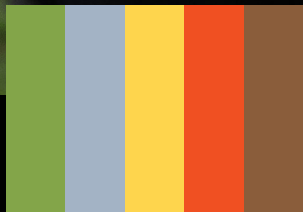


*True. Tried.*  
**SPRINGBROOK**





## INSPIRATIONS MAGAZINE

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

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FALL 2021 | ISSUE 17

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

On the cover:  
2021 graduate Nicole Lapp (center) sits with her former housemate Ronda Royster (right)





## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

# True. Tried. SPRINGBROOK



True, Tried, and Springbrook are three words aptly applied, combined, and depicted in this fall's *Inspirations* magazine. Each story within conveys the truth and challenges that individuals, families, and Springbrook have faced, all with equanimity.

Kira DeLanoy, our Director of Marketing, and I meet to discuss the focus and content of each magazine. We talk in broad strokes, defining trends and thoughts that reflect where we are at Springbrook, where we are going, and where we have been. We strive to choose a theme that conveys all of these thoughts and ideas to our readers. Then, Kira's remarkable team gets to work bringing the theme to life (in this case, True. Tried. Springbrook.) by reaching out to programs, talking with individuals, and interviewing the people we support. Their draft is then sent to me to review and for me to write this message.

I received the draft of this *Inspirations* magazine as I was packing for the first time in a long time for a much-anticipated family getaway. The packing stopped! I was immediately drawn into the stories. True stories. Stories of the people who make Springbrook what it is—people who have been tried by circumstance and stayed true to their purpose and the potential in every challenge. I was filled with pride in the people portrayed, their stories, and the honesty in telling of actual difficulties.

Who could not be moved and inspired by the love and commitment of Chris and Janet Vance? The arc of their life together, facing life changes that many of us will face, remaining true to their love and marriage. Or, by the raw courage of Brandon Jones and his family as they reimagined their lives, facing the unimaginable with steadfastness and determination—moving forward with an eye on the future?

I was moved by the inside look at the realities of providing support in the Oxford Community home. Staffing shortages are a reality, transitions happen, leadership changes. The story of how those realities were faced is tried and true.

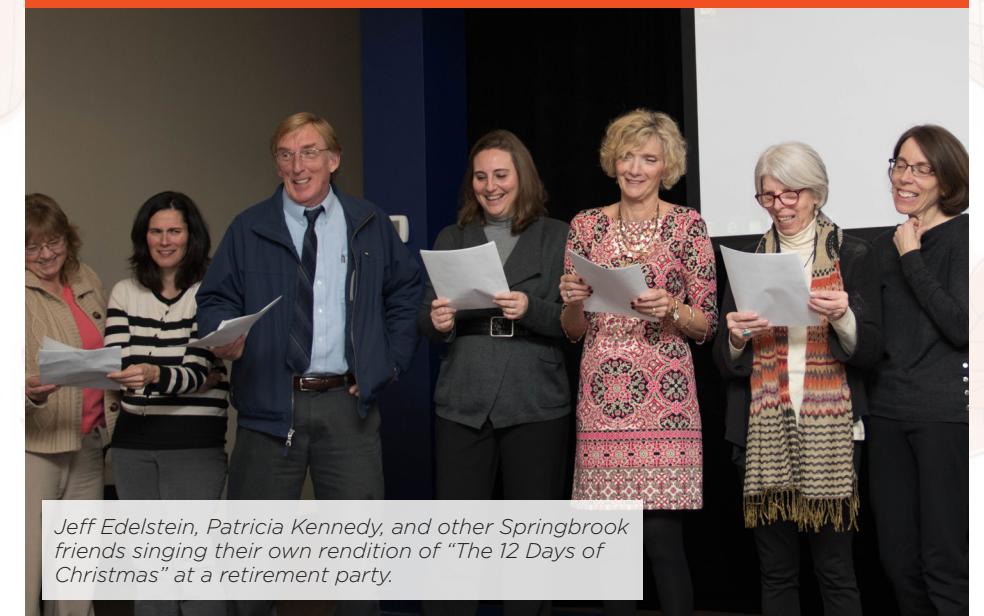
I could go on, but I will not. I will leave it to you, the reader, to discover and be inspired by the stories, the people, the pictures. You will—as I did—put down what you were intent on doing and be drawn into the many faces of Springbrook. I hope you, too, will be filled with pride, for you are a part of Springbrook and carry the message of who we are and who we want to be ...True. Tried. Springbrook.

*Patricia E. Kennedy*

Patricia E. Kennedy  
CEO



Jeff Edelstein and Patricia Kennedy at the 2017 Milestone Employee recognition celebration.



Jeff Edelstein, Patricia Kennedy, and other Springbrook friends singing their own rendition of "The 12 Days of Christmas" at a retirement party.

*P.S. I extend my personal thanks and congratulations to Jeff Edelstein, who retired after 40 years. His life work was in dedication to the staff, students, family, and friends of Springbrook.*



# Thank you

FOR YOUR DEDICATED SERVICE!

Springbrook believes that loyalty deserves recognition. Every year we take time to celebrate employees that have achieved milestones, celebrating 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and this year, 40 years! We are humbled and thankful to these hard-working employees, from all walks of life, who dedicate their careers to the people we support. To read a small biography of these remarkable staff members, visit: [SpringbrookNY.org/milestones](http://SpringbrookNY.org/milestones).

## 25 years



**James Dutcher**  
Maintenance



**Anna Stathoudakis**  
Residence Counselor



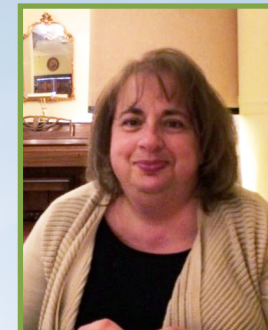
**Tracy Cobb**  
LPN on Campus Nursing

Not Pictured: Shanon Shultz

## 20 years



Rhiannon Ham



Lori Moss



Lauren Cicerone



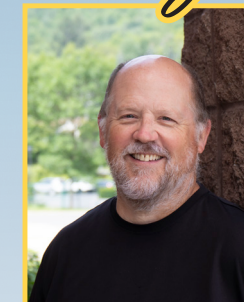
Jeffrey Thorne



Nestra Love

Not Pictured:  
Eleanor Archibald  
Lorraine Moore

## 10 years



Paul Beltz



Stacey Grady



Kara Budd



Cynthia Bofelos



Luke Moran



Bridget Lamp

## 15 years



Erika Bennett



Kimberly Breslin



Deb Carey



Rachel Griffis-Grant



Jeff Carreras



Catherine Lien

Not Pictured:  
Jacob Burrows  
Pamela Gergich  
Wendy Johnson  
Tyrone Lohr  
Laura Monk  
James Murdoch  
Heather Schneider  
Bridget Shantal  
Marilyn Shaw  
Lisa Vargas  
Nicole Vargas  
Jessica Wilfeard  
Lisa Young

Not Pictured:  
Miguel Martinez  
Aaron Smith  
Patricia Snyder



Bethany Nichols

**GOODBYE AND THANK YOU!**



Jeffrey Edelstein, former director of the GEMS Residential School at Springbrook, began his career at Springbrook over 40 years ago in the community homes department. In 1999, he transitioned to the residential school program where he provided insight and leadership for day-to-day operations. In addition to his position within these programs, Jeff served various roles in the Quality Assurance Department and took the lead on a number of special projects and new initiatives at Springbrook. A long-time friend, mentor, and colleague to many, Jeff has been influential in leading Springbrook staff and all of those he has supported over the years. Likewise, his compassion and selflessness have made him an invaluable advocate to the hundreds of students and families whom he has supported.

