

*Creating Community Jubilee Priority*

## New Community Engagement Department Launched

*Made Possible by Your Donations*

“After the pandemic, never again should we take each other for granted. Isolation and loneliness must be replaced by inclusion and belonging,” said Jubilee Executive Director Steve Keener.

For the first time, Jubilee has created a Community Engagement department to:

- Create programs for the people we support,
- Connect volunteers based on shared interests,
- Plan special events with our Client Council.

You make this effort possible. Donations help fund employee positions in this department.

This summer, new in-person programs include hiking, art, and tai chi classes. Virtual programming remains strong. Programs are updated often, such as a new daily



*“We’re going to focus on helping people find their place of belonging,” said Jubilee’s new director of community engagement Julia McCune. (Right, with Sarah Glenner)*

meditation. This variety of opportunities to engage helps everyone feel welcome.

“We’re excited to build on Jubilee’s reputation as a caring community,” said Steve Keener. “We will tolerate the pandemic of loneliness no more than we tolerate COVID-19.”

*Planning for a Bright Future*

## You Make New Giving Society a Success

*Thank you Champions of Inclusion!*



*Joyful singing by Liz Grimberg, Foster Bennett, Brandon Bell, and Monica Williams kicked off the Champions of Inclusion Breakfast.*

*Thank you to our sponsor DARCARS Automotive Group! Our Champions are honored by name at [jubileemd.org/champions-society](http://jubileemd.org/champions-society). Thank you!*

This Spring, Jubilee launched a brand-new multi-year giving society, Champions of Inclusion. The response from you fills our hearts with gratitude.

At our first-annual Champions of Inclusion breakfast, guests were uplifted by our vision for a more inclusive future. And, how you can help achieve it.

Together, we rejoiced in the personal triumphs of the people we support. We heard firsthand Khalil’s journey to living independently, and how Kate finally found a loving home. How Stephen overcame COVID with his support staff by his side.

Each founding member of Champions of Inclusion pledged to donate \$1,000 or more to Jubilee for the next five years. Collectively, you gave over \$500,000 to support adults with disabilities. These funds allow us to undertake initiatives like our new Community Engagement department.

To learn more, contact Trish Bailey, Director of Development at [tbailey@jubileemd.org](mailto:tbailey@jubileemd.org) or at (301) 949-8628 ext. 185.

## Finding Belonging and Community at Jubilee

*As told by Alex Rivas, Jubilee Client Council President*

When I was a young man, I was fighting my own demons. My parents gave me to my grandparents to raise when I was three years old. We fought a lot. As I got older, I made bad decisions.

Drinking. Drugs. I was lost.

When Jubilee started helping me, I was really defensive. I didn't understand they were trying to help me.

After a while, I realized the people at Jubilee cared about me.

Jubilee helped me get a job at a restaurant. I liked working. I lived in a group home for a while, but I'm a lone wolf. I like to be independent.

Jubilee helped me get my own apartment. I make my own decisions now. I live with my Jubilee counselor Femi. We like to go to 7-11 for coffee.

Femi likes to joke that he's my Chief of Staff because I'm the president of the Jubilee Client Council.

I love being president. I represent all the clients at Jubilee. I help run monthly meetings. I take my job seriously. I try



*"He's my friend. He helps me a lot," says Alex Rivas about Femi Fatunbi, his Jubilee support staff (Pictured left to right).*

to get everyone at Jubilee to participate in the activities to make friends.

Someone called me a role model recently. That really touched my heart. I never thought about myself like that before.

I love all the people here. I have friends who care about me. Thanks to Jubilee, I met my girlfriend Amy. Jubilee is my family now.

## A Safe Return to Happier Times Begins

### COVID-19 Update



As vaccinations increase and virus cases decrease, there's been a welcome return to seeing friends and family in person.

Currently, 97 percent of the people Jubilee supports are vaccinated. It is safe to resume many of the activities we've been missing during the pandemic if you are vaccinated.

If you have questions about what is safe, please refer to Jubilee's updated guidance on the COVID-19 page of our website.

*Mary Jo Wybierala and Ben Collins reunite with friends for a picnic.*

#### Jubilee Association of Maryland

10408 Montgomery Avenue  
Kensington, MD 20895

(301) 949-8626  
info@jubileemd.org

[www.jubileemd.org](http://www.jubileemd.org)

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