



## ***From the CEO***

Happy New Year!

On July 1st, we began year three of our Vision 2026 Strategic Plan. We continue to focus on Participant Experience, Organizational and Financial Health, Engagement with the Community and Facilities. We plan on continued growth in the LIFE and Supported Employment programs. The ECHO Barkery and Blue Elegance will continue to provide employment opportunities and at the same time strive to get to break even. We will continue to invest in our Fleet to ensure our transportation capabilities keep pace with the growing LIFE and Employment programs. Each of our supporting departments: Finance, HR, Quality Improvement and Program Integrity, and Development are fully committed to supporting ECHO's FY26 mission goals.

We had an outstanding and fun 50th Anniversary party in Hillsboro on June 14! It was wonderful to see so many of you come out to have fun despite the forecast. Many thanks to our sponsors and the Town of Hillsboro for helping us celebrate this milestone in ECHO's history.

I hope you have a great summer and thank you for all you do to help further ECHO's mission.

Sincerely,

***Paul Donohue, Jr.***  
**CEO, ECHO**

# Ambassador of the Month



This month, we're thrilled to recognize a very special group as our Ambassadors of the Month- all of YOU who joined us in celebrating ECHO's 50th Anniversary! Your presence made this milestone unforgettable. It was a true reflection of the incredible community that surrounds and uplifts ECHO every day.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us honor 50 years of empowerment.



# Introducing ECHO Barkery Purpose Packs!



We've created specially curated collections to celebrate what makes your pup unique. Each Pack brings together premium treats in thoughtful combinations designed for different dog personalities and preferences. Whether your dog is a meat-loving member of the Carnivore Crew or part of the Petite Power pack, there's a Purpose Pack crafted just for them. Each treat is made without artificial flavors or preservatives, and every bundle saves you 17% off the retail price.

**Get Your Purpose Packs HERE!**

# Blue Elegance: Sharing Skills and Building Confidence



We're excited to shine a spotlight on Rachel! Known for her kind and supportive spirit, Rachel has taken the initiative to teach her peers the art of hand knitting. She guides others through the technique, turning a personal passion into a shared learning experience. Her leadership not only builds confidence among her teammates but also strengthens the collaborative spirit that makes Blue Elegance such a special place to work.

**Shop Blue Elegance Today!**

# Vocational Training In Action



Our Group Supported Employment (GSE) participants have been hard at work building valuable job-readiness skills through hands-on vocational training. From labeling and sorting to grounds maintenance and other practical tasks, each activity is designed to strengthen workplace habits like focus, responsibility, and teamwork.

These opportunities not only prepare participants for success on the job- they also promote confidence and independence. We're incredibly proud of the dedication our teams continue to show each day as they grow their skills and support one another!

# LIFE Community Outing Highlight



Participants in ECHO's LIFE program recently enjoyed a fun and educational outing to Vienna Aquarium and Pets! They spent time exploring the vibrant tanks, observing a wide variety of fish, and learning interesting facts from the friendly staff. It was a great opportunity to combine community engagement with curiosity and discovery!

## Did You Know?

Our LIFE program averages 6 community outings per week!

# ECHO Hero of the Month



We are pleased to announce that our Hero of the Month  
is Mariah Baker!

Mariah played a critical role in the planning and execution of our 50th Anniversary event. During the planning process, Mariah also helped us build a new website, coordinate the implementation of a new database for the Fundraising Department, and also continued to carry out her day to day tasks such as social media management and grant writing. Mariah's presence at ECHO over the past couple of months has made all of these impactful initiatives possible, all the while keeping ECHO's core values at the heart of everything she did.

Thank you for your hard work, Mariah!

# Behind the Mission



At ECHO, every success story starts with support from people like you. Whether it's building job skills, exploring the community, or gaining independence, our participants thrive because our mission is backed by the generosity, compassion, and care of our local community.

Your gift, no matter the size, helps fuel meaningful opportunities for adults with disabilities across Loudoun and Fairfax Counties.

Want to be part of the impact?

**Help Fuel Our Mission HERE**

# Testimonial

"Our daughter has been with ECHO since fall of 2020 and absolutely loves working at the Barkery and sometimes on other projects. She always talks about her job with such pride and dedication...She is happy and fulfilled at her job: what else can we ask for? Thank you, ECHO staff and management, for creating such successful programs and a great environment for our children!"

**- Sarah Adkins-Blanch**

