



NEWSLETTER

Seeking Employment, Equality and Community
for People with Developmental Disabilities

March 2023

From the Desk of Karen Lee, SEEC's CEO

"Fascinating!"

Jennifer White has been crucial to developing SEEC's person-driven technology project. Last month at the SEEC staff retreat, she delivered a captivating keynote speech and remarked that she often exclaims, '**Fascinating!**' when noticing something of curious interest.

From my experience as SEEC's CEO, I have noticed numerous fascinating moments in the lives of the people we support. These people can **go above and beyond many of the limits set by our society for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by living on their own and creating meaningful connections within the community.** For years SEEC has understood the importance of Individualized support, and this approach, which is also one of the guideposts from the University of Massachusetts Community Life Engagement framework, sets SEEC apart.

Leveling the playing field

At this year's staff retreat, seeing how our staff members embraced their role as social justice workers was particularly admirable. **Their dedication to providing equitable service to the members of our community is fascinating.** It takes a great amount of courage to recognize how ableism can diminish the contributions made by members of our community. Choosing to stand against ableism is a humbling experience for all of us.

A tribute to Judy Heumann

As I wrote these words, I am thinking about the recent passing of Judy Heumann and how she was a source of opportunity for SEEC's mission. I keep as a constant reminder for the work we are doing one of her famous quotes: "**Disability only becomes a tragedy when society fails to provide the things we need to lead our lives.**"



Top Things To Know

- **March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM)** led by the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities and its partners. The 2023 theme "Beyond the Conversation" is focused on what individuals and communities are doing to act on education, employment, accessibility, and more.
- Advocacy in action! The SEEC delegation made their voices heard during **Developmental Disabilities Day at the Legislature** on February 22nd in Annapolis. [Here](#) are some pictures.
- SEEC's **Employment Services** program is hosting an **information session March 29th from 5-7:30 pm** in SEEC's new office at **1300 Spring Street 4th Floor**, Silver Spring.
- Donné Allen, SEEC's Director of Projects, joined the **DDA Inaugural Person and Family Forum** to talk about using the **Charting the LifeCourse framework**. You can find the recording of the event [here](#).
- The Montgomery County Commission for Women and Montgomery Women Organization, selected **Karen Lee as a 2023 Women Making History Awardee!**
- The website for the **SEEC 2023 Gala happening on Saturday, April 29th** is now live! Click [here](#) to learn more about the event and how to become a part of it!
- **Dawson's Market**, a long-time SEEC partner, is organizing two fundraising events for SEEC during **Happy hour (5-7pm) on March 24th in the Rockville store** and **March 31st at the Dupont Circle store**. Join these two events, and **20% of your purchase will be donated to SEEC**.

301.576.9000 | www.seeonline.org

