

Connections Newsletter

Spring 2021

Hope is Here

Majority of Jubilee Vaccinated Staff Work Through Snow & Ice to Inoculate

A sky-high 95 percent of the people Jubilee supports are now vaccinated against COVID-19. Our entire community pulled together to make this possible via our vaccination clinics.

Our first two clinics went forward in snow, ice and driving rain. Clinics were held at the Kensington Town Hall, which allowed us to space out and conduct 150 vaccinations in one day.

We heard from many people about what a positive — and even joyous — occasion the clinics were for our community. One mom said:

"It brought a smile to my face to see Steve Keener with that umbrella and clipboard in the freezing rain checking families in. The hand-holding that I experienced made me feel so good. It makes me realize that my adult children will be well cared for, and cared about, when I am no longer around."

Jubilee staff continue to get vaccinated at county-run clinics as essential health workers. More than two-thirds of our staff are vaccinated. This is a very strong start and helps keep our community safe. We encourage and expect more of our workforce to get vaccinated.



Adding vaccinations to our safety toolbox is a huge step forward as we begin to see light at the end of the tunnel.

Jubilee Plans for a Strong Future

Welcome Oscar Harrell Jubilee's First Chief Operating Officer



We're planning, growing, and positioning Jubilee for the future. One where more adults with disabilities live their best lives.

We're thrilled to introduce you to Oscar Harrell, Jubilee's new Chief Operating Officer! Oscar will oversee operations, finances, program services, and quality enhancement.

He was the Director of Finance and Operations at Special Olympics International. At the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership, he led parks and capital projects. Why My Family Supports Jubilee

Ongoing Monthly Donors Help Jubilee Budget for Success

"I donate monthly to Jubilee because I am so thankful for the care my daughter Laura receives from Jubilee. Her dream from the time she was 11 was to move into a home of her own. She has called Sandy Ridge home for many years, saying "Mom, I want to go home" after spending a day with me. I know, even with Early Onset Alzheimers, she will be cared for by Jubilee throughout her entire life and now throughout the COVID crisis.

I trust Laura's program manager Oyebusola Oworu and her counselors. I'm very happy and relieved that Laura got her COVID vaccine at the Jubilee clinic.

As a mother I couldn't ask for more!" — Barbara Elrod

To join Barbara as a monthly donor, go to **jubileemd.org/donate**. Check the box "Show my support by making this a recurring donation."

Margaret Welch's Journey to Independence As told by Jubilee's Aviva Bensimon

I met Margaret six years ago. She was 35. The youngest of six siblings. And dreaming of striking out on her own.

In her first apartment, she had roommates. They shared a bathroom, and each had a shelf in the refrigerator.

"What's your dream," I asked Margaret.
"Let me help take you there."

She said she wanted her own place. A key to her own mailbox. Privacy. Purpose. A job. A place to go. People to meet.

We set out to make her dreams come true.

Together we looked at apartments. Margaret had rescued a dog from Puerto Rico. Not all apartments allow dogs. We got Sweetie certified as Margaret's emotional support dog. Other Jubilee staff helped Margaret apply for and receive a housing voucher.

We found the ideal apartment for Margaret in Rockville. Near parks to walk Sweetie, a bus stop, and stores. Before COVID, Margaret and I enjoyed outdoor concerts at Rockville Town Square.

Margaret and I worked on her resume. Margaret loves people, kids, and pets. If you have a heartbeat, Margaret will love working with you. Margaret has been training at Sunflower Bakery. Her next dream is to get a

job in a retail shop helping customers.

"I like all the people who work at Jubilee," Margaret says. "They help me out with the supports I need to live independently. Like grocery shopping and budgeting. Now I know to look at the unit prices in the grocery store and use coupons to save money."

I would sum up my relationship with Margaret this way. If Margaret and I had one coupon for a burger, we would split that burger.





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Champions *of* **Inclusion Fundraising Breakfast**

Thursday, April 29, 2021 8:00-8:30 a.m. ♥ Virtual event

- Different from any other event we have ever done
- Totally free
- Only 30 minutes
- No requirement to donate
- Join us and find out about the great work we are doing!

For more info and to register, contact Trish Bailey:

tbailey@jubileemd.org (301) 949-8628 ext. 185

No formal invitation will follow

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