

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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**COMMUNITY  
PROVIDER NETWORK**  
OF RHODE ISLAND

INSPIRING INCLUSION, DRIVEN BY COMMUNITY



# VISION

Our **VISION** is a world where everyone belongs.



## JACOB'S DREAM JOB


Jacob (center) has a disability. He always dreamed of working in a bakery. With support from the **J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center**, Jacob now works at **Seven Stars Bakery**.

[Watch his story here](#) 



# EMPOWERING LIVES

# 2024 MEMBERS

 CPNRI is a network of 36 providers who support people with disabilities.

## ADVOCATING WITH PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



## HOSTING CONFERENCES & TRAININGS



## MEMBER-ONLY OPPORTUNITIES



## IMPACTING LIVES EVERY DAY



-  AccessPoint RI
-  Action Based Enterprises (ABE)
-  Arc of Blackstone Valley
-  Avatar
-  Children's Friend
-  C.O.V.E. Center
-  Community Residences, Inc.
-  Corliss Institute
-  Family Behavior Solutions
-  Family Service of RI
-  Gateways to Change
-  J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center
-  James L. Maher Center
-  Justice Resource Institute
-  L.I.F.E., Inc.
-  Living Innovations
-  Looking Upwards
-  Meaningful Outcomes
-  Meeting Street
-  Momentum, Inc.
-  Navigate Behaviors
-  Northeast Family Services
-  Ocean State Behavioral
-  Opportunities Unlimited
-  Perspectives Corporation
-  proABILITY / The Arc of Bristol
-  Project Friends
-  ReFocus, Inc.
-  Seven Hills RI
-  spurwink | RI
-  The Autism Project
-  The Fogarty Center
-  The Olean Center
-  United Cerebral Palsy RI
-  West Bay RI
-  Whitmarsh House



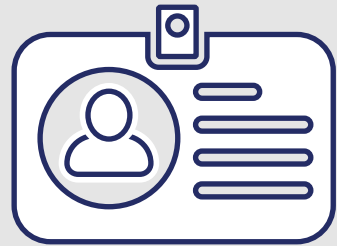
# 2024 IMPACT

As a community, we are impacting thousands of lives every day. Together, we are making progress toward a more inclusive world.



**20,000+**

People with disabilities supported



**5,000+**

People employed



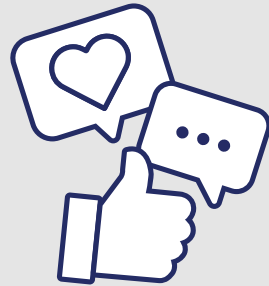
**36**

Members



**\$160M**

Invested in services  
*(page 11)*



**20M+**

People saw our posts on social media  
*(page 16)*



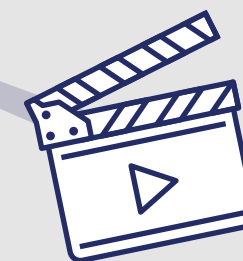
**503**

Conference attendees  
*(page 10)*



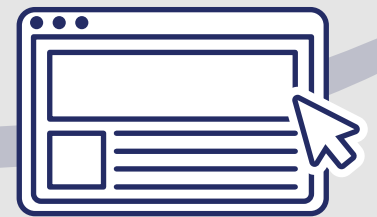
**27**

People with disabilities employed  
*(page 12)*



**20**

Video productions  
*(page 17)*



**1**

New website  
*(page 17)*



# OUR TEAM

2024 CPNRI Staff



**Tina Spears**  
Executive Director



**Jenna Husted**  
Director of Programs



**Nick Friend**  
Director of Communications



**Carissa Groccia**  
Project Manager



**Doreen McConaghy**  
Pooled Trust Coordinator



**Grace Duffy**  
Policy Coordinator

# LEADERSHIP

2024 CPNRI Executive Committee



**Liz Wiedenhofer**  
President



**Michael Pearis**  
Vice President



**Carrie Miranda**  
Secretary



**Casey Gartland**  
Treasurer



**Ray Memery**  
Member-At-Large



**Marissa Ruff**  
Member-At-Large

## A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on this year, I am filled with a profound sense of hope and possibility. This is rooted in the unwavering commitment we share and our unified belief that *all people belong*.

Change is a constant, yet we have remained grounded in our values. Each day, we challenge ourselves to create a more inclusive world—one where every individual is valued and empowered to thrive.

Throughout human history, the power of unity has shaped the rise and fall of societies and progress itself. Unified beliefs and shared purpose have driven movements that uplift humanity.

