

## *Eagerly Anticipated Beach Trip Returns After Pandemic Hiatus*

### **Beach Trip Brings Joy, Only Vacation for Some Community Members** *Your Donations Made Vacation Possible for 87 People*

This summer, nearly 60 percent of the people Jubilee supports enjoyed a beach vacation thanks to your generosity.

“If you dream it, we help make it happen,” shared Community Engagement Director Julia McCune. “The beach vacation was an incredible opportunity to connect and have fun together. For many people Jubilee supports, this beach trip is the only vacation they have each year. When the pandemic hit, canceling the beach trip was a blow to our community. ‘When will we go back to the beach?’ was the most frequently asked question during the pandemic.”

A nearly 1:1 staff-to-client ratio allowed everyone to fulfill their beach trip goals. For some folks that meant lazy days on the beach. For others, it was an action-packed trip with Go Karts, waterparks, and boardwalk rides. A trip to Assateague Island to visit the wild ponies fulfilled a lifelong dream. A first-ever parasailing ride made once-in-a-lifetime memories.

“My favorite thing was going on a pontoon boat. **I’ve been really afraid to leave my house since the pandemic started, and this beach trip was exactly what I needed to start getting back out in the world,**” said Erika Ketler.

Your support for Jubilee made this trip possible for 87 people supported by Jubilee. The cost to create this opportunity for our community was \$22,000 – all raised by you. Four attendees had their lodging and expenses fully covered by your generosity. Donated funds paid for two bar-b-q dinners that brought everyone together, and some staffing expenses.

**Thank you for helping make dreams come true** for adults with disabilities who rely on Jubilee.



*Steve Brent, Sarah Glenner, and Steve Keener brave a first-ever parasail ride.*



*Rachel Davis (left) and Erika Ketler enjoy the Jubilee-sponsored beach bar-b-q.*



*Bill Alston, Michael Ryan, Matt Starr, and Romuald Houmi ride the famous Ocean City boardwalk.*



## From Wheelchair to Walking

# Caring Support and Determination Makes a Difference for Melissa Cory

As told by Jubilee Program Manager Mary Amoji-Ogar

When I met Melissa fear and anxiety had taken over her life. She had a phobia about falling that led her to stop walking completely. Even using a wheelchair frightened her. She would crawl from place to place in the house.

It was heartbreaking.

Melissa has sisters who want the best for her, and wonderful relationships with her housemates and long-time support staff Hannah Sesay. We all put our heads together to see how we could help Melissa. We wanted to help her get back to herself.

I suggested Melissa attend a medical day program where she could get physical therapy and encouragement to walk. The Jubilee team worked with Melissa's sister to cook foods to fit her new diet. Melissa started to address her fears.

Slowly, and with the help of her team, Melissa made progress. She moved to a wheelchair, then to a walker, then with Jubilee staff close by, walking on her own.

We encouraged her to run for an elected position on Jubilee's Client Council, and she campaigned hard and won! It was a great feeling for all of us to see her start to enjoy life again.



*"I love to walk now. I walked on the beach without falling down, without a wheelchair. Jubilee helped me believe in myself again." – Melissa Cory*

Now Melissa tells us "I'm happy I'm not in a wheelchair anymore."

Today, Hannah proudly calls Melissa a social butterfly. They love going to the park, meeting friends at the mall, and participating in Jubilee programs like the beach trip.

**Melissa got her confidence back. And with it, her ability to walk.**

## Your Donations Support Community Engagement at Jubilee



Mary Amoji-Ogar and Todd Locke bond on the beach trip.

Because of your generosity, Jubilee hosts outings, classes, and special events like the beach trip, to give every person supported by Jubilee a sense of belonging.

Our Community Engagement department is funded 100 percent by your donations. Thank you for your support!

**Donate securely online at [www.jubileemd.org/donate](http://www.jubileemd.org/donate)**

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