



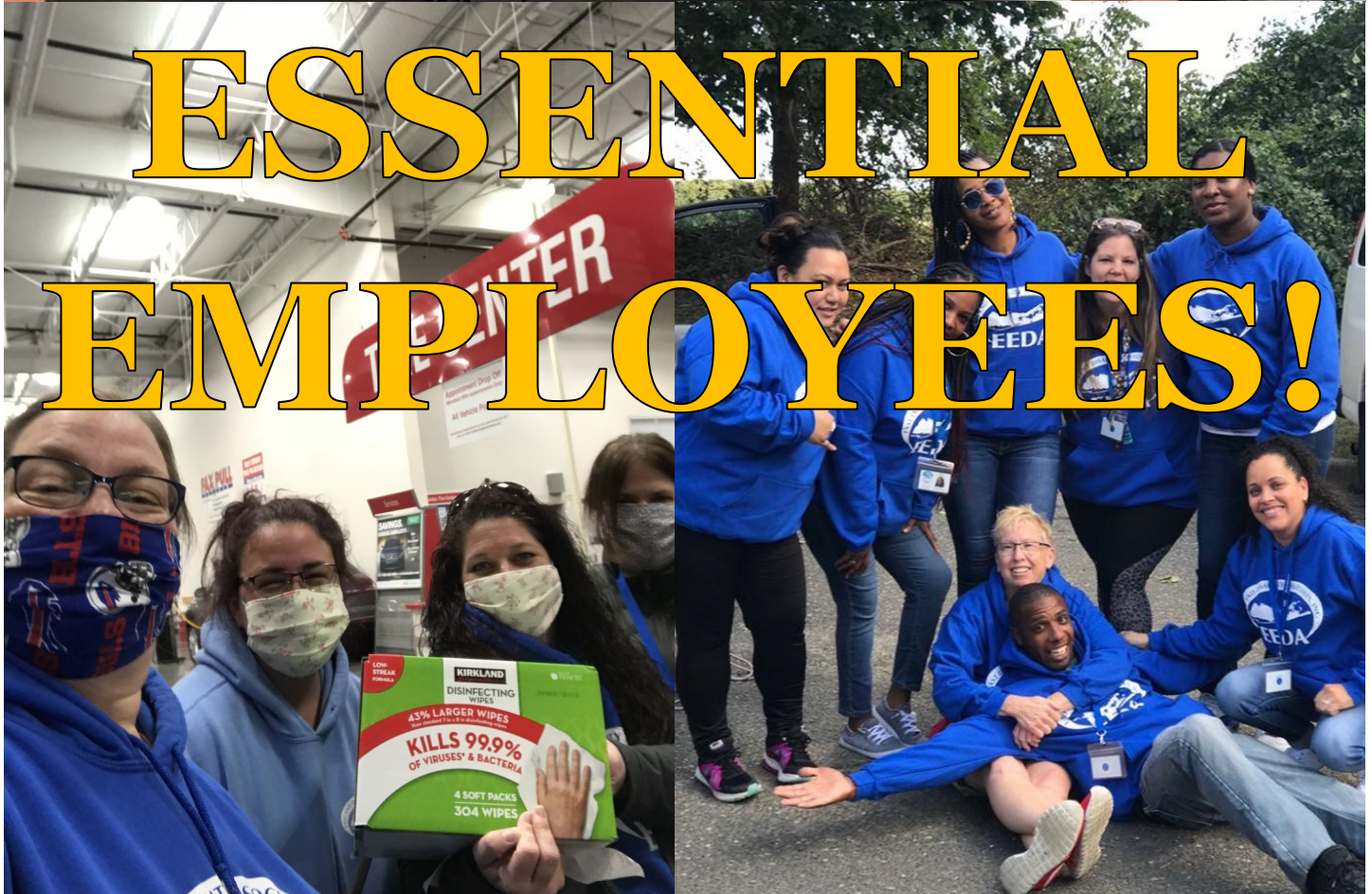
COVID-19 Edition

Spring 2020

THE EEDA READER



THANK YOU EEDA



ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES!



