

# Langley's Latest

Keeping you *informed* about how we're making a *difference* in people's lives . . .

Summer 2022

## How Do You Fill Your Heart?

### A note from the Executive Director

As summer closes, I have heard about lots of fun adventures by many Langley residents, participants, and staff alike. Vacations were had from sandy shores and mountains to historical sights, from Fourth of July parades to cookouts. Many filled their hearts with the warmth of sun and fun with friends and family. The individuals that Langley supports are always at the heart of our work.

Our staff shares that special place in the heart of this organization. In September, Stephanie Davidson, LRSS residential services director, celebrates her 30th work anniversary. Her dedication and passion for the individuals that she supports on her caseload is evident by the relationships she has with not only the individuals but with their families. She has helped to fill many hearts here at Langley over the years, so let's return it to her and fill her heart by letting her know how much she is appreciated the next time you see or talk to her. Truly a remarkable milestone serving our LRSS family!

I want to challenge us all to think about what brings us joy and how can we share that with others. Stephanie's joy in her work life is advocating and helping others live the life they want to live. I know for me, being able to see people in person again with less anxieties about COVID brings me happiness. For those of you who joined us at the Langley Bowl, what a fun event. Being able to see each other again in person and not through a screen, made my heart full.

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## Join Us for 2022 LRSS Fall Tastings & Auction Benefit October 1 — Gathering of Our Hearts to Benefit the Heart of LRSS!

You're invited to join in the warmth and joy of gathering for the 2022 LRSS Fall Tastings & Auction Benefit happening 6-9 pm on Saturday, Oct 1. While the focus of this event is gathering in person at a private residence in McLean, we also offer a VIRTUAL ONLY event ticket to participate as a livestream guest.

**Tickets are on sale now!** Be part of supporting our general operations by purchasing a ticket and participating in the silent and live auctions. Both the in-person and virtual ticket are \$150 each; the virtual ticket includes a wine package of three Italian wines selected by Juan Navarro, owner of The Wine Attic in Clifton, that will be presented by Roberto

D'Onofrio, owner of Impero Wine Distributors, during the livestream that takes place at 7-8 on Saturday, Oct 1.

In-person guests will enjoy a tasting of six wines from across Italy, Marechiaro Italian lager, and an Aperol spritz. We are thrilled to be working with The Wine Attic this year! The tasting will pair with a delightful array of heavy hors d'oeuvres by Chef Christine Gloninger, or Chef G. **NEW THIS YEAR: Save room for the dessert auction,** where residents, program participants, staff, families – any of our supporters – will prepare or contribute their favorite dessert to be auctioned at the end of the night.



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## A Fun Summer Was Had By All

We can safely say that grass did not grow under any LRSS residents' feet this summer! What a joy it is to see everyone out and adventuring with their friends and community members.

Several residents helped the **Civitan Club of Fairfax** on July 4th. They volunteered with the Civitans at the food tent along the parade route in Fairfax City, so they could help fundraise while getting to see all the parade action—the perfect way to spend our country's Independence Day.



All of our residents were thrilled to restart the summer game and book night at **Immanuel Presbyterian Church**. Meeting one night a week for a month over the summer, the LRSS family joined volunteers from IPC and **Trinity United Methodist Church** for some game fun and companionship. We had paused the program for the past two years, so we had a lot to

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# Happy



# to Stephanie Davidson!





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catch up on with these amazing faith communities.

A group of residents spent time visiting Williamsburg and its many attractions. Staff did a great job planning out visits to Ripley's Believe It or Not, a ride on a ferry boat, bumper cars, and of course ice cream at the General Store. A great way to spend a few days.

Back at home, another resident continues to enjoy their new day program with ServiceSource. Look at this incredibly detailed artwork that our resident and one of their friends worked on together. It is even more beautiful in person.

Because of our awesome donors, some residents were treated to some extra special events. The Bachand family regularly supports the activities at one of our group homes and most recently made it possible for residents, staff, and a board member to attend a Cirque du Soleil performance. The Walsh family also donates this time of year and treated some residents and a staff member to a pre-season Washington Commanders game. It was a very close game against the Carolina Panthers. Everyone had a blast at these incredible experiences.