**Many congratulations on your retirement, Jeff!**

*Mary Schrom-Loehr*  
**40 YEARS**

Mary Schrom-Loehr saw Springbrook change and grow in remarkable ways in her 40-year career as a direct support professional (DSP). In 1981, she enrolled in a child care class on the campus, and afterward, the group toured the facilities at Springbrook. She started working for Springbrook shortly after this brief introduction. Much changed during her time as a DSP, but Mary remained dedicated to supporting the people who choose Springbrook as their service provider. Thanks to her love for the inclusive Springbrook community, Mary was able to overcome challenges, remain positive, and provide outstanding support to fellow staff and residents. She was an invaluable colleague at Springbrook. Her retirement is well deserved!

Thank you for your years of dedication to Springbrook. We wish you all the best in your retirement, Mary!



To read the full article on Mary's Milestone achievement, scan this QR Code!



*Laurie Spicer*  
**35 YEARS**

Over her 35-year career as a recreational therapist, Laurie Spicer became a familiar face throughout Springbrook. The love and passion she had for her work quickly became evident to anyone who crossed her path, be they coworker, student, or their family members. Her most treasured memories involve adventures she orchestrated with students, particularly the annual camping trips to Meadowvale Campground she planned from the mid-eighties to the mid-nineties. She also arranged for students to take trips to New York City and attend Broadway shows. Laurie is now fully retired, allowing her to care for her elderly father who lives with her. "I've given my heart and soul to Springbrook," she said, "but now, I need to take more time to care for my dad."

Thank you, Laurie, for all your years of dedication and love to Springbrook and many congratulations on your retirement!



To read the full article on Laurie's Milestone achievement, scan this QR Code!





# Welcome to HILLTOP HOUSE

Hilltop was built in 2018 and is set back from the school and the rest of the main campus, overlooking the river valley and hills beyond. The view from the top is breathtaking. Currently, nine residential students live in the home whose ages vary, with the youngest being eight-years-old. The kids who live here attend the school during the day, rising around 7 am to get to school by 9 am. The students who make Hilltop their home-away-from-home attend classes at The School at Springbrook during the day and work with direct support professionals on everything from behavioral plans, to social skills, to everyday life skills. There is never a dull moment in the day in the life of the students and staff of Hilltop house!

## RISE AND SHINE!

Students are up and out of bed at 7 am each morning to get to school by the 9 am bell. At school, students enjoy classes and work on academic and life skills with their teachers, teaching aids, therapists, and fellow students.

## WHEN THE SCHOOL DAY IS DONE

With one hour to go before school is out, the house is relatively quiet, aside from a small hum generated by DSPs as they prepare snacks and finish up

afternoon tasks. While the kids attend school, it allows a small window for DSPs to focus on their work in the home, including some housekeeping, such as cleaning rooms and doing laundry, and readying after-school activities. When the kids arrive home, there is a sudden flurry of activity. While some make their way in casually, others make a grand entrance; one boy in particular enters with a great exclamation of joy, spreads his arms out, and sprints to his room. The elation for many of them seems clear: they're happy to be home. Whatever way they make their entrance, nearly every student

makes a b-line for their room to shed their backpack and get back to the kitchen for snack time! "While no two days are the same, every day is packed with something interesting, making the possibilities endless," says Assistant Program Director Bobbie Martindale.

While the DSPs at Hilltop agree that a career in their field isn't always easy, there is a great reward in having the opportunity to mentor students in acquiring new skills and achieving personal goals. While staffing shortages have made it difficult to provide the type of one-on-one activities that students and DSPs prefer, many of the students of Hilltop house have excelled this past year thanks to the encouragement and dedication of the core DSPs of the house.

Matt Brady, a DSP at Hilltop, has worked in many of the on-campus residences, but found himself returning to Hilltop with greater joy for the work each day: "Seeing the kids progress keeps me coming back." It takes skill and creativity to work with students in a residential setting, but seeing their behavior and social skills improve is a triumph for all to celebrate.

## EVENING FUN

Once snacks have been consumed with gusto and cleaned up, DSP Caroline Natoli announces that today, September 14th, 2021, is National Coloring Day. Most of the students at Hilltop enjoy coloring

and are given options of coloring books and pages with a variety of crayons and markers to use. A few of the kids sit around a large dining table in the center of the house to enjoy a relaxing afternoon of coloring, while others play games in the living room or hang out in their room. Over the course of the afternoon, the kids actively enjoy doing what kids do, from playing board games and blowing bubbles, to reading and watching television. For Caroline, it's important that students have the opportunity to be kids, because what they really want to do is have fun. It's up to the DSPs to strike a balance between skill acquisition and fun while at home. Having more staff would mean that activities could be individualized to the kids of the house; it would also mean more out-of-door activities, including day trips or afternoon outings. And more fun for everyone!

The continuity that the core DSPs of Hilltop House have been able to provide for the students with whom they work has been key to the students' development and continued success. With more staff at the house, current DSPs hope to engage the kids more frequently and offer them more to do after their school day. Despite the staffing shortage, current staff remain encouraged in their work, which DSP Ellie Archibald summed with this statement: "Working with the kids and seeing them progress, so that when they leave here they can do everything, [makes it all worthwhile]."

*By Desiree Simpson*

***"The DSPs of Hilltop are always willing to help each other out. The leadership duo of DSPs Josh May and Matt Brady set model examples for the rest of the team."***

***- Bobbie Martindale,  
Assistant Residential Program Director***



*Edward (left) and Sebastian (center) relax at Hilltop after a day of school. Joshua May, Assistant Manager of Hilltop, chats with James in his room.*





# Oxford **A HOUSE NESTLED IN THE HILLS**

Whether it's Vickie or Lena greeting you at the door with a warm hello, or listening to Nancy moving about the house singing Elvis tunes, it is clear to see why Residential Manager Todd McPherson says the Oxford Community Home (Oxford) is "radiating positivity." Nestled in the mountains of Chenango County, Oxford is a lively home filled with vibrant color, boasting a magnificent backyard—a wonderful place that residents proudly call home. The bright and hopeful energy surrounding and emanating from the home has been the work of months of strategy, time, and effort on the part of the entire Springbrook team.

Oxford has faced its share of challenges these past few years. While the pristine, rural setting is one that is ideal for nurturing a peaceful home, it can present challenges for attracting new staff. Finding steady management has been a trial—a turnstile of managers coming

and going after years of stable leadership. This instability at the top rippled throughout the home, intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic, cascading into a similar rotation of new staff coming and going and placing increasing stress on a core group of longstanding employees.

Maintaining effective management, staffing levels, and house operations across five counties and 26 homes can feel at times like a monumental undertaking. It is natural that individual house operations ebb and flow with time and circumstances—with some homes operating at peak, while others struggle with one challenge or another. So what happens if a home enters a challenging time? Springbrook faces the problem. At Oxford, this took the form of a strategic SWOT analysis. A SWOT analysis is a process used by organizations to identify internal strengths and weaknesses, as well as external opportunities and threats.

Step one in getting Oxford back to peak? Stabilize leadership—bring in a residential manager who has a history of managing successful community homes across the

organization. Todd McPherson stepped up to the plate, bringing his 20+ years of expertise, management skills, and team attitude to the challenge.

Coming into the position, Todd knew that some changes would have to be made. He focused on team-building, training, and policy and procedure. Todd had high expectations and held staff accountable to those expectations. Longstanding staff welcomed the approach, knowing that Todd's standards were the Springbrook standards they were committed to. He contributed a lot of his managerial success to teamwork. "Whenever possible, decisions are made collectively—from major to minor decisions," he said. "This has allowed us to work better as a team." Todd's team-oriented management style has made everyone at Oxford much more positive and organized.

"This is the greatest job I could ever have!" says employee Lena Wilcox with a beaming smile. Lena is an LPN and has worked at Oxford for about a year. She came to Springbrook from UHS Chenango Memorial Hospital, but she believes this position is much more rewarding. "I just love helping people!" she says with an enthusiasm that is infectious, "this house has great teamwork and communication. We have ups and downs but everyone is ready to help and make someone else's day better!"

