



*Seeking Employment, Equality and Community for
People with Developmental Disabilities*

SEEC E-News

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Meet Robert Scott, SEEC's Board of Directors President: Making SEEC Feel Like Home

Our Board of Directors is made up of volunteers who commit to share their gifts and talents to move SEEC's mission forward. We want to thank all our board members and Board President for their support and will continue to share interviews over the next few months.



Robert Scott discovered SEEC during an event organized by the Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce. Cathy Dirksen, SEEC's Communications Director at the time was actively looking for volunteers and Robert, who loves a good party, agreed to serve as a member of SEEC's Gala Committee. From there, Robert went on to join the SEEC Board of Directors and served on the Quality Advisory Committee which he eventually chaired before moving into the role of board President.

Robert brings enthusiasm and a positive outlook to all his work with SEEC, whether he's at a zoom holiday party or board meeting. His support has been wide-arching and delivered with genuine admiration for the work done by SEEC.

Robert Scott has created a special bond with a few people SEEC supports and appreciates what the organization does to promote inclusion. He recalls some favorite memories like playing in the SEEC softball tournament with his teammate Charles, who is supported by SEEC. Members of the Quality Advisory Committee visit with the people SEEC supports, but during COVID those visits had to become virtual. Robert was thrilled when in person visits resumed and always is looking for ways to interact more with the people SEEC supports and staff.

Outside of his role as SEEC's Board President, Robert Scott is a successful business owner and entrepreneur. He is currently working as a member of Scott Team International, a highly respected real-estate team. Talking about homes and community building is at the heart of his work, and Robert is passionate about matching his clients with the right home. To that end, Robert has helped several SEEC staff members and even some people we support over the past two years. This year he reconnected with David, whom SEEC supports, and helped him find a home to rent. Robert said, "helping David find the right home was an amazing way to connect my work and my passion."



Robert Scott's engagement with SEEC is intentional as a busy professional and community member. He and his wife are also active sponsors of many SEEC events. His knowledge of the business community has created numerous opportunities for SEEC's jobseekers and community partners. He makes sure to stay in touch with those supported by SEEC and appreciates the friendships he has built over time.

SEEC is grateful Robert chose to become involved with SEEC and to use his voice to promote the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live, work and thrive in the community.

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What is 988?



A. The total number of steps you must take to reach the top of the Old Post Office Tower in Washington, DC

B. The number to reach the new national hotline to assist people experiencing mental health crises or emotional distress.

C. The average number of items on the back to school shopping list of a 6th grader.

If you chose B, you are right!

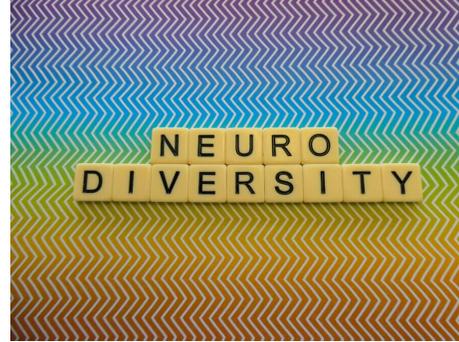
This new number replaces the former National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and is designed to create a simple alternative to 911. You can learn more on how the new number is impacting the disability community on [Disability Scoop](#). Additionally, the Arc US is advocating for specialized training for people working at the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to help them appropriately serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

What is Neurodiversity?

Have you heard this term before? Recently, SEEC employer partners have begun to use this term in hopes to create a more diverse workforce as neurodiverse people are seen as an untapped pool of talents. Let's have a look at what it means!

According to Harvard Medical School, "neurodiversity describes the idea that people

experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways; there is no one ‘right’ way of thinking, learning and behaving, and differences are not viewed as deficits.” People who think in different ways are called “neurodivergent.” Neurodivergence refers to a few conditions, including autism, ADHD, dyslexia, and others such as PTSD. Neurodivergent people represent at least 20% of the adult population and come from every background.



If you are in a blog reading mood, check out [this entry](#) on the Harvard Medical School blog about neurodiversity.

Supporting People in Their Careers in 2022. What is New?



Sherry Beamer, Director of Services, shares how the pandemic has impacted job opportunities for people supported by SEEC.

Have you noticed changes in the workplace for the people we support since the pandemic?

