

# THE REZ GAZETTE

SPIN Residential Services Quarterly Newsletter

## Making Connections: Rahim and Azzher



When Abderrahim Hadjar (Rahim) started in the IT department at SPIN, he expressed an interest in visiting some of the SPIN Homes to see our mission in action. When Judy Dotzman heard this, she was thrilled to spend the afternoon with him visiting two homes. After learning Rahim speaks Arabic, it was suggested he visit Azzher at Convent Ave since he also speaks Arabic.

Judy and Rahim went to Convent, where they met Azzher, his DSP, Matthan and Assisting Director, Enoch. Rahim began speaking with Azzher in Arabic and Azzher excitedly responded. Matt shared that Azzher was from Iran and Rahim knew that this meant Azzher speaks Farsi, and started conversing with him in Farsi. Azzher's team shared that they did not know much about his cultural connection and that his family has a language barrier as Azzher's mom needs her daughter's help translating conversations with his team. Rahim shared he would like to help connect Azzher and his team not only to his culture and religion, but also to his family.

Enoch called Azzher's mom and Rahim was able to begin speaking with her. Azzher's mom was able to ask Rahim questions, and share that she wanted to visit Azzher at his home. After this wonderful meeting, Rahim said he would like to plan a cultural day for Azzher and his team. Thank you Rahim, for making a wonderful connection with Azzher, his family and his team!

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# BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS



Richard celebrated his birthday at home with his housemate!



Michael C. celebrated with his housemates Kenny and Fred.



Colleen D. celebrated her birthday with her friend, Marie.



Michael V. celebrated at home with his housemate, JJ.



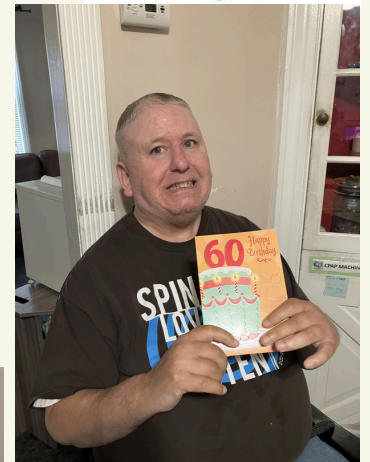
Stephanie C. celebrated her birthday surrounded by friends at the local bowling alley!



Steven A. celebrated his 37th birthday with his housemates.



Joan celebrated her 93rd birthday with some of her closest friends!



Tom F. celebrated his 60th birthday!





# BIRTHDAYS!



## January

January 3rd – Rosemarie B  
January 4th – Robert D  
January 7th – Lisa R  
January 8th – Stephanie C  
January 9th – Michael P  
January 11th – Eman M  
January 12th – Angel C  
January 16th – Kareem P, Daniel O  
January 19th – Spencer S  
January 21st – Richard H, Joel P, Ray M  
January 23rd – Melissa E  
January 25th – Dwayne H  
January 26th – Walter P, Kendell D  
January 27th – Onyx W  
January 30th – Michael L  
January 31st – Arlene S



## February

February 3rd – Fred Q  
February 6th – Bruce S, Priscilla C  
February 9th – Crystal R  
February 10th – Valerie W  
February 11th – Colleen D  
February 12th – Talib M, Sarah S  
February 13th – Raymond J, Arlon C  
February 14th – Lynne M  
February 21st – Alice R, Hannah M  
February 22nd – Dorothy L  
February 24th – Pamela F

## March

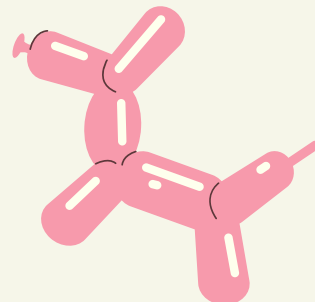
March 2nd – Shronn R  
March 3rd – Minerva P, Maya R  
March 5th – Rebecca F  
March 7th – Jinnell M  
March 8th – Azzher A  
March 11th – John H  
March 13th – Ken W  
March 18th – Demetrius B  
March 19th – Michael B  
March 26th – Carol Keeler  
March 27th – Brian Banner  
March 29th – Ryan McNulty  
March 31st – Ken Graves

## April

April 1st – William K  
April 2nd – Dominick P  
April 4th – Jason W  
April 6th – Michael S  
April 9th – Richard H  
April 10th – Richard F  
April 13th – Donna W  
April 15th – Eric C  
April 16th – LaMark, Kristen F, Joe M  
April 17th – David S  
April 18th – Marc B  
April 19th – Janet  
April 20th – Chris M  
April 23rd – Francis R, Stephen T  
April 25th – Anthony D  
April 26th – Darryl  
April 27th – Wesley



TIME TO  
Celebrate





# Celebrating SPIN's Members

The SPIN Community came together to celebrate the SPIN Member Appreciation Gala on Friday, November 22, 2024 at Celebrations. Guests were SPIN Members who participated in the SPIN Annual Giving Campaign and came together to spend the evening enjoying great food, music and great company as a thank you for their support. Everyone danced the night away and had a great time kicking off the holiday season. Thank you to everyone who donated to the SPIN Annual Giving Campaign, your support allows us to provide high-quality services to over 3,000 children and adults.

