



NEWSLETTER

Seeking Employment, Equality and Community
for People with Developmental Disabilities

Newsletter November 2024

From the Desk of Karen Lee, SEEC's CEO

A Year of Thanks: Celebrating Our Community and Accomplishments

At SEEC, we are filled with immense gratitude for the people we support, their families and caregivers, our colleagues, supporters, partners, and donors who make our work not only possible but impactful. Every day, we witness the power of community, belonging and inclusion, and this Thanksgiving season, we want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate all our partners. Join us in looking back at some of the wonderful moments from the past year. We are grateful for:

- **Emboldened People we support**

We are thankful for the opportunity to partner with adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in supporting their dreams, talents, and goals through our work.



- **Dedicated Staff and Volunteers**

Our incredible team of direct support professionals, administrative staff and volunteers help bring SEEC's mission to life.



◦ **Inclusive workplaces and employer partners**

Through employment, volunteerism, and programs like 'Learn to Earn', we have been able to foster greater inclusion and increased skills and independence. We are thankful for our employer partners who open their doors to creating inclusive workplaces where the people we support can thrive. Each step forward is a shared success.



Successful Donor Engagement Events

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our fundraising efforts this year. Each donation helps us grow, innovate, and sustain our vital programs.



At SEEC, we are grateful for your continued support that empowers us to dream big. Together, we are building a future that promises more opportunity, inclusion, and impact.

Cheers,

Karen Lee, CEO

Top Things to Know at SEEC for November

- Three of SEEC's Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) were recognized during the **Direct Support Professional State Recognition Ceremony**. **SEEC was extremely proud to have Carolyn Shepherd, Rodney Jackson and Sam Bediako** recognized for their impactful work with the people we support by **Secretary Beatty of the Maryland Department of Disabilities** and **Deputy Secretary for the Developmental Disabilities Administration Marlana Hutchinson**.
- SEEC is launching an **Innovation Fund** to support solutions and ideas developed by DSPs at SEEC. We are recruiting members of the community to join the selection committee. You can find more information about the role and apply to join the committee [here](#).
- **Spending too much time at home alone? Would you like more opportunities to spend time with other people and try different activities?**
The Health and Wellness Team will be offering a new 6-week drop-in group, "The Connection Collective" aimed at combating loneliness and promoting a sense of belonging for people supported at SEEC. Meetings will take place both in the SEEC office and in various places in the community and will incorporate a mix of participant guided skill practice and engaging social outings to enjoy spending time together. At the end of six weeks, participants will gain skills to maintain connections and continue their self-run social club.
Contact Jillian Fisher-Bouchelle at jfisher-bouchelle@seeconline.org or VL Buzdygon at Lbuzdygon@seeconline.org for sign ups and questions.
- **SEEC hosted a successful Financial and Legal Panel Discussion with attorney Shai Fierst and financial planner Liz Yoder**. Over 20 SEEC family members joined to gain valuable insights and resources for future planning.

SEEC's DSP Making a Difference: Helena Kollie



Helena has consistently demonstrated **exceptional dedication and person-centered care**, going beyond daily tasks to create meaningful and empowering experiences for those she supports. **Her focus on fostering autonomy and encouraging community integration is evident in her work, as she emphasizes independence, supports skill-building, and promotes active participation in decisions and activities.**

Through her patient and thoughtful assistance, Helena has helped the people she supports become more self-reliant, from improving life skills like meal preparation to leveraging technology for greater independence. **Her consistency, passion, and commitment to inclusion make her an inspiring example. Congratulations, Helena!**

YOU CAN MAKE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON SPECIAL FOR
SOMEONE WHO RECEIVES OUR SUPPORTS!



Holiday Wish List

Available on
amazon



Please ship all gift wrapped or unwrapped purchases to SEEC by December 16, 2024.

Attn: SEEC Holiday Wish List | 1300 Spring St., Ste. 400, Silver Spring, MD 20910



GALA

March 22, 2025

6:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Bethesda
7400 Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20814



Our Contact Information

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