Lena is not the only staff member at Oxford who is happy with the changes. Bob Johnson has been at Oxford since its opening eight years ago. "Bob is exceptional, and we are lucky to have him!" Todd says with a nod. Bob has seen it all and he explains, "With all the recent changes everyone is happier, everything is less stressful, and the residents are more relaxed."

Residents also shared their enthusiasm. Sylvia Armbrister, a long-time resident said, "the house needs more staff, but all the hard work is paying off." Sylvia is working on becoming more independent and is happy doing arts and crafts. Fellow resident, Nancy Johnson, loves to sing and is happy to talk about Oxford.



Welcome  
**STEPHANIE DAVY**

This summer, Springbrook welcomed Stephanie Davy to the organization as the new Community Homes Director. Stephanie, a Licensed Master Social Worker, has been active in human services and advocacy for many years. Her introduction to this field of work came when she took a job in respite care for Springbrook on the suggestion of a friend. This work taught her to recognize the individual needs for the people in her care, and those of others, early on. Stephanie developed a strong sense of advocacy for those with special needs and sought work where she could make a positive difference in the lives of others. Stephanie works closely with staff at every level within the organization, and in particular with the staff and people of the community homes program, to ensure that everyone has equitable access to the things they want and need the most.



Jeremy Campbell reads with Oxford staff



Oxford resident Sylvia Armbrister and Staff Vicki Barry show off just a few of their many crafts.

“I really like it here, and I love to help out!” Nancy is one of the older residents, but she has not slowed down a beat. She could not talk long because she was off to get her hair colored for an upcoming visit with her fiancé!

The work at Springbrook’s Oxford Community Home isn’t over. As employers across the nation face unprecedented labor shortages, Springbrook is no exception. In the coming months, our goal is to bring staffing levels up at Oxford, giving the core team and residents the much-needed support they deserve. To facilitate this, Springbrook recently hired a new Community Homes Director, Stephanie Davy. Stephanie expressed what she plans to bring to Springbrook, “As director, I am committed to advocating for the needs of the people served by Springbrook and their families, and will enact positive growth and promote change within the organization to ensure that these needs and wants are supported. I will work closely with staff at every level within Springbrook. In particular, I will work closest with the staff and people of the community homes, and their families. Most of all, I want every person to feel valued for what they do, especially those in the role of direct support professional for committing themselves to helping others live their best lives. I believe that it is for this reason that DSPs deserve to feel like leaders in their field.”

The hard work and sacrifice by the DSPs have truly been inspirational and the efforts of the team at Springbrook have really made a difference in the lives of the residents that call Oxford home.

By Michael Basso



Nancy Johnson shows off her singing skills at Oxford.

## We sat down with Stephanie to learn more about her and her goals in working with Springbrook.

**Q:** What motivated you to want to join the Springbrook team and its community?

**A:** After working for Binghamton University for six years, I felt that I wanted a change. I was beginning to seek the next professional opportunity in my career, when the position for Community Homes Director came up. For me, this felt like an amazing opportunity and allowed me to come full circle in my career and with Springbrook.

**Q:** What has surprised you about Springbrook thus far?

**A:** I was very surprised to learn just how large and widespread Springbrook is as an organization. I knew that Springbrook had satellite offices in cities like Binghamton and a number of community homes. However, what I didn’t realize is just how vast the region of coverage is, from Otsego County, into Chenango, and across Broome counties; and Springbrook serves dozens of community homes throughout this region. I was also surprised by the number of people we serve, 1,100! With that said, there are still so many more people out there whom I know could qualify for, and benefit from, our services and there is so much opportunity to reach these people and grow together.

**Q:** What do you hope to accomplish while at Springbrook?

**A:** I hope to support change and growth within the organization, by working toward solutions, and helping team members to improve their strengths as individuals, and enable confidence in current leaders so that they, too, can support others in making these improvements.



## ON THE JOB WITH ROSELYN HATHAWAY

Roselyn Hathaway has some of the best qualities you can ask for in customer service—she’s quick on her feet, is friendly and personable, and is a hard, dedicated worker. Roselyn has held several jobs in the Otsego County area, starting as a cashier at the Great American in Unadilla in 2014. She worked there for three and a half years until the supermarket closed in December of 2017. At that point, she got a new job at the Price Chopper in Oneonta.

Roselyn and her mother live in Unadilla, and Roselyn’s mother gives her rides to and from work. After a few months of working at Price Chopper, it became clear that they needed to find something closer to home with an easier commute. Roselyn spoke with her care manager at Southern Tier Connect, Terri McCue, to discuss job opportunities near her home, and together they worked with Roselyn’s job coach, Katherine Ritchey, a supportive employment specialist at Springbrook, to get Roselyn set up with the best job for her.

She put in applications at a few places and was hired as a cashier at the Family Dollar in Sidney. So far, she is a natural fit and is well-liked by both the customers and her fellow employees. “I like the closeness of the employees,” Roselyn said. “At the grocery stores, all the staff were spread out—people in the deli, in the bakery, in freight—everyone was in different sections. Here, everyone is closer and it’s not as overwhelming with the amounts of products.”

At Great American, Roselyn worked as a cashier and also worked freight; helping to unload products from the trucks in the back and then putting them on the shelves. At the Family Dollar, she sometimes helps with restocking shelves, but mostly she is behind the counter. She takes a lot of initiative with their monthly promotions, too. Every month, Family Dollar holds a promotional contest for customers featuring a different product. Each time a customer buys one of the products, they receive a paper cutout of the product (this month it was Coca-Cola) to put on the wall, which then counts toward a ticket in a raffle. At the end of the month, the tickets are drawn and the winner gets a \$30 gift card to the store.

Although Roselyn is from Unadilla, she has family ties in Sidney. Her aunt, Nancy Hathaway, who sadly passed away this past February, owned Traskside Dining, a mom-and-pop style diner in the heart of downtown Sidney. Roselyn’s brother still works there, and they have lunch together sometimes. So Roselyn is right at home in Sidney.

Overall, Roselyn is very happy with her new job, and her boss, Deanna, is delighted to have her on board. “Everyone loves Roselyn,” she said, “she’s great.”

By Emily Falco



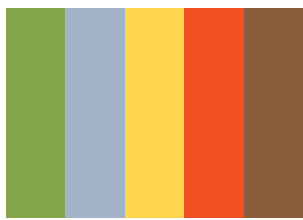
Roselyn working behind the cash register at her job at Family Dollar



Roselyn with her boss, Deanna.







## WHEN CHRIS MET JANET: A LOVE STORY

There's a saying that...

**"the way to a man's heart is through his stomach,"**



Chris and Janet Vance sit together on the porch during a visit to Chris' residence at Springbrook's Cook Street Community Home. Janet brought Chris a few old yearbooks to look at.

and it certainly holds true for Chris and Janet Vance. Years ago, Chris lived in a group home on East Street in Oneonta, and Janet lived in a ladies-only home in West Oneonta. Janet and Chris met when she moved into the East Street house. They started hanging out and began to grow fond of each other. A pivotal moment in their relationship came one night when it was Janet's turn to cook dinner. By chance, Chris' parents were also coming to visit that evening for supper, so the pressure was on.

