



# INDEPENDENT



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2023  
YOUR INDEPENDENCE IS OUR MISSION

## A Letter From The Director

Wow! What a Fantastic year of celebrations we have had for our 40th Anniversary. Scooby and I have had a blast working, meeting, partying and marching with you.

From the BBQ's to the Parade to the Anniversary Dinner, where our Founder Joan Gunderson was present, we had a great time. Joan expressed great joy that we still have such an impact on our community here in Ulster County.

Our final event is our Friendraiser on November 2nd. Don't miss the fun, hors d'oeuvres, pasta station, dancing, silent auction and cash bar from 6pm to 8:30pm at Stonehedge Restaurant in West Park. Tickets are available at [www.rcal.org/events2023](http://www.rcal.org/events2023)

Anthony Mignone



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RCAL's 2nd annual

# FRIENDRAISER

**NOVEMBER 2, 2023**

**6:00PM**

**STONEHEDGE RESTAURANT**

**1694 ROUTE 9W WEST PARK, NY 12493**

**PURCHASE TICKETS AT [RCAL.ORG](http://RCAL.ORG)**

If you would like to donate to RCAL for our silent auction, please contact [tbogart@rcal.org](mailto:tbogart@rcal.org) or (845) 331-0541 ext. 20

Ulster County  
Regional  
Chamber of  
Commerce

With the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce, we invite you for a cocktail party featuring horsd'oeuvres, pasta, music, and a silent auction!





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## Rehabilitation Act Celebrates 50 Years

September 26, 2023 marked the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the first civil rights legislation protecting disabled people from discrimination. It prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs receiving federal financial assistance or conducted by federal agencies, in federal employment, and in the employment practices of federal contractors. A powerful law in its own right, the Rehab Act also paved the way for the Americans with Disabilities Act and other advancements in disability rights.

In addition, the Rehab Act created the Independent Living Services program, the Centers for Independent Living program, and the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, all of which are part of ACL today. While there is still work to be done, the law shepherded a new era in disability rights and it serves as a cornerstone in a foundation we continue to build upon today.

Throughout September, partners across the federal government and in the disability community marked the anniversary of the Rehab Act with events, articles, and more to explore where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going next.

source: [acl.gov](https://acl.gov)

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## RCAL Joins Public in Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month

On Saturday, September 23, 2023, RCAL staff joined organizations across Ulster County gathered at the Center for Creative Education to celebrate the unique traditions of Hispanic culture. Participants included entertainers and performers (the Bard College string ensemble and the Dojo Dance Company), delicious food vendors, community organizations and nonprofits.



"I loved all of the beautiful dancers, singers, and various vendors. But what made this event truly special was seeing all of the families laughing and dancing together. It truly felt like the community came together in love and support of our Hispanic and Latinx community." - Harvest Middlebrook; Part-time Benefits Advisor



Photo- Daily Freeman



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## National Recovery Month

National Recovery Month (Recovery Month), which started in 1989, is a national observance held every September to promote and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the nation's strong and proud recovery community, and the dedication of service providers and communities who make recovery in all its forms possible.

SAMHSA (the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) aims to increase public awareness surrounding mental health and addiction recovery. In the years since Recovery Month launched, SAMHSA has timed announcements of initiatives and grant funding during Recovery Month, while collaborating with private and public entities to celebrate individuals during their long-term recoveries.

For more go to: <https://www.samhsa.gov/recovery-month>

September is:

October is:

National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month

Hispanic Heritage Month

National Voter Registration Month

ADHD Awareness Month

National Preparedness Month

LGBTG+ History Month

National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Breast Cancer Awareness Month



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## Ulster County Legislature Passes ThinkDIFFERENTLY

ThinkDIFFERENTLY first began in 2015 in Dutchess County, to create a supportive and welcoming environment for those living with special needs.

On October 17, the Ulster County Legislature passed Resolution 555, adopting the ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative "to assist and support individuals with special needs and their families." The resolution is a proactive step that highlights disability inclusion and encourages the County Executive to take measures to make information and resources on support services more available to businesses and residents.

The Think DIFFERENTLY initiative's goal is, "to provide a supportive and inclusive environment for individuals of all abilities by supporting community events that expand family friendly opportunities for people with special needs and their families."

[Read Resolution 555 here](#)



Photo: RCAL Special Education Advocate Renee Flanigan-Brenner with daughter Serena Brenner and Sponsors Gina Hansut (R) and Megan Sperry (D)



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## RCAL Recognized at Annual Italian American Festival

On October 8, residents gathered at Kingston's Rondout Waterfront to celebrate the Ulster County Italian Festival hosted by the Ulster County Italian American Foundation.

Attendees enjoyed genuine Italian food, traditional music and dance, storytelling, speeches and more.

In recognition of his work in the community, RCAL CEO Anthony Mignone was awarded the Foundation's Community Service Award. A proclamation was presented to Anthony by New York State Senator Michelle Hinchey.



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# WE ARE HIRING

Part Time Respite Provider-Respite is a service that provides relief to family members who are responsible for the primary care and support of an individual with a developmental disability. RCAL is seeking caring providers to spend time with wonderful individuals in a one on one environment at the individual's home.

If you have any questions about the position or if your not sure if your experience can be considered please feel free to call Leah Gherardi the program Supervisor. 845-331-0541 ext. 27 Email Resume to [lgherardi@rcal.org](mailto:lgherardi@rcal.org).

Part-Time Community Habilitation Support Staff Community Habilitation is a service which provides experience and skill development to individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities who live at home, in order that they may live more independently. If you have any questions about the position or if you're not sure if your experience can be considered please feel free to contact Leah Gherardi, program Supervisor, at [lgherardi@rcal.org](mailto:lgherardi@rcal.org).

**MORE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE!**

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







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## SPONSOR RCAL'S NEWSLETTER



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Kingston

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Ulster County Regional  
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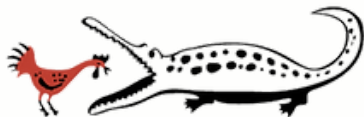
# VIKING PACKAGING

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# 40 YEARS

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