# Welcome

## Denis Anane Joins LRSS as Program Manager

Please join Langley Residential in welcoming the new program manager, Denis Anane, to the team. Anane comes to us with 18 years of experience working in the developmental disabilities support field, starting out as a group home manager at Catholic Charities in Bloomfield, CT. Most recently, Anane served as regional program manager for Wall Residences in Virginia.



Anane has a deep background in behavioral health and already has specialized trainings that are required here at LRSS. His past positions have molded his advocacy efforts on behalf of the people in his care—to the point that at a past job, he organized and oversaw a cruise ship vacation for 60 people!

Since his start with Langley in July, Anane quickly showed that he is a people person. He is passionate about improving the lives of the residents and program participants as well as developing relationships with our staff. One of his favorite inspirational quotes is: "The strength of the team is each individual member, and the strength of each member is the team."

Born in Ghana, Anane earned his bachelor's degree in Psychology from University of Cape Coast. When he's not working, Anane enjoys spending time with his wife and keeping up with his three daughters. Next time you visit LRSS, please stop by his office to say hello!

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We are quickly approaching our signature fall event on **October 1**. When creating the theme for this year's event, we kept coming back to a "gathering of our hearts" because of the champions who fill the heart of this mission every day. We hope to see you at this special gathering to celebrate all we have accomplished together over the past year. Until then, **thank you for being a part of the Langley family and filling our heart by being you.**

*Maureen K Gum*

maureen@lrss.org

## BUY TICKETS NOW

# 2022 LRSS Fall Tastings & Auction Benefit

*Gathering of our hearts*



Saturday, October 1 | 6-9 pm

Online auction opens

Thursday, September 15 | noon

**With Advisory Committee Support from  
Fairfax Supervisor John Foust**

Proceeds benefit the LRSS mission to ensure people  
with developmental disabilities live happy, valued lives.

**[lrss.org](http://lrss.org)**



**Langley Residential  
Support Services**

2070 Chain Bridge Rd., Ste. G55  
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We make a *difference* in people's lives . . .

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This is the perfect way to end the evening taking home your own sweet treat to remind you of all the good you helped do for the LRSS family and mission.

A key highlight of this event is our live and silent auctions. It is free to participate in the auctions, but a credit card is required to register on the auction site. The online auction opens at noon on Thursday, Sept 15 and features more than 45 curated packages just for the LRSS community. We have many new items and donors this year along with highly coveted traditions of past events—additionally, there will be a selection of mystery prizes for the bidding. The online platform allows you to set your maximum bid and will notify you when you've been outbid. Bidding for the live auction items will happen onsite at the event, with max bids converting to proxy bids along with live paddle raises from guests in the room. Read complete details online at [lrss.org](http://lrss.org). All bidding closes at 8 pm.

We are very pleased to be rejoined by **VIP emcee Kristen Berset-Harris of WUSA's Great Day Washington**. Berset-Harris has done a spectacular job leading us through the evening program during the past two years when the event has been virtual, so it is such a delight that she will be face to face with all our guests this year. The program also features updates from the LRSS executive director and board chair. Plus we will

have remarks from Dranesville Supervisor John Foust, who with his wife hosted this very event at their home for 10 years before the pandemic.

Visit [lrss.org](http://lrss.org) for more event information, and watch your email for announcements. Thank you for being part of this important event that helps fund the programs and services we provide every day to our neighbors who need it most!



*About Kristen Berset-Harris:* She spent six years as WUSA9 Sports anchor before joining the team at *Great Day Washington* in 2017. Berset-Harris is a two-time breast cancer survivor and continues to be a strong advocate for awareness and early detection.



In 2017, she was honored by the National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the Emmy Awards with the Ted Yates Award given to professionals in the news business who have exhibited bravery on and off the job. She is a graduate of the University of Florida with a degree in telecommunications and remains an avid Gators fan. Berset-Harris was the 2004 Miss Florida USA and a semi-finalist in the Miss USA finals.

# 2022 LRSS Fall Tastings & Auction Benefit

## Gathering of our hearts

Saturday, October 1



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