

**The Meaning of LIFE Newsletter**  
[picture of LIFE's logo]

**October [www.lifecil.com](http://www.lifecil.com)**

***Promoting independent living and advancing  
community change for  
EVERYONE!***

[Picture of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) poster including the theme "America's Workforce: Empowering All." in upper left corner]

**October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

In keeping with the U.S. Department of Labor's commitment to ensuring an American workforce for Americans of all abilities, this year's official National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) theme will be "America's Workforce: Empowering All," the Department announced today.

"President Trump's administration is committed to ensuring that all Americans can access good, family-sustaining jobs. A workforce that empowers everyone is good for job seekers as well as job creators," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta. "Over the past year, the unemployment rate for individuals with

disabilities has significantly declined. Continued steady job creation will provide even more opportunities for all Americans to get hired and provide for their families.”

Observed each October, NDEAM is a nationwide campaign that celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities throughout American history, and emphasizes the importance of ensuring that all Americans have access to the services and supports to enable them to work. Although led at the national level by the Department’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), the true spirit of NDEAM lies in the many observances held across the nation every year. The Department announces the annual theme early to facilitate planning of events.

Locally, in conjunction with NDEAM, LIFE’s Board Vice President, Steve Oldaker, and the Brunswick Glynn County Council on Disabilities ([www.bgccd.org](http://www.bgccd.org)) will be holding their annual Employer of the Year Award Luncheon where they will present their 2018 award to Winn-Dixie on Highway 341 in Brunswick for their noteworthy efforts to recruit, hire, train and retain employees with disabilities. The event is open to the public and will feature a guest speaker and promote the employment of people with disabilities year-round. It will be held on Wednesday, October 17, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, at the Ole Times Country Buffet on Scranton Rd. in Brunswick. Lunch is FREE for attendees, but reservations

are required. Call 912-264-7287 by Monday, October 15 to secure your reservation(s).

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### *From Our Director*

[Picture of Executive Director Neil Ligon located in upper left corner of page]

LIFE's fiscal year closed on September 30<sup>th</sup> and Fiscal year 2019 began anew October 1<sup>st</sup>, a legally/financially important event that is largely unnoticeable to others. For us who work at LIFE, it remains extremely important, though. The promises we made to our State and Federal Government funders, to our consumers and to our Board through our annual Work Plan must be reviewed, successes celebrated and omissions addressed.

For the fortunate, October, November and December are months peppered with costuming, time off, consumption of candy and large meals alike, and holidays with families and friends. We hope you enjoy this season, perhaps joining us for our holiday festivities in December, and we have every intention of doing the same. But against the backdrop of this season, our ongoing accountability to our consumers and our community remains front and center as we prepare our 704 Report and review the FY 2018

Work Plan goals.

I feel good about what we accomplished in FY 2018, though a more in-depth review over the next few months will highlight both the reasons for my pride as well as instilling humility through its revelation of missed opportunities. October represents the beginning of our next cycle of accountability; we will create our newest work plan, FY 2019's promises, and begin to work towards their fulfillment under the guidance of our Board and with input from our consumers and community partners. And we will continue our quest to promoting independent living and advancing community change for everyone. Happy Holidays to you and yours. We look forward to working with you moving forward.

### **From the Board President**

[Picture of Board President Stu Klugler located on left side of page]

After finishing the first year of a five-year strategic plan, the Strategic Plan Committee was able to add two sections called outcomes and "What to do next?" to goals and objectives. In a few cases, the committee realized that they wanted to increase funding sources. Moreover, in evaluating the board's strengths and weaknesses, the committee recommended an additional board member

with fundraising experience.

Hopefully, someone reading this article has this expertise, or can recommend an individual. Please contact Board President Stu Klugler (303-808-0888) or [stuknicks@aol.com](mailto:stuknicks@aol.com), if you can volunteer your service a few hours a month. Thanks in advance.

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### Upcoming LIFE Events

**October 15 Invisible Disabilities Training 12:30 - 4:00**  
**First Presbyterian Church 520 Washington Ave.**  
**Savannah, GA 31405**

[Picture of a flyer that reads: Participate in learning valuable information about disabilities that you may not notice as well as find out ways to be supportive of individuals who deal with every day. You will hear stories from individuals who have lived experience and professionals alike. There will also be refreshments and networking opportunities.