As we prepare for the next year, I am reminded of the importance of building a world where belonging is not just a value, but a lived experience.

Because of our unity and shared purpose, I have immense hope for the possibilities that lie ahead—those we can envision and those we have yet to imagine.

**Tina Spears**  
Executive Director

## OUR SPONSORS



# IMPACTFUL CONFERENCES

# HISTORIC ADVOCACY



2

Conferences



503

Attendees



92%

Excellent or Very Good Rating



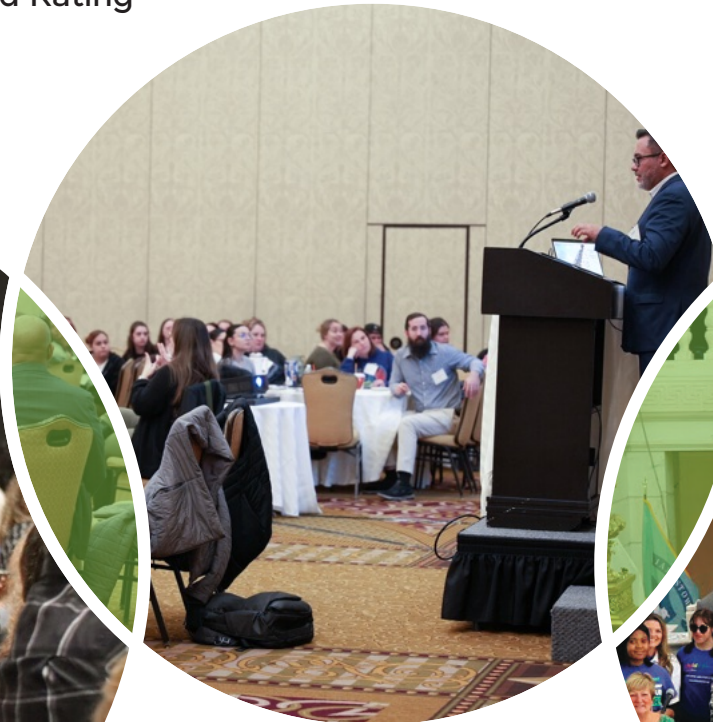
\$160+ million invested in health and human services



Largest single-year Medicaid investment in **state history**



100+ advocates



FUNDED BY



Rhode Island Foundation

In recent years, Rhode Island lawmakers have made meaningful commitments to the disability community. This has stabilized a system once in crisis. Still, work remains to make sure every Rhode Islander can live a full, inclusive life. We won't stop until that vision becomes a reality.

# ADVANCING OPPORTUNITY



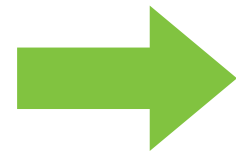
CPNRI and the Rhode Island Department of Labor & Training completed the third year of our partnership. Together, we have two goals:

- 1 Empowering people with disabilities to get employed
- 2 Retaining and training frontline staff at provider agencies

## RESULTS IN TOTAL

- ✓ 27 people with a disability got a job
- ✓ 74 received job training
- ✓ 67 frontline staff received valuable training

# PROGRAMS



### HIRING PCAs

What if people with disabilities were hired to support people with disabilities? **Looking Upwards** brings that vision to life.



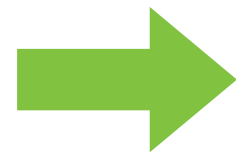
### OWNING A BUSINESS

Starting your own business is challenging and rewarding. The **Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council** empowers people to learn, create a plan and bring that business to life.



### FINDING THE RIGHT FIT

Everyone can make a great employee if given the right support. **Skills for Rhode Island's Future workABILITY** initiative matches employees and employers.



### RESTAURANT & GARDEN TRAINING

Careers in culinary and gardening centers can be rewarding. **The James L. Maher Center** provides hands-on training.



### FRONTLINE STAFF TRAINING

Training and community leads to better staff retention. Led by the **University of Minnesota**, staff were led through training that resulted in workplace improvements.



### 2025

Next year, we will continue funding programs that make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities and frontline staff. We also look forward to hosting another conference.



