



# NEWSLETTER

Seeking Employment, Equality and Community  
for People with Developmental Disabilities

SEEC Newsletter March 2025

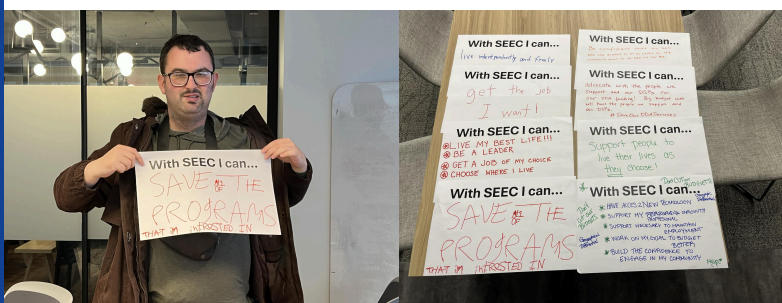
## From the Desk of Karen Lee, SEEC's CEO

### Reimagining SEEC's Support for a Stronger Future

These are challenging times. From budget cuts to revoking the principles of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in the workplace, our community is facing significant challenges. Yet, within this moment, while advocating for human rights and inclusion, we also see an opportunity to build something better. We have a chance to create systems, workplaces, and communities that consider all community members.

**At the heart of all our services and supports is safety.** And I do not just mean physical safety—though that remains essential. **I mean something deeper: psychological safety, safety you experience in expressing your unique self.** The ability for everyone to show up as their whole self. The confidence to speak up without fear. The security of knowing that you belong.

For the people we support, for our staff, and for everyone in our community, psychological safety is not a luxury—it is a necessity. **True safety happens when people are connected to their communities, and when they have opportunities to participate, contribute, and thrive.** That is why we will keep our efforts focused on what we have been doing for decades, empowering the people we support and helping them build the skills, confidence, and independence to live their best lives.



**We also see this as an opportunity to review our operations to ensure we are operating efficiently and effectively.** Moving forward we will navigate financial and systemic challenges by fostering an environment where we leverage assistive technology, listen closely to the desires of those we support and encourage choice and control. We intend to foster an environment where all voices are heard, where inclusion is more than a statement, and where every person—whether staff or those we support—has what they need to succeed.

At SEEC, more than ever before, we are committed to this work. **We are investing in understanding our environments and existing challenges, finding creative solutions to remove barriers and developing strategies to nurture greater safety, independence and dignity.** But we cannot do it alone. Real change happens when all of us—nonprofit

companies, for profit companies, policymakers, and communities—reimagine what is possible.

This moment is challenging, yes. But it is also a moment of possibility. **Together, we can build something stronger, more inclusive, and more just than what came before.**

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Karen Lee, CEO

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### SEEC's DSP Making a Difference: Precious Achinivu



Precious has shown exceptional dedication and compassion in supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Precious' commitment to helping the person she supports live their best life is evident through their engagement in the community, development of life skills, and understanding of what brings joy. Precious' kindness and patience are consistently demonstrated, especially during times of illness, when she maintained daily contact with the person she supports. Precious embodies SEEC's mission by fostering self-advocacy skills and contributing to personal growth. Precious efforts make her highly deserving of this recognition. **Congratulations, Precious!**

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### Top Things to Know at SEEC for the month of March 2025

- **SEEC's annual fundraiser Gala is coming up this Saturday!** If you cannot join, you can **browse and bid** on items offered by SEEC's generous community for its silent auction. Items are best viewed on your mobile device.
- **March is Development Disabilities Awareness Month** and this year's theme is **"We're Here All Year"**, emphasizing that community, accessibility, and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities should be recognized and championed every day—not just in March.
- The Institute for Disability Research, Policy and Practice from the Utah State University invited Eyob Balcha (SEEC) and Behrooz Ahmadi (supported by SEEC) to talk about "Shared discovery: Behrooz and Eyob's journey to person-driven Employment"

