



# NEWSLETTER

Seeking Employment, Equality and Community  
for People with Developmental Disabilities

February 2023

## From the Desk of Karen Lee, SEEC's CEO

For the past couple of months, my workday has been happily interrupted by messages coming from an initiative we launched at SEEC called "Sharing photos and stories":

*"Manoj is at the library interacting with staff to get book recommendations"*

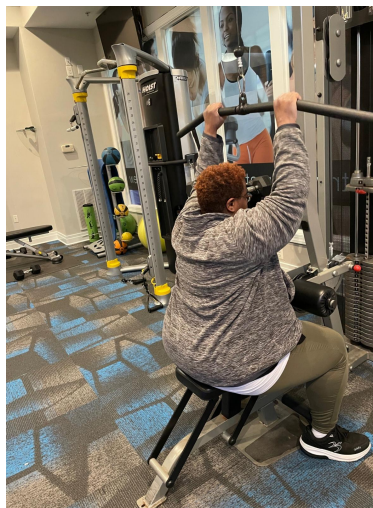
*"David is joining a group of local seniors to do activities and exercise"*

*"Ava is getting a pass to use a local recreational center"*

Staff are encouraged to share **snippets of what happens in the lives of the people they support** as they live, work, and thrive. This platform has been a tremendous resource for the leadership team as we work locally and across the country to train others about the **benefits of community engagement and belonging**.



David



Ava



Manoj

Fourteen years ago, SEEC made the decision to end day program services that took place inside a SEEC-operated building. The philosophy behind the decision was that **people don't need training to be members of their community. They just needed to be in a community where they could learn from first-hand experiences**. Steve Blanks and I led this effort with the dedication and support of so many others. We saw the value of this change and the **endless possibilities** that could come from it. The true value of this paradigm has shone brightly through the extraordinary stories and pictures being shared today. **Empowering the people we support to be full members of their community and supporting them to create connections helps them achieve their life goals.**

This year, we are all working to **align our supports with the Community Life Engagement Framework developed by the University of Massachusetts at Boston, Institute on Community Inclusion (ICI).**

Through the next four months, I will dive into each specific aspect of the framework so we can all better understand how these driving principles will create opportunities for people we support to live, work and thrive.

Cheers,  
Karen



From Institute for Community Inclusion

## Top Things To Know

- **Developmental Disability Day** is **February 22nd** at the State House in Annapolis and SEEC staff and people we support will be representing!
- **SEEC All Staff Retreat on Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**
- **SEEC's Office is Moving** Wednesday, February 22nd. As of February 23rd, our new address will be 1300 Spring Street, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (dates subject to change.)
- SEEC won 2023 **Top Workplace** award!
- On Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, **Nothin' Bundt Cake in Silver Spring** is donating 10% of their sale proceeds to SEEC! Make sure to visit, support a local business and help our cause!
- Save the Date for our **SEEC Spring Gala** on **Saturday, April 29, 2023!**

