

JUNE 2025

A Letter From the Director

If you've been anywhere near me lately, you already know—I can hardly contain my excitement about our upcoming Disability Awareness Parade on Saturday, July 19! This event holds such a special place in my heart, and the energy building around it is truly electric.

Are you marching with us?! If not, you should be. Are you a person with a disability? Do you know a person with a disability? Then you are a part of this community. Come out and shine with us, walk with us, ride with us, roll with us, stand tall with us.

Whatever you do on July 19th, do it with RCAL and show your support for the disability movement. We have incredible community involvement, with horses, motorcycles, floats, and more. We have a Bounce House, children's games, and free Italian Ice for kiddos.

We are still seeking a marching brass or jazz band to join us and make the march even more exhilarating! If you know a band that fits the description, let us know!

Whether you want to dress up, dance your way down Broadway, or just be you, do it all with us on July 19th. Get involved with this year's parade and make a lasting memory. This is the only parade of its kind in New York State so don't miss out! Scooby and I will be lining up marchers at the Municipal Lot by Frank Guido's Little Italy the morning of the parade waiting for you! We can't wait to see you there!

With Love and Gratitude for you all,

Anthony Mignone
CEO, Resource Center for Accessible Living

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WE ARE HIRING

Disability Parade!

Become a Board Member

Celebrating Black Excellence in Ulster County!

March with US!

Be Our Sponsor!

YOUR INDEPENDENCE IS OUR MISSION



JUNE 2025

Summer Fun at RCAL's BBQ

On June 11, RCAL hosted our Annual BBQ + Open House at the beautiful Robert Post Park, and it was a tremendous success! 🌞🍔🎵

The community came out in full force to enjoy a perfect day filled with sunshine, delicious food, great music, and even better company. From reconnecting with old friends to making new ones, the day was a celebration of community spirit and inclusion.

We're grateful to everyone who joined us and helped make the event so special. Events like this remind us why we do what we do — building a stronger, more connected community for people of all abilities. Check out some of our favorite moments from the day below!



🐾 Scooby Says... Let's Spruce Up the Loan Closet!

Woof woof wag! Have you seen our brand new Employment Center? It looks paw-sitively amazing! Check out some photos below from last month's ribbon cutting with the Ulster County Chamber of Commerce!



Now I'm thinking... maybe it's time we gave a little love to the Durable Medical Equipment Loan Closet, too. Do you have 10 gallons of paint just sitting around? Or maybe some quality shelving you're not using? How about a few hours to volunteer or a little donation to help with renovations? Every bit helps!

If you're interested in pitching in, please contact my human friend Robert at 845-331-0541 ext. 12. (Unfortunately, I'm no longer allowed to accept donations myself... sigh. All I did was bury one walker in the backyard and suddenly I'm banned for life. Harsh.)

See you at the Disability Awareness Parade! I'll be the one wagging proudly in the front row. 🐶🎉



JUNE 2025

Remembering Josephine Todaro Beloved Advocate, Colleague, and Friend

We are heartbroken to share the passing of Josephine Todaro on June 1, 2025. Josephine was a cherished part of the RCAL family for decades and a powerful force in the independent living movement across New York State.

A ferocious advocate for people with disabilities, Josephine was particularly instrumental in advancing the rights of individuals living with Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI). At RCAL, she led our TBI Support Group with compassion, honesty, and unwavering dedication—creating a safe, empowering space for countless individuals over the years.

In 2020, Josephine brought her talents to the New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL), where she helped launch the statewide Good Neighbor Program. Despite the sudden onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which dramatically reshaped the work, Josephine was undaunted. Her deep background in case management and her hands-on approach made her an incredible asset. She saw every individual in the program as “My Neighbor”—and treated them with dignity, care, and fierce loyalty.



One Transition Specialist shared, “Josephine was always helpful and willing to jump in and get her hands dirty with a tough case.”

Even as her health declined, Josephine remained committed to her work. She personally helped interview her successor, ensuring the program would remain in strong hands. Her dedication never wavered.

Josephine’s strong New York City accent, spirited attitude, and no-nonsense approach to advocacy made her unforgettable. Her legacy will live on through the lives she touched and the systems she helped shape. Rest in power, Josephine. Your voice and your fight will never be forgotten.