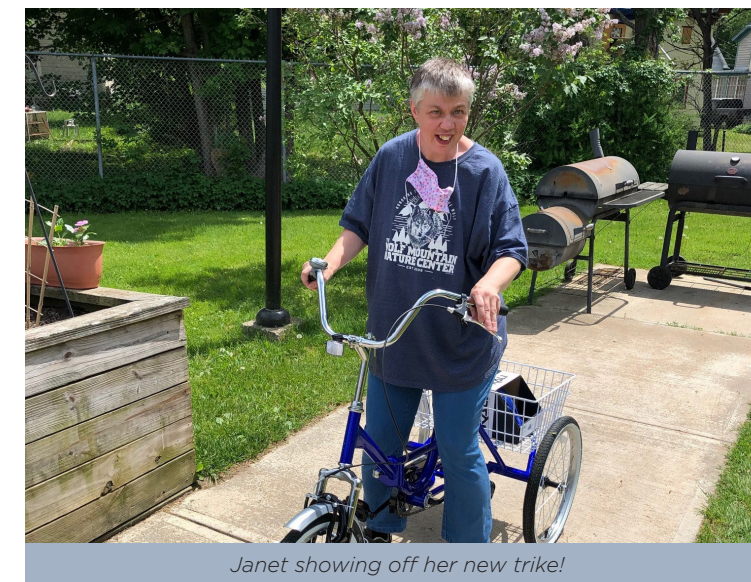
"I made two lasagnas," said Janet, "one with meat, and the other with spinach, so there would be a vegetarian [option]. Because I didn't know what Chris' parents would like to eat! I wanted them to be happy."

As it turns out, Janet is quite the chef, and Chris was absolutely smitten. "I thought to myself, if a girl can cook like that, then she's got to be pretty smart," he said. "She was definitely a keeper," he added. Chris said his parents agreed with him that Janet was a very special lady, and it wasn't long after that Chris decided to ask Janet for her hand in marriage.

## She said yes!

Married in 2003, this September 20<sup>th</sup> marked the Vance's 18<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They were wed at the St. James Episcopal Church in Oneonta and then went on a honeymoon to Texas, which was organized through People and Places, a regional non-profit organization that provides small group vacation opportunities to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They went to the Alamo and the Wildlife Ranch African Safari and had a very memorable trip.

They both recall their first place together: a private apartment through Springbrook at the Oak and



Janet showing off her new trike!

Elm Community Home. It was located at the back of the large home in Oneonta's historic city center. They both recall the incredibly steep stairs, which they joke wasn't exactly ideal, but nonetheless, they were very happy to have their own space together. They also got a cat and named him Levi.

Chris and Janet both used to work at Creekside Industries, a division of the Arc Otsego in Oneonta. They were part of a team providing outsourcing solutions to businesses that had assembly and packaging needs. But recently, they both decided to retire. Today, Chris lives at Springbrook's Cook Street Community Home in Worcester. Due to some special health needs, it is getting more difficult for Chris to walk, and it became hard for Janet to care for him. With these concerns in mind, Missy Summers, a care coordination manager at Southern Tier Connect, helped Janet secure her apartment in Oneonta and find Chris placement in the Springbrook house. Although they are apart, they still visit often and talk on the phone.

Both Janet and Chris have stopped wearing their wedding rings because they are both worried their rings will slip off and they might lose them. Both of them described how easily their rings slide off their fingers now. Janet keeps hers in a special green keepsake box on her dresser, and Chris wears his wedding ring close to his heart, on a necklace that Janet made for him. He slips it on his finger from time to time when he is thinking of her and says that it helps him to feel close to her when they are apart.

Chris' and Janet's relationship is strong because of their dedication and support of one another. Maintaining a relationship while apart can be difficult, but their love for each other sees them through the challenge.

By Emily Falco

## DATING AND PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have the legal right to make their own choices, including the right to choose to date, live with a significant other, and get married. They have the right to exercise choices regarding sexual expression and social relationships. The presence of IDD, regardless of severity, does not, in itself, justify loss of rights related to relationships or sexuality.

### All people have the right within interpersonal relationships to:

- Develop friendships and emotional and sexual relationships where they can love and be loved, and begin and end a relationship as they choose
- Dignity and respect
- Privacy, confidentiality, and freedom of association

### With respect to sexuality, individuals have a right to:

- Sexual expression and education, reflective of their own cultural, religious and moral values and of social responsibility
- Individualized education and information to encourage informed decision-making, including education about such issues as reproduction, marriage and family life, abstinence, safe sexual practices, sexual orientation, sexual abuse, and sexually transmitted diseases
- Protection from sexual harassment and from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse

### With respect to the potential for having and raising children, individuals with IDD have the right to:

- Education and information about having and raising children that is individualized to reflect each person's unique ability to understand
- Make their own decisions related to having and raising children with supports as necessary
- Make their own decisions related to using birth control methods within the context of their personal or religious beliefs
- Have control over their own bodies
- Be protected from sterilization solely because of their disability





## BRANDON'S JOURNEY WITH SDS

Some things happen in life that are so profoundly altering we need to start over.

At 19 years old, Brandon Jones was in a horrific car accident that left him with a traumatic brain injury (TBI). Brandon was in the prime of his life. He was a dedicated weightlifter in peak physical condition and father to a two-year-old daughter. His injuries were so extensive that doctors gave him a 1% chance of survival. Brandon's family, faced with such monumental odds, chose to focus not on odds but on the needs of their son. They began a journey, one difficult step at a time, to define Brandon's life on his terms.

After the accident occurred, Brandon spent seven weeks in a coma before he was brought to Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital in Schenectady, NY. There, he received phenomenal care, but unfortunately they offered only a five-week program and could not provide support long-term. After some

arduous research, his family found a longterm care facility farther downstate. Sadly, the care there proved to be insufficient to fit Brandon's needs, so Brandon's mother, Hope, and her husband, Gino, made the decision to take him home and be his sole care providers. To make matters even more difficult, Hope and Gino had to legally apply for sole-care rights to Brandon because of his age.

By this time, Brandon had improved from a vegetative state to a semi-conscious one. Brandon's family went to work, doing everything possible to rehabilitate and take care of Brandon on their own. They created a routine and stuck to it. But although they took excellent care of Brandon, they could only do so much without professional support.



Brandon Jones finishes an occupational therapy activity with SDS Staff Glenn McClone, an SDS staff member and brain injury certified specialist.



## House Modifications

Brandon has a diversity of tools and home modifications made possible by Self-Directed Services.



Images of van apparatus created by Access Unlimited in Binghamton, NY. House modifications - elevator, bathroom, pool



# PARTNERING WITH SPRINGBROOK'S SDS Program

Throughout their journey with Brandon, the Jones family was also navigating the needs of their daughter who has autism. With a similar hands-on approach to services, the Jones family had Self-Directed Services (SDS) for their daughter, with Springbrook as their SDS provider.

Despite their familiarity with SDS—Hope works as a managing employer—the Jones family did not know that Brandon was eligible for supports and services through the program.

SDS gives people the opportunity to choose their own services, the staff they want to work with, and the schedule that works best for them. The program gives more control over how people structure their life. And although Brandon was not born with an intellectual

or developmental disability, because his TBI happened before he turned 22, he was fully eligible for services through the New York State Office for People with Development Disabilities.

After the Jones family secured Self-Direction for Brandon, things began to improve almost immediately. With SDS, Brandon could partially reimburse his physical therapy and medical bills, and have a team come in and help maintain and give therapeutics to improve his quality of life.

Glenn McClone, Brandon's SDS day habilitation and brain injury certified specialist, has worked with Brandon for four years. "We tried everything!" he said. "Occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, music therapy, whatever Brandon would take to. In the beginning, we would go to therapy in Vestal, NY three times a week, but that became unsustainable. We needed a new facility to take over his physical therapy."

Even with his vast improvements, Hope could tell that Brandon was not completely happy and looked to rectify this situation by getting him into a gym. "Brandon spent six days a week in the gym before his accident, so we felt there was no better setting for him to regain skills than back at the gym," said Hope.

Because of the flexibility of SDS, the Jones family could try each idea and service option that Brandon showed interest in, making adjustments and trying new services until finding the right fit.

