

AHRC DAY PROGRAM CONNECTIONS

MARCH 28, 2025



RALLY IN ROCKLAND COUNTY & HAUPPAUGE



Numerous sites united to rally, calling on the state to invest in their growth by increasing funding. Everyone created powerful signs that boldly voiced their demands for a stronger and more supportive future. As they chanted in unison, their collective energy filled the air, a clear expression of solidarity and determination. It was inspiring to witness such a diverse group come together with a shared purpose, each person contributing their voice to a larger call for change. The event was not just a demonstration—it was a vibrant celebration of community and the belief that, with the right support, these organizations can make an even greater impact.



 **Jerri Walker led an event where she partnered with Portledge High School students to make Sunbutter and Jelly sandwiches, with the Wheatley Farms site providing support throughout the event. At the same time, Lynne Brewer led an event with the Hicksville and Mott Street sites, where students worked together to create snuffle mats for animals in the shelter. The Hicksville and Mott Street sites gathered the most jelly and bread, earning them the opportunity to join the event. Once the sandwiches and snuffle mats were completed, both sites received an award created by Activity Specialist Amy, as a token of appreciation for their hard work. Great job, everyone!**



John's Crazy Socks invited us to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day and the grand opening of the warehouse to the public. The band from FREE, played to mark this exciting achievement. The Levittown, JNB Hearts (JNB #3), and Hicksville sites had the opportunity to meet John himself, dance with him, and receive goodies from him. It was a joyful and memorable event, filled with laughter, connection, and a sense of community. Everyone had a wonderful time, and we are grateful for the opportunity to be part of such a special celebration.



The Oceanside Anchor #2 and Freeport sites celebrated World Down Syndrome Day by wearing mismatched and funny socks to show their support and raise awareness. The day was filled with smiles, laughter, and a sense of unity as everyone embraced the spirit of the occasion. It was a fun and meaningful way to celebrate as the people we supported truly enjoyed coming together for such a great cause.



The Oceanside Anchor #2 had the pleasure of participating in an art class led by Christianna at the Baldwin Library, where they painted canvases. The class was a fun and creative experience, allowing everyone to express themselves through art. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to explore their artistic talents, and the end results were beautiful works of art that showcased their creativity and enthusiasm. It was a wonderful and memorable day for all involved!



Bellmore

East Meadow Tpke.



MASS. BROADWAY



SEA CLIFF



OCEANSIDE ANCHOR #3



FREEPORT



GLEN HEAD

OCEANSIDE ANCHOR #2

LYNBROOK



PLAINVIEW





The Hicksville sites celebrated two special occasions on the same day —St. Patrick's Day and a birthday. They wore green and enjoyed a variety of delicious cupcakes to mark the celebrations. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and cheer as everyone joined in on the fun, sharing laughs and creating lasting memories. It was a day full of warmth, camaraderie, and joy, where both the St. Patrick's Day spirit and the birthday celebrations were shared by all. The entire event was a wonderful reminder of the importance of coming together to celebrate life's special moments, big and small.



The Farmingdale 1 site had an amazing time with St. Patrick's Day crafts, singing songs, and playing instruments in Creative Corner. The atmosphere was lively and filled with creativity as everyone participated in the activities, making their own festive crafts and enjoying the music. It was a wonderful opportunity for self-expression and teamwork, and the joy was evident on everyone's faces. The day was full of fun, laughter, and a sense of togetherness, making it a truly memorable experience for all involved.



The Levittown site enjoyed themselves working on spring crafts at their local library, where they painted and decorated wooden circles. The creative session was filled with laughter and excitement as everyone added their personal touch to each piece, showcasing vibrant colors and unique designs. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to express their creativity and celebrate the season.



The Freeport #1, Farmingdale #1, Hicksville, and East Meadow Turnpike sites had a great time visiting Hicks Nursery for the Spring Show. They enjoyed many beautiful displays, including a stunning waterfall and the famous UP movie scene. It was a fun day filled with vibrant flowers, photos, and a shared appreciation for the beauty of spring. Everyone left with smiles and lasting memories.



