



OUR ADULT DAY PROGRAM IS REOPENED

Over the past year, our NCC family has worked hard to maintain a balance between safety, support and wellness during the COVID-19 global pandemic. We are so proud of the persons supported and staff of our Day Program for their flexibility, resilience, and bravery during these unprecedented times.

It's hard to believe that our Day Program shut down over a year ago on March 17, 2020. At that time, we had 65 people combined in Day Habilitation, Active Treatment, Employment Readiness and Companion Services. The program closure had a great impact on our persons supported. Prior to March 17th our persons supported were largely participating in various community activities (Senior Center, Museum Focus Groups and Recreational Fitness) and due to the pandemic, they were converted to all in-home based activities and limited community interaction.

One year later.....we are pleased to announce the NCC Day Program officially reopened and resumed in-person activities on April 6th, 2021!! We have welcomed back all staff, 8 persons supported and 4 currently pending readmission.

Knowing that nothing can truly replace the experience of face-to-face interaction, we worked hard to develop our reopening plan and took into consideration CDC guidelines, DDS requirements as well as feedback from NCC staff, students and families. Some of the biggest challenges in the planning process were the parallel rise in COVID-19 exposure numbers and the buy-in from family members/guardians. Our highest priority from the very beginning of this pandemic and to this day remains the safety of our persons supported and staff.



And while we understand many persons supported and families remain concerned, rest assured NCC will continue to make substantial investments in health and safety. We are proud of our bold decision to resume in-person Day Program activities and it goes without saying, we made the right decision at the right time. Everyone is happy to be back among their NCC friends and family. As one of our persons supported proclaimed:

" I am excited to be back, I missed my friends and going out!" - Jerry Hill

Our persons supported were able to physically reconnect with their favorite program mates. They were thrilled to have some normalcy after 14 months of physical distance. We wish to extend a special thank you to our staff who made these glorious reunions possible and stepped up in unbelievable ways to keep our Day Program participants supported and thriving.



C.R.I.S.P. COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE PROGRAM IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The C.R.I.S.P. CSA or Community Supported Agriculture program is a member-based program where community residents pay an income-based fee and receive access to a variety of locally sourced fruits, vegetables, herbs and value-added products (like Ward 8 Honey!). Pricing is on a sliding-scale and we offer different share sizes (single or family) depending on how much produce the resident purchases.

The farmers are local women farmers and farmers of color! All of the produce at our C.R.I.S.P. Market and Farmshare is 100% Organic! We have a partnership with BBAR (Building Bridges Across the River), who supplements our produce weekly. Anything that is not grown directly from our BBAR Farm network is sourced from small-scale farms within a 50 mile radius of Washington, DC, with a priority on black/brown-owned, women-owned and veteran-owned farms.

This is NCC's 2nd year participating in the CRISP-CSA farm share program. The program benefits our ELC community by offering affordable memberships that purchase weekly produce for our families. Because Ward 8 is a known food desert, the CSA provides our community with healthy food options for their families that are close to home. The program will run from July 31st - September 11th.



Check out the most recent article about our garden in the Washington Post.

C.R.I.S.P.
COMMUNITY RAISED INSPIRED & SOURCED PRODUCE

Farmshare

Join the C.R.I.S.P. (Community Raised Inspired & Sourced Produce) Farmshare and receive locally grown, fresh organic produce from local farmers. Register at bbardc.org/CSA

Farmshare Schedule

Wednesdays | 10:00am–2:00pm

National Childrens Center
3400 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE,
Washington, DC 20032

Sessions

Spring: June 5–July 17
Summer: July 31–September 11
Fall: September 25–November 6

Farmshare Cost

Single Share: \$15/week
Family Share: \$20/week

Preferred Shares*:
Single Share: \$5 / week
Family Share: \$10 / week

*Preferred share-holders (those who have a household income of under \$55,000/year) pay a discounted price and may pay in weekly or bi-weekly increments.

MEET NURSE KADIJATU

Last March, NCC was pleased to welcome back one of our own, Kadijatu Bah, BSN, to serve in a critical nursing role in the Adult Residential Program. She is a devoted wife and mother of 3 who worked as a Direct Support Professional (DSP) for 2-3 years in the early 2000s.

Inspired by her experience as a DSP at NCC, Kadijatu pursued her lifelong dream of becoming a nurse and continued her studies while maintaining family obligations. She persevered, becoming first a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) and now holding a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN).

Though she began her nursing role at NCC at the beginning of the pandemic, as a front line responder, Kadijatu did the hard work of ensuring not only her own safety, but also the health and well-being of her patients and her family. She is a consummate professional. Of the pandemic experience, Kadijatu humbly says "It wasn't easy but that's what you sign up for when you become a nurse. I took proper precautions wearing the proper gear and used different strategies to keep everyone safe."

