

JUNE 2026

A Letter from the Director

Happy Summer, everyone!

We had a wonderful time at our Annual BBQ in the Park at Robert Post Park on June 16. It was a beautiful day filled with good food, great music, and even better company. From karaoke and dancing to simply enjoying time together, there was something for everyone. It was truly wonderful to see so many familiar faces and connect with members of our community.

Our next big event is the Annual Disability Awareness Parade on July 18, and I hope you'll join us—whether as a participant or a spectator. We have some exciting surprise special guests planned that you won't want to miss! Following the parade, Rock Academy will be performing at our Resource Festival, making it a day full of fun, energy, and community spirit.

This event continues to grow each year, and I am incredibly proud of what it represents. The Disability Awareness Parade sends an important message: people with disabilities live, work, and contribute in our communities every day. They deserve to be seen, valued, included, and fully supported. Accessibility and inclusion benefit everyone, and this event is a celebration of those ideals.

If you are part of a group, organization, or business that would like to march or roll with us, there is still time to get involved. Visit www.rcal.org/parade for more information.

Do you juggle, play an instrument, own a classic car, or have another unique talent you'd like to share? We'd love to have you join us! The parade is both an important awareness event and a lot of fun for all involved.

I hope to see you there!

Anthony Mignone
CEO, Resource Center for Accessible Living

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WE ARE HIRING

Our Wonderful Sponsors!



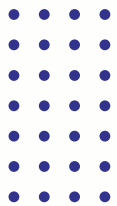
Making Memories at the Summer BBQ!



Clockwise from top left: community members enjoy a friendly game of basketball, friends gather for conversation and connection, RCAL staff share some well-deserved fun and laughter, and RCAL's beloved ambassador, Scooby, keeps a watchful eye on the festivities.



DISABILITY AWARENESS *Parade*



Join RCAL as we celebrate inclusion, access, and independent living. The parade concludes at Keegan Ales and People's Place with a Resource Fair featuring music, children's games, and community resources. Free, family-friendly, and open to all!



SATURDAY | JULY 18, 11 AM

LINE UP AT 10 A.M. AT 572 BROADWAY, KINGSTON

PARADE STARTS AT 11 A.M.

RESOURCE FAIR AT 20 ST. JAMES ST., KINGSTON (12-2PM)

MARCH WITH US!



