

Catalyst

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Summer 2024



Explore Some More

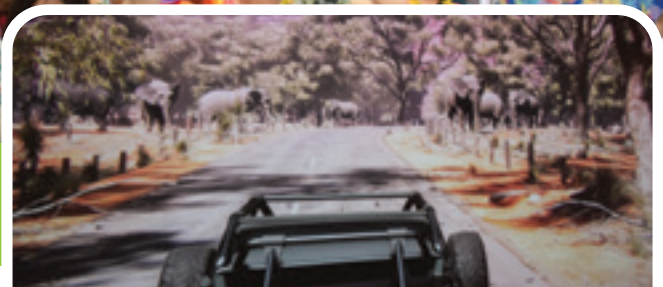
ACLD'S SECOND IMMERSIVE ROOM OPENS IN BETHPAGE

Following the popularity and success of the Zen Room at ACLD's B.L.U.E. (Balanced Living Unlimited Exploration) Day Program, ACLD has set its sights on bringing this state-of-the-art technology and experience to the Bethpage Day Program.

The new Immersive Room is in the Helen and Arthur Pashcow Day Services Center in Bethpage, home to several of ACLD's Day Habilitation Programs for adults with autism, learning and developmental disabilities. The space, designed by Patrick Classen of Besser E.Mersive, is specifically designed using advanced technology to create an environment that envelops the space and transports the user anywhere. "Research shows this technology's effects are positive in a variety of situations," said Donna Celardo, Senior Director of Day, Clinical, and Community Support Services for ACLD. "This emerging and promising technology will foster unlimited exploration and understanding of the world by bridging the physical and digital worlds."

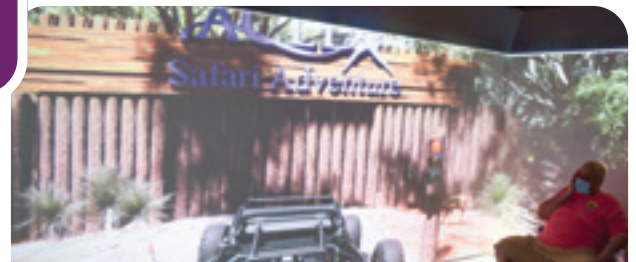


Greg Singh, Bethpage Day Program Participant, and staff, John DeFrancisci, enjoying some serene time in the garden.



The safari experience begins with a breathtaking view of a herd of elephants.

This Immersive Room was a direct result of fundraising efforts led by Linda Yaccarino and Chris Czarkowski of the ACLD Foundation Board of Directors, as well as donations made by the Nassau County Bar Association's We Care Fund, The Marilyn Lichtman Foundation, the H.W. Wilson Foundation, as well as the 11th Annual Long Island Imagine Awards, where ACLD received a grant as winners of the Flagstar Bank Innovation Award for their work with the Immersive Rooms. By bringing the Immersive Room experience to the Bethpage Day Program, ACLD continues to pioneer innovative approaches to support and enrich the lives of individuals with autism and developmental disabilities.



Adults in the Bethpage Day Habilitation Program have the ability to drive through a safari, completely customized for ACLD.

Jackpot!

ACLD WINS BIG AT POKER FOR A PURPOSE EVENT

This spring, poker and casino players from near and far gathered at the Heritage Club at Bethpage for the 6th Annual ACLD Foundation Poker for a Purpose Poker and Casino Event. Funds raised at Poker for a Purpose directly support ACLD's Residential Vacation Fund. The event honored David Gussin, publisher of 516Ads.com.

A major highlight of the evening was when Graham Green, a resident of ACLD, took to the podium to share his experiences on ACLD vacations. "It's important to get away from your normal routine and have new experiences," said Green. "It's also nice to make new memories with my friends. Thanks to your generosity and support, residents will have the opportunity to make memories on vacation this year." As Green thanked the audience and began to leave the podium, the crowd erupted in applause, giving him a standing ovation.

