



NEWSLETTER

Seeking Employment, Equality and Community
for People with Developmental Disabilities

SEEC E-Newsletter November 2025

From the Desk of Karen Lee, SEEC's CEO

Thankful for Resilience, Belonging, and Possibility

2025 has brought **challenges none of us could have predicted**: from furloughs affecting people we support at the federal level, to debates questioning the value of DEI, to risks around Medicaid funding and a decrease in resources for SEEC. Yet, **through every obstacle, our community has shown remarkable agility, creativity, and heart.**

Despite the uncertainty, there is so much to be thankful for. **When people we support faced furloughs or shutdowns, SEEC's team responded with compassion and flexibility, helping people create new routines, find new activities, revising person-centered plans, and guiding families through the maze of public benefits.** Our commitment to person-centered support never wavered. When programs like Project SEARCH were disrupted, SEEC didn't stand still. Instead, we created new opportunities, launching community-based internships, and innovative pathways for meaningful engagement. This spirit of adaptation and innovation is at the core of our mission.



This year, SEEC's strength was made possible by the generosity and partnership of our donors, supporters, and community. Through fundraising campaigns that championed Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) and recognition and the importance of assistive technology, you came together in new ways to help us meet urgent needs and create lasting impact. **We are deeply thankful for everyone who contributed by advocating, donating, or spreading the word.**

Belonging is more important than ever. After a year marked by uncertainty and change, we have seen how belonging can look different for each person we support, and for SEEC as an organization. For some, belonging means having a trusted circle to turn to during tough

times; for others, it is about finding purpose, connection, and recognition in their daily lives. **At SEEC, we approach supports from a strength-based perspective. Instead of focusing on loneliness or isolation, we highlight how our community unites SEEC's colleagues, the people we support, families, partners, and donors, forming circles where everyone is valued. These connections help us overcome challenges and make sure no one is left behind.**

In the coming week, we will launch our annual campaign with the theme of BELONGING. We invite you to join us in celebrating creativity, embracing change, and coming together to support SEEC's mission.

Wishing you a joyful Thanksgiving and a season filled with connection, gratitude, and belonging. Thank you for being part of the SEEC community and for all you do to make inclusion possible.

With appreciation,

Karen Lee
CEO, SEEC

SEEC's DSP Making a Difference: Betelehim Admassu



This month, we are recognizing **Betelehim Admassu** for her dedication, consistency, and compassion.

Demonstrating excellence in person-centered strategy, Betelehim consistently supports people in developing greater independence and ensures they are actively working toward thriving within their communities.

Betelehim regularly accompanies people to important appointments like physical therapy, takes the time to learn recommended practices, and diligently assists with them at home. This approach is thoughtful, proactive, and focused on long-term growth and well-being.

Congratulations, **Betelehim!**

Looking for professional development that makes a real difference? Whether you are a Direct Support Professional, an agency supporting people with IDD, or a family navigating self-direction, SEEC is here to help you grow and succeed. [Learn more here.](#)

Watch This Month: James Williams and Sean Adams are DMV Doers



Click to Watch!



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