



# The Good News Initiative

FALL 2023

## CIRQUE DU SPECTRUM!

The carnival came to Spectrum! Clients spent the day soaking staff in the dunk tank, playing knock the blocks, eating funnel cakes, and enjoying a good time with their friends. Everyone went home with stuffed animals, inflatable microphones, candy, and so much more! Thank you to the Central Recreation Team, Sibling Group, and Closter ICF for coordinating the carnival for our clients.





# LUAU PARTY

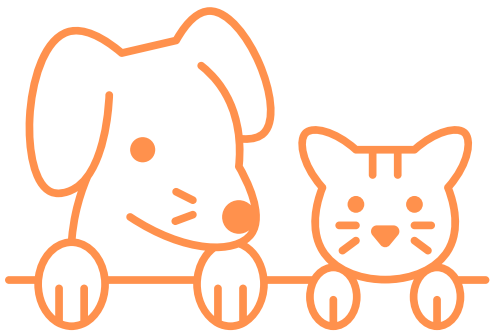
*Feel the island breeze!*

Clients celebrated the change of the seasons with a luau, featuring dinner, dancing, face-painting, and Hawaiian-themed mocktails.



# PET THERAPY

*The best therapists have fur and four legs!*



Thank you to Rosemarie's Rescue Ranch for bringing a smile to our clients' faces by visiting our Paramus and Elmwood Park Group Homes with your pet therapy dogs.

To volunteer with your therapy pet, please contact Kathy Bentzen at [kbentzen@spectrumforliving.org](mailto:kbentzen@spectrumforliving.org)!

View more photos by following us on Facebook and Instagram!



@SpectrumforLiving





# SPECTRUM OF ARTISTS

## *Painting the Disability Picture*

*Spectrum of Artists: Painting the Disability Picture* was a three-month long art exhibit with pieces created by Spectrum for Living clients. Through the support of the Middlesex County Arts and History Grant Program, this artistic exhibition was an exercise in self-empowerment and self-expression.



# PAINT & SIP



Clients participated in a Paint & Sip class headed by our Central Recreation Team. Clients followed a step-by-step tutorial while enjoying delicious snacks.





# MASTERING HEALTHY COOKING

*An On-Site Nutritional Training Program*

Over the past several months Chef Heidi has been on a Residential Program Food Tour, providing on-site nutritional training and demonstration for Spectrum staff and residents.

Menu items included:

- Asian Slaw
- Chicken Stewp (Stew/Soup)
- Chow-Mein
- Cookies
- Egg Drop Soup
- Spring Rolls
- Sugar Free Peach Galettes
- and more!

Thank you to Chef Heidi for expanding our culinary palettes and minds to new recipes our staff and clients can now enjoy in their everyday lives!



View more photos by following us on Facebook and Instagram!



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# ALL ABOARD!

Our clients took to the sea on a Spirit Cruise from the Weehawken Harbor, which took them along the Hudson River, passing iconic monuments like the Statue of Liberty!



# GALA & CASINO NIGHT

*Celebrating 40 Years of Family, Community, and Our Spectrum Heroes!*

On October 12, 2023, Spectrum for Living proudly celebrated 40 years of Family, Community, and Our Spectrum Heroes at our Gala & Casino Night at Macaluso's.

We had the privilege of honoring two influential leaders and Spectrum family members, Donna and Victor Cannillo. Donna and Victor continuously demonstrate their commitment to bettering the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities through their time, care, and concern for our mission.

Thank you to Donna, Victor, and all of our attendees, sponsors, contributors, and volunteers who made our gala a success!

View more photos by following us on Facebook and Instagram!



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# STAFF NEWS

NEW HIRES (\*) AND PROMOTIONS (+)

## Closter Apartments

John Cardenas \*  
Junias Dorestan +  
Marcia Decembre \*

## Closter ICF

Alice Hampton \*  
Boby Dornaison \*  
Bryant Monfiston \*  
Evena Telfort \*  
Michael Mejia \*  
Roni Hansen \*  
Seven Phillips \*

## Edison Condos

Cameron Saintil \*  
Cristel Dixon \*  
Quataysia Lumpkins \*

## Edison Adult Training Center

Fuad Ghanem \*  
Tyana Lewis \*

## Edison Group Home #100

Ciera Williams \*

## Edison Group Home #300

Asia Williams \*  
Isaac Williams \*

## Glen Rock Group Home

Latavia Conzalez \*

## Highwood Group Home

Jean Pierre-Louis \*  
Trasha Jones Clarke \*

## Hillsdale Group Home

Chidimma Ogbonna \*  
Tanysia Kitchings \*

## Paramus Group Home

Sara Tekeyan \*  
Sandra McCurdy \*

## Northvale Group Home

Noel Rosa \*

## Norwood Group Home

Robert Ferrer \*  
Ringwood Apartments  
Aajahtore Tyler \*

## Ringwood Adult

## Training Center

Gabriela Valenzuela \*

## River Vale Apartments

Allister McLean \*  
Almethia Middelton \*  
Marilyn Berry \*  
Paulette Murphy \*

