission and vision of IDS. The IDS Public Awareness Committee looks forward to hosting more collaborative activities at 701 Market street, with the continued support of Brickstone Realty.
28th BRIGHTER FUTURES AWARDS
CULTURAL ARTS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

JANA VILJOEN aka ZIYA

Jana aka Ziya is a South African music producer, mother of four, three of whom have special needs, and co-founder of Brain Child Fund. She discovered the perfect project to marry her passion for music with her heart for the special needs community. A team of creatives are working on this pioneering project, doing something that hasn’t been done before. They are recording special needs children’s sounds and environments, documenting bits of their journey and capturing their stories in songs and music videos. They intend to give their audience a glimpse into the worlds of nonverbal special needs children from various backgrounds and countries.

Ziya invites the participants in this project to collaborate by submitting unique sounds they have recorded and/or picture videos they have taken. The tracks will result in a visual album, a concept where a video accompanies each song on the album. The videos will contain footage taken during trips of special needs families from different countries as well as sounds and pictures. The planned result would be a short documentary film.

From her musical talents, to her kind spirit and soft approach, she listens with her heart and leads with boldness to ensure that all people’s songs are heard and honored. She hosts concerts in her backyard, works with many different families and organizations and is always welcoming the entire community to be a part of the movement. She is reaching families in Philadelphia and the suburbs, many of whom have immigrated from South Africa like herself. She is an international advocate and leader ensuring people with disabilities have their voices heard. Her spirit and resilience have helped hundreds of families by ensuring that hope is a part of the conversation...and the song.
Individuals from PATH’s Day Program have been visiting the Torresdale Library for about eight years socializing and looking at materials. When Ann Hornback, Head Librarian, was approached about volunteer activities, she said “of course, we can use your help.” Our individuals have been volunteering for several years now. She includes them in conversations with staff and people visiting the library. Our individuals return from volunteering so happy and feeling positive about their contributions.

Ann has gotten to know our individuals, not just as volunteers, but on a personal basis. She knows what their interests are and connects them to books and new arrivals on the same subject. She continuously shares how much she appreciates their help and contributions to the library.

Ann offers a variety of volunteer jobs so individuals can choose which task they want to complete. She makes sure that there are enough jobs for each individual’s unique skills so everyone has an opportunity to contribute. These volunteer activities fulfil the desire for individuals to contribute in a meaningful way. They enjoy their work and particularly their interaction with Ann.
28th BRIGHTER FUTURES AWARDS
EDUCATION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

ANN DOLLOFF & THE RECREATION THERAPY
DEPARTMENT AT TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Having a great teacher to guide, mentor and influence you plays a pivotal role in shaping the person you will be. Temple’s Recreation Therapy (RT) program is shaping the minds of young therapists to be able to improve the quality of lives of individuals with disabilities. Their curriculum around intellectual and developmental disabilities is led by Ann Dolloff. Ann spent 22 years as a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist directing community-based recreation and summer camp facilities for individuals with disability and their families. Ann now has a full-time faculty position at Temple.

Ann’s ability to inspire students to pursue RT careers has been influential to the many professionals who now actively make a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities. SPIN and Temple has had a mutually beneficial partnership where a group pf Temple RT interns spend a semester within SPIN’s Community Participation. They develop and implement innovative and meaningful classes for SPIN participants to enjoy. They bring fresh activities and best practices to the classes. Whether it is volunteering, interning or conducting evidence-based research or practice, these RT interns are professional, engaging, enthusiastic and leave a positive lasting impression on our individuals.

Students have developed a health & wellness program. They have engaged and promoted the musical talents of individuals and have run fundraising events to benefit individuals’ participation in community events. Ann’s tremendous impact to the SPIN community goes far beyond the Temple RT intern programs. She partnered with SPIN to present a movie screening of “Intelligent Lives” which focuses on important issues that young adults are facing around living everyday lives. Ann helps to create a world that is inclusive and accessible for all. Her passion has a direct impact on her students who in turn will strengthen the quality of lives of individuals in our community.
William walked through the doors of the ACME in Mt. Airy for the first time and knew it was the workplace for him. He was offered a position as a cart attendant and was thrilled to reach his goal of his first job. Soon after William met Scott, a fellow new team member and new manager. They immediately bonded over their love of sports and learning the ropes of their new positions. Scott ensured that William fully understood the policies and procedures of the ACME. William understood that he was now a part of something larger than himself. This strong team environment was essential in supporting William during some difficult transitions in his personal life. His team bonded with him and built lasting friendships. William is confident, independent, has a good sense of humor and likes things to be done his way. Scott taught him that everyone needed to be a part of the team to be successful. He guided him through some tough coaching conversations, particularly when it involved the dress code. William loved to wear his favorite baseball hat, so Scott made sure his new dress code ACME hat took its place.

