



Empowering Individuals for Life

From the CEO

We have a busy May with Run the Greenway on May 7th, the annual picnic on May 13th, and our finalization and Board approval of the FY23 Budget.

Our FY22 strategic year ends on June 30 so ECHO leaders are working hard to ensure we finish strong. The primary focus of FY22 is to recover from the pandemic shutdown. We've made great progress both in terms of program hours served and financial recovery but the delta and omicron variants took a toll on our momentum as did the labor shortage for direct support professionals. In FY23 we will continue our recovery efforts and also continue to accelerate our ECHO Barkery and ECHO Blue Elegance social enterprises.

Please join me in congratulating our 2021 Annual Awards winners!

Core Value: Innovation Award: Lexie Williams

Core Value: Enthusiasm Award: Charla Muffley

Core Value: Courage Award: Beverly Sheppard

Pillar Award: Kristy Sullivan

Driver of the Year: Najib Erfaqi

Employment Support Specialist of the Year: Regina Bratton

Day Support Specialist of the Year: Charla Muffley

2021 HERO of the Year and recipient of the Shaun Bevan Cup: John Graham

Nothing happens at ECHO without the great team in place working hard every day! I am grateful for the dedication, compassion, enthusiasm and integrity that they bring to ECHO on a daily basis.

Thank you for all you do to help further ECHO's mission.

Paul Donohue, Jr.

CEO, ECHO

UPCOMING EVENTS



ECHO is participating in **Run the Greenway** on May 7th!

On May 7th ECHO will be participating in Run the Greenway. We are so proud to have two of our participants representing Team ECHO!



Bruce McGiboney and Cody Sleeper are taking part in the race and trying to raise funds for ECHO.

If you'd like to help make Cody and Bruce top fundraisers AND help ECHO in the process, you can do that at Bruce and Cody's fundraiser pages below!

If you'd like to learn more or support ECHO at Run the Greenway visit our Team ECHO page.

To Make A Donation:

Choose a team member that you'd like to support and make a sponsoring donation to that individual.

Donations directly to Team ECHO are welcomed, but sponsoring an individual on our team may make them eligible for prizes and will still support ECHO as a whole.

For more information about Run the Greenway please reach out to Todd Goldian at Todd.Goldian@echoworks.org



ACTIVITIES



On April 22nd we were lucky enough to host our employee appreciation dinner at Bluemont Vineyard. What an amazing evening and a remarkable venue! Congratulations to all of our award winners and particularly to **John Graham** for winning the coveted **Hero of the Year Award**, great work John.

Thank you to all who participated and thank you to the team at Bluemont Vineyard for making this evening memorable!



We are so very grateful to have been the benefactor of a Loudoun County Social Collective event back in December.

With the funds raised from that event and the generous donation of time from Kevin Bednarz (a local artist and restaurant owner), we were able to do some much needed remodeling in our LIFE classroom.



The before and after pictures here really show off what can happen when you are part of an amazing community.

Thank you so much to The Social Collective and to Kevin for being so generous, we love our new classroom!

COMMUNITY GIVING BACK

A huge thank you to Avenu Insights and Analytics for the generous donation of our brand new 85" television for our LIFE classroom!

The TV in that space is used not only for entertainment, but education as well. So to have a TV large enough to be seen by all is so greatly appreciated, thank you!



Our landscaping crew is grateful for the warmer weather, because that means it's time to start mowing again! Thank you to Community Foundation for Loudoun and Northern Fauquier Counties and to the Federal Aviation Administration for being such great employment sites for our crew.



**Federal Aviation
Administration**



Our team at The Barkery was able to sell dog biscuits out at The Reston North Point Giant. Great to see our participants out in the community,

Thank you for the opportunity Giant Foods!

JOB OPENINGS & HR

We are very pleased to announce that **Howard French** has joined ECHO as the General Manager for Blue Elegance. Howard will be responsible for the further development of our jewelry production and establishing new product lines as well.

If you see Howard, please be sure to give him a warm welcome!



The ECHO Barkery has posted a volunteer opportunity with Loudoun Cares. If you'd like to learn how you can spend some time with our participants making the best all natural dog biscuits on the market, click the button below! For more information about this opportunity, please contact Pete Yuska at petery@echoworks.org

- **Employment Support Specialist:** Several position available supporting a team of individuals with disabilities working at host companies including grounds crew at a Research Lab, retail, farm, and onsite at ECHO.
- **Day Support Specialist:** Supporting adult with disabilities with activities of daily living, arts and crafts, outside activities, skills building, and games.
- **Direct Support Professionals in LIFE+** provide training, support and supervision for adults with profound medical and developmental and intellectual disabilities.
- **Drivers/CDL Drivers:** Split shift Monday – Friday Year round. Transport ECHO participants to and from ECHO's facility and some job sites.