Competition was fierce on the poker floor, with over 100 players participating in the poker tournament. The night's big winners were Charlie Mazzocchi in first place, winning the grand prize entry to a Borgata Open and hotel stay in Atlantic City; Gustavo Marin in second place, winning an overnight stay at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City for two, and Scott Tirone in third place, winning

“It's important to get away from your normal routine and have new experiences.”

a Movado watch donated by SVS Fine Jewelry. The Casino Tournament winners included Maggie Faraq in first place, winning a 65" Smart TV, Scott Rosenthal in second place and Phil Byer in third place, each winning a bottle of Don Julio Reposado. The event raised \$79,000 and had more than 160 guests in attendance. Major sponsors for Poker for a Purpose included **Ace Sponsor** Community Care Rx. **Poker Table Sponsors** Alliance Building Services; Merritt Environmental Consulting Corp.; Suris & Associates, P.C.; Zwanger Pesiri Radiology. **King Sponsors** Citizen's Bank; CBA- Conceive, Believe, Achieve; Lessing's Hospitality Group; M&T Bank; **Queen Sponsors** Camps'R'Us; Crestcom; Fusion Architecture, LLC; Disaster Cleanup Services, Inc.; Jovia Financial Credit Union; Lever & Ecker,



Graham Green (at the podium) with President/CEO Rob Ciatto at the 6th Annual Poker for a Purpose Poker and Casino Event. Photography courtesy of Alex Wolff Photography.

PLLC; Mineola Lions Club; Sandbar Builders, LLC. **Jack Sponsors** A&C Pest Management; ASG&C, Inc.; CMYK Print Group, Inc.; Eagle Group Planning, Inc.; Enterprise Fleet Management; Frankel Staffing Partners; isolved; PG Environmental Services, Inc.; PMG Strategic, Inc.; Rosenthal Law, LLC; Schulman Insurance.



The two top winners of the Poker for a Purpose tournament: Charlie Mazzocchi (left), taking home the top prize, and Gustavo Marin (right), taking home second place. Photography courtesy of Alex Wolff Photography.

A Tee-riffic Day



President/CEO Rob Ciatto (left) with Hossam Maksoud, PharmD (right), Chief Executive Officer of Community Care Rx and Honoree at the 2024 Annual Golf Outing. Photography courtesy of Sean Sime Photography.

In June, ACLD golfers and supporters hit the links at the Glen Head Country Club in Glen Head for the ACLD Foundation's Annual Golf Outing. The event was a huge success, raising a record-breaking \$163,000 for the exclusive benefit of ACLD.

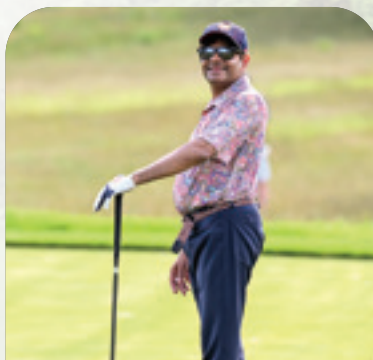
The outing honored Hossam Maksoud, PharmD, Chief Executive Officer of Community Care Rx, a unique long-term pharmacy that provides comprehensive pharmacy services to assisted living facilities, skilled nursing facilities, Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) residential facilities, and other long-term care providers. "Hossam and his company have been supporting our events over the past several years, attending our Golf Outing, our Envious Life Ball and other events, long before we ever called him a business partner," said Rob Ciatto, President/CEO of ACLD. "His commitment to the field of developmental disabilities is evident in the work he does day in and day out to provide vital pharmaceutical services in the industry."

A very special highlight took place during the reception when ACLD resident Coleen Mackin took to the podium. Mackin has received services from ACLD's Residential Program since 2016 and is an avid member of the intellectual and developmental disability community. "I love the ladies I live with and how close our house is to my job," said Mackin. "Agencies like ACLD help people like me every day, to get involved in their community, find jobs and activities, and to provide a great quality of life. By supporting today's golf outing, you are helping to make sure ACLD's mission continues."