Scott is concerned for the health and safety of his employees with attention to the weather and appropriate attire for William. He provides exceptional support for William and keeps an open line of communication with him and his Employment Specialist. He demonstrates the daily habits that make an excellent leader and employer.
Joseph Kelly has been what is called the “utility person” at McGillin’s for 20 years. He does whatever needs to be done from cleaning, stocking the bar, getting ice, shoveling the walk during snowstorms-wherever they need him, he is ready and able. One day on his lunch break while paying his tab, he asked one of the owners if they needed any help. May Ellen replied, “They always need help.” Twenty years later he is a valued employee at the age of 65, and not showing any intention to quit.

Joseph Kelly grew up in Manayunk, attended various schools and concluded his schooling with a non-diploma, a diploma for individuals in Special Education. He had help from various agencies in finding a job resulting in a ten-year employment at the Fidelity Building kitchen. He lives in the home in which he grew up and until a year ago, lived with his mother. He maintains friendships which he describes as starting in the “sandbox” and regularly goes to their homes to watch videos, sports, share pizza and just hang out. On Fridays after work he has a regular engagement with one of his co-workers to play pool and grab a beer.

He’s an usher in his local church and since his mother’s death, he has taken on the duties of a homeowner. Joseph pays his own bills, watches his spending, mows the lawn and enjoys the fullness of life and participation in the community. He has travel trained himself and is proud of his Senior Citizen pass. When the Pope was in town and public transit was cancelled, he was determined to get to work on time and walked from Manayunk to Center City. The Mullin Family has welcomed and mentored Mr. Kelly throughout his twenty year employment. They have been supportive throughout including the transition with the loss of his mother. They have encouraged his full life as a respected member in the community.
Erin is a Financial Educator for the Philadelphia Federal Credit Union and a good friend to SpArc Services as well as the participants involved in our programs. Her chief responsibility is to give members the tools and knowledge to manage their money and achieve financial goals. She creates the PFCU’s financial education curriculum, providing one-on-one counseling with members, presenting seminars on various personal financial topics, credit, identity theft, home buying to PFCU members and a wide range of social service organizations.

Erin includes the SpArc community in her outreach strategy and understands the unique situation of individuals SpArc Services supports. She works to provide them with financial information and products that make sense for their individual financial situation. She holds financial literacy classes at various levels to ensure all participants are able to understand banking and financial products and how they might help to make their lives easier. She is patient and presents material in a way that is understood by a diverse group of individuals. She helps individuals understand the options they have, no matter how small their account.

Erin has been a great friend to our family of organizations by offering free financial training and planning to staff and program participants. She partners with Employment Services and guides new employees on the importance of having bank accounts and often opening one for them. She provides classes to staff to help them on the road to financial security as well. It is clear that Erin is not with us to sell products, but to educate us to work towards a more secure financial future.
28th BRIGHTER FUTURES AWARDS
HOUSING ADVOCACY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

EILEEN FRIEDMAN

Eileen Friedman became a landlord for the Overbrook Friedlander Program in 2003 and continues to rent two homes to our individuals. The search to obtain housing for people with special needs is not always easy. The process for approval to meet guideline for regulations requires great time and patience. The inspections can result in the landlord needing to make improvements and/or additions. From day one, Eileen was willing to accommodate the needs of our individuals to make her homes safe and sound for our residents. Whether it is a railing or assistive equipment, she is always willing to do what is necessary to meet the needs of our individuals.

The inclusion of men and women with disabilities means the right and choice to live in communities and housing arrangements that are not institutions. Eileen is a kind and compassionate person who continues to respond to the needs and upkeep of the properties in which our residents can call home. She has enriched the life of communities by acceptance of people with disabilities, accepting them into her houses and making sure the houses are kept to high standards so the residents can be proud of where they live.