The East Meadow Turnpike site had a wonderful time bowling at their site. Everyone enjoyed the friendly competition and were thrilled to knock down the pins. It was a fun and energetic event, filled with laughter and excitement as everyone cheered each other on. The atmosphere was lively, with a sense of camaraderie as each person took their turn, celebrating their strikes and spares. Everyone left with big smiles and a sense of accomplishment, making it a memorable and enjoyable experience for all.



On March 20th-21st, the Mass. Carmans site took the lead in organizing a bake sale to raise money for wildfire relief efforts in California, held at the Plainview and Freeport locations. Several other sites joined in to support the cause by baking and purchasing delicious treats, such as cookies and cupcakes. The bake sale was a great success, raising a total of \$582.34 for the relief efforts. Everyone came together to contribute to this meaningful cause, making it a truly impactful and heartwarming event.



◆ Mikey from the Glen Head site set a POM goal to learn how to play ping pong. As a result, the site organized afternoon practice sessions with staff. His peers enthusiastically cheered him on throughout the process. After consistent practice, Mikey became quite skilled and was able to beat his opponents once a week.



◆ The Hicksville site worked diligently to ensure timely and efficient deliveries, contributing positively to the local community. Monisha was seen delivering an order to a staff member in Freeport.



◆ The Oceanside Anchor #1 celebrated Women's History Month by learning about the incredible women who have inspired the world. Through great team effort, they displayed their research on the bulletin board to share their findings with everyone in the building.



The Oceanside Anchor #4 took a tour of the Jones Beach Energy & Nature Center to explore the relationships between human beings, energy systems, and environmental stewardship. They gained valuable insights into sustainable practices and the importance of protecting natural resources for future generations.



The Farmingdale 1 had a busy week, creating a poster on Helen Keller by listening to interesting facts about her. The team also made a collage of hand signs for "I love you." Once the poster board was finished, they hung it around the site. Furthermore, a few groups visited the Lego store in Babylon to build their creations using Legos. Everyone enjoyed expressing their creativity and teamwork. Lastly, a group went to the Long Island Welcome Center to learn more about what Long Island has to offer and took pictures at their displays, such as the lighthouse and whale.



The Plainview site celebrated Pancake Day with a fun outing to IHOP, enjoying free pancakes together. As spring approached, the group made paper plate flowers to decorate the site. They also had a great time bowling, taking turns and enjoying each other's company. Additionally, first aid kits, created by Activity Specialist Carolyn Clarke, were placed at the site to ensure safety during community outings. Thank you, Carolyn!



Donna Nowakoski from the East Meadow Art site displayed her completed diamond art at the Franklin Square Public Library, inspiring others with her hard work. She plans to use the money earned to buy an iPad for digital art. Donna is thrilled that her artwork is being viewed by the community, with support from her friends at the site. The team continues to prepare for their upcoming on-site art gallery, with everyone contributing to its success. They also enjoyed a relaxing pet therapy session during this time.



The Lynbrook site visited Wayfinders, a new activity in Mineola where they enjoyed crafts and exercise. Everyone had a great time participating in the activities, fostering creativity and physical well-being.



JNB Hearts had a wonderful time visiting Morgan Park, the Cradle of Aviation, and the Fireman Museum. They explored the exhibits, learned about history, and enjoyed each other's company in a fun and engaging environment. The outings were filled with excitement and curiosity, leaving everyone with lasting memories of the day. These experiences not only provided learning opportunities but also strengthened the bonds among the group.



The Bellmore Buddies had a busy time with several activities, including filing paperwork, participating in an Ariel's art class in Brookville where they designed their own tote bags, and visiting Harley Davidson to learn about the history of motorcycles. They also celebrated birthdays and milestones together, creating a joyful and supportive atmosphere within the group. Everyone enjoyed these experiences, which strengthened their teamwork and allowed them to make lasting memories.



The Hicksville, Seaford, Plainview, Jericho North Broadway sites, and Carle Place all enjoyed pet therapy sessions. Everyone had a wonderful time interacting with the dogs, which brought joy, relaxation, and comfort to everyone involved. It was a heartwarming experience that fostered a sense of calm and connection across the sites.