**First Presbyterian Church 520 Washington Ave.**  
**Savannah, GA 31405**

If you need any accommodations such as material in an alternate format or a Sign Language Interpreter, please

contact Ashley Shaw at 912-920-2414 or ashaw@lifecil.com by October 8th.]

**November 15 Peer Support Social 1:00 - 3:00**

[Picture of a flyer that reads Please join us for popcorn and a movie. **November 15<sup>th</sup>** 1:00 until 3:00.

**LIFE office 5105 Paulsen Street, Suite 143-B**

Savannah, GA 31405

On the left side of the page there is a picture of a beautiful butterfly with the title Butterfly Circus over it.

The Butterfly Circus is an award winning short film, portraying the life of a man. Will, who was born without limbs, works at a sideshow when he is discovered by the showman for the Butterfly Circus. In contrast to the majority, the showman appreciates Will's beauty, encouraging him to look past his "disadvantages" and find a greater purpose in life. Despite the film being short, the message is clear. Most people have problems, but there is no reason to let that ruin life. It's about finding opportunities in every situation, no matter how difficult it might seem.

Contact Shannon Ginn at 912-920-2414 or sginn@lifecil.com if you need accommodations such as a

Sign Language Interpreter or material in an alternate format.]

**November 15 LIFE Board Meeting 5:15 - 6:45**

**LIFE Office**

**December 6 Wine Tasting Fundraiser 5:30 - 7:30**

**Savannah Wine Cellar**

**[Picture of a poster that has a picture of a wine glass full of red wine and information that reads:**

**You are cordially invited to a Wine Tasting to benefit Living Independence for Everyone, Inc.**

**December 6, 2018 5:30 -7:30 PM Savannah Wine**

**Cellar 5500 Abercorn Street Savannah, GA 31405**

**Enjoy premium wines paired with delicious appetizers while socializing with friends!**

**Tickets are \$20 in advance ([Savannahwinecellar.com](http://Savannahwinecellar.com)) and \$25 at the door.]**

**December 13 Holiday Peer Support Social 1:00 - LIFE Office**

**[Picture of a flyer that reads**

**Holiday Peer Support Celebration!**

**LIFE, Inc. will host a holiday peer support celebration to close out the year. We will enjoy icebreakers, make**

**and take arts and crafts, and holiday themed refreshments. We welcome anyone from the community to come socialize and make new friends.**

**December 13, 2018 1:00-3:00 LIFE, Inc.**

**5105 Paulsen Street, Suite 143-B**

**Savannah, GA 31405**

**Two lucky participants will win a gift to brighten their holiday during a drawing. While having fun and meeting new people you can also learn about LIFE's monthly peer support group and independent living skills training coming up in the new year. We will resume our regularly scheduled meetings January 17, 2018. We hope to see you there!**

**If you need any accommodations such as material in an alternate format or a Sign Language Interpreter, please contact Ashley Shaw at 912-920-2414 or [ashaw@lifecil.com](mailto:ashaw@lifecil.com) by December 1st.**

**Picture of a banner that says "Happy Holidays" on the left side.]**

**Check LIFE's website ([www.lifecil.com](http://www.lifecil.com)) website and Facebook page (LIFE Inc.) for event details.**

**Please let us know if you need accommodations or materials in an alternative format.**

**AWARD WINNERS**

**LIFE's Second Annual Southern Summer Nights Fundraiser** was a wonderful success! Attendees enjoyed a FABULOUS dinner catered by the one and only Bryan Graves, delightful silent auction items and an award ceremony honoring three awesome organizations and one very special individual. The Miracle League of Camden County, Adaptable Golf Savannah and The Josh Reddick Foundation each received Accessible Sports awards for increasing access to recreational opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Bill Byler, of National Seating and Mobility, won the Volunteer of the Year award for his many years of friendship and service to LIFE and to so many individuals in our community.

**[Picture of Bill Byler and his wife Carol]**

**The Miracle League of Camden County (dba Justin's Miracle Field)**

Jeff and Tina Norris set out to build an accessible baseball field in honor of their son, Justin, so that children with disabilities have the opportunity to play the game Justin loved so much.

Construction on Justin's Miracle Field was completed in the Fall of 2011 and provides opportunities for children with disabilities to play Miracle League baseball,

regardless of their abilities, promote community support and sponsorship of Miracle Leagues and promote the construction of special facilities that meet the unique needs of Miracle League players and their families. Learn more at <http://www.camdenmiracleleague.com/>

[Picture of the Miracle League logo on the left side of article and a picture of a children's baseball team on the right side]

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### **Adaptive Golf Savannah**

**LIFE is proud to partner with Adaptive Golf Savannah (AGS)!** Clay Mims, LIFE's Nursing Home Transition Coordinator, has been participating in the accessible golf workshops on the Hunter Army Airfield Golf Course for the past two months and absolutely LOVES it!

