



## SUMMER 2024 NEWSLETTER

### A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I am excited to have this opportunity to reach out to you, Dear Reader! I'd like to start by thanking the CANY family: our staff for their excellent work, heart and professionalism; our board for their unwavering support and direction; and our participants for their effort and achievement. I also want to thank you for being part of our journey. Together we can walk faster and reach our goals sooner.

I might be a little biased, but I work for CANY, and I think it has the best people and programs. Please read our Summer Newsletter and see for yourself. We value your opinion and ideas, let us know if there is anything we could do even better.

Thank you for your continued support of CANY and our mission.

Warm Regards,

Sophia Rossovsky  
Executive Director



## STARS AND STRIKES

CANY'S INTER-AGENCY BOWLING LEAGUE

Thank you to all who participated in our Spring 2024 Inter-Agency Bowling League. We would like to congratulate this season's winning team, CANY's own Blue Barracudas, Michael Caltieri, Lauren DiRago, Angel Paredes and Jonathan Hannam. The female with the highest average was Kristin Thatcher and the highest averaging male was Donald Simon.

We started the league with the intention of socializing and getting to know other agencies better in the spirit of healthy competition. We had no idea that this would be a groundbreaking endeavor, filling a void that exists for many of our participants when they age out of programs for children.

Thanks to our staff, parents, caregivers and Rabs Country Lanes for their support. We hope to see you for our Fall 2024 league!

[Read the article in the Staten Island Advance here!](#)



Caitlin Higginson and Jason Cheung play together at the City Access New York Inter-Agency Bowling League.



## WHERE HAVE WE'VE BEEN THIS YEAR?

Check out some of the exciting trips we've taken so far in 2024!

# ADVENTURELAND



Starting the day off right in Adventureland on the Rattlesnake rollercoaster with Jeremy, Tamara, Balmoris, Bianca, Kaylan, & group leader Sabina!



Swinging around with Charmaine, Martice, Kaylyn



Bianca enjoying a nice little scenic boat ride



William and Trevel spinning on the tea cup ride



Tamara - "I'm a little tea cup!"



Jason  
Wet and Wild! at Adventureland

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# WOODLOCH PINES



Kendra, Marshall, Bianca, Kaylan, Jeremy, Charmaine, Khayyan, Brandon, and staff Sabina and Cole cooling off on a hot summer day



Jeremy bumping his way into Saturday on the bumper cars!



Dren is all smiles at the bumper cars



Even our staff get wet at Woodloch! Sabina with Khayyan and Kaylan.



Khayyan and Brandon talk about what their next activity will be while bathing in the sun



Diana, Kaylan, Angelique, Nancy, Kendra, Jorge, Liz, Jeremy, Bianca, Charmaine, Tamara, Brandon, Khayyan, Trevel, Dren, and staff Sabina, Cole, and Fabian.

Finished Olympic day at the lakefront and now gathering before taking a scenic boat ride around the lake at Woodloch.

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Tiffany, Angelique, Bianca, Iliana, Charmaine, Jason, and Jaleel feeding chickens at the horse stable.



Jaleel and Bianca petting a horse



Danielle getting pulled in a cart by a mini horse



Iliana petting a mini horse



Jason, Omari, and Jorge hanging out with a donkey



Bianca, Jaleel, Tiffany, Angelique, Charmaine, Jason Q., Iliana, Jorge, Duane, Jason R., Michael, Omari, Jabari, and staff Miriam and Nydia.

PAL-O-MINE

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# SUNNY HILL RESORT OVERNIGHT TRIP



An afternoon tractor ride on the way to an outdoor barbeque lunch at Sunny Hill resort.



Kaylyn C., Kendra S., Shirley, M., Bianca B., Arianna J., Khyyan H., Jorge S., Jason Q., and staff Sabina O.

Even though it was in the low 60 degrees, everyone was still daring enough to enjoy the outdoor pool.



The group taking a train tour around the Sunny Hill resort campus with all smiles aboard.



Jorge S., Jason Q., Joe R., Jeremy S., and staff member Ague E.

Enjoying an inclusion volleyball game with other guests at Sunny Hill Resort.



Tiffany T. and Khyyan H.

Sharing a magical moment with the medals that they just won at the basketball courts at Sunny Hill Resort.



An after dinner campfire staying nice and warm on a chilly night with live background music on the lake at Sunny Hill Resort.

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# ARTRAGEOUS



Jessica loving the way her shark is coming out



All smiles for Christie as her mug is coming out amazing



Shirley and Brigitte enjoying this peaceful time while painting their beautiful pottery



Aguy helping Danielle and teaching her how to paint properly



Jamal did an amazing job on his all blacked out car which he is proud to show off



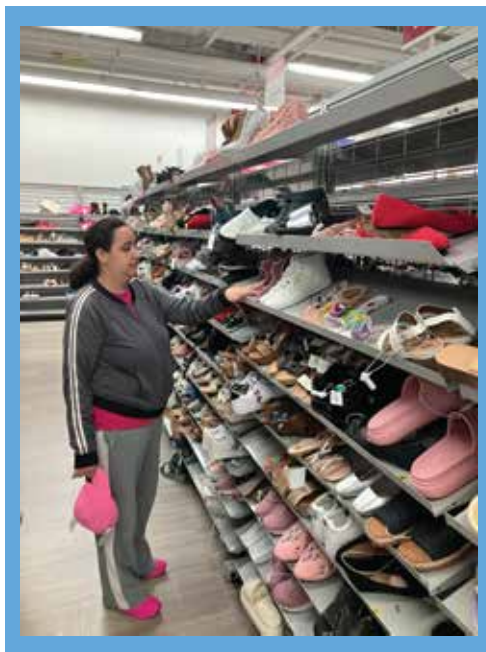
Jason getting ready to make his dinosaur come to life

## OUR DAY HABILITATION & VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

On June 7th, The CANY Basketball team competed in an interagency Basketball tournament, held at Red Hook Recreation Center



Volunteers developing work skills at Burlington Coat Factory.