Hope, Glenn, and the rest of the SDS team brought Brandon to KW Fitness in Vestal, NY. Cory Snow, Brandon's trainer, and Kevin Webb,

owner/operator of the gym, had never worked with anyone with TBI. Extensive research was done, and they came up with a plan. Brandon's demeanor began to change instantly; a sparkle in his eyes had returned. "Brandon has progressed mentally, physically, and emotionally since starting at KW," said Hope. "When he started, he had no head or neck control, he was not speaking at all, and was still mentally in a fog. Since then, he has regained his speech, is very clear cognitively, and he loves being in the gym with Cory. The atmosphere brings out the best in him." Glenn reinforces this optimism. "His progress has been amazing! At the beginning of this journey, Brandon could not move, his core strength was nil—today, he does 50 to 60 crunches every morning," he said.

Brandon's journey has been a difficult one. Although he is much improved, his journey will continue for the rest of his life. With the help of his family, SDS, and KW Fitness, he is on track to grow and meet new goals every day.

There is a lot of misconception about what Self-Directed Services are. It took time for Hope to realize that this life-changing support was available to her. Once she took the help available, it positively altered the direction of her family's life. Today, Hope participates in support groups for families in similar situations and acts as a resource for others to help them get the help that they need. Hope is an extremely strong person, and without SDS, it's certain she would have found a way to support her son. But everyone can use a little help sometimes, and we are glad she chose Springbrook to provide her with the support she, her family, and Brandon deserve.

*By Michael Basso*



*Brandon Jones and his mother, Hope Jones.*



*Brandon Jones and his father, Gino Jones, enjoying the family pool.*



*Brandon's house*



## A STORY OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

# JOFRE'S *Voice*

Jofre is a vibrant 14-year-old and day student of The School at Springbrook. A figurehead of the school since his arrival in 2018, Jofre is known throughout the building for his enthusiasm, his sense of humor, and his desire to be independent. For Jofre—and every other student of The School at Springbrook—success is measured not by test scores or other conventional metrics, but rather by personal achievements and ultimately the quality of a person’s life. For Jofre, 2021 has been an incredibly successful year.

In his first weeks as a student in the GEMS Program, it became clear that the methods Jofre used to communicate—including limited sign language, pointing, and yelling—would not allow him to effectively communicate what he had to say. An assessment by a speech pathologist concluded that Jofre would

benefit from the use of an iPad paired with an application called Snap+Core First. This technology allows the user to type sentences in a traditional way, or to form sentences by touching picture symbols. Once the user is finished constructing their sentence, it is read aloud on the device, essentially giving a voice to people who are unable to speak.

With the support of his teacher and his speech pathologist, Jofre began to truly communicate with the people around him. He learned quickly, surprising his teachers and family. With assistance and prompting, Jofre asked questions, told jokes, and he told the people around him what he wanted to do.

Jofre’s teacher, Kristina Walsh, remembers the moment she realized how much there was to learn about her student: “Before we started using the iPad, I had no idea how much Jofre

enjoyed going to church. Now we are able to have two-sided conversations where we ask each other questions and I feel like I am learning more about him every day!”

Despite the obvious success that Jofre demonstrated with the iPad, it soon became clear that this was not the most functional communication method for him. While Jofre was able to use the device, the level of precision required to use the application—along with some fine motor issues in his arms and hands—made participating in conversation at a reasonable pace impossible. Jofre had proven that he understood the purpose and function of his device, but it was too easy to make mistakes. Recognizing the frustration this created, Jofre’s

speech pathologist introduced a new piece of equipment: The I-Series Tobii Dynavox.

Utilizing the same Snap+Core First communication application as the iPad with which Jofre had previously worked, The I-Series Tobii Dynavox tracks the eye-gaze of the user. This program allows people with physical limitations to build sentences, answer questions, and communicate desires using their eyes alone. Adjusting to this new communication system has required lots of hard work, but Jofre has already proven that he is dedicated to success, increasing his communication skills, and expanding his vocabulary every day. Way to go, Jofre!

*By Luke Moran*



*“Before we started using the iPad, I had no idea how much Jofre enjoyed going to church. Now we are able to have two-sided conversations where we ask each other questions and I feel like I am learning more about him every day!”*

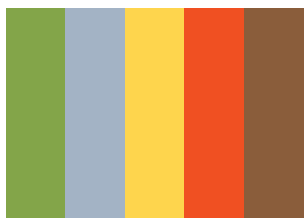
*- Kristina Walsh*



*Jofre’s teacher Kristina Walsh (left) and speech therapist Colleen Hartmann work with Jofre during a speech therapy session.*



*Special Education Teacher Kristina Walsh waits as Jofre works to answer a question.*



## A STORY OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

# A Place for NICK

When Nick Woodcock first moved to Springbrook from his childhood home at the age of 21, the new environment was a shock to his system, to say the least. As a young man who appreciated routine, the transition to Cook Street, a Community Home in Worcester, was a major source of anxiety. He had grown up in the security of his parent's home, but after graduating from Oneonta High School, Nick knew it was time to transition into the next phase of his life.

Adjusting to his new living situation took time, but Nick quickly settled into his routine. Living at Cook Street offered Nick new opportunities and experiences he couldn't get at his parent's house. After calling Cook Street his home for 13 years, a desire to be closer to his family and his hometown community found Nick back in Oneonta at the Ford Avenue Community Home.

The high-energy of Ford Avenue was a lot to take in. A flurry of new sights, sounds, and people

left Nick feeling anxious, so much so that for a while he rarely left the respite of his bedroom. When asked about the transition, he said:

"I felt nervous when I moved to Ford Avenue. It was a lot different than Cook Street."

Staff and residents alike did their best to make Nick feel welcome in his new home, and after settling in he slowly began to come out of his shell. Staff would soon learn about his love for any and all sports, and everyone would eventually learn (often the hard way) that winning a game of Cornhole is a lot easier with Nick on your team.

When asked about Nick and his personal growth, Brenda Graham, Residential Manager of Ford since 1999, had this to say:

"Nick just blossomed after he came to Ford. There are some really social people who live here, and even though he can be a little quiet at times Nick always makes sure we know what he wants to do. Over the course of his time at Ford he has created awesome friendships with the people he lives with and we are all so proud of his success."

Now 40 years young, Nick—who still holds family, friends, and sports in the highest regard, is thriving. Social anxieties gave way to a new found sense of self confidence, inspired partially by the comradery he shares with the people he lives with.

"I like hanging out with my housemates and living at Ford Avenue," said Nick.

At Springbrook, we celebrate the success of every single person who has chosen us as their care provider. From Jofre finding his voice, to Nick living a life of supported independence, these individual stories of personal accomplishment are what drive us to provide the highest quality services possible every day.

By Luke Moran



Nick through the years! (above)



Nick and his roommate Brian play cornhole during a visit from the Marketing Department. They brought pizza for the house to enjoy before the big WWE match!



Nick with his housemate, Brian Hart.





# Leadership TRIED. TRUE.

Recently, Springbrook Foundation Director of Development Stacey Grady sat down with Board President Tom Maggs to thank him for his decades of support and to discuss why Springbrook is so important to him and his family. “You won’t find a better advocate, mentor, or friend than Tom,” said Springbrook CEO Patricia Kennedy. She continued, “He has helped lead us through some of the most challenging and rewarding periods of our history and for that I am extremely grateful.”

Tom and his wife, Amy, have supported Springbrook for 16 consecutive years and with the help of his business, Maggs and Associates, A Risk Strategies Company, and various connections, have been instrumental to the success of

several projects, including The Coming Home Campaign Main Campus Expansion and the completion of the Family Engagement Center. In addition to supporting new builds, Tom supported the launch of *An Evening of Music* at The Morgan Library and Museum, an annual fundraising event for Springbrook in New York City. Tom and his family have been strong advocates for Springbrook, as well as the people who choose to make Springbrook their provider of choice, at local and state-wide levels.

