



# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

# LITTLE RED HEN

Supportive Employment for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

501(c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation



## The Dignity of a Career

Workplace pride and community integration is not only possible, it is rewarding, and benefits everyone involved. Little Red Hen has enjoyed the success of a diversified workforce for more than 20 years.

The Little Red Hen employs over 200 professionals, more than 90% of whom are adults with developmental disabilities. 100% of the company is integrated with the public and each and every employee works to the best of their abilities. No one person is left behind.

Little Red Hen, is not just a company, it is a community. Our employment and work readiness programs provide opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to learn marketable skills in areas like retail, promotions, craftsmanship, management, e-commerce, horticulture and more.

We believe in "Retail with a Purpose" this is the idea that any purchase you make with us supports a good cause.

*By Newsletter Staff*

Whether you stop by one of our six retail stores, or shop online at LittleRedHen.org, your time and money, are giving adults with disabilities the chance to learn valuable professional and interpersonal skills.

Little Red Hen employees personify professionalism and responsibility. Employees are given the job experience necessary to cultivate skills and further their careers.

Thanks to the support of our customers, Little Red Hen employees can gain the confidence and knowledge they need to not only live but also thrive in their communities. Our community has been incredibly generous to the Little Red Hen family; organizations such as Caliber Home Loans (pictured above) have been kind enough to donate to our company for the sake of supporting our "Retail with a Purpose" philosophy.

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*Thank You to Our Supporters*



## Newsletter Team

### Core Team

Bailey W.  
 Bill W.  
 Juan Pe.  
 Mateo G.  
 Jodi D.  
 Alice R.  
 Julian P.  
 Sam Di.  
 Rebecca R.  
 Graham R.  
 Sam De.  
 William M.

### Graphic Designers

Bailey W.  
 Sam R.

### Editors

Garrett G.  
 Hallie G.

## Mission Statement

Little Red Hen is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Our seven Chico retail locations provide employment that is not subminimal wage. Our retail and horticulture departments employ 175 adults with developmental disabilities, supported through the sales of items. 100% of our sales/donations benefit quality programs for children and adults with developmental disabilities like Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, and other cognitive disabilities.

## Stores

Floral	959 East Ave   530.894.0040
Kitchen	959 East Ave   530.894.1300
Nursery	189 E Eighth St   530.891.9100
Gift	897 E 20th St   530.897.0100
HOME	204 Main St   530.487.7144
Vintage	215 Main St   530.894.1311
Tools & Trade	973 East Ave   530.894.8401

## Questions

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[www.littleredhen.org](http://www.littleredhen.org)

# A Decade With Andy

*By Newsletter Staff*



*Andy M.*

Andy M. has been with Little Red Hen for over 10 years now. In the summer of 2012, Andy began working at the Little Red Hen Online office. After a few months, Andy moved to the finance department.

Andy served the finance department for three years and ultimately moved to the Kitchen store, where he focuses largely on sales and customer service.

Andy's time with Little Red Hen has afforded him a lot of opportunity, and as Andy puts it, he has "learned new things and grown" over the past decade. The work-related achievement of which Andy is most proud was his promotion to Senior Staff Assistant.

Andy has been an invaluable member of the Little Red Hen team, and we are excited to see what he achieves next.

# Meet Carol *By Julian P.*



*Carol M.*

Carol M. is a Little Red Hen employee who has worked at our plant nursery for over five years. Carol enjoys working outdoors, watering, and transplanting new plants while at work.

Carol credits her service coordinator for helping her connect with Little Red Hen. Aside from watering and transplanting various plants, greeting customers and having friendly interactions with them is her favorite part of the job. She particularly loves running into old friends that stop by to shop.

Outside of work, she has a few pet turtles that she loves very much, and enjoys playing cribbage and having pizza with her friends in friendship circle. Carol is yet another invaluable member of the Little Red Hen team.

**LIFESPAN**

**NYGVT 2023**

*By Julian P. and Newsletter Staff*

The Little Red Hen Lifespan Center hosts several important programs that offer children and teenagers with autism the chance to connect with their peers and develop valuable social skills. 2023 marks the tenth anniversary of the Not Your Garden Variety Theater program (NYGVT). Since 2013, NYGVT has centered around teaching kids, usually ranging between ages 4 and 17, how to express their emotions and socialize with one another through play and performance. The lead orchestrator of the program, Brooke B., has been with it since the beginning in the summer of 2013.

