

ANNUAL REPORT

THE FUTURE OF BELONGING STARTS HERE



4th  **COMMUNITY
PROVIDER NETWORK
OF RHODE ISLAND**

BUILDING A WORLD WHERE EVERYONE



B E L O N G S

OUR WORK



Empowering
members



Advocating with
people with
disabilities



Hosting Disability
Conferences &
Events



Unifying
communication

TOGETHER, WE CREATE IMPACT

20,000+

People with disabilities
supported

5,000+

People employed

20M+

Saw our social media
posts (pages 20&21)

350+

Conference attendees
(pages 14&15)

19

Video productions
(pages 20&21)

14

People with disabilities
employed (pages 18&19)

1

Shared Vision:
Building a world where
everyone belongs

Picture: Bryanna and Bekah (West Bay RI) have worked together for three years. Bekah is nonverbal and together they share a special bond. See it in action:



CPNRI MEMBERS

ADULT SERVICES



Action Based Enterprises (ABE)



L.I.F.E, Inc.



Arc of Blackstone Valley



Living Innovations



Avatar



Opportunities Unlimited



Community Residences, Inc.



Project Friends



Corliss Institute



ReFocus, Inc.



Gateways to Change



spurwink | RI



James L. Maher Center



West Bay RI



Justice Resource Institute



Whitmarsh House

CHILDREN SERVICES



Children's Friend



Navigate Behaviors



Family Behavior Solutions



Northeast Family Services



Family Service of RI



Ocean State Behavioral



Meaningful Outcomes



The Autism Project



Momentum, Inc.

20,000+ PEOPLE SUPPORTED

ADULT & CHILDREN SERVICES



AccessPoint RI



J. Arthur Trudeau Memorial Center



Looking Upwards



Perspectives Corporation



proABILITY / The Arc of Bristol



Seven Hills RI



The Groden Network



The Fogarty Center



The Olean Center



United Cerebral Palsy RI



"What they do simply works."
-The Groden Network Parent

EMPOWERING LIVES SINCE 1985



- 1985**
RI announces closure of its state institution: The Ladd School
- 1985**
CPNRI (under the name OSARR) is formed
- 1992**
CPNRI hosts first legislative event

1985 - 1994



- 1998**
CPNRI Members advocating in Washington, DC
- 1998**
Working with RI Board of Elections to get people registered to vote
- 2000**
CPNRI members are collectively the 9th largest employer in the state

1995 - 2004



- 2005**
OSARR changes name to CPNRI
- 2005**
State House rally against budget cuts
- 2010**
Working to end the use of the R-word

2005 - 2014



- 2018**
Stopping statewide funding cuts to disability services
- 2022**
RI passes historic funding model for disability services
- 2025**
CPNRI celebrates 40 years of leadership

2015 - 2025

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL CELEBRATION



Every day, thousands of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) empower people with disabilities. During this community’s **37th annual celebration**, we honored 42 DSPs of the Year with over 400 people in attendance.



 **FOGARTY**

This celebration was presented by **The John E. Fogarty Foundation** and a total of six sponsors (pages 16 & 17).



Watch the event

2025 OFFICIAL AFTERMOVIE

DSP HIGHLIGHTS



“Thank you for making me feel so special. This event made me proud to be a DSP.”

- Lori Rinkel,
James L. Maher Center DSP

CREATING A FUTURE FOR EVERYONE

RI CREATES ALERT FOR MISSING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Our State became the 6th in the country to create a new statewide alert system for missing people with disabilities. The bill was quickly passed with bipartisan support.



300+ ADVOCATES RALLY FOR DISABILITY RIGHTS

Advocates, families and community leaders came together at the State House to protect access to care and defend rights for all Rhode Islanders. Watch the day by scanning this QR code.



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

As a community, we sent hundreds of emails to lawmakers, held one-on-one meetings with lawmakers and built connections. This community is steadily growing its influence at the State House to create a better RI for everyone.



BUILDING THE FUTURE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

2025 Health and Human Services Conference

In November, CPNRI’s annual conference brought together Health and Human Service professionals from across New England to learn, connect and move the field forward. For people who pour so much time and energy into supporting other people, this day gave a space to pause, connect and think boldly about the future.



