

Langley's Latest



Keeping you **informed** about how we're making a **difference** in people's lives . . .

Winter 2023

Fresh Beginnings Set Hopeful and Inspiring Tone for 2023

A note from the Executive Director

It has happened again – Langley has been keeping up with a flurry of activities since the beginning of the year, and we are already into March! With many newsworthy announcements included in this message, I hope you share my feelings that the diligence and hard work of our caring staff, board, and whole LRSS family continues to bring positive outcomes for our residents and program participants. Starting with a special welcome.

We are thrilled that a new resident recently joined one of our group homes and is settling into his new environment very well. This is the first time in more than seven years since we've had availability in Langley's residential support program and signifies the strong health and vitality of our residents and the solid reputation we hold in the community. And the high demand for our services is something we haven't seen in a very long time.

To meet increasing needs from more neighbors with developmental disabilities, we announced in October that a new, sixth home is in the works. I am excited to be able to share more details of what that will look like and who will be supported. Please see the insert of this issue for additional details. We have a lot of work still to do, but like any important endeavor, the result will be so worth the effort.

Speaking of hard work and realizing the fruits of your labor, what a phenomenal effort all the Langley players are bringing to their practices for Special Olympics Basketball! Finally, our teams and coaches

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Langley Special Olympics Teams Return to Court for 2022-23 Season – Here Are Highlights from Players and Coaches!

What a thrill it's been for LRSS basketball players to return for the first season of Special Olympics Basketball since COVID prevented our participation the past two years. Langley's teams – the Lions and the Wizards – have been practicing since mid-December and started playing tournaments in January.



Basketball is such an incredible skill, which some players have been working at for 20 years and others playing for only a few years. At a recent practice, some players shared their thoughts on getting back on the court. Here's what they said:



What is your favorite thing about Special Olympics Basketball?

- "Shooting drills"
- "Good exercise"
- "Feels good to stretch"
- "Beating the men's team"
- "Making baskets"
- "Going to the State tournament"
- "Joking around"
- "Going to all the tournaments"
- "Playing defense"

What have the teams done well and/or improved on this season?

- "No fouls"
- "Offense"
- "Defense"
- "Giving encouragement"
- "Rebounding"
- "Dribbling"

Who is your favorite basketball player who you try to emulate?

- "Bobby Hurley"
- "LeBron James"
- "Michael Jordan"
- "Larry Bird"
- "Pete Maravich"
- "Bob Love"

LRSS would not be able to participate without our fantastic volunteer coaches, who have been just as excited about restarting basketball as our players!

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Because everyone **deserves**

the chance to live a **rich, full life.**

Stephanie Davidson of LRSS Honored with Fairfax County 2022 Martha Glennan Disability Inclusion & Equality Award

Langley Residential Support Services is immensely proud of Stephanie Davidson, LRSS director of residential services, for receiving the 2022 Martha Glennan Disability Inclusion & Equality Award from Fairfax County for 30 years of service to our organization and the broader community. The Fairfax Area - Disability Services Board's Martha Glennan Disability Inclusion and Equality Awards are presented annually to recognize people, businesses, nonprofits, government agencies, and others that excel in demonstrating a commitment to promoting equal rights and community inclusion for people with disabilities.

Davidson received the award in a ceremony Monday, Dec 12 with LRSS families, board, and staff there to cheer her on. Additionally, Marian Homes, Inc. was recognized in the organization category.

The key to Davidson's success is her ability to listen to the people in her care and accordingly, have their trust. Her creative solutions to challenges have been shown to improve the inclusion, equality, and outcomes of LRSS residents and program participants. She serves a wide variety of people with unique needs—embracing each person and doing her best to ensure each person enjoys life and achieves their own personal goals at the pace that works for them.

"What a well-deserved honor for someone who goes above and beyond in her everyday work to ensure the voices of the people in the LRSS community are heard and respected," Maureen Gum, LRSS executive director, said.

Davidson started her career as an instructor at a vocational workshop followed by a program coordinator position at The Arc Montgomery County in Maryland, where her team was honored with an Excellence in Service Award by the county. In 1992, Langley hired her as a program manager responsible for the day-to-day program services while directing services for half of the LRSS program participants. Over the years, she advanced to take on additional responsibilities and an increased caseload and in 2021 was promoted to the director of residential services role. Davidson holds many professional certifications, including CPR and First Aid, and is a MANDT instructor. She is a 2005 graduate of Leadership Fairfax Institute and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mental Health from Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD.

