



# THE HAWTHORNE HERALD

*"A Behavioral Approach to Lifelong Care ®"*



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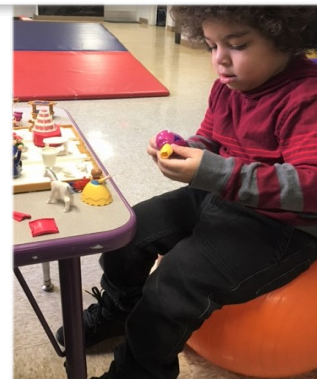
who treats Individuals, families, and peers fairly. Individuals look forward to seeing her daily. She takes the initiative to involve individuals in new projects and help them learn social and independent living skills in a functional environment. She develops weekly and Daily programs with the program planning team to establish and attain valued outcomes for each program participant following their life plans. Individuals are learning and enjoying the day program under her supervision; she is an asset to the agency.

## Employee of the Month

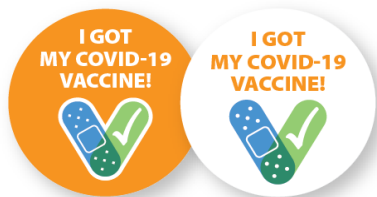
Ms. Eyerusalem Wolde (Jerry) has been working for the Hawthorne Foundation since 2016. She started as a Day Habilitation Counselor in our Day Program and, because of her excellent work ethic and commitment, was promoted to Residential Manager at our Lafayette IRA. After serving as a residential manager for two years, Ms. Wolde then transferred back to the day program in the role of Habilitation Specialist in the Without Walls program, where she has been committed to the growth and development of the individuals we serve. Ms. Wolde is a delightful, caring, responsible, and professional staff

## Winter at the Preschool

We continue to make the best of our current Covid conditions – our students are motivated and remarkably resilient as our teachers, teacher assistants, and therapists work together to make our classrooms wonderful learning environments!



## COVID Vaccination Update



Thanks to the tireless advocacy of our provider associations, families and staff, all Hawthorne Foundation Inc. staff, including OPWDD and HCDS staff, and our group home residents, are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine! While supplies of the vaccine and appointments are currently limited, we are pleased that some of our staff, and most of our group home residents have already received the vaccine, or are scheduled for an appointment in the coming weeks/months.

We continue to advocate with the state to prioritize individuals with disabilities living with family or independently in the community so that they can resume some of the much-needed programs and supports they had in place pre-pandemic.

When additional information pertaining to our population is released, we will share it with you.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Virtual Rally For Education

**Wednesday February 17 from 11:00am-12:30pm on Zoom**

It is time that our Elected Officials understand that the children who attend our 4410 (preschool) and 853 (school age) Schools have the same rights as every child who attends local public school special education programs.

1. **EQUITY** – our children are publicly funded students and should be treated the same as children attending public schools – Our schools should receive the same funding increases that public schools get each year- (Digital Equity - access to iPads/computer devices and Wi-Fi)
2. **ACCESS** – Children in our 4410 and 853 schools have a right to a certified special education teacher. The salary disparity between our teachers and public school teachers has grown so large it is impossible for our schools to recruit and retain certified teachers.
3. **QUALITY** – Children in our schools are entitled to high quality instruction and programs. This becomes increasingly difficult given the excessive teacher turnover and the lack of adequate funding.

Join the Rally and tell our Elected Officials that Our KIDS are Your Kids.\*

\* More information to come....