350+

Attendees



18

Sessions



12

Speakers



4.58

Rating out of 5

Funded by



Department of Labor and Training
RHODE ISLAND



CPNRI TEAM



Tina Spears
Executive
Director



Nick Friend
Communications
Director



Grace Duffy
Policy & Outreach
Manager



Doreen McConaghy
Pooled Trust
Coordinator

LEADERSHIP TEAM



Ray Memery
President



Carrie Miranda
Vice President



Marissa Ruff
Secretary



Casey Gartland
Treasurer



Katherine Brinkman
Member At-Large

Not Pictured: Dan Ward, Member At-Large

THANK YOU SPONSORS

The partners that strengthen the disability community.



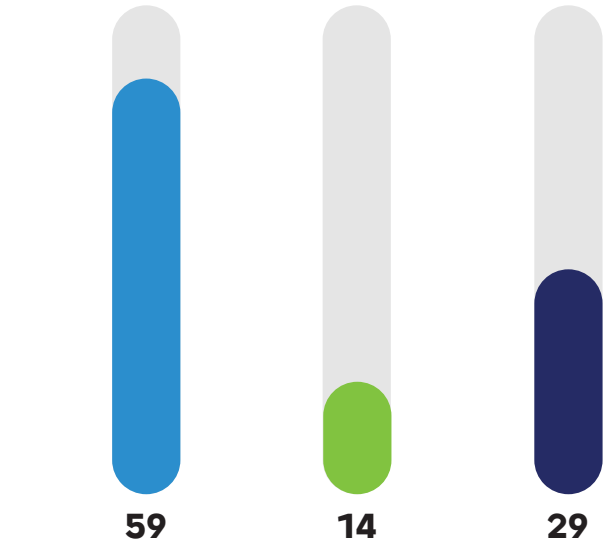
ADVANCING OPPORTUNITY

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

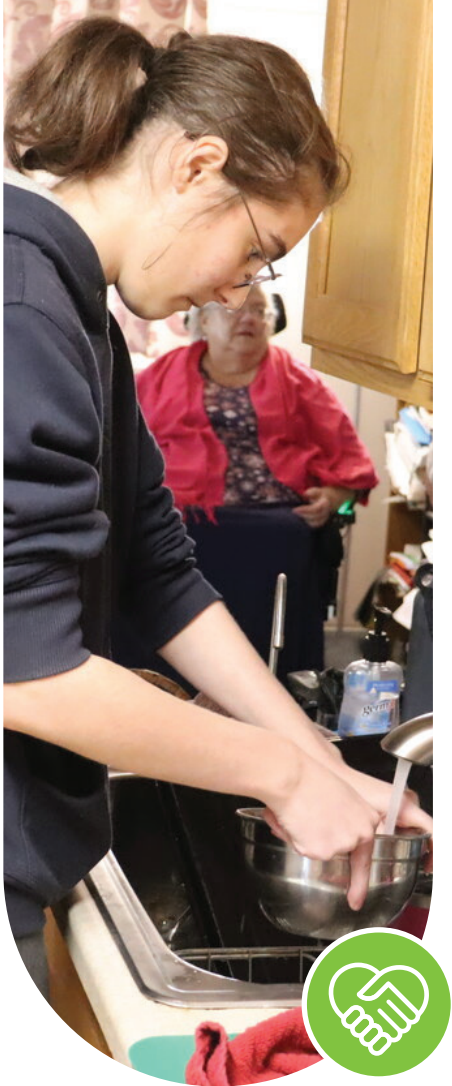
Empowering people with disabilities to get employed.

Retaining and training frontline staff at provider agencies.

Results in Total



- People who received job training
- People with a disability that got a job
- Frontline staff that received valuable training



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.



Frontline Staff Training

Training and community leads to better staff retention. The **University of Minnesota**, brought this to staff through trainings that resulted in workplace improvements.



STORIES FROM THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY



Art by People with Disabilities

“It makes you feel good inside when people like the rugs and scarves we make.”

-Mary, Artist



The Imagine Walk For Autism

“It’s a place where we feel a part of something, we belong here. It’s a sense of community.”

-Parent



Earning a Job at Home Depot

“I love to water flowers. I love my job. I get paid for it.”

-Brenda, Home Depot Associate



We believe in a world where everyone belongs. That can only happen when we empower voices to show what a welcoming world looks like. Through storytelling, people don’t just learn about disability, they see what our future can look like. CPNRI has become a leader among trade associations on social media, email marketing, video production and our website.