Tom first became aware of Springbrook in the early 2000s. His volunteer work for the Episcopal Diocese of Albany frequently brought him to Cooperstown and, as usual, Tom brought his children with him. On one occasion, Tom left a meeting in Cooperstown to find his children selling water on Main Street outside of a baseball shop. He learned that the owner of the store had a daughter with a developmental disability and they sold the water to raise funds for her residence, which at the time was part of The Upstate Home for Children and Adults, now Springbrook. Interested in learning more about The Upstate Home, Tom visited the main campus several months later with close friend, Bishop Ball, and was drawn to the mission. After meeting Patricia Kennedy, current CEO of Springbrook, Tom was taken by her dedication in supporting those with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Thus, he felt compelled to help in any way that he could. Though he recognized that the organization was doing a lot already, and were deeply committed to the people who lived there and to their families, Tom believed that the organization was on the cusp of something even greater.

Tom began volunteering his time at Springbrook, where he had the opportunity to “listen and



Tom Maggs speaks at the 2018 Springbrook Gala

learn.” He became more and more inspired by all the good work that was being done and, at the prompting of Patricia and the former Hartwick College President and Mayor of Oneonta, Dick Miller, he joined the Springbrook Board. His service only expanded from there as he became board president in 2013. Since then he has been a visible presence and has used his role to bring attention to the many facets of Springbrook as a service provider, to the dedicated staff who provide their expertise and care each and every day, and to the service recipients and their families. “At events you will often find Tom introducing himself to employees, service recipients and their families, and listening intently to their stories. It is one of the things about Tom I appreciate most, his sincere interest in and concern for the people who make up the Springbrook community,” said Patricia.

Tom and Amy have made Springbrook their philanthropic priority and for that we are extremely grateful. Through his business ventures and active role as a member on

numerous boards, he is constantly traveling and meeting new people. Whether it’s introducing Springbrook to new foundations for support of innovative projects or inviting guests to fundraising events in Cooperstown and New York City, he always has our best interest at heart. As members of The Kraemer Society, the Maggs’ have committed to the long-term future of Springbrook through a legacy gift. Tom shared that he believes that “the heart and soul of the organization is in the right place” and that he’s “comfortable knowing that those who invest their time and resources in Springbrook will be pleased to see their donations be used to their full potential.”

Together, Tom and Amy have given not only their financial support, but their time and commitment to Springbrook. It is with great thanks to donors like these that Springbrook remains a strong organization and can continue to support staff, students, and families for a lifetime.

By Desiree Simpson



Tom Maggs with renowned entertainer Betty Louise Gross.





# DONOR DOLLARS *at Work*

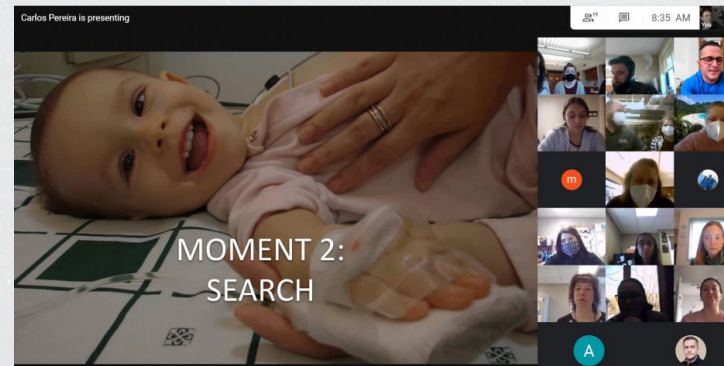
The generosity of people who give to Springbrook is what empowers our organization to realize our vision of giving people the opportunity to live their full life as they choose. With the help of our incredible donors, we continue to strive to be the most tried and true service provider in New York State for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Providing the best quality of life to the people we serve is paramount, and is made possible by our donors. With your help we were able to provide exceptional experiences and opportunities to our entire community. Here is a small sample of projects that were provided by the big hearts of our donors.

To make a gift, please visit our giving page or **text SPRINGBROOK to 243-725 today!**

## LIVOX AND THE SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD FOUNDATION HELP SPRINGBROOK COMMUNICATE

The last year has shown us all the power of communication—and this adds to our excitement for a new program rolling out at the Tom Golisano Center for Autism at Springbrook! This program is possible thanks to the generosity of Someone Else's Child (SEC), a non-profit organization that supports children's causes throughout the U.S. and Africa. SEC has generously supported our partnership with Livox. Livox has created state-of-the-art technology that affords students who have communicative difficulties the opportunity to express their feelings and wishes via a new app on their devices. "The Livox program is amazing and inspiring," shared Michael Christian, Managing Director of SEC. "We have seen the impact it has, with children smiling because they are finally able to express their feelings, and parents in tears because they are now able to truly converse with their child." We are excited to see the positive effects this new app will have at the School at Springbrook, and we thank SEC for their support of our partnership with Livox. This generosity and forward-thinking technology will help students at Springbrook as they connect with their loved ones and share their feelings, hopes, and dreams for the future.

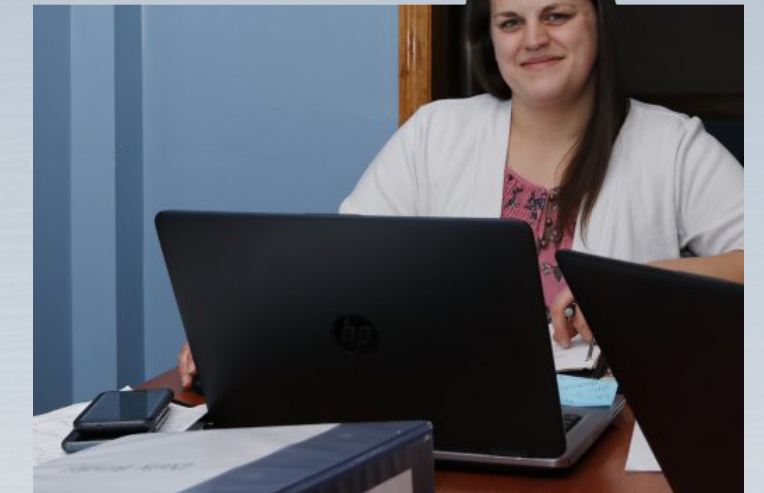


## COMMUNITY HOMES COLORING BOOK

It's safe to say that many of us have gained a deeper appreciation for calming activities like coloring over this last year; it reduces stress, brings out our creativity, and can restore a sense of well-being with just a few strokes of color. That's why we're excited to share our Community Homes Coloring Book and celebrate the sponsors who made this and so many other activities and opportunities possible! Each page features a line drawing of a Springbrook Community Home just waiting to be colored, with additional activities scattered throughout. The support of our generous sponsors—Kinney Drugs Foundation, Chianis & Anderson Architects, NBT Bank, Bryans & Gramuglia CPAs, Health Direct Pharmacy Services, and Westminster Consulting—has allowed for our entire community to approach this challenging year with our own calm and creativity. Thank you for adding such vibrant color to our lives!

## Springbrook Scholars Program

The Springbrook Scholars program supports current employees at Springbrook in their pursuit of higher education and attainment of credentials for high-demand fields such as nursing, special education, occupational, speech, and physical therapy, and other disciplines. In addition to advancing the careers of these dedicated Springbrook employees, we also provide opportunities for hands-on learning to interns from several colleges and universities. We are grateful to the Scriven Foundation and other generous donors who have contributed to the Springbrook Scholars program.



## CONGRATULATIONS JESSI!

Congratulations to Springbrook Scholar Jessi Leveille on her upcoming graduation from SUNY Delhi's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program! Jessi is a registered nurse who has been part of Springbrook's Community Homes team since 2017. Over the last two years, she has completed the SUNY Delhi program to earn her advanced BSN degree, all while continuing to work full time.

Whether employees want to start their education journey or are ready to earn their next degree, the Springbrook Scholars program has a track that is right for anyone! The Springbrook Scholars program consists of two tracks; Springbrook Scholarships (tuition-free programs) and Springbrook Tuition Reimbursement. Each track offers its own unique advantages and gives Springbrook employees the opportunity to tailor their educational experience to their personal circumstances. The best part? Springbrook will pay the bill!