We are living in unprecedented times, but the way EEDA's essential employees have risen to meet the many challenges we face is truly remarkable. It is thanks to you that we have not experienced even more tragedy and heartbreak. Your diligence following infection prevention protocols, both at work and outside of work, are what keep yourself and those you support healthy. Thank you for doing the important work of keeping everyone safe during this difficult time.

Much love,
The EEDA Family

NICE DEEDS



A generous anonymous sponsor and a local baker teamed up to create these beautiful and delicious cookie platters for each of EEDA's houses. Hand delivered and made with love for the ever hard-working, brave, and essential staff working on the front lines. Thank you, mystery donors, for being so *sweet*.



EEDA would like to thank the following community members, elected officials, and organizations who have generously donated, or fought to acquire personal protective equipment to keep our staff and the people we support safe during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- *New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo*
- *United States Congressman Lee Zeldin*
- *Discovery Land Company*
- *Anthony Eaderesto and the Seamstresses at Rico's Clothing*
- *James Martinsen*
- *Mr. & Mrs. Shanahan*
- *EB Construction Group LLC*
- *The McCarrick Family*
- *Mary Gatto*
- *Clever Devices*
- *Cassie Kim*
- *Todd Grathwohl*
- *Joann & Russell Ainbinder*
- *Diane Arpaia*
- *Joan and Charles Lucarelli*
- *Joseph Nye*
- *Gregory Cuneo of Dedicated Building Services LLC*
- *Phil Rugile*
- *Laurie Alison*
- *Noelle Ventrusca*
- *Ann Murphy*
- *Ed Chimney*
- *Olga Burmatnova*
- *Carolyn Jankowski*
- *Ashleigh Rance*
- *Directrelief.org*
- *Geraldine Hart*
- *Leslie Thompson*
- *Mia and Sarah Dank*
- *Joanne Leibold from Bean & Bagel*
- *Donna's Sewing Bee*
- *Susan Becker*
- *Steven Riccardi*
- *Benco Dental*
- *Kristine Houghtalen*
- *Lisa Meyer Fertal*
- *Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone*
- *United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand*
- *Southampton Bath & Tennis Club Charitable Fund*
- *Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services*
- *Emblem Health*
- *Mitchell & Lisa Hall*
- *Mr. & Mrs. Gannon*
- *Mr. & Mrs. Lyons*
- *Catherine Bifulco*
- *Yoram Ginach*
- *Mark McKee*
- *Cornelius Kelly*
- *Joseph Teta Jr.*
- *Mike Mayo*
- *The Fudge Company*
- *Jack and Mary Pulick*
- *Lisa Sclafani Sorrento*
- *Trevor Meyer*
- *Joan Brand*
- *Amy & Elliott Deptuch and Family*
- *Thomas Malinowski*
- *John & Elaine Ruane*
- *Gus & Diane Lagoumis*
- *The Weresnick Family*
- *Bob Schwartz*
- *Curtis Watson*
- *Long Island Mustangs Hockey League*
- *Girl Scout Troop 1556 of East Moriches*
- *Jennifer Glover*
- *Camdyn Glover*
- *Makayla Walsh*
- *Ilse Hart*
- *Serena Aguila*
- *Mickey Anderson*
- *The Liberatore Family*



COVID-19 In Plain Language

What is COVID-19 or the new coronavirus?

It is a new virus making people sick all over the world, including here in New York State.



How do you get the coronavirus?

Someone that has the coronavirus gives you their germs when they cough or sneeze. Their germs then get into the air, on you, and on things. Germs get into your body through your mouth, nose, and eyes.

Avoid touching your face, eyes, nose, and mouth



How can you keep yourself from getting the coronavirus?

You should:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before and after eating, after using the restroom, after coughing or sneezing, and after touching surfaces.