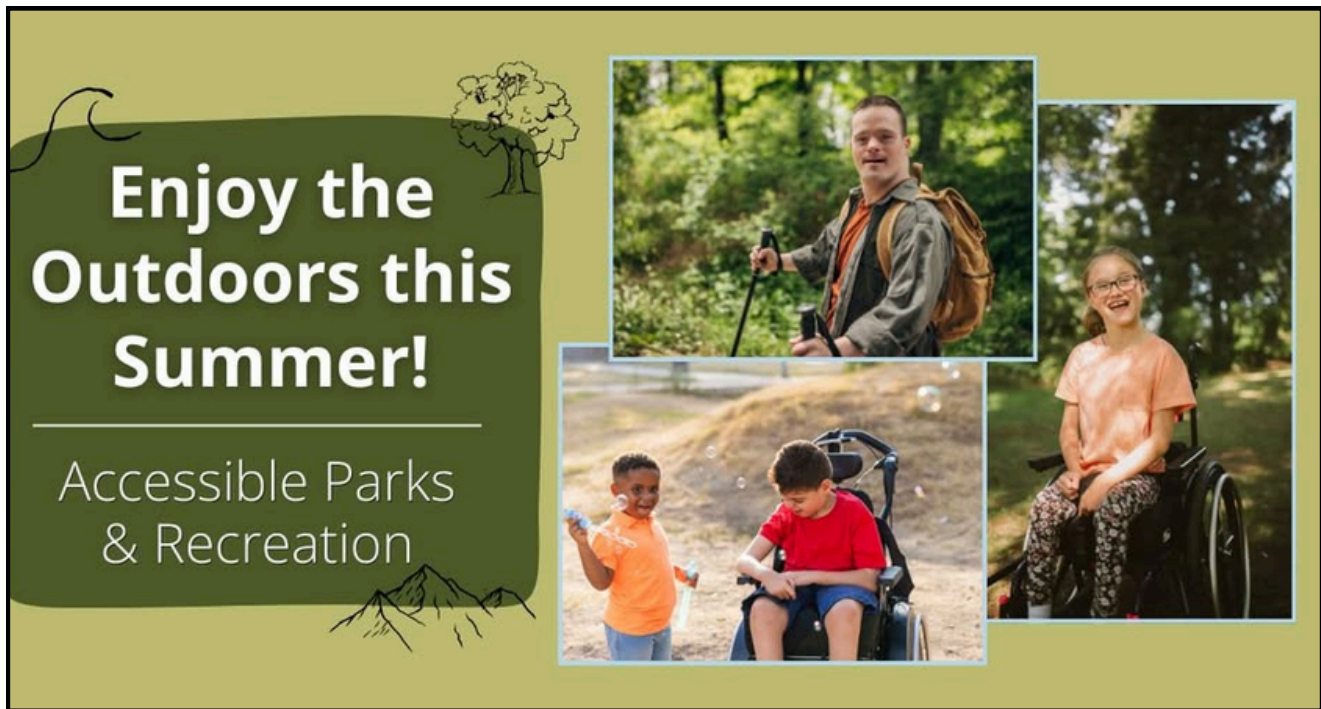
845-331-0541



www.rcal.org/parade

Accessible Outdoor Adventures Await

As the weather warms up, many of us are eager to spend more time outdoors. Thanks to ongoing accessibility improvements at New York State Parks, more people with disabilities can enjoy nature and recreation than ever before.



New York State continues to expand Universal Access features, including trail and beach mobility aids, ADA-accessible campsites, wheelchair charging stations, and other accommodations designed to make outdoor spaces more inclusive.

To explore accessible parks and recreation opportunities across the state, visit the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Accessible Recreation Destinations interactive map. Individuals with qualifying disabilities may also be eligible for a free or discounted NYS Parks Access Pass, which provides access to state parks and recreational facilities.

When planning outdoor activities, remember to stay hydrated, take rest breaks, seek shade when needed, and bring any assistive devices that help make your experience comfortable and enjoyable.

Get Outdoors & Get Together Day – June 13

On Saturday, June 13, the NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and several state agency partners will host the annual Get Outdoors & Get Together Day. Accessible events will take place throughout New York State, featuring activities such as fishing, nature walks, birding, archery, camping, paddling, arts and crafts, and more.

Most events will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For participating locations and additional information, visit [ny.gov/GOGTDay](https://www.ny.gov/GOGTDay).

Because everyone deserves the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors.

JUNE 2026

RCAL's Keith Gurgui Shares Inspiring Story of Resilience and Advocacy

For many years, Keith Gurgui has been a familiar face at RCAL and a dedicated advocate for people with disabilities throughout the Hudson Valley and beyond. After sustaining a traumatic spinal cord injury at the age of 18, Keith has spent decades building a life defined not by limitations, but by perseverance, independence, and service to others.



Keith Gurgui, a longtime RCAL employee and disability advocate, recently shared his personal journey of resilience, independence, and advocacy on *The Empower Hour with Don Wyckoff: The Final Dive* podcast.

Through speaking engagements at schools, community organizations, and public events, Keith has shared his experiences living with a spinal cord injury, pursuing an education, finding meaningful employment, and navigating the challenges and opportunities that come with disability. His message has inspired countless individuals and helped foster greater understanding of disability and accessibility.

Recently, Keith was featured on [The Empower Hour with Don Wyckoff: The Final Dive](#), where he discussed his life journey, the lessons he has learned along the way, and the advocacy work that continues to motivate him today.

During the interview, Keith also spoke about a significant recent challenge: the breakdown of his wheelchair-accessible van while returning home from a speaking engagement. Accessible transportation is essential to maintaining his independence and allowing him to continue his advocacy efforts throughout the community.

To help offset the cost of replacing the vehicle, Keith has launched a [GoFundMe campaign](#). Readers who would like to learn more about Keith's story or support his efforts are encouraged to listen to the podcast interview and consider sharing or contributing to the fundraising campaign.

Keith's commitment to educating others and advocating for disability rights reflects the spirit of independent living and serves as an inspiration to all who know him.

JUNE 2026



RCAL's David "Chuck" Jackson and Javon enjoyed the Ashokan Reservoir earlier this Spring.

ULSTER COUNTY
NEW YORK

STEP INTO 1776

WIGS OPTIONAL

Ulster County is the perfect place to celebrate our nation's 250th birthday. Walk the streets of America's first capital. Make it a wandering weekend through art studios, trailheads, museums and music-filled nights that prove our nation's independent spirit still burns bright. Ulster County isn't history behind glass. It's history you can move through.