"You could not ask for a better advocate for persons with disabilities than Stephanie Davidson," wrote the father of a LRSS group home resident for the award submission. "For more than 25



years, she has helped my son identify and parse out the steps needed for better and improved independent living skills. If there are problems that need to be resolved in daily life occurrences, Stephanie manages them, always ensuring the rights of the individual come first."

A family member of another group home resident shared in the award nomination "I think what really separates Stephanie Davidson... is her deep commitment to the values and goals of the organization and firmly dedicated to the idea that individuals afflicted with cognitive or physical health disabilities should be able to live meaningful lives within the community. I know she treats my brother as an extended family member, and we could not be more grateful and feel so blessed to know that my brother is being cared for by her and such a wonderful organization."

The late Martha Knox Glennan was passionate about disability rights and served as chair of the Disabilities Services Board and a member of the Fairfax County Long Term Care Task Force. An elementary school teacher in McLean and Herndon by trade, Glennan assumed various volunteer roles from her experiences as a polio survivor, arthritis patient, and being wheelchair bound in 1982.

James Walkinshaw, Fairfax County Supervisor for the Braddock District, shared additional remarks during the ceremony, recognizing veterans from the Vietnam War as the spark that ignited the emergence of rights for people with disabilities.

"The independent living movement that both Langley Residential [Support] Services and Marian Homes embody today emerged, and we have a long way to go. But thanks to the work that you all have done, especially here in Fairfax County, tremendous progress has been made," Walkinshaw said. "When I go out and talk to the neighbors who live near [group] homes, they tell me 'these are the best neighbors we've ever had.'"

Recognizing 2022 Langley Leaders

Every contribution to LRSS helps support our residents and program participants with vital programs and life-enhancing services to live life to the fullest. In 2022, we marked the return of the Langley Spring Bowling Benefit as well as the first in-person Fall Tastings & Auction Benefit, along with continued support of the spring repair initiative, #GivingTuesday, and the year-end holiday campaign. Our contributors responded in a big way, and we are grateful for the progress we've made from this spectacular support!

A special group of champions – our Langley Leaders – give at levels that help us do more with our resources. Please join us in recognizing the outstanding faith communities, civic organizations, companies, foundations, and families below! You can join them at www.lrss.org.

PLATINUM - \$10,000+

The Cecil & Irene Hylton Foundation
 Anne Marie & Ardin Goss
 Anonymous Family Foundation
 Linda & Marv Kidder
 The Moxley Family Foundation
 Narang Foundation
 Richard & Caroline T Gwathmey Memorial Trust
 Peri & William Ross
 Twinkling Eyes Foundation
 Vienna Presbyterian Church

GOLD - \$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous Family
 Beyer Auto Group
 Weetie & Wayne Hill
 Immanuel Presbyterian Church
 Julia Kiraly & David Johnson
 Mars Foundation
 Mary Beth Busby
 Rosenbluth Family Charitable Foundation
 Trehan Foundation

SILVER - \$2,500-\$4,999

The Albert and Linda Rosecan Charitable Foundation
 Anonymous Family
 Sarah Bielaski
 Carney Foundation
 Duvall Family
 Karen & Michael Ioffredo
 The Joey Pizzano Memorial Fund
 Bridget & Sean Manley
 Ross, Langan & McKendree, LLP
 St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church

BRONZE - \$1,000-\$2,499

Rose Bates
 Fran Carnevale
 Chap Petersen & Associates, PLC
 Charles Delmar Foundation
 Civitan Club of Fairfax
 Carly Coho & Ken Cahoon
 Collective Donors in Honor of Judy Yolles' Milestone Birthday
 Dr Alan Dappen
 Nelle Dressler
 Supervisor John Foust & Dr Marilyn Jerome
 Megan Hansen
 Dave Hipp
 Donna Ioffredo & Patrick Hambrick
 Junior League of Washington
 Julianne Kunzle
 Lockheed Martin Employee Matching Gifts Fund (via the Tees Family)
 Holly Micozzi
 Paul Miller
 Sharon Nelson & John Simek
 Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, Inc.
 One Hour Heating and Air Conditioning
 Robert M & Joyce A Johnson Foundation
 Sensei Enterprises, Inc
 Alice Starr
 Debra & Doug Tees
 Trinity United Methodist Church
 United Bank
 Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Walsh, PC
 Richard Weaver
 Judith & Herbert Yolles

LRSS Gift Summaries Available Upon Request

All Langley donors receive a written acknowledgement with a tax footnote for each charitable contribution. If you would like a summary of all your giving for the year, ie, for tax filing purposes, please contact the office at 703.893.0068 or Development@LRSS.org to request this document.