Finding landlords who are willing to take the risk of waiting for a systemic process to unfold is quite a challenge. It takes a special and unique situation to have a long lasting and long-term landlord-tenant relationship that is mutually gratifying to both parties. Overbrook Friedlander and Eileen Friedman have had the fortune and blessing to share a positive and lasting relationship. A salute to Eileen for being extraordinary in her ordinary obligations of a landlord.
DaVita is an Italian word which means “giving life.” DaVita is a kidney care community providing dialysis treatment across the US to over 200,000 patients. It commits to provide the core values of service excellence, integrity, team continuous improvement, accountability, fulfillment and fun. They pride themselves in being the nation’s largest and most innovative healthcare company, however, they consider community first; company second. They support hundreds of people of varied ages, backgrounds and abilities. Alan, who has spent almost 40 years enjoying life in the community with support from SPIN, is just one of those people. The staff and physicians promote wellness for Alan, not only by dialysis but with nutrition and overall monitoring of his physical health.

There are no differences at this center. Inclusion is a natural component of the environment. Social workers, dieticians, doctors and nurses all work as a team to improve lives, educate and support people. Alan receives treatment three times a week and due to his schedule, he is with the same people each time he arrives at the center. The staff supports each person to exercise choice with great support in a caring place. This community, which has been joined by a serious medical condition, is one that most people are not eager to join. However, this environment fosters wellness and inclusion where the staff professionally execute treatment where each person’s life holds the same value.

Alan and his new friend Ed were both receiving treatment. There was no distinction between Ed who had excelled in a corporate world and one who had, many years ago, lived in an institution. Alan has thrived in this inclusive environment, which was created effortlessly by this DaVita staff, due to respect for all people, regardless of illness, ability or stage in life.
Megan shows an amazing amount of self-advocacy to exercise choice to pursue employment at Old Navy. After feeling she had few skills left to gain from her training program, she made sure her voice was heard and her goals were met.

Megan approached her transition coordinator to make sure she understood that Megan felt he was ready to achieve new and loftier career goals. Megan participated regularly in the community job training programs by consistently showing up to the job, bringing positive attitude and providing a high quality of customer service. She contributes by excelling in her role while providing a shining example of what a good employee should be.

Megan is an individual who has absolutely flourished over the last two years and has grown so much as a person. I met Megan two years ago after she graduated high school. She was fairly shy and did not have much interest in working. Her parents were strong advocates for her and wanted to push her to achieve her full potential. They felt a Transition Work Program would be a great starting point for her. After a discussion with Megan and her family, she agreed to give the Community Training Program (Mobile Café) a try. Following the first day, her perspective completely flipped. She loved coming to work and brought a passionate and positive attitude everyday. She interacted well with supervisors, co-workers and customers. She worked hard and put in a great effort to not only learn her role at the cart, but excel at it. After a few months, she knew everything there was to know about her job. She was practicing and looking to better herself. Her independence was blossoming and she was growing more confident with each day. At an ISP meeting a year later, she was her own biggest advocate and made it clear she was ready for a job in the community. She went on her first interview at Old Navy with confidence and was hired on the spot. Her self determination was so evident, she was hired as a year round part time employee. She continues to work diligently to her goals and independence.
28th BRIGHTER FUTURES AWARDS
SPIRITUAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

BISHOP SAMUEL B. ADKINS

Gerald Walker is a man who thoroughly enjoys attending his church, First United Baptist Church, where they have been a welcoming and caring community since the days of his childhood. Gerald has known Pastor Adkins for 38 rich years of pastoral care, compassion and guidance. The Pastor includes Gerald in the functions of the church. Gerald has found not only a pastor but a congregation that recognizes him for who he is; a parishioner who desires to participate, be accepted and loved.

Over the years, Gerald actively attended Sunday school, bible study and participates as a member of this church. He continues to work on the Usher Board and instrumental in welcoming congregants and families in worship as he escorts them to their seats with programs. As a young adult when Gerald went missing, Pastor Adkins was instrumental in beginning a search and calming the family as they all prayed together. He has been a beacon of hope and strength for Gerald and his family.

Gerald received a special honor from Pastor Adkins for his dedicated service to the Senior Ushers. In 2019, Pasto Adkins presented another award for Gerald’s dedication to the church community. As Gerald has aged, the Pastor has made accommodations for him to have a seat next to the entrance so he could still greet members and hand out programs for the service.