Plan your trip at
VisitUlsterCountyNY.com

Seek for Yourself
Burning of Kingston Reenactment
3rd weekend October 2026

JUNE 2026

Advocacy in Action: Preserve Access to the NHTD Waiver

The Nursing Home Transition and Diversion (NHTD) Waiver helps people with disabilities live independently in their communities by providing critical home and community-based services.

In January, a cap was placed on NHTD Waiver enrollment, and the program immediately reached capacity. New referrals are no longer being accepted, leaving many individuals and families without a clear path to accessing services.

Currently, there is no formal waiting list. Instead, people seeking enrollment must repeatedly contact their Regional Resource Development Center (RRDC) to see if an opening becomes available.

Legislation before the New York State Legislature —A.10403 (Paulin) / S.9573 (Rivera)—would create a region-specific waiting list, ensuring a fair and transparent process for those seeking services.

Take Action

Contact New York State legislative leaders and urge them to pass A.10403 (Paulin) / S.9573 (Rivera):

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie
518-455-4100

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins
518-455-2800

You can also send a message directly through the advocacy campaign:

<https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/xaRTIS1-o0JQ497x85EjUg>

People with disabilities deserve a clear path to the services that help them live independently in their communities. Your voice can help make that happen.



For many older adults and people with disabilities, services provided through the NHTD Waiver make it possible to remain active, independent, and at home—where they want to be. Advocates are calling for action to ensure continued access to these essential supports.

JUNE 2026

Disability Power on the Hill!

Disability advocacy was front and center in Washington, D.C. this May during “Disability Power on the Hill,” a national week of action organized by the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD). From May 11–15, advocates from across the country gathered on Capitol Hill to meet with members of Congress, share personal experiences, and push for policies that strengthen independence and opportunity for people with disabilities.

Throughout the week, advocates highlighted several key priorities, including protecting Medicaid and Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), eliminating outdated SSI savings penalties, fully funding special education through



Members of the American Association of People with Disabilities post in front of the U.S. Capitol .



Advocates from AAPD met with members of Congress throughout the week, highlighting key priorities and ensuring strong federal supports.

IDEA, and ensuring strong federal support for disability programs and services nationwide.

Events like Disability Power on the Hill demonstrate the vital role advocacy plays in shaping policies that directly impact the daily lives of people with disabilities. By speaking up, sharing lived experiences, and building connections with lawmakers, advocates help ensure that the disability community remains visible, heard, and empowered.

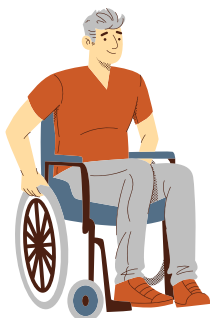
The week served as a powerful reminder that meaningful change happens when people come together to demand accessibility, equity, and full inclusion for all.



INDEPENDENT

JUNE 2026

RCAL'S DURABLE MEDICAL LOAN CLOSET



**Need medical equipment? RCAL provides
affordable, community-based support.**

WE PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF DURABLE
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT ON LOAN, INCLUDING:

- ✓ WHEELCHAIRS
- ✓ WALKERS
- ✓ ROLLATORS
- ✓ SHOWER SEATS
- ✓ CANES
- ✓ PORTABLE RAMPS



HOURS OF OPERATION:

MON – FRI, 10 AM – 3 PM

PLEASE CALL 845-331-0541 TO CHECK
AVAILABILITY AND SCHEDULE AN
APPOINTMENT.



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RCAL!**

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HUDSON VALLEY LIMB LOSS

➤ SUPPORT GROUP ➤

— You are not alone. We are here for you. —

A welcoming community for individuals living with limb loss and their loved ones in the Hudson Valley and surrounding areas.

WE'RE HERE TO:



SHARE EXPERIENCES

Connect with others who truly understand your journey.



FIND SUPPORT & ENCOURAGEMENT

Receive and offer support in a safe, judgment-free space.



LEARN & GROW TOGETHER

Share resources, tips, and information that empower.



BUILD CONFIDENCE

Be inspired and reminded that you can keep moving forward.



MEETINGS

We meet the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6 pm–7 pm.



In person or Zoom.
727 Ulster Ave.
Kingston, NY. 12401



Zoom ID: 876 1707 9276
Password: 812752



WHO IT'S FOR

Individuals living with limb loss

- All ages
- All causes of limb loss
- All levels of mobility

Family members, friends, and caregivers are encouraged to attend.

