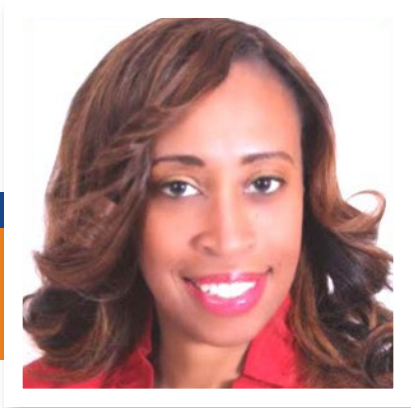




NEWSLETTER

FALL 2018



Message from the Chief Executive Officer

The past few months have been filled with exciting events for Human First! On July 22nd we held our Summer in the City brunch in Long Island City where we honored Enterprise Fleet Management and longtime Human First staff Noreen Moore. In September we recognized and celebrated our Direct Support Professionals for their hard work and dedication in service to the individuals we serve. Through their they carry out our agency's core values: quality, integrity, and respect. And on October 4th, we held our first annual Casino Night honoring Trooper Foods and Luisa Eusse-Roche, former Director of Service Coordination for Human First and now the Regional Director of Long Island for Care Design, NY. A special thank you to our event sponsors for making our events a great success!

With 2018 coming to a close, we ask that you remember Human First in your year-end giving. Your donations will provide much needed supplies to the individuals in our programs. You can also support Human First while you are

holiday shopping by visiting smile.amazon.com. Select Human First, Inc. and we will receive 5% back for every eligible purchase.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and the individuals and families we serve, we thank you for your support throughout 2018 and look forward to sharing more success stories in 2019.

Have a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Cheryelle Cruickshank | Chief Executive Officer

Stay in touch with Human First by following us on social media! Find us on Twitter and Instagram by following @HumanFirstNY or on Like us on Facebook by going to Facebook.com/HumanFirstInc. Through social media, you'll be able to see first-hand how your support helps the individuals and families we serve.

A Brunch to Remember

On July 22, 2018, staff, friends and donors gathered at the Vista Sky Lounge in Long Island City to enjoy mingling, great food and breathtaking views at Human First's Summer in the City event. The money raised will go toward supporting the agency's programs and services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

During the event, Human First honored Enterprise Fleet Management and longtime employee Noreen Moore. While working in our Accounts Payable department for 14 years, Noreen has been instrumental in the delivery of essential services to Human First's individuals, while Enterprise continues to provide exceptional service and support to our agency.

Congratulations to Noreen and Enterprise, and many thanks to everyone who attended our brunch. A special shout-out to Heat Wave Sponsor MHH Clinical Services, and Summer Solstice Sponsors Moritt, Hock and Hamroff LLP and Approved Transportation for helping us shine a light on our life-changing services! [Check our Facebook page to see all photos from the event.](#)



An Opportunity to “Love”



Six participants from the LI Day Hab were selected to work at John's Crazy Socks, which is a company inspired by co-founder John Lee Cronin, an individual with Down Syndrome.

For the third consecutive year, young men and women from Human First's programs headed to the US Open to assist the Guest Services and Facility Operations Departments. During the two-week tournament, individuals have increased their socialization skills, independence and self-sufficiency while witnessing the top tennis players in the world. Hats off to our hard-working individuals and to the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center for providing this wonderful opportunity of integrated employment!

Tricia Flowers Named Director of Residential Habilitation

Tricia Flowers has been appointed Human First's Director of Residential Habilitation. Before taking the helm, Tricia served as the agency's Director of Quality Assurance for approximately two years. She originally joined Human First in February 2013 as a Medicaid Service Coordination Supervisor and later served as Behavior Intervention Specialist of the Queens Crisis Program. A Licensed Master Social Worker, Tricia holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science from Hofstra University and a Master's of Social Work from Adelphi "University. She has worked in the field of developmental disabilities since 2001.

Well done, Tricia!



Human First Fundraiser Is Simply Aces

On October 4, 2018, Human First held its 2018 Casino Night at Terrace on the Park in Flushing, New York. The successful event raised money to help support the agency's unfunded programs and enhanced services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

During the reception, Human First honored leading food distributor Trooper Foods, and Luisa Eusse-Roche, a former Human First employee who now serves as Long Island Regional Care Manager Director/Willowbrook Liaison for Care Design New York. As one of the Tri-state area's premier food distributors, Trooper Foods works closely with nonprofit and social service sectors to provide a wide range of food and related products. While working at Human First, Luisa served as Medicaid Service Coordination Supervisor and was later promoted to Director of Service Coordination. At Care Design New York, Luisa has been instrumental during the statewide shift from Medicaid Service Coordination to Care Management.

