



# The Good News Initiative

WINTER 2025

## WINTER SPECTACULAR

Our clients enjoyed an enchanting evening at their Winter Spectacular at Florentine Gardens, complete with festive music, a photo booth, and the coronation of the Ice Queen and King. The night was filled with dancing and celebration in a beautiful winter wonderland! A special thank you to our Recreation Team and Sibling Group for their coordination!



# SANTA'S WORKSHOP



Santa's Workshop set up shop at our Teaneck Adult Training Center, bringing holiday cheer to our clients.

Our clients browsed through an impressive selection of gifts, including art supplies, self-care items, board games, puzzles, jewelry, clothing, and holiday trinkets. The variety of items ensured that there was something for everyone. Many clients expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to select presents for themselves and their loved ones, fostering a sense of independence. The event not only brought festive joy but also created lasting memories.

Thank you to our Sibling Group and countless donors whose support helped make this event possible.

View more photos on  
Facebook and Instagram!  
[@SpectrumforLiving](#)



# HOLIDAY CANTEEN

The Westwood Knights of Columbus made the holiday season extra special with a lively evening filled with dancing, a delicious dinner, and a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus!



# EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION SURVEYS

*Way to go Elmwood Park  
& Carver ATC!*



Spectrum for Living's Human Resources Team celebrated the completion of our annual Employee Satisfaction Survey with staff members at our Elmwood Park Group Home and Carver ATC, who both had the highest percentage of employees completing the survey. Our staff members were treated to a catered meal of their choosing, and our President & CEO, Christopher Perry, and Chief Human Resource Officer, Joan Garcia were on hand to personally thank them for their participation in the survey.



# WINTER PICNIC



Our clients savored the beauty of winter with a cozy picnic at Skyland Manor, surrounded by breathtaking views and the crisp mountain air. It was the perfect day to relax and take in the charm of the season!



# THE GOLDEN TICKET

Our clients had a fun and engaging time learning money management skills through a tricky tray filled with exciting prizes. This interactive activity allowed clients to practice budgeting and decision-making, all while enjoying the thrill of winning as their raffle tickets were drawn!



# DISNEY ON ICE



*the happiest place on ice!*

Our clients were transported into a world of enchantment as they experienced the magic of Disney on Ice.

With dazzling performances from beloved characters like Mickey Mouse, Elsa, and Simba, the show captivated everyone. The skating, vibrant costumes, memorable music, and special effects brought Disney's most iconic stories to life on the ice.

Clients were filled with joy and wonder as they celebrated the magic with their friends. It was a truly unforgettable experience that brought smiles to everyone's faces.



View more photos on  
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@SpectrumforLiving





# SPECTRUMFEST

*Beers & Brews at Bolero Snort*

Thank you to everyone who supported SpectrumFest at Bolero Snort Brewery on November 9th! With over 50 guests in attendance, the event showcased an exclusive beer with a special label designed by a Spectrum for Living artist, along with a silent auction, live music, catered dinner, and local vendors. It was a fantastic evening of community support benefiting our Recreation Program.





# STAFF NEWS

NEW HIRES (\*) AND PROMOTIONS (+)

## Bergenfield

### Group Home

Damisha Brown \*

## Closter ICF

Abanop Abdelmalak \*

Galina Goldstein \*

## Closter

### Apartments

Rose Altenor \*

Marc Avril \*

Gabriel Morancy \*

## Edison Adult

### Training Center

Fatmata Barrie \*

Brayden Berry \*

Dery Dorsainvil \*

Maurice Foster +

Mordecai Onsongo \*

## Edison Condos

Mariangela Conte \*

## Edison Group

### Home #100

Bianca Contreras \*

Shaniqua Samuel \*

## Edison Group

### Home #300

Taquera Whitsett \*

## Elmwood Park

### Group Home

Dannelin Pozo Cruz \*

Davida Reid \*

## Glen Rock

### Group Home

Brendali Colon Concepcion \*

Monique Hyde \*

Trasha Jones Clarke \*

## Guttenberg

### Group Home

Walter Sang \*

## Haworth

### Group Home

Anderson Jeune \*

Kelvin Kangethe \*

## Highwood

### Group Home

Jamya McDowell \*

## Hillsdale

### Group Home

Rose St Victor \*

## Northvale

### Group Home

Marjorie LaFond +

## Ringwood Adult

### Training Center

Elizabeth Zawaski +

## Ringwood

### Apartments

Serena DeLeeuw \*

## River Vale

### Apartments

Joan Estrella +

Marie Joseph \*

Jenilys Quinones \*

## Rockleigh

### Apartments

Selma Kubilay \*

Motoaki Kurihara \*

Dixon Mogaka \*

Ednorson Noel \*

## Teaneck Adult

### Training Center

Nahzir Broome \*

Nichole Tomicich \*

# 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 October through December 2024, the following employees received an Alex Award.