## River Vale Corporate Office

Clari Bencosme Alejo \*  
Serin Mathew +  
Tyler Czubachowski +

## Rockleigh Apartments

Irina Beita \*  
Rodrigue Charles \*

## Teaneck Adult

## Training Center

Jamara McNeill \*  
Johnasha Manning \*  
Shamiere Contant \*

## Wayne Group Home

Armani Kerr \*  
Enazhe Pulido \*



# ALEX AWARDS

In honor of Spectrum for Living founding parent Alexander Gallione, the Alex Awards highlight Spectrum employees who go above and beyond in service to our mission. From July 2023 to September 2023, the following employees received an Alex Award.

## Platinum

Quinice Anthony  
 Morelia Asamoah  
 Junelane Hibbert  
 Volfi Hyra  
 Jackie Jones  
 Julie Moran-Finkle  
 Lillian Nieves  
 Kristen Paone  
 Jean Singleton  
 Tracey Stradford  
 Hugh Sutherland  
 Cynthia Wells

## Gold

Quinice Anthony  
 Junias Dorestan  
 Amanda Garrity  
 Chiharu Takasu  
 Syheemia Williams

## Silver

Tahzasia Adams  
 Bruce Block  
 Benita Boutin  
 Tamara Brown  
 Kamilah Bugg  
 Wilmann Chancy  
 Marie Laguerre  
 Nasheema Leak  
 Olivia Okello  
 Jennifer Olagunju  
 Jacques Previlon  
 Rainer Rabino  
 Stephanie Saji

## Bronze

Richarlot Amazan  
 Jeneen Artis  
 Stacey Augustin  
 Anthony Barrett  
 Nasjae Brown  
 Brendan Cancian  
 John Cardenas  
 Concelia Edouard

Ashley Gallagher  
 Sameh Gobran  
 Yehshen Henry  
 Marie Hillaire  
 Marie Horatius  
 Christine Huysers  
 Volfi Hyra  
 Kenya Kitchen

Cliff Lindor  
 Tiffany Mack  
 Bertram McIntosh  
 Sheereen Moraca  
 Ronald Prevoit  
 Rodney Pyronneau  
 Jesus Quinonez  
 Kimberly Rasberry

Claudette Reid  
 Constantine Rochester  
 Grenell Strachan  
 Megan Schmarge  
 Sharonda Thompson  
 Timothy Wangoya  
 Ivory Whitaker

*Congratulations Winners!*



# ALEX AWARD WINNERS



# PROFILES IN COMPASSION

Meet Alex Awards Platinum Winner:

*Morelia Asamoah*

Over the past twelve years, **Morelia Asamoah** has been supporting Spectrum for Living clients as a Direct Care Counselor and Program Activity Coordinator.

When asked what working at Spectrum for Living has taught her, **Morelia** shared, *"My role at Spectrum for Living has helped me develop a deep sense of empathy. I have learned the incredible value support and connection play in offering care to our clients and actively employ these principles daily."*

When asked how it felt to be selected as a Platinum Award Winner, **Morelia** expressed a profound feeling of gratitude, *"Being a Platinum Alex Award recipient makes me feel appreciated and loved. I take pride in my role and am happy to know that my colleagues support me."*

**Morelia** concluded, *"I look forward to seeing our clients each day. I am honored to be able to brighten their day and put a smile on their faces. I value this acknowledgement and award for my service."*



Learn more about our Alex Awards Winners on social media by searching for our Alex Awards posts!



# VOLUNTEERING WITH SPECTRUM



## *EPIC School*

Thank you to our friends at EPIC School in Paramus and their EPIC Favors Program for helping stuff and label our holiday appeal greeting cards.

## *Knights of Columbus*

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart 2842 Council for hosting dinner and a dance party for our clients. Everyone danced the night away with fun music and wonderful friends!



## *Provident Bank*

Thank you to our friends at Provident Bank for spending the day with our clients and helping them prepare their Spectrum from the Heart crafts. Clients worked with the Provident Bank team to create beautiful holiday wreaths, hot cocoa treats, and more!

# HOLIDAY APPEAL

Spectrum for Living extends our warmest thoughts and best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful holiday season.

We are pleased to share that over the past year, we positively impacted the lives of more than **1,200** adults in our care.

Through your continued belief in our mission, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to serving clients in our intermediate care facility, group homes, apartments, and day programs. Your support has also allowed us to provide much-needed respite services to individuals living in our surrounding communities.



*Thank you for believing in our mission  
and for your continued support.*