



## DID YOU KNOW THAT OVER 6 MILLION INDIVIDUALS IN THE US HAVE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES?

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all areas of life and the barriers that some still face in connecting to the communities in which they live.

At NCC, we celebrate developmental disabilities (and all disabilities) all year long. Our organization is devoted to ensuring that people with differing abilities have every resource to live, grow, work and thrive in their local communities - communities which fully include and embrace them as valued and contributing members. Join NCC as we work to improve and empower the daily lives of people living with disabilities.



### Facts about Developmental Disabilities:

- **About 1 in 6 (17%) children** aged 3–17 years old have one or more developmental disabilities
- **7.38 million people** in the United States have Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities
- **1 in 4 (25%) adults** in the United States have a disability that impacts major life activities

## NCC CEO PATRICIA BROWNE NAMED DAILY RECORD'S TOP 100 WOMEN FOR 2021

We are proud to announce that NCC CEO Patricia Browne has been named one of the **2021 Maryland's Top 100 Women**. "Outstanding achievement and a commitment to excellence are two of the many attributes that describe this year's Maryland's Top 100 Women honorees....this year's recipients "are navigating Maryland businesses through extraordinary times. They are defining the new normal while also leading their teams from survival to success." said Suzanne Fischer-Huettner, group publisher of The Daily Record. **We could not be more proud - Congratulations to Patricia for this prestigious recognition.**



# NCC ENHANCES THE REALITY OF HOME-BOUND RESIDENTS WITH VR

NCC has begun exploring the application of virtual reality (VR), to drive choice, independence and exposure to home-bound residents during the pandemic. The technology allows people to experience and explore in a way that is adaptive to their various abilities. VR takes place in a safe and controlled environment, and provides a unique opportunity to engage in immersive simulations to explore new and existing interests.

With the support of different apps and software, VR can be especially helpful in goal progress. Through this approach towards personal goal attainment, persons supported will also build upon their ability to control technological devices. NCC is excited as we begin our pilot phases with VR. We are looking forward to a future that ignites passions, furthers understanding and knowledge, and engages people in savvy, forward-facing ways.



## NCC Spotlight



## MEET IRIS

Iris is a veteran who has worked for NCC for the last 9 years. She is a Direct Support Professional (DSP), ensuring the health and well-being of Adult persons supported in our residential program. Iris is unique in that she herself is hearing impaired. As she attests, her “disability is a capability.” Being a deaf-friendly DSP not only allows her to have a “meaningful and purposeful” career, but also enables her to operate with an intense level of empathy.

As a result of the pandemic, many of our DSPs left their families for weeks at a time to shelter in place with person’s supported in their residential housing. They are truly our unsung heroes - Iris chief among them.

“People wanted to resume life as normal, but I had to encourage them to social distance, wear masks, and wash their hands.” Iris provided companionship to people in need, taught deaf persons supported new words to communicate, and even found creative ways to help them exercise. “It was challenging but rewarding...it’s an exciting time to be at NCC.”



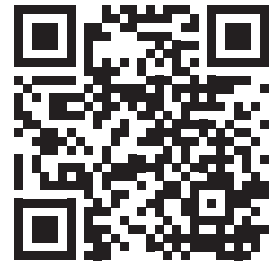
# BABY BLOOMERS URBAN FARM AND FRUIT ORCHARD NEEDS YOUR HELP!



According to the 2020 Hunger Report, “1 out of 10 residents of the metropolitan Washington region is food insecure.... nearly 1/3 of them are children.” The health and economic crisis spurred by the pandemic has caused greater hardship for families in our region.

Since 2017, NCC’s Baby Bloomers Urban Farm & Fruit Orchard has

helped to address food insecurity by providing access to healthy food options to the children and families of Ward 8 - this year will be no different! Gardening season began on **Saturday, April 3rd**. **There will be many events and opportunities to volunteer throughout the season.**



Click here to get alerts on upcoming volunteer opportunities.



## OPEN ENROLLMENT AT ELC

The Early Learning & Early Intervention Center (ELC) is one of NCC’s flagship programs providing high-quality early childhood education and early intervention for children in an inclusive and comprehensive setting. Since inception, the ELC has served thousands of children- including medically fragile and typically and atypically developing children.

We have maintained a High Quality designation for our creative curriculum, robust development strategies, and diverse staff, inclusive of onsite nurses and therapists. Plus, our expansive facility is

resourced with a variety of gross-motor skills equipment and large commercial kitchen allowing for learning beyond the classroom.

**We’re open for business in a COVID-safe environment. Slots available for children 8 months to 12 years of age**



Click here to learn more or register.



## SAVE THE DATE - NCC'S ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT IS BACK!

NCC's 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held **September 14, 2021**. Proceeds from the golf tournament will assist in the continued enhancements and expansion of our programs. The Registration site is now open. **Complete registration for you or your team today!**

We are currently seeking **Event Sponsors**. Contact Robyn Goldsmith at [rgoldsmith@nccinc.org](mailto:rgoldsmith@nccinc.org) to learn more about sponsorship packages.



## WE ARE GROWING!

NCC has some exciting career opportunities for persons looking to make an immense difference in the lives of individuals supported by our programs! If you are looking for work where you can see the impact firsthand each and every day, NCC is the place to work! We have opportunities for Direct Support Professionals, Teachers, Teacher Assistants, Healthcare Coordinator and an Education Coordinator. Join us and help us enhance the lives of persons with and without differing abilities to live, grow, work and thrive! Apply today!



## STAY INVOLVED - SUPPORT OUR MOVEMENT

To all Donors, Partners and Friends of NCC - We thank you for your continued support. We could not do this work without you. Your generosity fuels NCC's programs, services and community outreach. Donate today to help expand our programs and strengthen the vitality of the communities we serve!



**National Children's Center** Newsletter

Live. Work. Grow. Thrive.

[www.nccinc.org](http://www.nccinc.org)