



June 14th
Flag Day
June 18th
Father's Day
June 19th
Juneteenth
July 1st
Canada Day
July 4th
Independence Day
August 7th
Civic Holiday

Kenneth Cabral M. Ed
Executive Director

BENHAVEN

June
Summer
2023

From the Director's Desk:

My first 4 months at Benhaven has been a very positive and encouraging time for me. I have found Benhaven's reputation of professionalism, quality in service delivery, commitment to the people and families we support, and creativity is alive and well. I am very excited about what the future has in store for us. Over the last few years Benhaven has seen tremendous growth and development, which is very exciting. We will be taking time over the year to settle and refine the systems needed to sustain us, catch our breath, and ensure we have the right infrastructure to support this growth and any new growth. I appreciate your continued commitment to Benhaven and know we are on the right path in supporting people with autism and their families.

As I have been visiting our various locations, I am amazed with the longevity of our staff and the high level of quality being provided. It is not typical to see so many long-term employees, with this level of commitment and passion. The commitment that I am experiencing during my visits is energizing. I plan to be out and about as much as possible and hopefully get to know you.

Thank you for welcoming me with open arms and helping me to feel a part of Benhaven.

Sincerely
Ken



MOVIE FUN AT THE ACADEMY!!!



On Thursday, April 6, Benhaven Academy students and staff went to the movie theatre to watch the Super Mario movie. We became part of history that day because the film had the largest opening weekend for an animated film and was the highest-grossing film based on a video game. The students enjoyed waiting in the

concession lines for snacks while chatting and catching up with friends. After the movie, it was great to see everyone's excitement over the film, connecting outside school, and engaging in camaraderie. This fantastic experience serves as a reminder of the same intense desire the individuals we support have and how sometimes we provide the only spaces and experiences where they find refuge and feel joy and a sense of community.



On April 28th, Ms. Jachym and Mr. Newell, along with academy students Aidan, Ryan, and Sam, attended the Autism: Raising Awareness at the Capitol event in Hartford. This event aims to raise awareness for those with autism and provide a forum to advocate for themselves and their needs. The day began with multiple state legislators sharing their support for the needs of people on the autism spectrum. Other keynote speakers were people who are on the autism spectrum as well as people whose lives are affected by loved ones on the autism spectrum. The students were also able to tour the Capitol building and see firsthand where the lifeline of our state's government takes place.



4th

Happy Independence Day!!!

A Word from IFS!!!

I would like to commend the Benhaven IFS staff for all of their hard work as we go through our transition of directors. You have really stepped up and have shown that you can be independent and creative, and able to reach out for support when needed.

Many of you have been able to fill in when needed which has been a great help in the lapse in services for the individuals we serve, and who rely on us for their health and safety.

Thank you for being a strong and supportive team.

-Richard Joseph



Benhaven Residential Division

Benhaven has always maintained a deep appreciation for the importance of meaningful employment for the individuals we support. One of our residents, Henry, dedicated over three decades of his life to serving as a groundskeeper at Southern Connecticut State University, along with his 3 housemates. Henry's unwavering commitment to his job ensured that the campus maintained its beauty, with well-maintained sidewalks free of litter. As the age for retirement approached, Henry's team and guardian Tacie looked forward to exploring exciting possibilities for his post-work life. In April, the moment arrived when Henry chose to retire, and embarked on a new chapter in his life. Henry quickly embraced his newfound freedom. He relishes his days engaging in favorite at home activities, or venturing out to his local New Haven community for various activities and leisurely strolls.

As one door closes, another swings open. Henry's retirement paved the way for a fresh opportunity for another resident. SCSU welcomed a vibrant young adult from one of our other homes to step into his shoes. Nick, the new groundskeeper, has smoothly transitioned into the role, potentially embarking on his own remarkable three-decade-long career at SCSU. Time will tell.

Meanwhile, over at Blue Trail, four remarkable gentlemen have begun a vocational endeavor of their own. Coordinating with the Quad-Town Advisor, they have established their own paper routes, providing them with a paying job and also an opportunity to engage with members of their community. In addition, they have discovered a bigger and better recycling center, superior to the ones found at grocery stores, allowing people more space and time to work at their pace, earn a little money, and help the environment!

At Old Coach, another group of young adults have become dedicated volunteers at FISH, a program focused on nurturing individuals and families in need. Through their volunteer work, these individuals are both strengthening their local community and engaging in fulfilling and purposeful routines.