"It has been a joy working and playing with these great individuals, veterans and children alike", CT says. "Ed Garza, founder of AGS, has welcomed us all with open arms and has been so instrumental in helping us pursue our passion for the game."

The group meets the 1st Saturday of each month from 9AM - 11AM at the Hunter Golf Course on Hunter Army Air Field in Savannah. The Clinic is totally free! Don't have any equipment? NO worries, they will help you with

that as well!

**Do you already know how to play golf?  
Are you interested in helping others?**

AGS will be holding a **FREE Adaptive Golf Coaches Training on Friday, October 5**. This is an all-day class with classroom training in the morning and actual hands-on training in the afternoon. A free lunch is included. Please contact Ed Garza at [adaptivegolfsavannah@outlook.com](mailto:adaptivegolfsavannah@outlook.com) for additional information or to sign up for this training.

[Picture of a gentleman addressing a teed-up ball while using an accessible golf cart to assist him in standing up. Another picture to the right of the text with Clay Mims assisting a golfer with his swing.]

### **Wheelchair Tennis Tournament Coming Soon!**

Do you know whether there is a wheelchair tennis division at the US Open in Flushing, New York? The answer is yes. Has Savannah, Georgia ever hosted a wheelchair tennis tournament? The answer is no, but after May of 2019, the answer will be yes. LIFE board members and staff have done some preliminary work for hosting a tournament over Memorial Day Weekend.

Savannah's Bacon Park, a site that consulted with a cross-disability team created by LIFE for accessibility, seems to be the venue that will host the tournament. Divisions for the tournament include singles and doubles. Also, there will be a demonstration of doubles called "one up...one down," where an able-bodied player partners with a wheelchair tennis player. Leagues have been set up throughout the country, using this format. The goal is to have twelve to sixteen athletes competing in both divisions.

If you would like to volunteer or sponsor the event, please contact Mark Schreiber or Stu Klugler (volunteers) or Fran Todd (sponsorship). The newsletter will provide updates about the tournament.

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### ***A FEW WORDS FROM OUR PEEPS...***

Hi Denise, this is RM. My grandfather is Mr. B. I want to thank you and LIFE, Inc. for being a blessing in his life. Now that my grandfather has his transport chair we can take him to his doctor's appointments and family functions without having to worry about him falling or getting fatigued. The pocket talker is amazing and he is very excited to hear us talk to him. He said that it is better than the old hearing aids that weren't as clear sounding. He

uses his rollater every day to get around the house and to get his mail out of the mailbox. The handheld shower has made it much easier for him to take showers. We can't thank you enough. Without LIFE, Inc. he wouldn't have been able to afford some of these basic necessities that increases his independence. You were helpful every step of the way even down to demonstrating how to use the pocket talker. Thank you and God bless!

[Entry separating line graphic]

This is a letter to thank you so very much for helping me to get my lift recliner. The recliner that is so very much needed. I had the hardest time getting up from a seated position. Now that I have the recliner, it gives me that extra lift without putting extra strain on my back or my knees. Because the chair reclines, my legs can also be elevated. That helps with the swelling. I am just so very appreciative. I just can't thank you all enough. Thank you, Ms. J

## **Mike Glenn Basketball Camp for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing**

Mike Glenn, who played in the National Basketball Association (NBA) with the Buffalo Braves, New York Knicks, Atlanta Hawks, and Milwaukee Bucks (1976-

1985), grew up near the Georgia School for the Deaf (GSD) in Cave Spring, Georgia. Mike credits the Deaf for teaching him basketball and life. As a way of giving back to the Deaf, he started a basketball camp in 1980. The 2018 camp was the 39th consecutive year of the Mike Glenn Basketball Camp for the Deaf and HH (Hard-of-Hearing), where the camp focuses on drills (see picture), three-on-three, and five-on-five competition.

Board Member Stu Klugler (pictured with the basketball) has worked at the camp since 1988. His basketball coaching skills have developed through this camp, and in 1999, he assisted the US Deaf Basketball Team in Havana, Cuba, in winning Gold at the Pan Am Games.

[Picture of people (mostly young adults) playing basketball.]