Major sponsors for the Annual Golf Outing included **Presenting Sponsor** Pilot R|B. **Tournament Sponsor** Community Care Rx. **Ace Sponsor** Alliance Brokerage Corp. **Eagle Sponsors** Lamb Insurance Services; Drs. Usha and Shashi Patel. **Beverage Sponsor** Irwin Siegel Agency. **Golf Ball Sponsor** Haystack Financial Planning. **Birdie Sponsors** A&C Pest Management; ADP; Coupa; Fusion Architecture, PLLC/Performance Contracting of Long Island; M&T Bank; NBCUniversal; Valley Bank; Webster Bank. **Cigar Sponsor** Sandbar Builders, LLC. **Auction Sponsor** Alan and Ellen Spiegel. **Breakfast Sponsors** Enterprise Fleet Management; GTS Builders Supply Inc.



Ben Senders (left) of Pilot R|B, Presenting Sponsor for the Annual Golf Outing, enjoying the beautiful day of golf along side Paul Davilman (left of center), Greg Mendelson (right of center) and Dahlian Porter (right). Photography courtesy of Sean Sime Photography.



Sameer Patel enjoys the beautiful weather out on the Glen Head Country Club golf course. Photography courtesy of Sean Sime Photography.



"I believe the most important thing we can do in life is to help others find and use their voices to advocate for what they want in life," said Coleen Mackin of her work in the intellectual and developmental disability community. Photography courtesy of Sean Sime Photography.

Ways to Give

HOW YOU CAN BE PART OF ACLD'S MISSION IN ACTION

1

Life Insurance Policies can name ACLD Foundation as the beneficiary and irrevocable owner of a given policy. Such gifts to the ACLD foundation are valued at their interpolated terminal reserve value or cash surrender value at the time they are received, and any additional premium payments a donor makes will be recorded by the Foundation as a gift in the years they are made. Retirement plans can also include ACLD Foundation as the beneficiary.

2

Matching Gift Programs allow donors to increase the size of their donations to ACLD, while boosting the charitable giving of their employers or companies. Ask your employer if they offer a matching gift program.

3

Gifts of Appreciated Stock give donors the opportunity to make donations of publicly traded securities and/or closely held securities. Donated stocks, held for more than a year, may offer donors substantial tax savings because by donating stock rather than selling it, donors can avoid capital gains tax.

4

Planned Giving helps donors use their estate planning process to ensure the futures of those supported through ACLD, while providing valuable tax benefits to their loved ones. Consider supporting future generations of children and adults with disabilities through a bequest in your will, trust or other planned giving instrument.

For more information, call **Aimee Keegan**,
Chief Development and Marketing Officer
516-822-0028 ext. 206 or keegana@acld.org



Gifts that Keep Giving



ACLD's path of recognition is located in the courtyard.

Along with the many ways you can be a part of ACLD's mission in action, there are also two giving opportunities that allow donors to leave a permanent mark on ACLD.

Leave your mark on the ACLD Foundation through the **Brick Campaign**, a new recognition program at the Fay J. Lindner Family Complex in Bethpage offering permanent donor recognition. Commemorate a special occasion, honor a loved one, or celebrate a milestone by engraving a brick or paver in the beautiful courtyard gardens adjacent to ACLD's administrative offices in the Fay J. Lindner Center. For more information and to purchase a brick, please visit acld.org/bricks.



By supporting the ACLD Foundation's Generator Campaign, you will help to not only ensure the safety of our residences, but offer the residents peace of mind knowing they can keep to their daily routines and responsibility without the concern of a power outage.

The Generator Campaign gives donors the power to protect our more than 400 residents in our residential program from storm surges, heat waves and other deadly environmental circumstances our area has seen. These actions will help to ensure the safety of our ACLD homes and will allow us to continue in pursuit of enviable lives for the adults and children we support. Since its kickoff in 2021, the generator campaign has successfully raised funds for 14 generators. The ACLD Foundation is proud to be more than halfway to its goal, but it needs your support to complete this project and provide all ACLD residences with the reassurance a generator can bring. To donate today, please visit acld.org/generators.

