

## ***Recognizing Direct Support Professional Week:***

### ***Professional Week:***

CODI would like to recognize Direct Support Professional Week. Direct Support Professional (DSP) Week is from September 11 to 17, 2022. DSPs are a crucial part of our organization and society, empowering and advocating for the individuals we serve. Through the work of DSPs, individuals with mental health and developmental disabilities can reach their full potential and access their fundamental human rights in and out of the community.

Thank you, DSPs, for all your hard work!

### ***CODI Direct Support Professionals as of September 11, 2022:***

Megan Ballard-Sekel, Brittany Battle, Shamia Birkett, Nichelle Bryant, Nicole Burnett, Paul Campos, Chara Carter-Ali, Marilyn Carter, Ryan Carter, Cynthia Chapple, Tracy Cheeseborough, Janna Beth Cobb, Cynthia Corneal, Mojisola Dabney, Ashley Diieno, Taylor Egan, Theresa Egan, Lisa Fiorentino, Ruth Gifford, Carl Goepf, Wayne Greer Jr, Morrel Hamidullah, Simone Henry, Jennifer Henry-Jones, Brielle Hervey, Erica Hunt, Nettie Johnson, Iesha Jones, Rashad Jordan, Shakira Jordan, Charlene Kelly, Marvin Laws, Leonard Lomax, Carmen Lorenzo-Rodriguez, Renee MacBride-Cerullo, Yuet Man, Audbrey Massler, Jada McClellan, Wendy McManus, Oboteh Muniyeneh, Johnita Murray, Tara Nefferdorf, Emily Nguyen, Kenneth Oertel, Adam Preston, Annie Reid, Jessica Rice, Kevin Rider, Laquel Robinson, Orlando Robinson, Tiffany Small, Claudia Suriano, Corey Thompson, Esta-Beth Wentz, Peter J White, Rhonda Wilkes, Shellie Williams-Lewis, Nancy Wray, Saw-Yen Wright, Rossitza Zlateva

### ***Join Our JEDI Committee:***

Join our JEDI Committee! Our JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) committee meets to discuss how we can help embrace and respect the traits and characteristics that make us unique. If you wish to join the JEDI committee, please get in touch with **Robyn (rmcanulty@njcodi.org)** or **Jennifer (jyun@njcodi.org)**.

## ***CODI Relations: Nick & Ellen***

As we highlight the individuals and partners of CODI, we would like to showcase the relationship between CODI Resident Nick and former board member Ellen. Our CODI Pride team had the great privilege of speaking with Nick and Ellen to discuss their companionship.

Nick and Ellen first met in 2015, and their relationship has grown. When asked what Ellen means to him, Nick responded, "She's like a mom to me... Ellen is a good person and always there when needed." In his interview, Nick expressed his gratitude and appreciation for Ellen. He shared how Ellen takes him out to concerts, restaurants, and grocery shopping, and he enjoys visiting her at her house and playing with her dogs.

In our conversation with Ellen, Ellen emphasized Nick's point of how they aren't just friends, but they are like family. Ellen recounted several memories with Nick and Ellen recently celebrated Nick's birthday last month. Nick happily recalled the event and mentioned how Ellen gifted him an Eminem album. Thank you, Nick, and Ellen, for sharing your story!

Have a CODI story to share? If so, email Robyn @ [rmcanulty@njcodi.org](mailto:rmcanulty@njcodi.org).



***Nick and Ellen***

## ***Cultural Diversity –***

### ***Hispanic Heritage Month:***

This month, we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Hispanic Heritage Month spans from September 15 to October 15, commemorating Hispanic Americans' history, culture, and achievements. September 15 is significant because it represents the independence anniversaries of Latin American countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras. The month also encompasses Mexican Independence Day (September 16), Chilean Independence Day (September 18), and the Día de la Raza (Day of the Races; October 12).

Hispanics are the largest minority group in America and have significantly contributed to US culture and economy. Notable figures include Cesar Chavez (Civil Rights Activist), Sonia Sotomayor (First Latina Justice on the Supreme Court), Roberto Clemente (First Hispanic Baseball Player inducted into the Hall of Fame), etc.

We will serve **chicken empanadas with rice and beans** to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Empanadas are hand-sized pies stuffed with a savory or sweet filling. The dish originates from Spain and is popular in Portugal, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Philippines.

Do you have a cultural recipe to share?

If so, submit your recipes with their cultural significance to **Robyn @ [rmcanulty@njcodi.org](mailto:rmcanulty@njcodi.org)**. Individuals who share their recipes and are highlighted in CODI Pride will receive a \$25 gift card.



### ***CODI Innovations:***

Do you have an innovation that you believe would benefit CODI operations? If so, submit your ideas to Robyn @ [rmcanulty@njcodi.org](mailto:rmcanulty@njcodi.org). Individuals who have innovations that are implemented and highlighted in CODI Pride will receive a \$50 gift card.

## ***CODI Pride Trivia:***

Let's play CODI Pride Trivia! To play, please email **Robyn @ [rmcanulty@njcodi.org](mailto:rmcanulty@njcodi.org)** and **CC Jennifer [jyun@njcodi.org](mailto:jyun@njcodi.org)**. With the growing number of trivia responses, trivia will now operate in a lottery system. Individuals must submit their answers by noon Friday, and those with the correct answers will enter a raffle, in which we will select four winners. All readers are open to play. Congrats to our previous winners: **Megan, Joanne, Nichelle, and Johnita!**

1. As mentioned in our newsletters, CODI is looking to expand its JEDI committee. What does JEDI stand for?
2. In the last newsletter, we highlighted CODI's Resident artist, who showcased his artistic talent at the Somers Point Art in the Park 2022 Show. Who is he?
3. For their internship wrap-up, Brianne and Samantha spoke about RSI. What does RSI stand for?
4. List one of the CODI Renovations from the July Pride our facilities team helped complete.

### ***\*\*Note:***

Know someone who would like to read our newsletter? Interested in playing trivia but can't find the previous newsletters? Great news! Our newsletters are available online at [www.njcodi.org](http://www.njcodi.org) under the Newsletter tab. For further assistance, feel free to contact Jennifer at [jyun@njcodi.org](mailto:jyun@njcodi.org).

## ***Birthdays and Anniversaries***



**Taylor Egan**  
**Renee MacBride-Cerullo**  
**Helene McIntyre**  
**Emily Nguyen**  
**Carmen Rodriguez-Lorenzo**  
**Esta-Beth Wentz**  
**Peter White**



**Yuet Man 2 years**  
**Lisa Lewis 6 years**  
**Dave Shipman 6 years**  
**Jamal Waitman 4 years**  
**Nakia Ward 3 years**  
**Kayla W 6 years**  
**Jennifer Yun 1 year**