At Marlen, Totoket and Northside, all the residents continue to participate in their long standing day programs involving both paid and volunteer work at places like those mentioned above, along with Burlington, Eastside and Baker office cleaning, and a local farm. Residents of Rosenberg are mostly retired, and spend days actively enjoying in and out of home pursuits.

Benhaven is embracing the opportunities that are beckoning for people participating in our home-based day programs. By empowering individuals to pursue meaningful employment, engage with the community, and foster genuine connections, we continue to uplift lives and nurture a sense of fulfillment, purpose, and happiness.

Written by Mike, Oliver Rd. House Manager



Senior Club at Benhaven School

On Thursday, March 30th, Benhaven School hosted a breakfast to celebrate paraprofessionals who have worked at the school for five years or more. Fourteen employees are part of this Club. The total years of commitment to Benhaven is 196! Laura has been at Benhaven School for 37 years! Other members include:

**Gina - 19 years
Erica- 18 years
Ashley U. - 17 years
Barrilynn - 16 years
Rob - 15 years
Ivonne - 15 years
Rosalyn - 13 years
Frank - 13 years
James - 12 years
Jose - 10 years
Chanel - 6 years
Ashley S. - 5 years
Patrice - 5 years**

The contributions that these employees have made to our school community during this time are so many. They have enriched the lives of students, their families and co-workers with their skills, talents and compassion. We are grateful for their leadership!

Dr. Ross Greene presents to Benhaven

On Thursday, March 16th, Dr. Ross Greene presented his method, Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (CPS), to the employees of Benhaven School and Benhaven Academy on their joint Professional Development Day. Some staff from other areas joined as well.

Dr. Greene has written a number of books about supporting children in schools. His approach views students with concerning behaviors not as lacking motivation but lacking skills. There are several key themes:

- 1. Emphasis is on problems (and solving them) rather than on behaviors (and modifying them).*
 - 2. The problem solving is collaborative, not unilateral.*
 - 3. The problem solving is proactive, not reactive.*
 - 4. Kids do well if they can.*
 - 5. Doing well is preferable.*
- (Dr. Greene)*

Dr. Greene's website, LivesintheBalance.org has many resources for educators and families. This workshop was possible because of the generosity of our donors. We are so grateful for the opportunity to learn from Dr. Greene.

Thank you, donors!



Benhaven Children's Behavioral Services has had a busy spring. In addition to providing ABA therapy in homes and community locations for over 65 children, we recently opened a Clinic in Wallingford, CT! We are currently located in Landmark Building on Barnes Road, but anticipate moving to a larger space at 60 Church Street by the end of June.

Being able to provide center-based services has been a consideration for a number of years, as it increases our ability to provide services to more families and brings children together, affording opportunities for social interactions. In addition, it will allow us to provide a different level of family training, without typical distractions, that can ultimately generalize to home and community settings.

We are very excited about this new addition to our menu of service delivery options and look forward to sharing additional updates after we move!



**LIVE
MUSIC**

**LAWN
GAMES**

BENHAVEN WALK FOR AUTISM

**PIZZA
TRUCK**

RAFFLES



2023



BUBBLES

**WALK WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY!
START A TEAM TO RAISE MONEY
FOR BENHAVEN!**

SEPT 24 | NORTH HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL

Register at jbsports.com

Celebrating Staff Anniversaries!

Benhaven is fortunate to have a great workforce!
Congratulations to the following employees...

Celebrating One Year Anniversaries!!!

Janiese, Johnson
Markus, Blue Trails
Troy, Totoket
Bianca, Academy
Curhone, Johnson
Cooper, Academy
Sabrina, School
Za'Niyah, Oliver
Elijah, Northside

Heather, Academy
Taleim, Nakash
Danielle, Academy
Tylaan, Oliver
Mario, IFS
Cassandra, Nakash
Christopher, Rosenberg
Damien, Nakash
Desiree, Academy
Nicole, Transition

Jaclyn, CBS
Joey, Oliver
Wellington, Driver
Mark, IFS
Ashley, CBS
Ashlee, Academy
Thomas, Academy
Bryanna, School
Kobe, CBS
Haylie, CBS



5 YEARS

Andrew, Nakash
Terrez, Northside
Kaitlin, School
Jaime, CBS
Nicole, Oliver
Samantha, School
Dianna, School
Shannon, Business Office
Kristin, Academy



10 YEARS

Marci, IFS
Michael, Academy

15 YEARS

Miche', Driver