**The Coastal Empire Polio Survivors Association** will meet Saturday, October 27, 10:30 am at the Lewis Cancer Pavilion in conference room 203. The program is "Benefits of Massage in Polio Survivors." Polio survivors and guests are invited. For information call 912-927-8332.

The Coastal Empire Polio Survivors Association has scheduled its annual Christmas banquet for Saturday, December 8, 12 noon. Polio survivors and guests are invited but must register. For information and registration, call 912-927-8332.

**LIFE Presented Disability Etiquette Training to  
Chatham Area Transit**

Encountering a person with a disability for the first time may feel awkward to individuals without disabilities. Often, individuals fear the unknown, or fear saying or doing the wrong thing. LIFE conducts disability etiquette training to put the public at ease about interacting with and serving customers with disabilities. LIFE formed a cross-disability team to teach Chatham Area Transit drivers about disability etiquette. The team presented information in a series of classes that bus operators could use to make their ridership feel welcome, regardless of a disability. Simple things like ask before you act, don't assume, treat adults as adults, and simple respect, go a long way. Several bus operators commented that the training had a greater impact because it was presented by people with disabilities, about people with disabilities. We enjoyed collaborating with Chatham Area Transit to provide disability etiquette training to their fixed route and paratransit drivers.

**USE YOUR KROGER PLUS CARD TO HELP SUPPORT  
LIFE'S PROGRAMS!**

It just takes a few minutes to sign up!

[Picture of the Kroger Community Rewards Logo]

Go to [www. KrogerCommunityRewards.com](http://www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com) and sign in or create an account to enroll. Scroll down to “Plus Card” and click “edit” to link your card and new account. Hit “save.” Just below “Plus Card” is “Community Rewards”. Click “edit.” Type LV241, then search. Click the circle to the left and “save” to complete. It’s that easy!

Now every time you shop at Kroger and use your Kroger Plus Card, you are helping raise funds to support LIFE’s various programs.

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### **Consumer Reviews**

[Graphic in upper right corner of three dimensional winking yellow smiley face giving two thumbs up]

LIFE would like to hear from our consumers about businesses and services that welcome people with disabilities so that we can share this information with our readers. Hopefully, we can help educate our consumers and give kudos to these wonderful places in the future.

Recently, a LIFE consumer spoke to Sergeant Jeremy Henry about a “secret shopping” fraud. Sergeant Henry not only took down the information, but provided his email to gather more data. The Sergeant also made reference to

the Georgia District Attorney and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which are excellent resources. This type of customer service by the Savannah Police Department was excellent for anyone dealing with white-collar crime.

In addition, Sergeant Henry reminded the consumer that he spoke at LIFE several years ago about social security fraud. Additionally, he wants to come back to LIFE to better educate everyone on technological advances in the fraud world.

In closing, Sergeant Henry is reminded of LIFE's work in the community as he accesses the world-wide web (www) with his LIFE mousepad.

## **LIFE'S BOARD AND STAFF**

Sandra Bath - sbath@lifecil.com  
Transition Coordinator

Shannon Ginn - sginn@lifecil.com  
Peer Support Coordinator

Denise Howard - dhoward@lifecil.com  
Independent Living Coordinator/ATOC Director

Neil Ligon - nligon@lifecil.com  
Executive Director

CT Mims - cmims@lifecil.com

Transition Coordinator

Ashley Shaw - ashaw@lifecil.com

IL Coordinator

Mark Swift - mswift@lifecil.com

Office Manager/Home Modification Coordinator

Fran Todd - ftodd@lifecil.com

Director of Development

Board of Directors

Stuart Klugler - President

Steve Oldaker - Vice President

Mark Schreiber - Treasurer

Christina Corless- Secretary

Cheryl Brackin

Barry Helmey

Jonathan Kennard

Debbie Barefield

**PLEASE SUPPORT US BY SENDING A DONATION  
TODAY!**

**You also may donate online at [www.lifecil.com](http://www.lifecil.com).**

**Thank you for helping us level the playing field for people with disabilities.**

**LIKE us on Facebook at LIFE Inc. (picture of Facebook logo)**

**If you or someone you know would like to receive a copy of our quarterly newsletter, or if you would like to receive our newsletter in an alternate format, please contact**

**Fran Todd at 912.920.2414 or [ftodd@lifecil.com](mailto:ftodd@lifecil.com).**

**LIFE, Inc. is supported by grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, Georgia Division of Aging Services, City of Savannah, and the United Way of the Coastal Empire.**