You can view her obituary here: [Josephine Fioretti Todaro Obituary](#)

JOIN OUR TEAM

RCAL is seeking talented individuals for the following job openings:

Pre-Vocational Counselor (FT): This role is responsible for preparing individuals with disabilities, special needs, or other employment barriers for successful entry into the workforce. This position involves assessing client needs, developing individualized pre-employment plans, teaching job-readiness skills, and coordinating with support services to ensure comprehensive client development and success. Associates degree and 1-2 years of experience in vocational counseling, special education, workforce development, or related human services roles. Hourly wage range: \$19.00-\$21.00

Benefits: Holiday pay, Health insurance, Dental and Eye insurance, life Insurance, PTO, Sick time and professional development, etc. To Apply, email Leah Gherardi at Lgherardi@rcal.org.

Community Habilitation Support (PT): RCAL is seeking compassionate and dedicated individuals to join our team as PT Community Habilitation Support Staff. In this role, you will provide direct assistance and support to individuals with developmental disabilities to help them achieve their goals, enhance their independence, and participate more fully in their communities. The ComHab Staff work closely with clients, families, and other members of the support team to implement individualized plans and promote meaningful engagement and skill development. Salary range is \$16.50- \$18.50/hour.



**WE WANT YOU...
TO MARCH WITH US!!**

Show your support for the disability community on **Sat., July 19** by marching down Broadway with RCAL for our 3rd Annual Disability Awareness Parade!

We invite all community groups, service providers, residential and day programs, habilitation groups, and local organizations to march with us in celebration of disability pride, inclusion, and community empowerment.

Register for free today: 845-331-0541 x12.

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

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



Federally Insured by NCUA



RCAL Presents

2025

DISABILITY
AWARENESS

PARADE!



SAT, JULY 19

.....
Line up 10a.m. at Municipal Lot
by Guido's Little Italy.

Step off 11 a.m., march down Broadway.

Resource Fair to Follow at Keegan Ales

20 St. James St., Kingston.



Register at rcal.org/parade or
call 845-331-0541 x12.



INDEPENDENT

JUNE 2025

Become an RCAL Board Member

Do you have 5-8 hours a month? Do you have a commitment to living independently in the community regardless of disability?

Please consider becoming a part of our Oversight board. Call Robert at 845-331-0541 ext. 12 and he will arrange for you to come down and have a tour and meet and greet with our CEO Anthony. He will explain all of our programs and about our agency.

Without an oversight board, a non-for-profit cannot function. Don't worry, this is not a management board. You do not have to direct staff or manage programs on a day-to-day basis. Our meetings are hybrid so if you can't drive in the evening or if getting around is an issue, you can still participate. Give us a call for more information!

**BE OUR
SPONSOR
AND MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

**RCAL IS ALWAYS SEEKING NEW BUSINESS SPONSORS.
CONTACT US TODAY TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP!
845-331-0541 EXT. 12**

JUNE 2025

Celebrating Black Excellence in Ulster County

RCAL was proud to sponsor the 2025 Ulster County Black Business Community Celebration, held on June 18. Hosted by the Ulster County Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with Black History Month Kingston and Ulster County Tourism, the event was a powerful tribute to the contributions and achievements of Black-owned businesses in our region.

It was a beautiful and inspiring evening, bringing together community leaders, entrepreneurs, and advocates in celebration of progress, partnership, and pride. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to this year's award recipients, and we thank all who helped make this event a meaningful success. RCAL is honored to support efforts that uplift and recognize the diverse voices and businesses that strengthen our community.

2025 Honorees



Black Business Excellence Award

Bryant "Drew" Andrews

(Center for Creative Education)



Maude Bruce Community Impact Award

Pastor Doris Schuyler

(Riverview Missionary Baptist Church)



Black Business Leadership Award

Minya Dejohnette

(Kingston Acupuncture & Wellness)



Young Black Leader Award

Calief Housen

(Career InTouch)



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Ulster Savings

WELCOMING SPONSORS

**ULSTER COUNTY
TOURISM**

Central Hudson
A FORTIS COMPANY

DIAMOND SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSOR



JK's Wine & Liquor | Keegan Ales | Adams Fairacre Farms



UPCOMING *Workshops*



BENEFITS ADVISEMENT WORKSHOP

With:
TODD MARTIN
Benefits Advisor

Assistance with:

- Medicaid and Medicare
- Social Security Disability and SSI
- Medicaid Buy-in
- Extended Periods of Eligibility
- Expedited Reinstatement

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
July 9, 2025

**Trudy Farber Center
For Human Development**
50 Center St.
Ellenville, NY 12428

10 AM - 2 PM

Benefits Advisement!