Pastor Adkins is always looking for ways to recognize the improve the lives of those that others may overlook. Gerald has had a sense of inclusion and purpose thanks to the wonderful way he has been embraced by his Pastor and church. Gerald feels a sense of pride within his church community and enjoys attendance and strengthening his religious beliefs. Pastor Adkin’s support and friendship has meant so much in Gerald’s everyday life.
LORRAINE BUCCI and LISA BAILEY
Lorraine Bucci and Lisa Bailey developed an inclusive and adaptive hiking and education program for individuals with physical or sensory needs to enjoy Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania. This Arboretum is a historic public garden and educational institution. It promotes an understanding of the relationship between plants, people and environment through programs that integrate science, art and the humanities. It hosts hundreds of area community groups each year for guided tours. With Lorraine’s experience in working with people with disabilities and Lisa’s passion for inclusive visitor education, they thoughtfully developed three distinct visitor experiences that account for a variety of physical and sensory support needs.

These carefully chosen experiences have exposed individuals to the remarkable beauty of the gardens and the tranquility of nature. They have given careful consideration to the distance and terrain of each tour. These tours were designed to “Awaken the Senses” with all people in mind. This new program is unique and has potential to reach beyond the usual visitor. The three levels of tours offer distinct sensory and physical experiences. One tour is focused on the senses where participants are fully engaged in the sights, sounds, scents and textures that the Arboretum offers. Individuals were walking along touching, smelling and fully learning and experiencing their new environment.

Lisa and Lorraine value the opportunity for employment exploration as an essential element of community participation. A tour is planned where participants can learn about different employment opportunities at the Arboretum. This Arboretum is dedicated to bringing the joy and benefits of nature and horticulture to everyone. The tours have opened a beautiful world of nature, plants, animals and serenity to people of all abilities.
28th BRIGHTER FUTURES AWARDS
WELLNESS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Dr. David Williams

Dr. Williams is a Public Health Dental Advocate for individuals with special needs. For over 20 years he has worked tirelessly to ensure that individuals in the Philadelphia area have access to adequate, quality dental care like everyone else. He was instrumental in leading a focus group at the statewide Dental Summit to help increase Medicaid rates for reimbursement. He has built a SE Regional Dental Coalition to engage providers and stakeholders interested in the increased need for dentists to serve this population, increased education for dental school students and an increased rate for dentists who serve special needs.

Dr. Williams was instrumental in setting up Doc Bressler’s Special Touch Dentistry and continues to support all dentists who serve individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism. He presents trainings in collaboration with PCHC to provider agencies, supports coordination agencies, families and individuals on the importance of good oral hygiene and how it affects overall health for the rest of the body. He is constantly advocating on the local and national level with government officials and insurance companies for increased rates and services to better serve individuals.

A very active self-advocate, who travels and speaks on the closure of Pennhurst, needed extensive dental work, but had difficulty with anesthesia. Dr. Williams reached out to a skilled dentist who would spend a year and a half completing the work. It transformed this person’s life. Now they are both have a long-standing friendship as a result of Dr. Williams. His advocacy and deep concern about the needs of individuals with intellectual disAbilities and autism have supported this nomination for a Brighter Futures Award Winner.
HONORABLE MENTION RECOGNITION

This year every nomination was extraordinary. Each nominee represented the true meaning of inclusion, meaningful relationship, dignity, respect, presence and participation in our communities. We congratulate every nominee for enhancing the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Cherie Harris
Pat Kennedy
Carol Shrader
LaToya Anderson
Cradles to Crayons
Ariana Darnall
Caitlin Ferenchak
Colleen Kriebel

Janice Tindall
Mike & Cheryl Brumbaugh
Rebecca DeCarlo
Dr. Alex Salomon
Irene Adams
Eric Sieberer
Mia Smith

All Nominators for their outstanding nominations!

IDS PUBLIC AWARENESS PLANNING COMMITTEE

George Callaway-Co Chair
Teresa Myers- Thompson
Veronica Potter
Akilah Witherspoon
Julio Nieves
Irwin Fox
Jacob Arnaud
Chaz Elliott
Corinne Thornton
Lauren Alden

Andrea Imperatore
Bonnie Squires
Lauren Tilghman
Lynette Savoy
Monique Thomas
Cheryl Nichols
Christopher Florence
Wendy Williams, IDS Advisor and Coordinator

Department of Behavioral Health
Intellectual disAbility Services
wishes to thank
IDS Public Awareness Committee
Bonnie Squires, Publicity
Lorraine Ballard Morrill, Mistress of Ceremonies
Cheryl Nichols & Casey Jurimas, Community Resource Fair
James Conroy, Pennhurst Display
Andrea Imperatore, Meeting Planner
Wendy Williams, IDS Advisor and Coordinator
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health and wellness

friendships

spirituality

loving relationships

It’s all about community!

Lift Every Voice:
Advocacy in the 21st Century

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