## Platinum

Nicole Bartholomew  
 Tamara Brown  
 Nadilia Cajuste  
 Brendan Cancian  
 Donna Dolphin  
 Sabrina Giedekier-Nauta  
 Marie Polynice

## Gold

Yamiley Armand  
 Bruce Block  
 Thomas Donahue  
 Volfi Hyra  
 Lydiah Kiruri  
 Angela Moore  
 Sheereen Moraca  
 Cecilia Muchiri  
 Winifred Ngari  
 Suzzette Stubbs  
 Mitchell Thompson  
 Brett Tiedens  
 Kimoya Virgo

## Silver

Tawana Bailey  
 Kathleen Bentzen  
 Sandra Bonsu  
 Latavia Conzalez  
 Alexandria Dennis  
 Jenipher Gathu  
 Cara Harvey  
 Jaqueline Jones  
 Ashley Kearns  
 Linda Kerbs  
 Yolna Mary Laguerre  
 Casey McGuinness  
 Allister McLean  
 Nickalina Napolitano  
 Anita Novoa-Baggett  
 Andrew Russell  
 Jonathan Simon  
 Isaac Williams  
 Syheemia William

## Bronze

Acsa Benjamin  
 Elizabeth Boyajian  
 Deborah Brown  
 Tamara Brown  
 Latricia Cunningham  
 Pierre Dorvilien  
 Jaccim Jean Francois  
 Judy Goddard

Reta Gordon  
 Shelly Herd-Garcia  
 Rose Meridien  
 Evena Telfort  
 Cole Thomas  
 Monica Vasques  
 Elizabeth Zawaski



# ALEX AWARD WINNERS



# PROFILES IN COMPASSION

## Brendan Cancian

**Brendan Cancian** has been a valuable member of the Maintenance Team for nearly two years, earning a positive reputation for his helpful nature and dedicated work ethic.

Whether helping with site repairs, assisting with corporate service days, or collecting items from community donors, **Brendan** is always quick to lend a hand, ensuring tasks are completed efficiently and effectively.

**Brendan** enjoys the variety of responsibilities he takes on each day, finding excitement in the new challenges that come with each task. He feels connected to our clients when he has the opportunity to make a repair in their home that results in bringing a smile to their faces.

Throughout his time at Spectrum, **Brendan** has discovered that he is more of a "people person" than he originally thought. He shared that the supportive environment at Spectrum for Living has made it easy for him to connect with others. **Brendan** noted that he enjoys helping at events like the 5K and Carnival, where he gets to see everyone having fun together.

**Brendan** takes great pride in being named a Platinum Alex Award winner, valuing the recognition from his coworkers. This meaningful acknowledgment motivates him to continue excelling in his role.



### Learn More About Brendan:

1. Brendan once lived in Arizona.
2. His car is a Chevy Impala named, "Vinny."
3. He performed at Carnegie Hall with his high-school band.

# SPECTRUM FOR SERVICE



## *Columbia Bank*

Thank you to our friends at Columbia Bank for volunteering their time to beautify the hallway of our Teaneck ATC with a mural painted by our clients and hosting holiday craft stations, allowing our clients to create beautiful handcrafted items for their homes!

## *Knights of Columbus*

Thank you to the Westwood Knights of Columbus for hosting a Holiday Canteen for our clients! Complete with a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus, the party was filled with friends and fun!



## *Provident Bank*

Thank you to our friends at Provident Bank for volunteering to make holiday crafts with our clients. From snow globes to gingerbread houses, our friends at Provident Bank helped our clients' creativity shine so everyone was able to walk away with their own masterpiece!

# SAVE THE DATE!



## 5K, Walk, & Doggie Dash

Overpeck Park  
Ridgefield Park, NJ

April 2025

## Sipping for Spectrum

Hoboken, NJ

May 2025



## Golf Classic

Edgewood Country Club  
River Vale, NJ

September 2025