- Don't touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay away from people who are sick.
- Cover your mouth when you cough. Sneeze using a tissue and then throw it away into a closed container.

- Regularly clean surfaces and objects in your home.

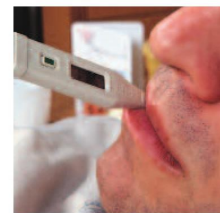
Stay Inside! If you must go outside:

- You must cover your nose and mouth with a cloth or a mask when you leave your house and will be around other people.
- Avoid close contact with people. Keep a distance of at least 6 feet.
- Avoid games and activities that have close contact.
- Avoid surfaces and objects that get touched a lot. This includes store countertops or playground equipment like slides and swings.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds when you return indoors.

How will I know if I have the coronavirus?

The coronavirus may cause:

- Cough
- Fever
- Trouble breathing



Symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as many as 14 days after you catch it. Just because you have these symptoms doesn't mean you have the coronavirus.

You could have a cold or the flu.

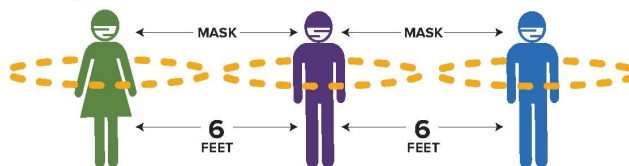
If you are sick:

- Call your doctor. Do NOT go to a hospital or an urgent care center.
- Stay away from others. If you have a separate room you can stay in and a separate bathroom you can use, that is best.
- Wash your hands with soap and water.
- Avoid sharing personal items.

If you have had contact with someone who is sick in the last 14 days:

- You should stay home.
- You may enjoy spending time in your own backyard or other personal outdoor space but you should not go into public outdoor spaces.

Keep a distance of at least 6 feet - wear a mask



If someone you live with gets sick:

- Stay at least 6 feet away from the sick person.
- Do not touch surfaces or food that the sick person has touched.
- Keep washing your hands well.

How do I say hello to my friends?

Text, call, video chat, or send a message.



Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities

STAY SAFE.

STOP THE SPREAD.

SAVE LIVES.

VIRTUAL DAY HAB



Have you heard about EEDA's Virtual Day Hab? For more information, contact Matthew Kuriloff, at MatthewK@eed-a.org or ext. 210.

QUARANTINING WITH CAP



Michael joins in on a Creative Arts Program Zoom class with Matthew Kuriloff. Zoom and other forms of video communication have made it possible to remain connected with people who attend EEDA day programs. Technology helps us feel less isolated during quarantine!

GIRL SCOUTS



Camdyn Glover and Makayla Walsh from Girl Scout Troop 1556 of East Moriches created banners with inspirational signs for each of EEDA's houses. The scouts wanted to thank EEDA's frontline workers for their dedication working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for your support, Girl Scout Troop 1556!

ART FOR SALE!



Caitlyn has been hard at work creating some incredible art work while at home. She is selling them for \$5 each. Handmade jewelry and toy miniatures also available made by the residents at the Henry Lewis Lane IRA. Email info@eed-a.org if you are interested in purchasing one.

MASK MAKING



Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, EEDA has received hundreds of handmade masks from our vendors, friends, members of the community, and our own day program staff. These cloth masks are keeping our essential staff and the individuals we support safe from infection on a daily basis. Thank you to everyone who has donated their time and talent to create masks for EEDA's essential workers!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY STAR!



On March 31st, EEDA's Henry Lewis Lane house held a 40th birthday celebration for Star. Having a birthday during quarantine isn't ideal, but Star's staff and friends at Henry Lewis Lane made her birthday a success! Star rang in her 40th year with party favors, cake, and hot wings. Happy birthday, Star! Here's to many more.



FUN AT HOME AT BARNES ROAD



Barnes Road residents and staff enjoy cooking tasty meals together and making crafts to pass the time during social isolation.