The 36th Annual Celebration was Presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Rhode Island

## CELEBRATING DSPs

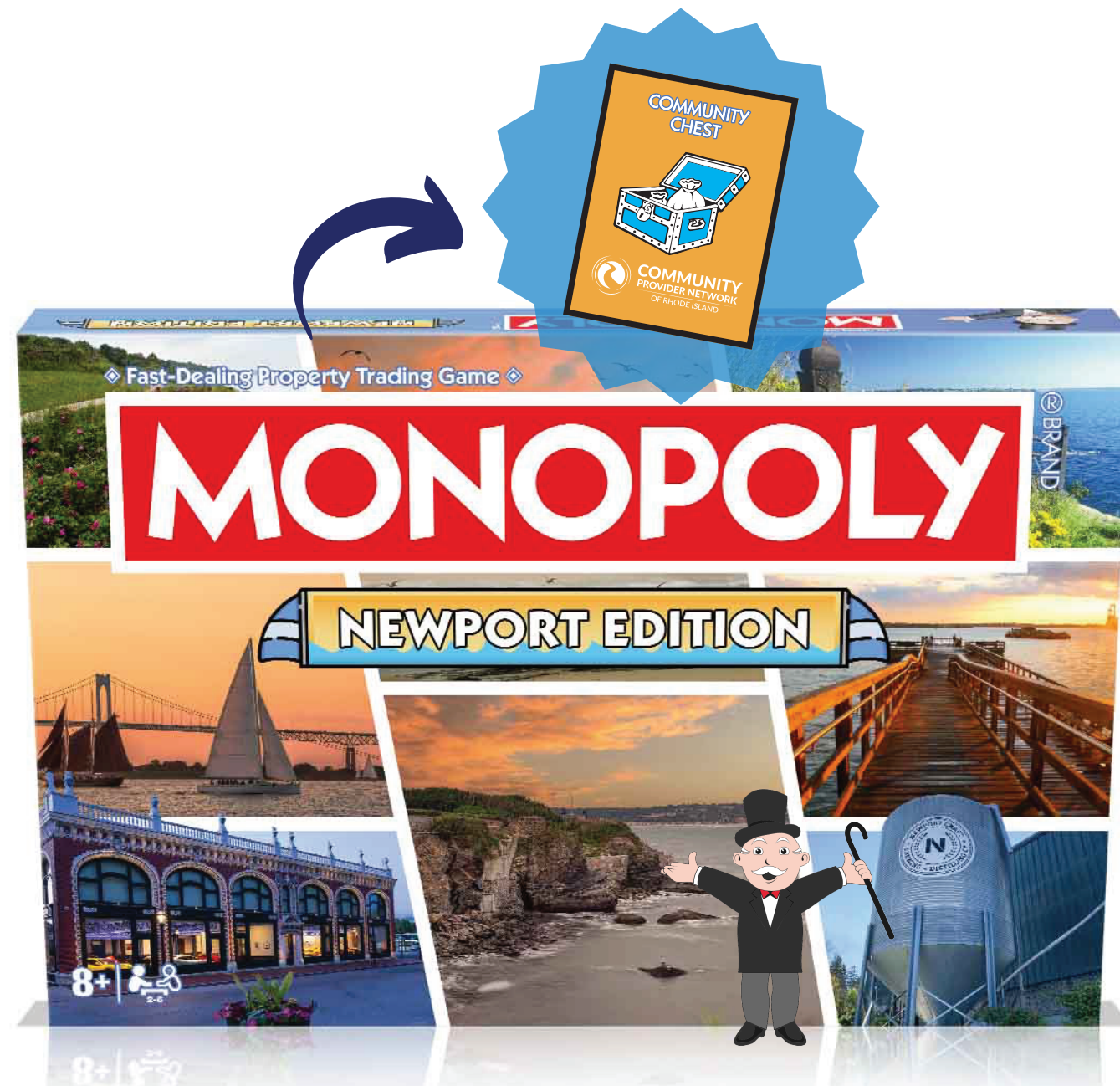
Every day, more than 3,000 Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) empower people with disabilities. Our 36th annual celebration was the largest yet, with more than 350 people in attendance. We celebrated 26 DSPs of the Year and the amazing passion this community holds.



The energy in the room that day was special. We wanted to capture that feeling and hold on to it for years to come, so we created the first official aftermovie.