Commemorative Gifts

11/8/2023 THROUGH 5/16/2024

In Honor Of:

Stephen Graham

Edward J. Eder

In Honor Of:

Carol Hoexter's Birthday

Rita Engel

In Honor Of:

Paula Meyers-Silverman's 90th Birthday

Natalie and Aaron Einstein

Ellie Goodman

Arlene Sklar

In Honor Of:

Joseph J. Ortego, Esq.

Jason Dolin

In Memory Of:

Marilynn Baena

Anne and Tom Emmerson

In Memory Of:

Linda Blitzer

Donald Rosenbaum

In Memory Of:

Betty Blum

Alan and Ellen Spiegel

In Memory Of:

Virginia Bradley

Rita Engel

In Memory Of:

Lucy Chiaramonte

Tillene Pinsker

In Memory Of:

Clara Maria DelVecchio

Anne and Tom Emmerson

In Memory Of:

Steve DelVecchio

Anne and Tom Emmerson

In Memory Of:

Yvonne DeNigris

Anne and Tom Emmerson

In Memory Of:

Leonard Denbin

Carol Lever and Roy Grover

In Memory Of:

Peter Dorn

Dix Hills Parent Association

Ernest and Pat Gonzalez

Nancy and Dale Tynan

In Memory Of:

Lewis Dye

Edward J. Eder

In Memory Of:

Louis R. Ferrara

Heather Rogoff Angstreich

In Memory Of:

Helene Fried

Ellen and Paul Alexander

In Memory Of:

Jack Friedland

Paul, Ellen, Alan and

Michael Alexander

In Memory Of:

Adrienne Green

Graham Green

In Memory Of:

Bruna Lagana

Anne and Tom Emmerson

In Memory Of:

Marilyn Abel Levy

Ellen and Paul Alexander

In Memory Of:

David Miller

Larry Lyons

In Memory Of:

Ted Nehls

Edward J. Eder

In Memory Of:

Richard Pokowitz

Anne and Tom Emmerson

In Memory Of:

Benjamin Rosof

Carole Annenberg

Marc D. Engel

Rita Engel

In Memory Of:

J. Stanley Shaw

Richard and Nathalie

Paladino

In Memory Of:

Diane Skaar

Anne and Tom Emmerson

In Memory Of:

Luz Thompson's Mother

Carol Lever and Roy Grover

In Memory Of:

Lonnie Tishman

Jerome and Aggie Wohl

In Memory Of:

Annette Walsh

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Church

In Memory Of:

Pat Williams

Nancy Minicucci

The Savino Family

Elizabeth Thoma

In Memory Of:

George Wilson

Anne and Tom Emmerson

In Memory Of:

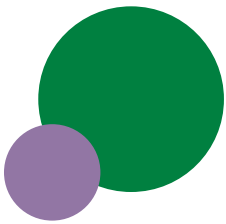
Robert Yaccarino

Richard Breuninger

In Memory Of:

Katie Zabronsky

Carol Lever and Roy Grover



The Best is Yet to Come

For the last 33 years, Robert Emmerson has woken up every day at 4:00 AM. For many, the notion of sleeping in after retirement is one of the biggest perks, but not Robert. “I still get up early, I’m used to it.”



Robert Emmerson seen here with Marianne Patino, Director of Nutrition and Food Services Department.

Recently, Robert retired after 33 years as a Food Service Worker at the Nassau University Medical Center. Robert began working there at 22, after his mother, Anne Emmerson, a member of ACLD’s Board of Directors, reached out to their Human Resources Department. At the time, the medical center did not have any openings, but Anne and Robert were encouraged to continue to keep in touch in case anything came along. “I probably called every two weeks for three months,” said Anne, laughing. Finally, their perseverance paid off, and a position was available in the Food Service division.