Kadijatu is passionate about the needs of the individuals that she supports. During the pandemic she provided care to NCC persons supported via in-person and virtual appointments, checkups and assessments. For those living in isolation, she went the extra mile in patient care and provided medication drop offs, wellness check ins and additional support to patients as needed.

In her spare time, Kadijatu enjoys traveling, cooking for her family and keeping the environment clean and green.

NCC Spotlight





BABY BUZZERS HONEY

On June 23rd, NCC staff and children gathered to see the first batch of **Baby Buzzers Honey** produced by the honey bees at the **Baby Bloomers Urban Farm and Fruit Orchard**.

This Urban Farm was created in 2017 and is housed on the grounds of NCC's Early Learning and Early Intervention Center (ELC) where close to 200 children with and without disabilities are supported in an inclusive learning environment.

NCC's Urban Farm has over 70 raised garden beds, assorted fruit trees, berries, and has inoculated logs to harvest mushrooms. Two years ago, honeybees were added by two bee-keeping certified NCC staff members.

On June 23rd, the children were able to see honeycombs (and ultimately honey) be pulled from the hive. Overall, the total amount of honey harvested was ten and a half pounds. Everyone also got to taste the fresh, delicious honey!

Support of NCC in any form goes to fund initiatives like this that support kids and the broader community. We are so grateful for everyone who has worked, donated and volunteered to make Baby Buzzers Honey production possible at NCC!



HEALTH AND NUTRITION INITIATIVE -- PARENT CAFÉ

NCC has been working with Georgetown's Community Health Division and School of Medicine for approximately 2 years on the Parent Café program. This unique program is designed to promote health and nutrition at home and aid parents in making good food choices. The Parent Café offers parents a fun and creative learning environment where parents can feel inspired, empowered and armed with new strategies to help their families thrive. In 2020 our combined efforts started gaining momentum through the Health and Wellness Initiative.

This program offers learning sessions for both families and Georgetown medical students. Sessions are a safe space to discuss health practices and challenges as well as the positive long term impact our food/nutrition choices can have on overall health. During the pandemic the group had pivoted to provide credible information about COVID-19, vaccine options, and coping mechanisms for stress. The focus has now shifted to focusing on healthy minds and bodies through nutrition.

At the end of April, we hosted a set of sessions on food and the brain. During the first session, we discussed brain development, neural connections, and foods that boost brain power. During the second session Chef Nelson taught useful skills through a cooking show, where brain healthy foods were incorporated into 2 variations of a delicious dish: salmon florentine cakes (or navy bean cakes) with an omega salad and avocado sauce. It is great to talk about healthy options, but it is even better when the information learned is put into practice in a way that stimulates all of the senses.





SEPTEMBER 14TH @ RENDITIONS GOLF COURSE

NCC will host our 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament presented by Heritage Investors Management Corporation at a brand-new location: Renditions Golf Course. Renditions is a beautiful 18-hole course inspired by iconic Grand Slam venues like Augusta National Golf Club. Brent Kennedy of The Baltimore Sun said, "Give Renditions golf course a few hours and it will transport you around the world."

Sign up for our event by **August 23rd** to get a special gift set that includes an Adidas® quarter-zip. We also have several sponsorship levels available that are going fast, so sign up to receive perks like prominent name placement and a private lunch for four with our CEO. You can navigate to Golf Tournament Registration on our website under the Donate tab at nccinc.org to learn more and sign up to register. You can also reach out to our Director of Development, Robyn Goldsmith, with any questions at rgoldsmith@nccinc.org.



[Click here to register](#)

SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS ARE IN

The National Children's Center surveyed persons supported and their families to assess and improve our current programs, services and priorities. We wanted to dig deeper into what we are doing well and where we need to improve and turn that feedback into action. Our findings suggest overall high levels of satisfaction with NCC staff, programs and services.

Qualitative as well as quantitative data was collected and the surveys were digitized primarily on Kwik Surveys. We used a scale of Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree with corresponding numbers 1 to 5.

Below are the Overall Levels of Satisfaction and Key Take-Aways in our four major program areas:

- **Community Living Services (CLS) - Persons Supported – 90%**
 - Persons supported feel safe and supported in personal goals.

- **Community Living Services - Families – 92%**
 - Families expressed very high levels of satisfaction with services & living environment.
- **Community Day Services (CDS) - Persons Supported - 86%**
 - The areas with the highest level of satisfaction among the Persons Supported were NCC staff and programs.
- **Community Day Services - Families – 84%**
 - Families are very satisfied with NCC staff & services.

We are taking the positive feedback and seeing how it can be reflected in other service areas/parts of the organization. Knowing what works and how different types of care are received will help us improve identified areas that aren't as strong. Of course, we are always looking for ways to grow our programs in tune with the evolving needs of our community. The data serves as a point of comparison to make sure that positive impact is a consistent part of our nature.

JOIN THE NCC 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. Join our movement to help expand our programs and strengthen the vitality of the communities we serve! Learn about all the ways you can Donate, Volunteer or Partner with us today.



National Children's Center Newsletter

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