The program meets for six weeks every summer and organizes a production of The Wizard of Oz, usually with some sort of twist.



*Dorothy & Co sitting beside the yellow brick road*

NYGVT is all about giving children with autism the chance to shine while helping the kids connect with the people around them. This year's production took place on August 12 featuring 20 children, and highlighted the importance of friendship, open-mindedness, and compassion.

Brooke B. feels that NYGVT has had to be highly adaptive

over the years, particularly when it comes to meeting the sensory needs of each individual child and facilitating each individual's creative process. With the assistance of Brooke, three peer tutors, and a variety of LRH employees that helped with the stage, props, and technical aspects, the show was a success. The children participating in this year's NYGVT once again put on another heartwarming performance.



*Above: Dorothy wishing to go home*

*Top left: The scarecrow's big musical number*

*Bottom left: Dorothy meeting the Tin Man*

# VINTAGE

## Nostalgia

By Alice R.

We are proud to say each of Little Red Hen's locations are unique in their own right. Our Vintage Store can bring you back to another time and another place.

A lot of work has gone into making Vintage what it is. Several people have played major roles in forming Vintage, and currently, manager Hallie G. is continuing that trend. "I love it," said Hallie. "I love working with the staff... I love the atmosphere of the store... It's a pretty rewarding job." Hallie loves helping her coworkers build new skills.

Frankie isn't the only one who enjoys his job at Vintage. Mike H. likes his job as well, as does Daisy A. Daisy loves that it keeps her on her feet and that she gets a chance to interact with the public, and she loves working with her team.

The store certainly has its own atmosphere. Lava lamps, Tiddlywinks, and old telephones fill the store. Displays are infused with nostalgia and attention to detail.

It's hard not to fall in love with some of

the items here. Personally, I adore the old Fisher-Price toys; they transport me to a happier time when my playroom was strewn with them. Simply seeing them floods me with memories and nostalgia, and I'm not the only one.

Daisy A. likes the classic Fisher-Price toys too. She also likes the glass flatware, carnival glass, and picture frames that can be found in the shop. Mike H.'s favorite item is a Looney Tunes tribute to the iconic voice actor Mel Blanc. Daisy C. likes a pair of speckled lamps.



Top: Kermit The Frog Phone  
Bottom: Jeziel S working on a display



A look inside Vintage

Honestly, there is so much to love about Vintage, it's hard to find a favorite item or characteristic. Vintage is a place of home and heart, and the people who work there help ensure that. As Hallie said, "My team make my job."



A lovely display



Tiddlywinks set



A classic toy

If you enjoy hearing about vintage merchandise, then check out our blog every Saturday to learn about some of the history and memories connected with our products.

## Employee Pride

### Why is Little Red Hen important to you?



*I feel more appreciated here than at any other job, and I feel like my voice is heard here.*

*-Leighton H.*



*It is important to me because it gives me a creative outlet.*

*-Nick F.*

**Read more on page 6!**

## The Detail In Retail

*By Jodi D. and Newsletter Staff*

The employees at Little Red Hen put a lot of patience, effort, and creativity into our day-to-day projects. "Retail with a Purpose" is, of course, a cornerstone of Little Red Hen, and beautifully designed displays are the foundation of any strong retail strategy. It is no secret that Little Red Hen team members put a lot of effort into our displays.



*Jodi D. and Marissa W.*

Little Red Hen HOME store instructor Marissa W. feels that displays can be a great exercise in creativity. However, the creative process can, of course, be challenging. According to Marissa, the hardest part of setting up displays is often not having a clear vision for the display until it is complete.



*a HOME store display*

Another HOME store employee, Bailey W., says setting up displays can be stressful yet rewarding. The hardest part, according to Bailey, is striking a balance between design and shopability.

Why do we work so hard at making our stores beautiful and shoppable? "Retail with a Purpose" is about providing a meaningful shopping experience, selling quality products, and giving our customers the opportunity to support people with disabilities. Our carefully crafted displays help invite our customers to engage with our community.



*a HOME store display*

Marissa and her team have poured a lot of effort into designing and redesigning high-quality displays, as have many of our employees across all of our locations. We hope you get the chance to check them all out sometime, and we hope you appreciate the skill of our display artists as much as we do.

