



# INDEPENDENT



JULY/AUGUST, 2023

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## A Letter From Scooby

Hi everyone! I think most of you have met or seen me. I am Scooby, and Anthony (my human) and I work at RCAL and have been all around Ulster County together teaching Bingocize (Bingo + exercise) classes, working with the Office for the Aging, visiting our community partners and participating in community activities. I was so excited to march in the Children's Day Parade with RCAL and even more excited to participate in the first Kingston Disability Awareness Parade! A Yowling good time was had by all and there were horses, motorcycles, bicycles, floats, balloons, bubbles and so much woofing fun. I hope you didn't miss it, but if you did, make sure you come out and wag your tail at us or walk with us next year.

Next up is the RCAL 40th Anniversary (yes 40th Anniversary) Dinner and I am so excited I can't stop my tail from moving when I think about it! There will be good food, dancing, a silent auction and a howling good time. I hope you come and join us to celebrate all the years of our wonderful work here in the Ulster County Community on September 7th at 6pm here at RCAL. Go to [www.rcal.org/events2023](http://www.rcal.org/events2023) to get more information and purchase tickets. Anthony is reminding me to tell you that there are three different priced tickets, but they are all the same. Pick the price you can afford. If you need to pay a little less or can't pay at all, but really want to be there, please just call the office and ask for Marge or Tina, tell them that Scooby Doo invited you and you would like to be put on the special guest list. I (woof, woof) will do my best to find you a ticket (I have been selling my tongue paintings lately). I hope to see you there, we are going to wag the night away.

Scooby Doo

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## RCAL Hosts Kingston's First Disability Awareness Parade



RCAL and Harambee Kingston would like to thank the following organizations and individuals for their enthusiastic support and for joining our first Disability Awareness Parade! Peoples Place, Ulster County Executive Jen Metzger, Assemblymember Sarahanna Shrestha, Barbara Hill, the New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL), RUPCO, Mentor Me of Ulster County, the City of Kingston, the Kingston City Police Department, Health and Wellness, the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), Westchester Disabled On the Move (WDOM), the Ulster County Italian American Foundation, Gateway Industries, Wraparound Services, Kavanah, My Kingston Kids, the Center for Creative Education, Sunrise Inc, the Bruderhof and Mayor Nobel's Office. It was a great event. Come out and participate next year!



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## Americans With Disabilities Act 33rd Year Anniversary

July 26, 2023 marked the 33rd year anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). What is the ADA?

The ADA is a civil rights law. From voting to parking, the ADA protects people with disabilities in many areas of public life. The ADA is divided into five parts or "titles." Each title covers a different aspect of protection and accommodation for people with disabilities.

### **Title I. Employment**

Employers must provide people with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from the employment-related opportunities available to others. This includes recruitment, hiring, promotions, training, pay and social activities.

### **Title II. State and Local Government**

State and local governments must provide people with disabilities an equal opportunity to benefit from all of their programs, services and activities.

### **Title III. Public Accommodations**

Businesses must provide people with disabilities an equal opportunity to access the goods or services that they offer.

### **Title IV. Telecommunications**

Telephone companies must provide services to allow callers with hearing and speech disabilities to communicate.

### **Title V. Miscellaneous Provisions**

The ADA also includes other requirements for how to implement the law. Examples of these requirements include:

- Prohibiting retaliation against a person who has asserted their rights under the ADA.
- Stating that a person with a disability is not required to accept an aid or accommodation if they do not want to.
- Authorizing courts to award attorneys' fees to the winning party in a lawsuit under the ADA.
- Directing certain federal agencies to issue guidance explaining the law.

**Learn More** Source: National Disability Institute (NDI)

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## Children's Day Parade

RCAL staff joined members of the community to march in the 53rd annual Children's Day Parade in the City of Kingston hosted by the City's Department of Parks and Recreation. Marchers traveled down Broadway on Friday, July 14 to celebrate Summer with this year's theme "Out of This World" [Photo credits - Daily Freeman/Tania Barricklo]



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## New York Caring Majority Survey Seeking Input on Policy Priorities

A new online survey developed by the New York Caring Majority is looking to learn from home care recipients and their workers about the policies they think might best improve their lives.

The NY Caring Majority is a movement of older adults, disabled people, home care workers and family caregivers working to end the home care crisis in New York State. They have been working to increase the pay of home care workers as a way to end NY's home care worker shortage. Whether you are a home care recipient, a family caregiver (you support someone who receives home care, or provide it yourself), a nursing home resident, a home care worker or a case manager - they want to know: what changes to our home care system would change your life for the better? If you aren't currently impacted by the home care crisis, we want to know which policy initiatives you would be motivated to work on.

Access the brief 5-minute survey at the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdRI9gMXWirKz9seHtEqcd1Xav4Q3HoRSWuYPBVP9XfXrGLvw/viewform>

Learn more about the Caring Majority at <https://www.nycaringmajority.org/>



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# *Safety First!!!*

## FREE FIRE ALARMS



**The American Red Cross Eastern New York Office**

will install up to three **free** smoke detectors in your home through the Home Fire Campaign. Call the Poughkeepsie office at **(845) 471-0200** and leave your contact information.

# WE ARE HIRING

## ACCESS-VR Career Coordinator- Full Time

RCAL's Vocational Team supports individuals with disabilities to find and maintain employment. A valid NYS driver's license is required. RCAL staff work to deliver a variety of programs and services to strengthen a person's skills and guide them through the career development process. This is an exciting opportunity for anyone who is looking for a rewarding job in the human services field. All interested candidates must have experience providing career service and supporting people with disabilities; a four year college degree is required. Submit resume and cover letter through Indeed. RCAL operates in accordance with the conviction that people with disabilities can and should make their own choices and decisions, and take control of all aspects of daily living, including education, employment, housing, health care, recreation, etc.

**Qualifications:** Master's Degree in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling or related area such as personnel, counseling and guidance. OR a Bachelor's degree and enrollment in a Master's Degree in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling or related area such as personnel, counseling and guidance. OR a Bachelor's degree and two years experience providing vocational assessment services to youth and adults.  
Salary:\$40,000-\$57,000 Schedule:Monday-Friday

**MORE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE!**

**APPLY ON INDEED OR  
ON RCAL.ORG**





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## Ulster County Fair Hosts Sensory Safe Space

I am so excited to share that the Sensory Safe Space at the Ulster County Fair was a huge success! It was utilized by fairgoers of all ages and abilities. The goal was to provide a safe space for families to take a break from the bright lights, noise, crowds, and summer heat. I was able to supervise the space for 20 hours throughout the 6 days of the fair and witnessed how appreciated it was. We had over 350 people visit, including officials from other County Fairs across the state to see how they could do the same for their fair. A parent sent the following text to one of the committee members saying, "My son loved it and it allowed us to be at the fair for 5 hours because he was able to take breaks. Without the space, we would have only lasted 2 hours. The Sensory Safe Space was amazing and a great idea all fairs should have!"

Renee Falanga-Brenner: RCAL Special Education Advocate



Far Left: Renee with daughter Serena Brenner and others



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## Office of the Aging BBQ Summer Splash

On July 26th, RCAL's joined the Ulster County Office For the Aging for their BBQ Summer Splash for seniors at Lippman Park, in Wawarsing. There were many booths and food was served to all, including hamburgers, macaroni salad, cole slaw, along with watermelon and brownies.

RCAL donated a basket that was raffled off. It was filled with Summer time treats, like ice pops, flip flops, beach balls, sunglasses and more.





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**FRANCIS PFLYNN**  
certified public accountant



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