COVID-19 RESOURCES



You might feel powerless against what's happening right now, but you're not! There are things you can do to regain normalcy. Schedule a Facetime, Skype, or Zoom meeting with a friend or a group of friends. It helps! Reach out for support if you're feeling lonely and isolated. You are not alone.

New Yorkers can call the COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline at 1-844-863-9314 for free mental health counseling.

Have questions about how to keep yourself and your loved ones safe during the COVID-19 pandemic? Visit our COVID-19 page where you'll find links directing you to helpful resources.

<https://www.eed-a.org/covid-19.html>

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) can also be a valuable resource for COVID related information, resources, and counseling services.

<https://www.theeap.com/problems/the-coronavirus-crisis-tools-for-tough-times>

BAKING AT SOUTHFIELD



Jen and Courtney enjoy baking cupcakes during quarantine. The staff and residents at the Southfield house have no trouble coming up with fun activities that everyone can enjoy. Thanks team Southfield!

IN MEMORY OF JOE



Former Marion Lane resident, Joe, lived in the attached apartment with his friend Regan for many years before moving out to receive more intensive medical care. Joe was a well known and active member of the community, self-directing his services in the East Hampton and Sag Harbor areas. Joe was charming and funny. He loved to play ball, read magazines, and had a big collection of animal figurines he loved to play with. Joe's brother would come visit a few times a year all the way from Minnesota, and would spend the weekend with his brother enjoying the East End, with Montauk Point being one of their favorites. Anyone who knew Joe could tell you how loving and funny he was, and he will leave lasting memories with all of those he touched. We will miss you, Joey.

John Hatton, Director of Program Operations



IN MEMORY OF DOUG



Doug, or Duggie, as his friends knew him, lived in EEDA's house on Corwin Street. Duggie was loved by everyone and made friends everywhere he went with his charismatic personality.

Doug was a gift from the beginning, born on Christmas Day in 1937, he lived a long and interesting life before we began supporting him at the Corwin Street IRA. Doug overcame many challenges but also enjoyed much happiness. He was married to his bride, Rhoda, in June of 1978 until she passed away in 2005. Doug enjoyed being part of the bachelor pad that is now Corwin Street. He was the king of his castle and enjoyed his room and relaxing in his recliner watching TV.



Doug will be remembered for his great sense of humor and charm. He liked to play the part of the grumpy old man, but we all knew he was thoughtful, kind, and sweet. You could always count on a good time and a few good laughs when you were in his company. Doug had a special relationship with all the Corwin Street staff, clinicians, and program managers. It is rumored he had a girlfriend who is a receptionist at EEDA.

Joy O'Shaughnessy, Chief Program Officer



IN MEMORY OF RICKY

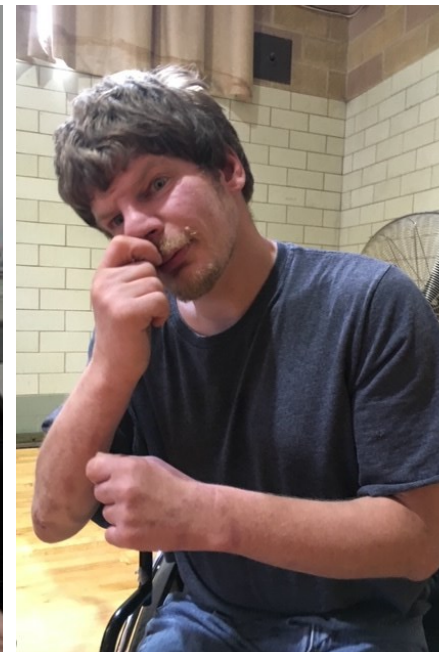
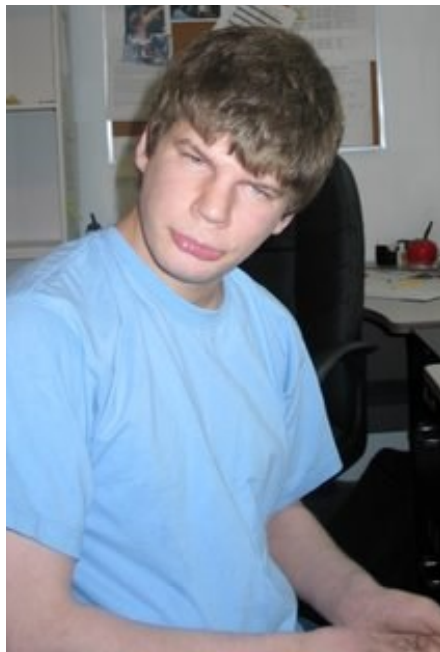