"We were delighted to recognize Trooper Foods and Luisa Eusse-Roche for their wonderful impact on the nonprofit community and the individuals we serve," said Cheryelle Cruickshank, Chief Executive Officer, Human First. "A big thank you to everyone who attended our Casino Night, and to our incredible staff for helping us to deliver 17 years of outstanding, life-changing services."

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Our Straight Flush Sponsors



Our Four of a Kind Sponsor



[James E. Vassalotti & Associates, Inc.](#)

Our Full House Sponsors





Senator John E. Brooks Visits Long Island Day Hab

Senator John E. Brooks, of the 8th Senate District, came to visit Long Island Day Hab and observe some of the Pop.Earth Programming that our program participants are currently able to enjoy on a weekly basis. The purpose of his visit was to see the benefits of this health and wellness programming in our day habs. Our Long Island day program currently enjoys weekly yoga, fitness, and dance classes as well as a monthly Eat-able cooking program. Additionally, we are able to substitute any of the classes if we are interested in art or music programs each month.

Senator Brooks was able to experience both an art class and a music class, get to speak with and spend time with our program participants, and engage in conversations about the need for and importance of fundraising to keep programs such as the ones Pop.Earth provides in our day programs.

Thank you to Pop.Earth as well as Gotham Government Relations for organizing today's visit! We look forward to continued collaboration in the future!



SUMMER EVENTS ROUND-UP

Day Trips



Park Avenue Day Hab working on their community garden



Park Avenue Day Hab going to Brooklyn Bridge Park



Astoria Day Hab celebrating 4th of July

Theodore Roosevelt Park

Astoria Day Hab visited the Theodore Roosevelt Park in Oyster Bay. They spent the day walking along the beach and engaged in different athletic activities.



Workshops

Park Avenue Day Hab Nutrition Committee teaching healthy choices in eating. Staff is showing the individuals how to safely cut fruit.



Great Adventure Trip



The residential program took their individuals on a trip to Great Adventure

Radio show

Jessica Felice & Alexandra Sanchez from the Farmingdale Day Program appearing on the LI News Radio Show "DDI on Autism" hosted by Dr. Michael Ramos. Date: 6/13/18.



Human First's DSP Employee Spotlight

In honor of DSP Week 2018 (September 9-15), Human First recognizes the outstanding contributions of residential staff who are committed to making a difference for everyone we serve.

Theresa Hazel is an assistant manager at the 111th Avenue IRA. Since joining Human First in 2014, Theresa has been a hard-working self-starter and a highly motivated employee. She understands the tasks that need to be performed and how to prioritize them in terms of urgency. Theresa works well with the individuals she serves, always treating them with the respect and kindness they deserve. She never hesitates to go above and beyond her regular duties as a DSP, such as assisting with food orders and lending a helping hand to anyone who needs one.

Josefina Reyes has been with Human First since 2012. Throughout the years, Ms. Reyes has developed the skills and knowledge needed to successfully assist the individuals she cares for. As someone who has extensive experience working with the DD population, she believes that teamwork is a crucial part of the job. She is quick to motivate others while ensuring that individuals' safety always comes first. In addition to her outstanding experience and dedication, Ms. Reyes is very flexible, punctual and reliable. She is always there whenever her assistance is needed. "My goal is to see individuals reach their full potential. The best reward is seeing them happy while achieving their goals," Ms. Reyes says.

Jendaya Stewart has worked at Human First's Inwood IRA for nearly two years. As a DSP, Jendaya has shown great leadership. She is very motivated, always taking the initiative to complete all assignments while making sure individuals are happy and safe. After her recent promotion to Assistant Residential Manager of Inwood IRA, Jendaya continues to show extraordinary dedication to the individuals we serve.



I have had the pleasure of working with **Jamal Mitchell** for 3 years now. He is one of the most hardworking and dedicated staff that I know. He has great communication skills and completes all tasks on a timely manner. Jamal has been working with the individual C.F. for many years now going above and beyond his responsibilities as a Direct Support Professional. He takes his work seriously and makes sure to work on all the valued outcomes with C.F. He goes beyond his duty as a DSP by taking C.F. to important medical appointments as C.F. is not able to get out in the community on his own. He takes on additional hours if he sees that C.F. needs more assistance for the day. Jamal makes sure that C.F. maintains a good personal hygiene and eats nutritious meals. Jamal has been more than a DSP to C.F., he has become a great friend to him.

Sarah Stenger has been working with Human First, Inc. since December 2017.

She has worked on three Community Habilitation cases during her time with our agency and has been a wonderful asset to our department.

As a direct support professional, she displays all of the necessary qualities to demonstrate her excellent work performance. Some of the qualities she exhibits are a steadfast positive attitude, patience, empathy, consistency, and the ability to plan for structured learning activities. She utilizes her resources such as the community and the library to create activities that are person-centered and something her participant is interested in working on.