If you would like to attend next year's Member Appreciation Gala, or learn about the SPIN Annual Giving Campaign, please reach out to Caitlyn Diviny at [cdiviny@spininc.org](mailto:cdiviny@spininc.org).



*Thank you for supporting SPIN!*





## DREAM SPIN'S DREAM TEAM

Drink water • Relax and be mindful • Eat healthy food  
Awareness of health risks • Move your body



# Home of the Month: Claridge, Gary & Frank

Every month the Dream Team highlights a Home that is dedicated to the DREAM of living a healthy lifestyle. In February, the gentlemen who live at Claridge were featured for the ways they have committed to their healthy lifestyle. Frank and Gary live the healthy DREAM lifestyle by exercising, eating nutritious foods and encouraging others to do the same! Thank you for helping others to live a Life of Possibilities!





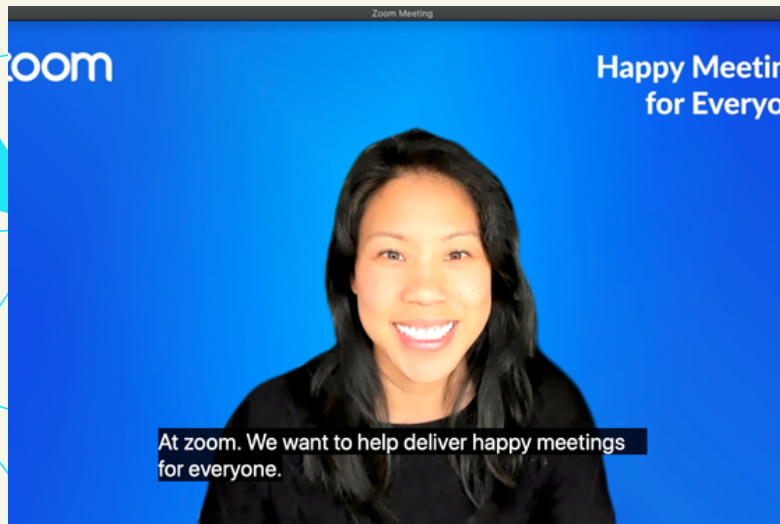
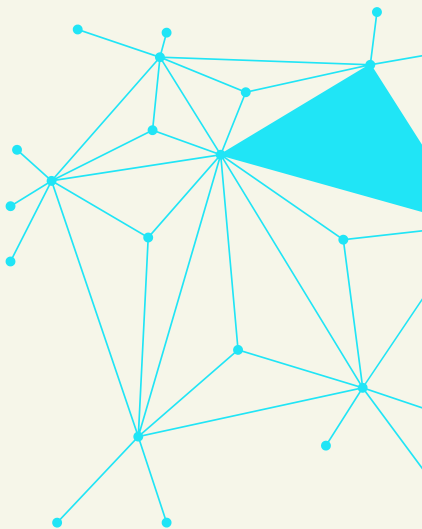
## Audio-Visual Accessibility for All: Empowering People Through Technology

From watching TV shows and movies to participating in online meetings and webinars, audio-visual media has become an integral part of how we learn, connect, and entertain ourselves. For individuals with hearing impairments, captions and subtitles are essential tools.

### Accessible Media Tools: Subtitles and Captioning Services

Major streaming platforms like Netflix, YouTube, and Disney+ offer captions and subtitles on their videos, making it easier for people with hearing impairments to enjoy their favorite shows and movies. There are two types of captions:

- Closed Captions (CC): These captions can be turned on or off, and they include not only dialogue but also non-verbal sounds such as “(phone ringing)” or “(audible laughter).”
- Subtitles: Subtitles typically only translate spoken dialogue and may not include sound descriptions.



### Real-Time Captioning for Online Meetings

Platforms like Zoom and Microsoft Teams have integrated real-time captioning features, making it easier for people with hearing impairments can fully participate in discussions. In addition, some services, like Verbit and Otter.ai, offer more advanced captioning solutions for webinars and virtual events, ensuring better accuracy and inclusivity.