Together, we are stronger.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

hudsonvalleylimbloss@gmail.com



Hudson Valley Limb Loss Support Group

JOIN OUR TEAM

RCAL is hiring compassionate, motivated individuals to help support our community. To apply, email Katie Clayton at kclayton@rcal.org.

NHTD/TBI Service Coordinator / Adult Health Homes Case Manager - FULL TIME

RCAL is seeking a motivated, self-starting individual to support people with disabilities in accessing services that help them remain independent in their homes and communities. This role provides person-centered case management through the NHTD/TBI Waiver and Adult Health Homes programs.

Key Responsibilities:

- Service Coordination
- Provide case management services and coordinate person-centered care plans.
- Collaborate with healthcare providers, service agencies, and community partners to meet client needs.
- Community Resources
- Connect clients with community-based services, supports, and benefits.
- Assist with applications and eligibility processes.
- Advocate for access to resources that promote independence.
- Documentation & Compliance
- Maintain accurate case records, service plans, and required documentation.
- Ensure compliance with program regulations and reporting requirements.
- Conduct regular follow-ups and update care plans as needed.
- Client Support
- Provide information, guidance, and support to clients and families.
- Assist clients in addressing barriers to services and independent living.
- Qualifications
- Required
- Minimum two years of experience in service coordination or case management for individuals with disabilities.
- Knowledge of disability rights, person-centered planning, and HCBS Waiver programs.
- Strong organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to build relationships with community organizations and resources.
- Valid NYS driver's license and automobile insurance meeting program requirements.

Benefits

- Competitive pay (\$19–\$22 per hour); Travel reimbursement; Flexible schedule; 13 paid holidays annually; 2 weeks paid vacation; 2 weeks paid sick time; Health insurance;

Equal Opportunity Employer

- RCAL is committed to fostering an inclusive workplace and does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, religion, veteran status, political affiliation, or any other characteristic unrelated to job qualifications.
- Work Location: Community-based / Travel Required

**MHV PROUDLY
SUPPORTS
OUR COMMUNITY
PARTNER:
RCAL!**

**GUIDING
YOUR FINANCIAL
JOURNEY
across THE
HUDSON VALLEY.**



Federally Insured by NCUA



INDEPENDENT

JUNE 2026

RCAL Angel Sponsor



Community Contributors



RCAL Board Members
Kathy McMahon &
Jack Ruddick



Join our growing community of sponsors. Learn more at
rcal.org/sponsorships.



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JUNE 2026

Disability Advocates



Kiwanis
CLUB OF KINGSTON



MUSICFUSION



Anthony Mignone & Matthew Coumbes

Joanna & Peter Mignone

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Friends of RCAL



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WILLIAMS
Lumber & Home Centers



KINGSTON
PHYSICAL THERAPY & SPORTS REHAB



BASCH KEEGAN & SPADA

PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS

FRANCIS PFLYNN
certified public accountant

Join our growing community of sponsors. Learn more at
rcal.org/sponsorships.

Know Your Rights: Using Uber with a Disability



Assistive Devices

Drivers may not refuse service to riders who can independently enter a vehicle because they use assistive devices such as folding wheelchairs, walkers, canes, or crutches. Drivers are also expected to assist with stowing these devices, just as they would any other luggage.

How to Report an Issue

If you experience a cancellation, refusal of service, harassment, or another issue related to an assistive device, you can report the incident through the Uber app under Help > Accessibility.



Service Animals

Uber drivers are required to accept riders traveling with service animals. Drivers may not deny service because of a service animal, even if they have allergies, religious objections, or a fear of animals.

If you believe you have been denied service because of a service animal, you can report the incident directly to Uber for investigation. Knowing your rights can help ensure a safer and more accessible transportation experience for everyone.



●●● Make a Lasting Impact, Become a Monthly Donor



At RCAL, we believe everyone deserves the freedom to live independently and fully in their community. Every day, we work alongside people with disabilities to make that vision a reality—and you can be a part of it.

By becoming a monthly donor, you provide steady, reliable support that helps us respond to needs as they arise, expand our programs, and reach more people across our community. Even a small monthly gift can make a meaningful difference over time.

Your ongoing support helps ensure that essential services, advocacy, and resources remain available to those who count on them. Scan the QR code to get started or visit rcal.org/donate.