Transitioning into the workplace had its own challenges for Robert, but fortunately, he had ACLD’s Vocational Program to support him. In his first decade at the medical center, Robert worked with job coaches to help develop time and stress management skills to help him acclimate to his role in Food Services. His job coaches were also integral in helping Robert navigate interpersonal situations and helped him develop the ability to advocate for himself. After graduating from the Vocational Program, Robert continued to make great strides in his role, with the reassurance of knowing his job coaches were always there if he ever needed them.

In the Food Service division, Robert held many responsibilities. “I would go into a patient’s room and check their bracelet to make sure their name matches the food tray. If it didn’t match or their bracelet said NPO, I would go to the nursing staff,” said Robert. Robert’s responsibilities took him all over the hospital, interacting with patients, families, and other personnel. “I knew it (the medical center) like the back of my hand.”

During Robert’s tenure at the hospital, he worked under four different bosses. Along with the support of ACLD’s job coaches, Robert’s bosses and other supervisory staff members were key factors in his success in the position. In 2011, Robert was awarded the Thomas Choma Longevity Award at ACLD’s Employment Recognition Breakfast.

Just before his retirement, the staff at Nassau University Medical Center threw Robert a surprise retirement party, a difficult feat as Robert knew just about everything going on in the medical center. “I knew something was happening,” he joked. What surprised him was that many of his former bosses and supervisory staff, who had moved onto other positions or retired themselves, made their way back to celebrate Robert’s achievements. Alongside Robert’s coworkers were also his family, who were so excited to be part of such a special celebration. “We are really so very proud, you know?” said Anne. “It took a lot, but he persevered and ended up really loving it once he was comfortable.”

Robert has several ideas on how to fill his time post-retirement. Robert is a Eucharistic Minister at St. Kilian Parish in Farmingdale. With his newfound free time, Robert looks forward to volunteering more in the parish. Robert is also an Officer of the Council for the Knights of Columbus in Farmingdale, where he attends many events and meetings. Robert is also an avid baker, so he hopes to spend more time in the kitchen making some of his favorite recipes for family and friends. Most of all, Robert hopes to check off a bucket list item: a cruise to Alaska with his family. Looking back on his 33 years at Nassau University Medical Center, Robert is grateful for the stability and security his hard work has given him in his retirement. “Now, I am set for life.”



Robert Emmerson with his cake at his surprise retirement party.



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ABOUT ADULTS AND CHILDREN WITH LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, INC. (ACLD):

Founded in 1957, ACLD is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit agency whose mission is to provide opportunities to children and adults with autism, learning and developmental disabilities to pursue enviable lives, promote independence and foster supportive relationships within the community. ACLD employs more than 1,300 people and operates more than 100 program sites including community residences and apartment programs across Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Services include early childhood services, day habilitation, residential alternatives, vocational training and job placement, respite, family support services, and occupational, speech and physical therapies.

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www.acld.org

Save the Date

UPCOMING EVENTS

LEADERSHIP AWARD
Honoring:
Jovia Financial
Credit Union

The Garden City Hotel • Garden City, New York
October 10, 2024

To register visit EnviousLifeBall.org

ENTER TO WIN
a once-in-a-lifetime
Super Bowl 2025
experience for you
and a friend!

WINNER WILL RECEIVE:

- Two tickets to **Super Bowl 2025** on 2/9/25 at Caesars Superdome in New Orleans, LA
- Round trip airfare for two
- Hotel stay for three days, two nights

TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

📞 516-822-0028 EXT. 163

✉️ pietrowskig@acld.org

There are no online sales for this promotion. Purchases must be made via phone or email.

RAFFLE TICKET: \$150

Raffle drawing will be held at the Envious Life Ball on October 10, 2024.

Winner does not need to be present to win. There are no online sales for this promotion. Purchases must be made via phone or email. All proceeds will benefit the ACLD Foundation.

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