As awareness grows and technology continues to advance, we can look forward to a future where audio-visual accessibility for all is standard practice, enriching the lives of people with hearing impairments and enhancing the quality of their digital experiences.

- [National Association of the Deaf \(NAD\)](#).
- [Hearing Loss Association of America \(HLAA\)](#).
- [Web Accessibility Initiative \(WAI\) - W3C](#)



# HIGHLIGHTS



Carole and Mary went to visit Feeney's during the holidays. They loved seeing everything out on display.



Stephanie, Jackie, Heather, Danielle and Jinnell visit the zoo! It was a great day for a walk while seeing all the animals.



Cynthia S visits Hershey's Chocolate World.

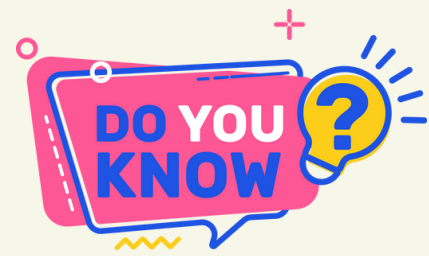


Kristen hosted a ladies night with friends. They had a corn hole tournament while listening to music from the 80s including Hall & Oates, Kristen's favorite band.



Wesley B. hosted a snowman themed party at his home. Wesley's favorite song is 'Frosty the Snowman'.

# GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Whether it is his infectious smile or his singing, people tend to gravitate towards him. Desmond is one of the greatest guys around, who loves to help out around in his home as well as when he is out and about in his community.

Desmond plays an important role at his church each Sunday, by lending his voice to the music or helping out with special events. He is loved by his church community and his SPIN community for so many reasons.

Desmond is part of the SPIN choir and is often featured in solos showcasing his amazing skills. He sings loud and he sings proud every time he has a microphone in his hand! Desmond also participates in Community Participation Supports through SPIN Community and Fitness where he enjoys a variety of activities with his peers. If you are interested in music, especially Gospel music, Desmond would be more than happy to share his talents with you!



Christine L. has been an inspiration to everyone she meets and has proven that anything is possible. Some obstacles can be defeating and hinder your outlook on life, but not for Chris! So much so, that she was even recently selected by Lehigh County as the Celebration Award recipient for Personal Achievement.

Chris has been working at Hartzell's Pharmacy since February of 2012 and proudly continues to thrive as an essential part of their team. She loves to travel and spend quality time with her family, attends camp a few times a year, and "A Night to Shine," she loves movies and is an active member of her church. You may also find her and her housemates having a dance party at any given time in their home!

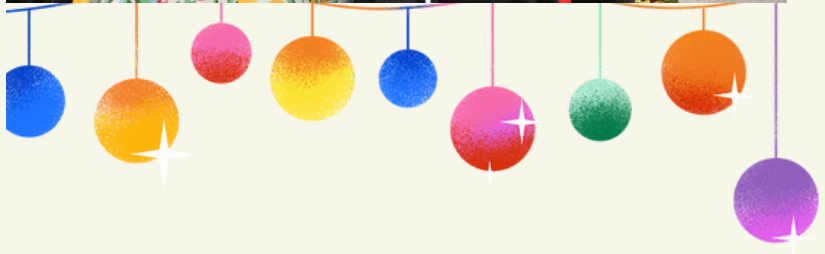
Even through hardships, such as a recent devastating health diagnosis, she still lights up any room she enters. Her spirit and perseverance is what is admired most about Chris. If you haven't had the honor of meeting Chris, we hope you are able to do so and can experience her fun-loving personality for yourself.



# Happy Holidays!

## Tis the Season

Over the past holiday season, we had many reasons to celebrate, here are just a few...





# Building Community Connections through CPS

By Capri Wagner



On a beautiful day in February, I met with Sean W., Josh P., and their support staff, Osei, for a CPS activity at the Bucks County Free Library in Bensalem! There, Josh read a Spider-Man Comic Book that he found in the Marvel section. This is one of his favorite movies. Josh read aloud to the group. Sean enjoyed listening to Josh reading and was all smiles.

Sean completed art pages with staff and they worked on skills at the library such as socialization, reading, decision making, creative expression, and more. Here are some photos from the day! This library has now become one of Sean and Josh's favorite places to go to learn about various topics together. They enjoy seeing others at the library too.