## DONOR DOLLARS AT WORK



### Springbrook Pooled Trust

We present to you the Springbrook Pooled Trust at work! The Springbrook Pooled Trust is a unique offering of the Springbrook Foundation. It is a special needs trust that exists for the benefit of individuals with disabilities. The trust allows a Springbrook resident or client who receives an inheritance, a lump sum payment, or any other income, a safe place to protect their assets while remaining fully eligible for governmental programs and benefits. One such resident, Derek Jackson, who lives at Cook Street Community Home, just recently purchased a recliner through his pooled trust account and he couldn't be happier! "The recliner is great, it's so comfortable," shared Derek. His mother encouraged the purchase of the recliner through the use of his pooled trust funds, and Derek is thankful she did. "My favorite thing to do in the chair is play video games," he remarked. The unique aspect of the Springbrook Pooled Trust is that upon the death of a beneficiary, the amount remaining in their account will be given to Springbrook to further our mission. It is truly a way to ensure we continue to support people for many lifetimes to come. To learn more about the Springbrook Pooled Trust, please contact Stacey Grady, Director of Development, at [gradys@springbrookny.org](mailto:gradys@springbrookny.org).

Let us take a moment to celebrate the many family visits that have taken place thanks to the Family Engagement Center (FEC)! This building on Springbrook's main campus serves as the hub for connecting students and residents with their families and friends. Springbrook's network of donors made this invaluable resource possible, and the FEC has truly lived up to its name during the last year. Families come together here and activities are held that support the health and happiness of students and residents.



### Occupational Therapy Interns from BPU

In addition to advancing the careers of our dedicated Springbrook employees, we also provide opportunities for hands-on learning to interns from several colleges and universities. This past summer, Springbrook was fortunate to host two occupational therapy interns from Bay Path University to study at the McDowell House. These interns worked with the Capstone Day Habilitation therapy team to fulfill their clinical experience requirement for their master's degree. These interns made an especially big splash when they organized the Olympics-themed field day. We are grateful to the Scriven Foundation and other generous donors who have contributed to the Springbrook Scholars program.



## THE CAPSTONE OLYMPICS

We are excited to share that the Capstone Day Hab held an Olympic Field Day at Springbrook's Oneonta Campus recently, and it was the perfect opportunity to debut the new recreational wheelchair! The new chair has heavy-duty rubber wheels that enables the person using it to move safely and easily on grass, sand, or rough surfaces that would damage a regular wheelchair. It's also waterproof—which makes it perfect for summertime outdoor fun!

A generous local foundation provided a grant to purchase the special wheelchair, as well as other equipment for the day hab. The foundation's trustees make many grants, but prefer that their gifts remain anonymous. We at Springbrook are grateful for their support which provides resources like this that go above and beyond the basic program requirements and expectations!

## Nature Trail Expansion

Last summer, we expanded the nature trail on Springbrook's main campus with help from you, our generous donors, and we are looking to add even more activities to the space! Teachers and physical therapist assistants from The School at Springbrook have provided ideas that will create additional physical and sensory experiences for the people we support—things like a zig-zag balance beam, a rope swing, tire swings, a log walk and rope walk, as well as plaques along the trail encouraging visitors to stop and look for a certain color, read a fact about a tree, or search for a bird. As Jon Philby, Adaptive Physical Education Teacher at The School at Springbrook notes, "These challenges are so important, and they can educate students and residents within nature without going too far—this is in our backyard!" Thanks to our network of donors, Springbrook's nature trails have provided countless benefits to those we support. With your support, we hope to add even more educational and physical elements to the trails to further inspire the residents and students who choose Springbrook.







## THANK YOU, MISSION HOPE!

Thanks to the congregation of Mission Hope Community Church, we have started raising the funds required to install a permanent shade structure on the playground of Springbrook's Main Campus! We are grateful for their generosity, and we hope our incredible network will help us bring this important safety feature to our main campus. Heat-related illnesses and sun sensitivity are of significant concern for individuals with developmental disabilities. A shade structure at the Kids Unlimited Preschool is already in place, and has been a wonderful addition. By supporting this project, which will cost approximately \$5,000 to acquire and install, the donor dollars will be creating even more positive experiences for Springbrook students and residents to enjoy their time outside!

## KUP Gets New Desks!

Take a look inside one of our Kids Unlimited Integrated Preschool classrooms! Twelve perfectly sized desks were recently purchased with the support of the Stewart's Holiday Match program. "The addition of these school desks makes it much easier for students to social distance and also teaches responsibility and care for your own workspace to preschool-aged children," shared Traci Lanner, Director of The School at Springbrook. "We are so grateful to The Stewart's Holiday Match program for this wonderful addition for our youngest Springbrook learners," she added. The Kids Unlimited Preschool is the only integrated preschool in Otsego County and has been for the past 30 years. A true pillar of the Springbrook Community, Kids Unlimited Preschool has remained open throughout the pandemic—giving students a steady routine and rhythm to their lives. This recent support from Stewart's, along with the generosity of our donors, has helped make Kids Unlimited an invaluable resource for so many.



## Fenimore Asset Management

This year, Fenimore Asset Management visited the main campus at Springbrook to deliver spring-themed baskets to every campus residence. The baskets were filled with bird feeders, birdseed, and other spring favorites that encourage us to get outside and enjoy the fresh air! Each year, Fenimore Asset Management does a service project to benefit the local community. In the midst of the pandemic, they wanted to do something that their employees could safely get involved with. "The Fenimore team had a great time visiting the Springbrook campus," remarked Erin Luciano, Relationship Manager, and Rachel Crisafull, Digital Engagement Associate at Fenimore Asset Management. "We were amazed at all the incredible services the Springbrook team offers the residents and students. It's been a long year for everyone, and we hope we were able to spread a little sunshine on an otherwise gray and rainy day," she said. You brightened our day, Erin and Rachel, and we thank Fenimore Asset Management for sharing generosity and kindness with Springbrook!



## GOOD NEWS ROUNDUP



## The "New Nichols"

### Residents Get a New Home

The "New Nichols" features an open floor plan, ranch-style construction, a beautiful back deck, and single-story living. The new home is a much-needed addition to the Community Homes program, providing an accessible home for the ever-changing needs of the people we support. House Manager Lynn Denslow explained how fantastic it is for the residents to have a large outside deck to enjoy and how much easier it is for older residents to move around without using stairs. "Residents would ask me all the time when we were going to be moving to the New Nichols house. Now that we have moved, they are so happy to be here. This house has a lot of open space for everyone to enjoy," Lynn commented.



## True. Tried. Encore!

### The Schramm Band Returns

The Schramm Band—featuring Springbrook Foundation Board President Dr. John Anderson—returned to Springbrook for back-to-back days of live music, dancing, and fun. The band played a show for the students and staff on our Main Campus, then played a second show for the ladies and gentlemen at our Oneonta Campus the following day. Thank you, Schramm Band! We can't wait to see you again.



## A Stunning Exhibition

People from programs across the organization contributed pieces of art to hang in Springbrook's annual art show at The Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown, New York. With sculptures, photographs, drawings, and paintings, there was something for even the most discerning individual to enjoy.



## Pizza Party!

The Marketing Department had a pizza party with the residents of Ford Avenue! Where should the Marketing Department head next? Let us know by emailing [marketing@springbrookny.org](mailto:marketing@springbrookny.org)





## GOOD NEWS ROUNDUP

# Welcome Navpreet Kaur.

## Member of the Springbrook Board

In March of 2021, we welcomed new board member Navpreet Kaur. Navpreet is currently working in the Special Education department at Milford Central School and has been living in the Milford area for about 10 years. After her child was diagnosed with autism at the age of three, Navpreet began her journey into autism and intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) by pursuing her master's degree in special education. After nearly eight months on the board Navpreet has a full agenda, but her strength and dedication to her child, her students, and those with IDD.