OUR DAY HABILITATION & VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS



CANY at the  
Ferryhawks  
Baseball  
game

Make-Up classes with  
Stephanie Debes of  
"Make up on Wheels"





## OUR DAY HABILITATION & VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

### CANY visits the MET



## UPCOMING...

CANY Cooking Show, will have its first filming on July 18th, and will be aired on Staten Island Community Television and Youtube

# — STATEN ISLAND RESPITE —

## ROCKING HORSE RANCH OVERNIGHT TRIP



# — STATEN ISLAND RESPITE —

## CITI FIELD TRIP

STATEN ISLAND RESPITE HIT IT OUT OF THE PARK DURING THEIR TOUR OF CITI FIELD, HOME OF THE NY METS



# SUMMER EVENTS!

As we close the door to spring and enter the summer, we are excited about several fun events!

- ★ Annual CANY Cruise - on June 28th, we sailed the high seas together and enjoyed an afternoon of dining, music, and views around Manhattan to kick off the summer right!
- ★ On July 5th, we are having our Independence Day BBQ
- ★ July & August: Asbury Shore House! - What's quickly becoming a summer tradition, we will be going for day trips and overnights to beautiful Asbury Park, NJ. We hit the beach, the boardwalk and enjoy in the vibrant nightlife, all the while practicing important independence growing daily living skills in taking care of a beautiful home.

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## GET TO KNOW: KEN BROCKENBAUGH

In this section we interview one of our hard-working DSPs to get to know them a little better and find out more about their experience working with our participants.

**Q: Ken, you've been working for CANY for quite a while now, how long has it been?**

A: I've been with City Access for 11 years this year.

**Q: Tell us a little bit about yourself, what interests or hobbies do you have?**

A: I love shopping, but I also love helping people, I always try to volunteer or help those in need.

**Q: Can you share any meaningful moments in your tenure working in our day hab program?**

A: One recent thing that has stood out and made me proud is every week we go to dollar tree to work on money skills. I love watching my participants become more and more independent in tasks like these, they're at the point where they need no help! I also loved going to the food pantry with my participants, at the time I had some that struggled with vocational skills, and it was great to see them learn how to package up food for the homeless, and they did a great job!

**Q: If you had one piece of advice for our participants, what would it be?**

A: Don't be afraid to speak up, and always be honest.

## ALL ABOUT ME: JARED BASKIN

In this section we interview one of our participants to get to know them better!

**Q: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself? What are some things that you enjoy doing?**

A: My name is Jared, I've been attending this day hab for more than 3 years, I live in a residence and my favorite things to do is physical activity and hanging out with my friends.

**Q: What's your favorite food?**

A: I love pizza, chicken fingers, french fries, and pasta.

**Q: What's your favorite music and artist?**

A: I enjoy all different kinds of music, pop, r&b, hip hop, and country. My favorite artist is Morgan Wallen.

**Q: If you could have any job in the world, what would it be and why?**

A: I love sports and baseball; I'd love to work for a baseball team like the Yankees!

## CANY OFFICE UPDATES



Congratulations to  
**Beatrice Lassends**  
on her promotion to  
Assistant Day Hab Manager



Welcome back to  
**Millrine Okundaye Moore.**  
Congratulations on her new  
position as Lead Specialist.

- ★ We welcomed Matthew Hansen on Jan 2nd 2024 as our Day Hab Program Manager. Matt has proved to be an asset to the organization.
- ★ Welcome to Hamza Siddique to our CANY team. Hamza has proven to be an asset to our administrative team.
- ★ Congratulations Yvette Blunt! Yvette is our Brooklyn Com Hab Manager.
- ★ Congratulations to our Executive Director, Sophia Rossovsky on her 10-year anniversary with CANY!

# 2024 REACH FOR THE STARS GALA



## JOIN US!

You are cordially invited to the  
**2024 Reach for the Stars Gala**  
honoring the life and work of Ken Struve.

Ken Struve founded City Access New York in 2006 with the mission of promoting lifelong access to information, programs, and services for New Yorkers of all abilities. Nearly twenty years later, his impact lives on through the work of City Access, which continues to identify barriers to participation in schools and in the community and adapts the content and delivery of programs to the diverse needs of people with disabilities. While Ken has passed on, his spirit remains a guiding torch of the organization.

Please join us in celebration of this incredible legacy.

Friday, October 4th, 2024

6:30pm - 10:30pm

Celebrate at Snug Harbor, The Great Hall  
Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden

All proceeds support City Access New York's mission  
and programming.

Festive/cocktail attire suggested.

**Purchase your tickets & sponsorships here**

# SUPPORT CANY & OUR PROGRAMS

By donating to City Access New York, you can help make a difference in the lives of young adults with developmental disabilities and the visually impaired. Government funding does not cover the entire cost to operate our organization so we look to fundraising to help bridge the gap in order to provide the programs and services our participants depend on to lead a more independent and productive life.

Donate online at [cityaccessny.org/donate](https://cityaccessny.org/donate) or contact **Fran Farin** for more information

[ffarin@cityaccessny.org](mailto:ffarin@cityaccessny.org)

718-285-6548