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#LivingRichFullLife

LRSS Coaches' Highlights on Why New Special Olympics Basketball Season So Great

"It has been pure joy watching several athletes really improve their defensive skills and steal the ball."

"Nothing beats the smiles and celebrations after players score a basket! Some give a double thumbs up, and others run off the court to give the coaches a high-five."

"One of the best moments was the nail-biter game where the Langley men's team played the Langley women's team. It came down to the last shot. It was so fun to watch such a close game. Everyone played so hard and fought to get that last basket."

"After being off for two years due to the pandemic, it was great to see that athletes didn't skip a beat. They remembered all the drills and hustled every practice and game."

"It is so inspiring to watch that they all cheer each other on. Many will clap and high five players from the opposing team even when the other team scores."

"In our local Area 26, the only half-court teams participating are the two Langley teams – which means they play each other in every tournament. Rather than getting frustrated by a lack of



outside competition, the Langley players are enthusiastic to participate in tournaments. They play with passion and competitive spirit."

"As the players (and coaches) are coming from long work days when we show up to practice on Wednesday nights, we sometimes need an energy boost. One night in February, the team had an impromptu dance party to music played from a coach's cell phone. Not only do the Langley players have fantastic basketball skills, but they also have awesome dance moves. They sure know how to have fun!"

"We recently had a tournament at Bishop Ireton High School. Each team won a game, and, wow, were they close! The ladies team came from behind in the first game to win by a basket. The second game also was close, and the men's team came out victorious, but not by much! Bishop Ireton had many volunteers at the tournament to cheer on the athletes. It was so nice to see young high schoolers give up their Saturday to volunteer at the event and support Special Olympics and the players."

Next time you see our players or coaches, please give them a big round of applause for all their basketball efforts this year. Go, Langley, go!



**Langley Residential
Support Services**

2070 Chain Bridge Rd., Ste. G55
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Support Services



We are pleased to announce
the opening of The Atwood House

OPENING
JUNE 2024

ATWOOD HOUSE

- » New construction in Vienna, VA
- » 5 Bedrooms / 4 Bathrooms
- » Situated on wooded one-acre lot
- » Walkable to bus stop
- » 24x7 staffing
- » Currently seeking four young men looking for a long-term, supportive, living arrangement
- » Government waivers and private pay acceptable

Questions? Please contact us:
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are reunited weekly for basketball practices and tournaments. It is very inspiring to see everyone's individual effort, improvements made as a team, and the mentorship from our powerhouse coaching volunteers. During the pandemic, team photos from prior seasons reminded players of all the fun and good times they had during basketball. Now that they're back to in-person play, it is so wonderful to see that spirit and energy rebound in each of our players. Keep reading further in this newsletter for a great feature on the 2022-23 season, including awesome photos courtesy of our coaches.

The new year has brought some changes to our longtime operations. We are saying goodbye to Langley's bookkeeper of 15 years, Pat Hellings, and are tremendously grateful for her commitment and help in keeping this mission and work going. We wish her all the best in retirement and spending more time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren!



The transition in finance comes at a time when LRSS is undergoing a comprehensive strategic planning process that will set the course for improving and strengthening the vision for LRSS' future. Through a grant from Virginia Housing, we hired a local professional consultant to guide our leadership and key stakeholders through a variety of exercises to identify areas of the organization that need attention, opportunities to streamline procedures, and establish concrete goals that will improve programs and services for the people we work with. Since day one of taking on this role as head of the Langley family, I have had lots of ideas to modernize and make this organization shine bright. As strange as it sounds, this strategic plan brings me great joy in developing a roadmap to turn ideas into action. Stay tuned for the results in late spring.

My gratitude for the overwhelming response to the year-end holiday campaign is hard to describe. Our supporters in November, December, and January invested more than \$180,000 to ensure our programs stay reliable for our friends who need us most—this level of giving is desperately needed, and I am deeply grateful for this astounding generosity that keeps this organization open. Each of you, in some way or another, has helped us realize exciting new beginnings and inspire welcomed changes in the months ahead. Thank you for helping us continue to thrive!

Maureen K Gum

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What Langley Residents Are Up to in 2023



Fun times at weekly basketball practice with players and one of our coaches (second from left).



Celebrated Shrove Tuesday with the Trinity United Methodist Church community by participating in their annual Pancake Dinner.



Saw an amazing Omnium circus performance, thanks to a local family.