One of the first challenges that Navpreet faced when seeking resources for her child was trying to find a place that would suit his needs. Fortunately, while pursuing her degree, she was introduced to Springbrook. The interactions that Navpreet had with management and staff at Springbrook opened her eyes Springbrook's work. She was surprised by the experience, knowledge, and compassion of Springbrook staff, which helped to ease some of the misconceptions that she had held, and which others seem to hold, regarding programs and services for those with IDD. One of the biggest misconceptions being the severity of need of people that Springbrook supports; Springbrook offers an inclusive environment for people whose abilities range. It was due to these misconceptions that Navpreet was hesitant to believe that Springbrook was the right place for her child; after further exploration, she felt confident in enrolling her child

in the Kids Unlimited Preschool program. What she learned and wants others to know is that Springbrook should be the provider of choice for any person seeking services.

Navpreet's education and career have been invaluable to her understanding of individualized education programs (IEPs), state and federal law, as well as the importance of advocacy and awareness, and is so important to her work with the board. First, Navpreet hopes to advocate for employees, particularly direct support professionals. Navpreet has learned that consistency is key for everyone; thus, regaining and maintaining employee numbers is critical to the health and safety of everyone at Springbrook. Second, Navpreet wants to break the stigma that might inhibit people from reaching out for support and accessing the services that they, a child, or family member might need. Finally, she envisions volunteers from the community coming in to support various programs within Springbrook and is hopeful that this will increase awareness and lessen the stigma attached to IDD and service providers.

While Navpreet's dedication to her child and students makes it challenging for her to commit to every meeting, she is able to keep up at all times due to the board's open communication. Finding herself amongst those equally as dedicated to serve others as she has been, Navpreet expresses joy in having joined the board, which has changed her life for the better. In turn, she hopes to enrich the lives of others.



## True. Tried. Giving Thanks.

### The Otego Community Home

During quarantine, Otego Community Home residents Marilyn Sheehan and Denise Wrubleski both enjoyed doing Zoom activities. Now that the Zoom activities have come to a close, these lovely ladies wanted to show their appreciation for the people who made the activities happen. Michele Mohrien, Residential Manager at Otego, said, "Kathy Murphy, pictured in the photograph with Marilyn and Denise, was so great about setting up the Zoom activities and helping people participate." We hope this photograph brings as much joy to you as it does to us!

## We Scream for Ice Cream—On Main Campus

The local ice cream truck made a stop at Springbrook's Main Campus. The truck stopped at each residence and let the students pick out their favorite ice cream snack. There is nothing like ice cream on a hot summer day!



## True. Tried. Faithful.

### Thank You, Laurie Spicer

After 30 years of faithful service, we wished Recreation Therapist Laurie Spicer a fond farewell. We celebrated Laurie with a festival of fun, including a giant inflatable slide, music, and games. Good luck in the future, Laurie!

## Broad Street Community Home Connect

Monique is the happiest Connect 4 player in the east! She loves to play and show off her skills at the Broad Street Community Home. Monique is the undefeated champ at Broad Street and has the smile to prove it! We love sharing photos of residents happy and enjoying the weather.



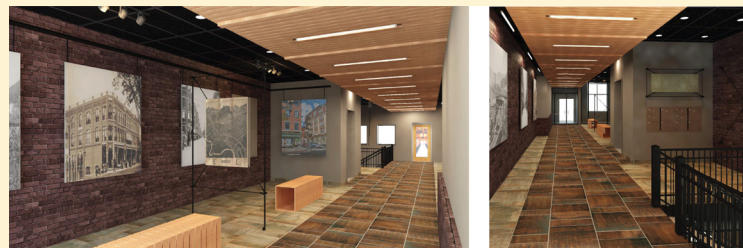


## GOOD NEWS ROUNDUP

# MEET ME On Main

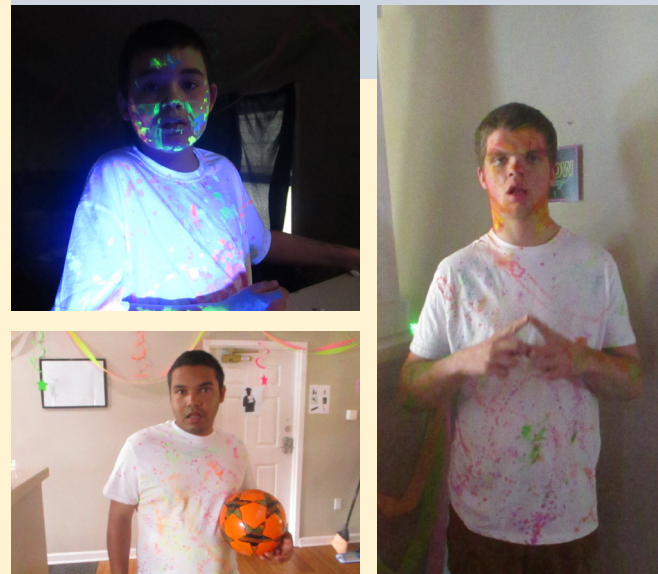
SPONSORED BY  **SPRINGBROOK**

We wanted to thank everyone who joined us for our Meet Me on Main events in downtown Oneonta on July 17 and August 21. Periods of rain and a thunderstorm forecast loomed large during our July event, however it could not dampen the spirits of those who attended. We had a fantastic time enjoying activities and sharing some of our plans in the local community including the historic Ford Block. Luckily, on the day of our August event we were greeted with beautiful, sunny weather and it was reflected in the spirit of those who attended. We hosted a successful Cornhole tournament and had a blast! Thank you to thank everyone who came out and enjoyed our activities.



### Scriven House Prom Party Bash

Students had an amazing time with the "Lets Glow" theme at the Prom and had a blast decorating and face painting with neon paint. When the black lights were turned on, the room filled with some pretty vibrant colors. It looks like students at Scriven had a great time!



### Scorpions

#### 2021 Olympic Games at Springbrook



Members of the Capstone Day Habilitation Program celebrated the 2021 Olympic Games by creating their own versions of some of the most popular events.



# Kids Unlimited PRESCHOOL AT **SPRINGBROOK**



## True. Tried. Educated!

### Congratulations (little) Graduates!

Parents, family members, and teachers gathered together for our first ever outdoor graduation ceremony for Kids Unlimited Preschool. It was so much fun! Taking every precaution, we made sure to let the students know how proud we were of their accomplishments. Way to go, graduates!



**GOOD NEWS ROUNDUP**



*Celebrating our*  
**2021 GRADUATES**



**Dylan Bradley** *most resilient*



**Tyler Bradley** *most observant*



**Dustin Ebert** *most artistic*



**Keith Jordan** *best singer*



**JR Lachmansingh** *most sociable*



**Justin Lapidus** *most engaging*



**Nicole Lapp** *most endearing*



**Stephanie Miller** *best smile*



Congratulations to The School at Springbrook Class of 2021! Graduating from the School at Springbrook is an enormous accomplishment. Graduation represents the culmination of hard work and dedication that students put into achieving their ambitious goals. With this milestone achievement they have earned a place in the heart of Springbrook for life!



15 hardworking and dedicated students graduated this past June. After the tumultuous year of 2020, the summer gave us a reprieve from COVID restrictions, and we were able to hold the graduation celebration outside on our beautiful campus. The graduation was a lovely event where graduates were recognized, celebrated, and awarded for all of their achievements. Family and friends clapped, smiled, and shed a few tears of joy for their child's accomplishments. Great job, graduates, and good luck on all your future adventures! While graduating from the School at Springbrook is a remarkable milestone in your journey, it is only the beginning!



**Chazz Reeves** *most spontaneous*



**Sharon Safdieh** *best laugh*



**Avigdor Steinhart** *most helpful*



**Joseph Tagliarini** *most inquisitive*



**Jessica Miller** *most fashionable*



**Brendan Taylor** *most dedicated*



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