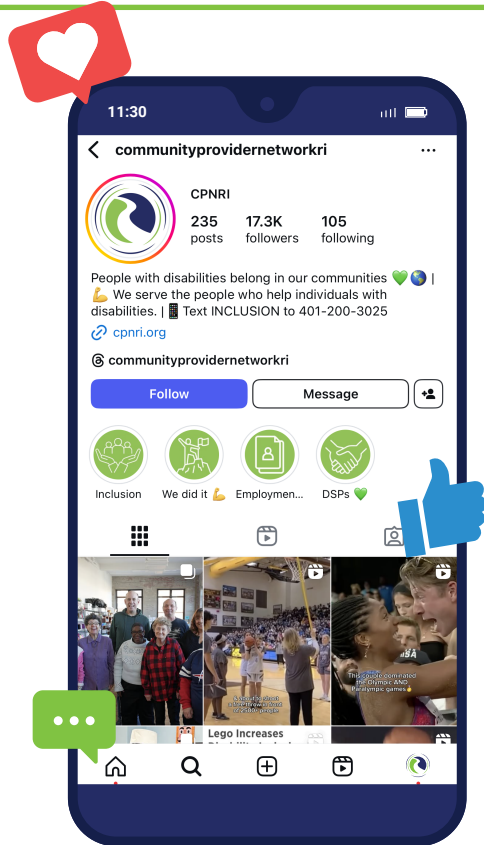
# DISABILITY INCLUSION WITH MONOPOLY



Rhode Island's disability community was represented on the brand new **Monopoly Newport Edition** on the Community Chest space. As the only nonprofit on the game, it serves as a reminder that every conversation (including board games) should include disability representation.



# AMPLIFYING INCLUSION



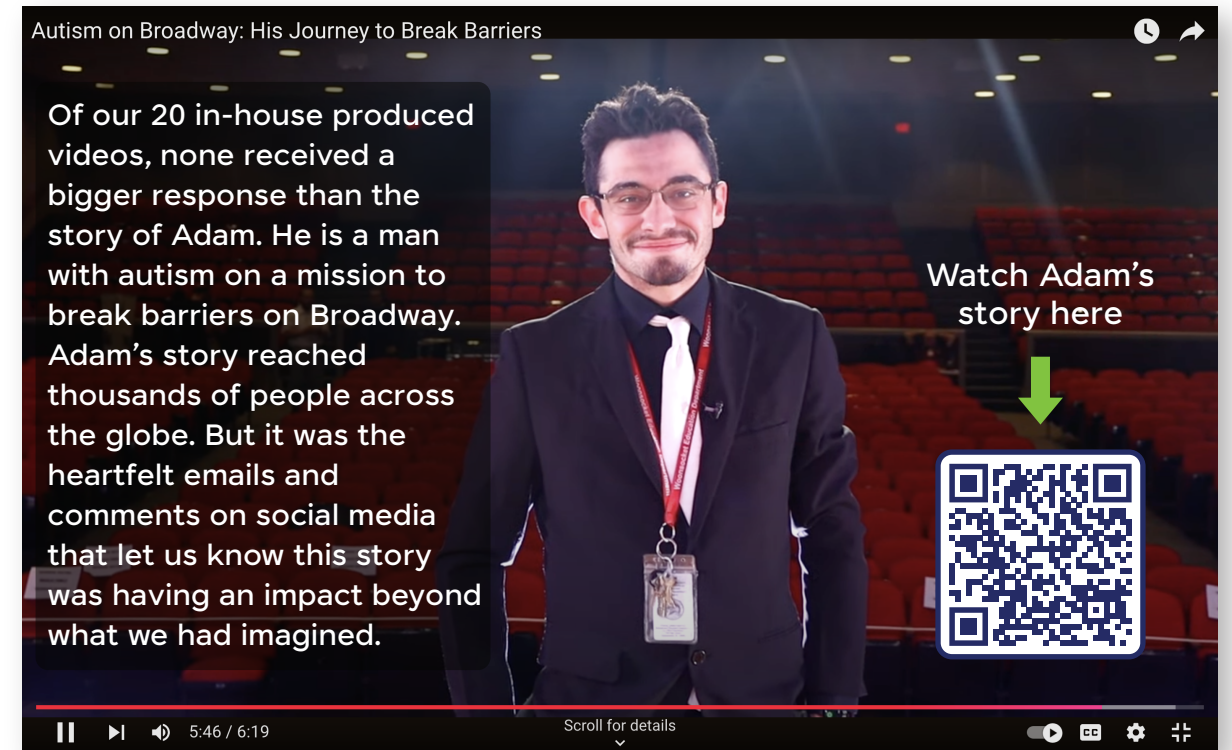
Social media is one of the most powerful influences on culture. A 2019 study showed that **7 out of every 10** social media posts about people with disabilities were **negative**.<sup>(1)</sup> In response, CPNRI set out to change the narrative by sharing empowering stories from Rhode Island's disability community. We aim to be a part of a bigger movement; **one that reshapes how disability is perceived for generations to come.**