STORY OF THE YEAR



'Human, Too'

is a poem about belonging written by Brenda Wilkinson, a poet and artist with a disability.

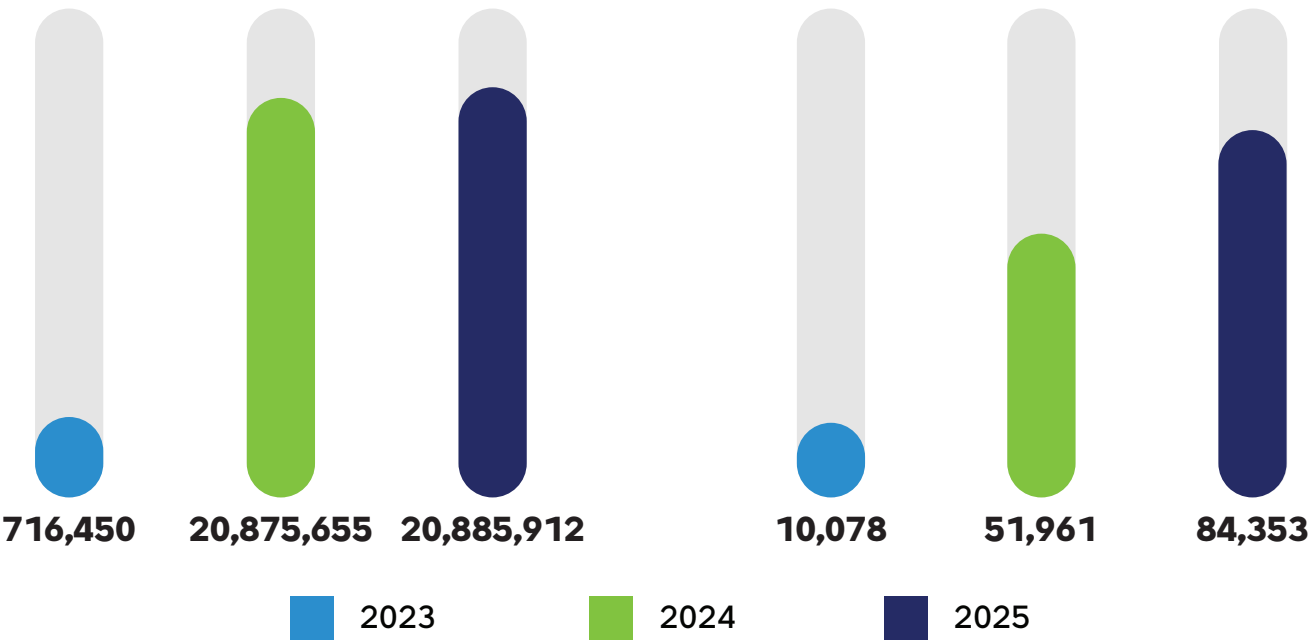
In just two minutes, she challenges us to open our hearts and look at the humanity in each other.



THE IMPACT

20,885,912
Social Media Impressions

84,353
Website Views



2026 BUILDING A FUTURE TOGETHER

ADVOCACY

Legislation for the 2026 session is already underway. Priorities will include accessible housing and funding for services.



WORKFORCE

Rhode Island is a national leader in disability workforce development. We will continue training of all staff levels through professional development, celebration and more.

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



For 40 years, CPNRI has stood for advocacy, service and an unwavering commitment to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Turning 40 often comes with jokes like middle-aged, over the hill or life begins at 40. But when I think about what 40 means for CPNRI, one thing is clear: We are just getting started.

These four decades represent hard work and progress. Above all, we have learned and grown together. CPNRI was founded by individuals who refused to conform. At a time when many did not believe in opportunity or community for all, they chose a different path rooted in dignity, inclusion and belonging. The belief that all people belong remains our foundation.

Today, CPNRI stands on strong footing, ready to take on new opportunities and determined to protect the progress built by the many dedicated individuals who came before us. As we enter 2026, we do so with the same tenacity and resolve that brought us here. We are united by the belief that all people belong, today, tomorrow and always!

Tina Spears
Executive Director

STORIES

The disability community has stories that deserve to be seen, heard and valued. We will continue to elevate these in 2026.



Building a world where everyone belongs.

Will you join us?



@CPNRI