Ricky was an awesome young man. He lived at EEDA's Russell Street house and attended our Riverhead Day Program. He loved laying in the sun on picnic benches at the park or on the deck at his home. He loved carrying around small objects, especially rocks, but they had to be a certain size and shape, and black. He also liked to play with dice and throw them around, and then search for where he threw them. Ricky had an infectious laugh and when he was in a fantastic mood he would sing happy birthday. He could also keep a great drum beat. Ricky would often come visit me and knew exactly where I kept my snacks, and he also knew there was always something he preferred to eat in the snack drawer. Ricky knew what he liked and was not afraid to let you know, in his own way, when he felt what you were doing was wrong. Charles Elsbree wants you to know that Ricky was smarter than anybody thought he was, and that he was the most *determined* person Charles has ever met. Ricky definitely had his preferences in clothing, people, and objects, and if you were lucky enough to be one of his favorites, then you were lucky to be part of a very special person's life.

Lisa Kennedy, Associate Director of Day Services

Charles Elsbree, Direct Support Professional

(two of Ricky's favorites)



IN MEMORY OF KRYSTAL



Krystal was a young woman who attended EEDA's Creative Arts Program and lived at home with her loving family. Krystal had been a part of the EEDA family since 2002, where she attended our After School Recreation program at the North Country Learning Center. From what I have been told, Krystal loved program so much that at the end of the day, she often did not want to get on the van to go home. Her spirited personality was just as strong then as it was when I first met her in 2009 at our Center Moriches Day Hab. Krystal loved music, especially Meatloaf and the Backstreet Boys, dancing, her family, her friends, singing karaoke, and laughing. She especially valued the wonderful DSPs and frontline supervisors who supported her. When Krystal was happy, her smile made it nearly impossible not to smile along with her. She also loved volunteering for organizations such as Meals on Wheels and Island Harvest—she was in her glory when she knew she was being productive.

In 2012, when we were putting together the Creative Arts Program, Krystal's enthusiasm for the arts earned her a spot as one of the original six individuals enrolled in the fledgling program. The positive growth she experienced at CAP was inspiring. She was happier, more productive, and her self-esteem increased. During her time at the Creative Arts Program, Krystal truly developed her talents and realized her full potential. In 2013 she received an award for her growth and commitment to the arts. This was soon after her stage debut in *The Who's Tommy* at The Gateway Playhouse. Krystal will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Matthew Kuriloff, Creative Arts Program Manager

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT HOPSON



Robert, a much loved DSP from Marion Lane, passed away suddenly on April 21, 2020. Robert, who has been with EEDA since 2019 and worked exclusively at the Marion Lane IRA, was a kind gentleman who would do anything for his guys.

Many of you met him at Marion Lane, but most of you will remember him from last year's trip to Winter Clove where he drove two individuals, Beth and Bruce, to what was probably the first vacation either of them had in over 20 years. Robert always had a smile on his face and was always willing to pitch in and help anyone. Robert went on all the outings and was sure to have Bruce and Beth up and ready to go every day.

Robert was a school basketball star in Bridgehampton, and will leave a lasting legacy within his community and the EEDA family.





Creating Opportunities for Happy Lives



TO ALL ESSENTIAL WORKERS,
THANK YOU!



107 Roanoke Ave., Riverhead NY 11901

(631) 369-7345

www.eed-a.org