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Employee Pride

### What we love about Little Red Hen



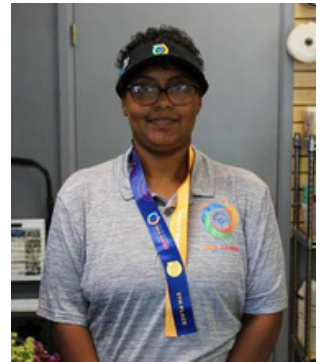
*"Helping people"*  
Mike P.



*"I love that everyone is so helpful and welcoming. I feel like I belong here"*  
-Jodi D.



*"My favorite thing is helping people out."*  
-Isaac C.



*"My favorite thing is the support, safety, and love, as well as the opportunity that Little Red Hen gives me to show off my skills."*  
-Jessica L.

### What people should know about Little Red Hen



*"People should know that when they come in they are supporting people with special needs."*  
-Ashley H.



*"Little Red Hen travels around the states finding vintage and antique items to bring into the store."*  
-Jeziel S.



*"The one thing that people should know about Little Red Hen is that Little Red Hen is always friendly to their customers."*  
-Klair B.



*"That they will help you and understand."*  
-Jasmine W.



### What people should know about adults with developmental disabilities

*"I think people need to know that while having a disability might make us look different, we should be treated like normal human beings and not looked at and treated poorly just because we are different."*  
-Jessica P.



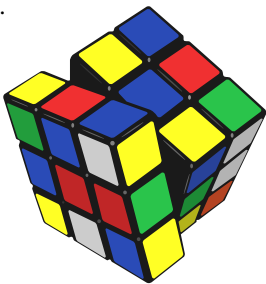
*"It's different for everybody and everyone has to face their own challenges. One solution that works for one person may not work for another."*  
-Cheyenne R.

Everyone can achieve greatness. People with developmental disabilities are reminding the world everyday that their disabilities might make them different, but in no way are they less than.

Alan J. is an employee at the Little Red Hen Kitchen store. Alan was asked to share an insight that could help the world better understand adults with developmental disabilities. Alan responded "That I do a great job". Alan teaches us that people of all abilities can be and should be proud of their efforts.

This celebration of ability perfectly captures the spirit of one of the Little Red Hen family's core beliefs. People with developmental disabilities are just as capable of achieving greatness as anyone else. Possessing a disability never prevents someone from being determined, intelligent, or impressive.

The achievements of the disabled community are being seen all over. Max Park, a 21-year-old Los Angeles resident with autism, recently broke the Rubik's cube world record, by solving a 3x3x3 cube in 3.13 seconds.



According to an article published on Disability Scoop, Max Park holds over 70 Rubik's related records.

## Achievements

*By Sam DeLong and Newsletter Staff*



*Alan J.*

Max Park broke the Rubik's record just in time for Disability Pride Month. Every July people across the United States take time to celebrate the accomplishments and abilities of people with disabilities. The month of July was chosen in order to commemorate the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which was originally passed July 26 1990.

Great achievements are almost never accomplished before overcoming great difficulty.

Adversity comes in many forms. It might be the inability to see, something a blind video game player had to overcome to achieve his dream. The player, known as BlindWarriorSven, recently wowed the crowd at a game tournament by utilizing audio cues and special accessibility options to find his way to victory according to a Game Rant article published in early August.

Adversity could also present itself as a learning difficulty, or a communication challenge, something many people with developmental disabilities like Autism struggle with. There is always some form of adversity to overcome or to be persevered through.

Little Red Hen employees are no strangers to perseverance. Several LRH team members participate in Special Olympics and have poured countless hours into their chosen sport. A number have risen to the top of their sport. This includes Thea B., a LRH employee who has been with the company since the beginning. Thea travelled to Dubai to compete in in the 2018 Special Olympics World Games.



*Thea B. golfing  
in Dubai*

Another LRH employee, Jessica L., just competed in Berlin for the 2023 World Games. Of course, Jessica and Thea are just two of Little Red Hen's many hard working and high achieving employees.

Adults with disabilities are constantly reaching for the sky and catching stars.

NURSERY



Shop In-Store or Online

FLORAL



GIFT



KITCHEN



VINTAGE



LittleRedHen.org



Special Thanks To Our Donors!  
**DONATIONS**  
Help Support Our Programs!



Disability Language Examples

OH,  
THEY'RE  
AUTISTIC



Identity First Language

OH, THEY  
HAVE  
AUTISM



Person First Language