SEEC’s Employer Outreach Team is continually developing new relationships with local businesses. Those relationships may be used to expand our employer networks, BAC membership, or volunteer base. In the past few years, our list has included businesses who were not yet our employer partners but supported our work in other ways. Since the pandemic and the labor market shift SEEC has been able to transition many of our employer relationships to employer partners.



How are SEEC’s employment services adapting to these changes?

Job seekers now have more choices when they are in a market for a new job. Our Employer Outreach Team continues to track labor market trends and use this information to introduce SEEC to additional industries or employers where we may not have had relationships in the past.

Behind the Scenes: Employment Services

Follow us in looking at what happens behind the scenes in employment services.

Did you know that in supporting people to advocate for themselves in the job place, direct support professionals play an essential role in allowing people SEEC supports to have fulfilling careers?



Here is one of the recent examples of someone supported by SEEC changing work assignments within the same organization to feel satisfied and happy with their job again.

Due to COVID, a professional supported by SEEC who had been working for the same organization for close to ten years was feeling less engaged because his whole department was working remotely. However, he could not perform his tasks online. Through advocacy and the support of his direct support professional, he was able to find another opportunity in another department at the same organization. The process was challenging and required agility and optimism to achieve a positive result but now there are new career development opportunities ahead!



Stay in Touch @officialseec

SEEC has officially joined Instagram, follow @officialseec and share with your friends and family!



Do you plan to do back to school shopping on Amazon?

Shop [Amazon Smile](#) and earn money for SEEC with every order.

What Brings You Joy?

Introducing the joy project, sharing what matters for people supported by SEEC.

Thanks to Monique Williams, Community Engagement Coach, for talking about Lindsey's passion for art.



"Lindsey has loved art all her life. She has taken art classes and worked in a studio. She works with the VisAbility art lab in Rockville. Lindsey collects items for her nature collages from hikes in the woods and at the beach. She has an interest in birds and animals which frequently appear in her artwork!"

2022 SEEC's Summer Interns: Sara's Reflection on Her Time at SEEC

Sara Gostomski interned in the Knowledge

Management department during the summer.

“Working with SEEC and getting to become involved with the individuals we support has been so rewarding and seeing everyone's dedication to the work we do here has been truly an empowering and uplifting experience.

My Knowledge Management team has brought me so much joy! Whether it was coming into the office and being greeted by everyone's enthusiasm to sharing my successes in our Knowledge Management Staff meetings, I truly felt like I had some of the best support during my time here at SEEC as well as flexibility to follow my passions. The work that I have been able to accomplish and the projects that I have worked on have all been so fulfilling and having the autonomy to work to my strengths has been a very gratifying experience!”



Thanks Sara and all the other interns for your time with us this summer!

Mark Your Calendar for SEEC's FootGolf Event!

SAVE THE DATE
FOOT GOLF
SEPTEMBER 24, 2022
SLIGO CREEK GOLF COURSE

SEEC
Seeking Employment, Equality, and Community
for people with developmental disabilities

PRESENTED BY
HUB

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Please join us at the SEEC FootGolf event on September 24th! Come **play as a sponsor, team, or individual, or donate** so someone we support can play. Registration starts at noon, then our FootGolf tournament kicks off at 12:30pm. Stay afterward for a grilled lunch and beverages, music, socializing, and more!

We will also have some fun activities on the course including a free spin on the wheel at the “Hole of Fortune”. There will also be the opportunity to pay for an experienced kicker to take one of your turns or a chance to compete to see who can get their ball “closest to the pin”. And the winning team will receive a special prize!

There will also be fabulous raffle prizes including 2 days of unlimited golf and accommodations for 4 people at one of 5 private golf clubs across the country including the #6 best course in Virginia (according to Golf Magazine) and the chance to win a brand new driver for your next golf game, valued at \$500!

Come out, have fun, and help support this worthy cause! **Register today!**

Supported Living and Community Engagement Summer Cookout

The pandemic managed to keep us all apart physically in an unprecedented way. Now as we all make progress towards coming together once again, SEEC’s supported living and community engagement teams hosted a picnic at the end of the month of July for the people SEEC support and employees. Both teams deserve special praise for their collaboration and hard work which resulted in a wonderful and memorable event.



Life at SEEC Summer 2022



Employment Services Open House



Recess at Work 2022



Project SEARCH Conference in Baltimore



Farewell to Summer Rise Interns

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