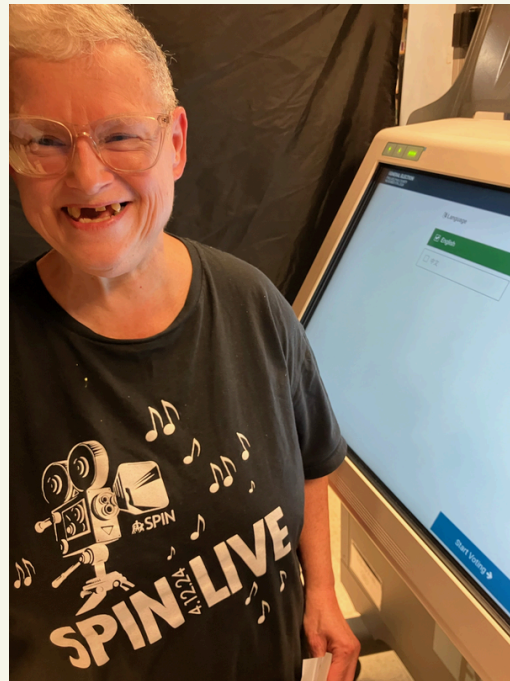




# ELECTION DAY



Michael proudly displaying his voting sticker!



Harriet voting for the first time!



Lauren and Crystal after casting their votes.



Pamela after casting her vote.



Willie and Joel after casting their votes.



Danielle and Jinnell voting at their local polling place.



Julian and Sean proudly display their voting stickers.



Chris submitting her mail in ballot.





# SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

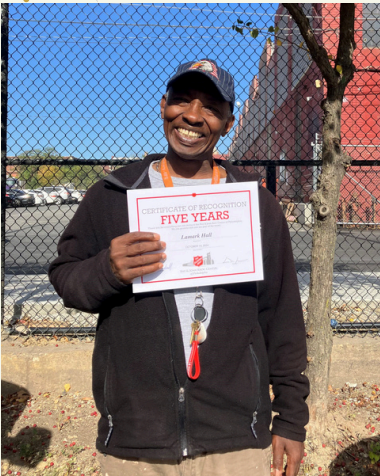
## KIERRA BOWLERS



As Lead DSP in the home she works at, Kierra's co-workers respect and admire her leadership as she is an excellent listener, ensuring everyone's ideas are heard and considered. Kierra has a deep sense of responsibility toward the ladies she supports, her work and her team. Her leadership skills shine through in every day, every meeting, every question, and every problem she faces. She is extremely reliable and consistently delivers on her promises.

Kierra possesses strong decision-making abilities, confidently guiding the team when needed. She is a great team player, always willing to collaborate and help others, offering them her guidance and encouragement. When team members reach out to her with questions, they know that their thoughts and suggestions will be heard. Kierra approaches every task with a positive attitude, motivating those around her.

## Employment Spotlight



Congratulations to both Lamark & Jackie as they both celebrated their 5 year anniversaries with their respective employers!



Lamark is a proud employee of the Salvation Army, working at the Ray & Joan Kroc Center of Philadelphia. Lamark is responsible for general maintenance around the building, ensuring surfaces are cleaned, trash is empty, and bathrooms are stocked.

Jackie is a valued team member at Wawa. In her role Jackie works to keep the coffee pots filled and the cups and napkins stocked, all while keeping the area clean and customers happy.



# SPIN UNITED COALITION

Every year at SCF, the SPIN Coalition hosts a Winter Holiday event to highlight the many ways people come together to celebrate.





# THE REZ GAZETTE

## Upcoming SPIN Events:

Partners for Possibilities - April 24, 2025

SPIN Golf Tournament - May 14, 2025

Learn more at [spininc.org/events](http://spininc.org/events) or by contacting Caitlyn Diviny at [cdiviny@spininc.org](mailto:cdiviny@spininc.org)

## RESIDENTIAL CONTACTS

Frank Brown - Corporate Officer  
[fbrown@spininc.org](mailto:fbrown@spininc.org)

Kim Chapman - Corporate Officer  
Adult Program Operations  
[kchapman@spininc.org](mailto:kchapman@spininc.org)

Alvina Smith- Division Director  
[asmith@spininc.org](mailto:asmith@spininc.org)

Jennifer Williams - Division Director  
[jwilliams@spininc.org](mailto:jwilliams@spininc.org)

Brian Edwards - Division Director  
[bedwards@spininc.org](mailto:bedwards@spininc.org)

Jen Schaadt - Division Director Lehigh  
Services [jschaadt@spininc.org](mailto:jschaadt@spininc.org)



Judy Dotzman,  
President & CEO

Check out SPIN's updated website

[spininc.org](http://spininc.org)

General inquiries or suggestions?

Contact Jamie Garrity

[jgarrity@spininc.org](mailto:jgarrity@spininc.org)

[Become a SPIN member](#)



## SPIN'S MISSION

SPIN provides the highest quality people-first services and supports for children and adults with intellectual developmental, and autism spectrum disabilities so that each may achieve and enjoy a life of possibilities.

[www.spininc.org](http://www.spininc.org)



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