RCAL will be offering on-site Benefits Advisement at the Trudy Farber Center for Human Development in Ellenville. Get assistance with Medicaid, Medicare, SSDI, SSI and more.

July
9
2025



ON-SITE BENEFITS ADVISEMENT

With:
TODD MARTIN
Benefits Advisor

Assistance with:

- Medicaid and Medicare
- Social Security Disability and SSI
- Medicaid Buy-in
- Working Disabled Program
- Pooled Trust

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
July 16, 2025

Broadway Bubble
718 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401

10 AM - 2 PM

Benefits Advisement!

RCAL will be offering on-site Benefits Advisement at the Broadway Bubble in Kingston. Get assistance with Medicaid, Medicare, SSDI, SSI and more.

July
16
2025



ABLE ACHIEVE A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE

ABLE is a special savings account that won't endanger your benefits and will allow you to save for the future. Join RCAL's Benefits Advisor and learn how this program can empower individuals with disabilities to save money without jeopardizing eligibility for critical benefits like Medicaid and SSI.

Topics:

- What is ABLE and who is eligible.
- How to use ABLE to save for expenses.
- Contribution limits, tax advantages
- How ABLE interacts with other benefits.

April 14 10am - 12pm
July 22 2pm - 4pm
November 3 10am - 12pm

2 PM - 4 PM

ABLE: Achieve a Better Life Experience

ABLE is a special savings account that won't endanger your benefits and will allow you to save for the future. Join RCAL's Benefits Advisor and learn about this program

July
22
2025

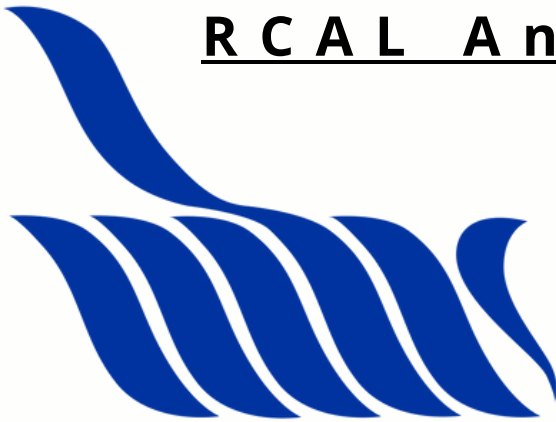
www.reallygreatsite.com



INDEPENDENT

JUNE 2025

R C A L A n g e l S p o n s o r



MHV

MID-HUDSON VALLEY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



C o m m u n i t y C o n t r i b u t o r s



Ethan Allen
WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS



Ulster  Savings
Community Matters



Ulster Federal
CREDIT UNION



INDEPENDENT

JUNE 2025

Disability Advocates



Alex Stier
Real Estate Associate Broker
518.281.8700 (C)
845.765.3900 (O)
astier@kw.com



15 Taylor Street, Kingston, NY 12401
Each office is independently owned and operated



Anthony Mignone & Matthew Coumbes

RCAL Board Members Kathy McMahon & Jack Ruddick

RCAL Board Members Sheila Kilpatrick and Jeffrey Galinson

Joanna & Peter Mignone



INDEPENDENT

JUNE 2025

Disability Advocates Continued

KINGSTON
Fine Jewelry



Friends of RCAL

FRANCIS PFLYNN
certified public accountant



KINGSTON
Fine Jewelry



WILLIAMS
Lumber & Home Centers



Find Support and Understanding



We believe in the power of peer support—and we're always open to expanding our offerings. If you have the experience and passion to facilitate a support group and are looking for a welcoming, accessible space to host it, RCAL can help.

Have an idea for a support group? Call RCAL today at 845-331-0541 ext. 12.