Presently, Sarah works with two individuals whose valued outcomes and needs are significantly different; however, she is able to create plans structured routine activities that focus on the goals they are working on to enhance their own independence. Sarah states that, "no matter how diverse in needs, verbal positive reinforcement and high-fives go a long way in building a person's confidence and motivation." She has also told me that "she loves her job and participants, even during the frustrating moments for them. It's important to take breaks and redirecting their attention always works."

In the time Sarah has been working with her participants, I have had families reach out to me to give me their opinion and they have all stated that they are beyond satisfied with the services provided. Her enthusiasm and approach when working with individuals have made vast improvements in each of the individuals lives.

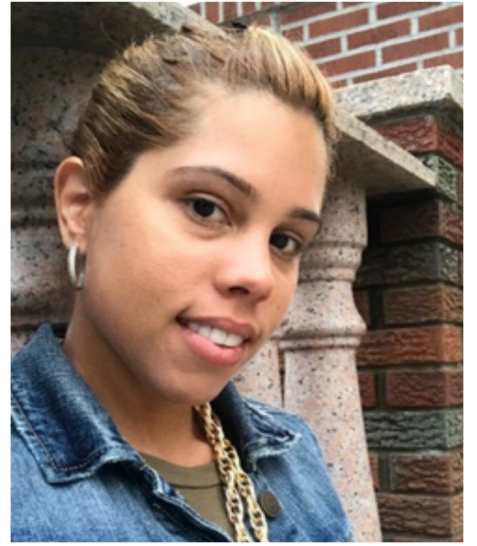
Human First Appoints New Director of Quality Assurance



In June, Human First named Jeffrey Perez as our new Director of Quality Assurance. Jeffrey began his distinguished career at ACRMD in Brooklyn before joining FECS as a Day Habilitation Specialist. He was later promoted to Supervisor at FECS and also served as a Program Coordinator of two Day Programs. Jeffrey is a certified OPWDD Investigator and is an active member of Human First's Incident Review, Quality Assurance and Activities Committees. Prior to being appointed Director of Quality Assurance, Jeffrey served as Human First's Little Neck Day Habilitation Program Coordinator for three years. He holds a BA in Psychology from Queens College.

Promotions

Marisol Estrada started off as a student in the psychology field looking for an internship. She was offered employment with Human First INC. and has now been an employee of Human First INC for 10 years. Marisol started with a position as a DSP at the Brooklyn Day. Marisol was transferred to the Astoria Day program when it opened in 2013 and shortly after was promoted to Assistant coordinator. Where she was able to help the program grow and show her management skills. Marisol has good team leading skills and a great appreciation for this field.



Elizabeth Brooks celebrating her first anniversary with Human First.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Congratulations to the following staff who recently celebrated their anniversary with Human First. Your dedication to our organization and the individuals we serve does not go unnoticed!

1 Year Anniversary

Eskridge, Amanda	Brooks, Elizabeth	Johnson, Lisa	DiGraziano, Nicole
Grinblat, Alexandra	Hurtado Tellez, Sara	Estrada, Ana	Marie
Mejia, Ikeia	Apollon, Marie	Lawal, Adebimpe	Louis, Jeanne
Smith, Kierra	Tirado, Shakita	Wilkinson, Kaitland	Morgan, Andrea
Antoine, Emmanuel	Mariah-Aransevia,	Clemente, Socorro	Nunes, Javon
Gold, Sara	Juneth	Plummer, Maribel	Stenger, Sarah
Pugh, Roseanne	Smalls, Tiera	Struve, Bertha M	Urban, Sean
Stewart, Jendaya	Rosenberg, Emily	Fortune, Melinda	Davis, Aisha
Chiazor, Sarah	Greenfield, Anna-Lisa	Spraggs, Kahaliyah	Hernandez, Cristina
Scotland, Malaika	Barton, Terry Ann	Grant, Garfield	King, Beryl

5 Year Anniversary

Reyes, Juana	Gomez, Harriet Fatou	Sanchez, Iesha	Smith, Johnny
Figueroa, Luz	Hoyt, Ashley	Appello, Nicole	Bernadin, Hensley
Gray-Bercy, Genene	Lawal, Hakeem-Bolaji	Millus, Menard	Dino
Rodriguez, Rocio	Lawson, Felicia	Gilkes, Abbey	Abdul, Zainab
Eldewak, Reem	Love, Jessica	Fields, Claudine	Abuelkhere, Reem
Hamzawy, Monira	Napoleon, Reginald	McCracken, Alisha	Maughn, Lucybelle
Green, Kadian	Parker, Barbara	Dunn, Qaydar	Mitchell, Jamal
Holmes, Teniesha	Person, Renee	Doctor, Denise	Holness, Kevin
Diouf, Khadidiatou	Reyes, Josefina	Sealey, Yarisa	

10 Year Anniversary

Bruno, Dainya	Adeyemi, Dennis
Donayre, Teofila	Montero, Galo
Vixamar, Sonia	Martino, Marcia



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