<sup>(1)</sup>Source: Kantar Group - A Market Research Company



@CPNRI

# STORY OF THE YEAR



## THE RESULTS

2024



↑514%

20,543  
Followers



↑2,814%

20,875,655  
Amount of times  
our posts were seen



↑2,559%

2,411,076  
Likes, comments,  
and shares

(↑ Percentage increase compared to 2023)

2023



3,347  
Followers

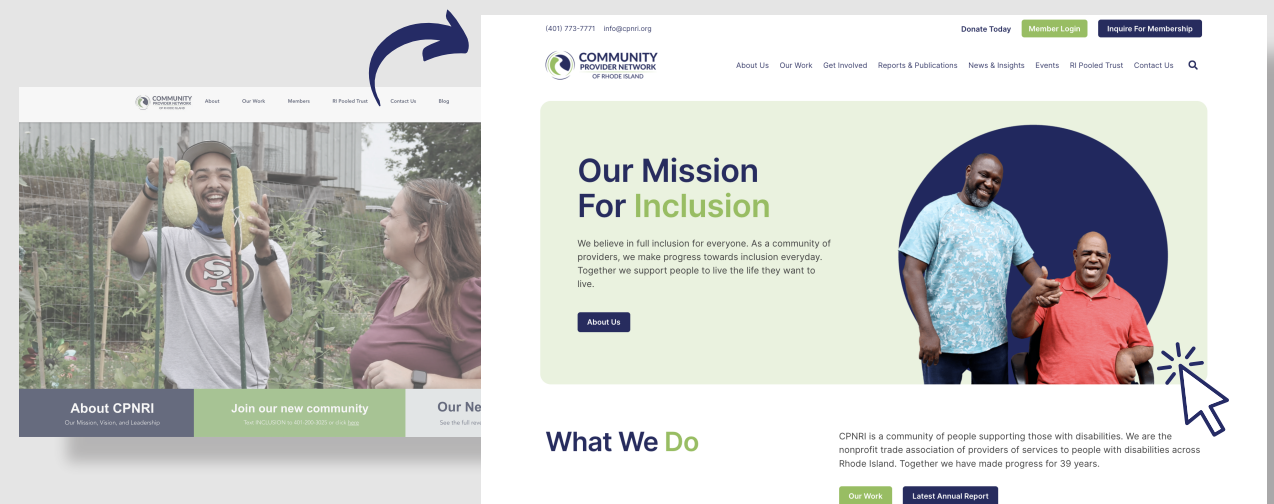


716,450  
Amount of times  
our posts were seen



90,660  
Likes, comments,  
and shares

## NEW WEBSITE



This year, we set out to redesign our website from the ground up. After eight months of teamwork, we proudly launched a new, accessible and virtual home.



See our new website by scanning or clicking the QR code.



## ADVANCING INCLUSION IN 2025

Our plans for next year are already in motion. As a community, we plan to seize the momentum we've built to expand our impact across Rhode Island. Together, we are poised to make the coming year one of growth, stability and progress.

### ADVOCACY

Legislation for the 2025 session is underway. Priorities will include accessible housing and funding for services. With advocates, we will make CPNRI a thought leader at the State House.



### STORIES

More people need to know about this work and the impact it's having. We will continue to tell stories that highlight the power of disability inclusion.



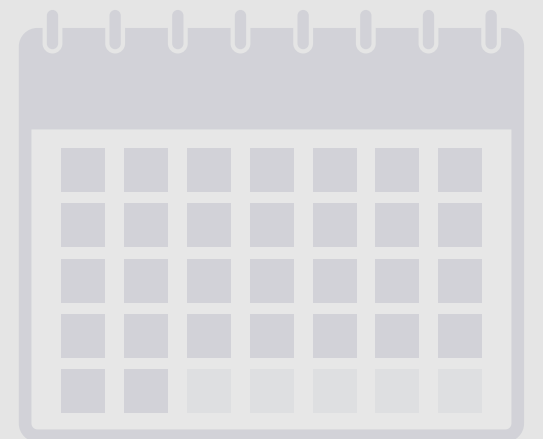
### WORKFORCE

Rhode Island has become a national leader in workforce development for the disability space. However, room for progress remains. We plan to expand our workforce efforts by creating a pipeline of people who want to work in this field.



### EVENTS

In-person events will be a foundation of what we do in 2025. With a larger celebration event in September already in progress (see page 14 for last year's event) and more professional development conferences.



# CHANGING LIVES SINCE 1985



cpnri.org



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