



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Spring is a time to grow and blossom. With the help of our generous supporters, things are definitely blooming at Human First!**

We kicked off May with our 2nd Annual Bowl-A-Thon on May 5th, a tremendous success thanks to our magnificent sponsors, especially Atlantic, Tomorrow's Office (Perfect Game Sponsor). Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate Cinco de Mayo while supporting an important cause: All proceeds raised will be instrumental to enhancing our programs and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Our individuals are at the heart of our mission, and through the dedication of our hard-working staff, Human First's individuals continue to thrive. The outstanding progress they've made is nothing short of inspiring, and I am delighted to report that many individuals are now functioning at decreased supervision levels, demonstrating more independence and self-sufficiency. Congratulations to all!

Finally, I am proud to be serving on the Board of Directors of the New York Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation (NY Alliance). Effective July 1, 2019 through

2021, I will be representing the New York City region of the NY Alliance, helping to ensure that individuals with disabilities lead productive, meaningful lives in their communities. Many thanks to the NY Alliance for this wonderful opportunity.

**Together with my exceptional team at Human First and my NY Alliance colleagues, I look forward to making a difference for hundreds of individuals and families in 2019 and beyond!**

Sincerely,

**Cheryelle Cruickshank**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

**Stay in touch with Human First by following us on social media! Find us on Twitter and Instagram by following @HumanFirstNY or on Like us on Facebook by going to Facebook.com/HumanFirstInc. Through social media, you'll be able to see first-hand how your support helps the individuals and families we serve.**



# Thank you!

*Thank you to our fabulous sponsors who helped make our event a success:*

## PERFECT GAME SPONSOR:

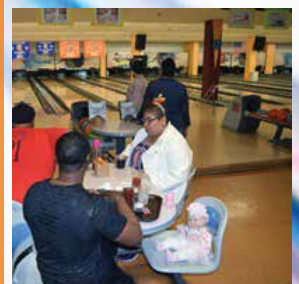
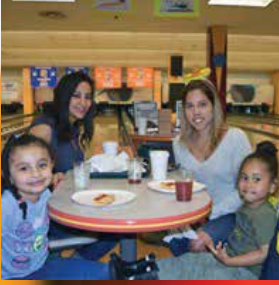
Atlantic, Tomorrow's Office

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On May 5, 2019, staff, individuals, friends, families and vendors came out to Jib Lanes in Flushing, Queens to support Human First at our 2nd Annual Bowl-A-Thon. More than **\$26K** was raised helping to support our programs and services.

**BOWLING FOR A SPECIAL CAUSE**



we've been selected for the

# Stop & Shop Community Bag Program!



When you buy this bag this month,  
we will receive a \$1 donation.

Unless it is otherwise directed by the customer via the Giving Tag

## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS: JASON P.

Over the past year, Javon has made a tremendous progress at the day habilitation program and IRA. Collectively, Javon increased his participation in group activities, community inclusion, and volunteer work. Presently, Javon volunteers at the Senior Center and Federation of Organization on weekly basis to practice job readiness skills. In these volunteer sites, Javon completes on hands on tasks and various clerical responsibilities.

Nonetheless, Javon presents with various characteristics of self-regulating behaviors and coping mechanisms to handle crisis. Since there is a significant reduction in his maladaptive behavior, he no longer requires a behavior support plan. In fact, Javon is part of the SEMP program to seek employment of his interest in the food industry. Additionally, Javon expressed his interest to travel independently to his work, residence, and local stores. Javon enjoys hosting bake sale events to raise funds. Javon made significant improvement in his communication skills and pragmatics by providing appropriate eye-contact, body posture, and intellectual utterances. Currently, Javon is on a successful path to achieve his short and long terms goals with support.



Javon has developed better expressive skills with the support of counseling. This has significantly decreased his level of aggression. Javon is currently attending Karate bi-monthly which is teaching him responsibility and to respect others. Previously Javon demonstrated lack of self-esteem which would result him to avoid eye contact. Now he feels empowered and can communicate with others effective ways which has been demonstrated in accomplishment. The clinical team would like to congratulate him on his success.

## HUMAN FIRST RECEIVES TWO SPECIAL HONORS

On March 21, 2019, Human First Director of Administration & Communication Elizabeth Stehle was presented with Schneps Media's Stars Under 40 Award at a ceremony at the LaGuardia Plaza Hotel in Queens. The distinguished award recognizes the achievements of business and nonprofit professionals under the age of 40 who have made a significant impact on their community.

Elizabeth has been helping Human First deliver life-changing services since June 2015, after moving from the government and private sectors. Her deep commitment to our mission is evident in her tireless efforts to help individuals reach their highest potential. Congratulations to Elizabeth on her well-deserved honor!

Schneps Media also recognized Human First's extraordinary work to transform the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. Proceeds from Stars Under 40 raffle ticket sales will go toward enhancing Human First's programs and services.

**The generous check was presented to our CEO Cheryelle Cruickshank on April 18, 2019. Thanks to Schneps Media for their wonderful contribution!**

## HUMAN FIRST CEO ELECTED TO NY ALLIANCE BOARD

Congratulations to our CEO Cheryelle Cruickshank on being elected to the Board of Directors of the New York Alliance for Inclusion & Innovation (NY Alliance)! While representing the New York City region (effective July 1, 2019), Ms. Cruickshank will be responsible for helping to oversee the Group's advocacy and training initiatives, as well as helping to advance sound public policy.

Ms. Cruickshank will serve on the Board for the next two years. To learn more about the NY Alliance, visit <https://nyalliance.org/>.

## HUMAN FIRST 'S ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS!

It takes a village to operate a successful nonprofit agency, and we couldn't do it without the work of our outstanding administrative professionals. On April 24, 2019, Administrative Professionals Day, we honored Administrative Staff—Laurel Dawkins, Reem Abuelkere, and Rosemary Sheeler for their excellent work and for helping the agency run seamlessly. To Laurel, Rosemary and Reem: thanks for everything you do!



## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS: **ANTHONY T.**



Anthony Tricomi received a promotion to work in the office of New York State Attorney General Letitia James as of March 8, 2019. Anthony has a part-time job in facilities operations. He began working with Attorney General James while she was the New York City Public Advocate and has become friendly with his coworkers and continues to develop his job skills. Anthony is now working on learning his new route to and from work. Anthony is overjoyed with his recent success and is very proud of his work. He takes pride in any task that he is given. Anthony looks forward to continuing to grow in the work force.

## PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS: **KRISTINA M.**



Kristina has made significant progress over the last few months at her residence and her day program. Kristina no longer has enhanced supervision as she has been making excellent progress working on effective communication skills (utilizing iPad and flash cards) to help communicate her wants and needs as well as utilizing her relaxation techniques (deep breathing strategies) to calm herself down. Staff continues to implement different calming techniques as well as proactive strategies to mitigate Kristina's behaviors. She continues to work on her goals with verbal prompts and minimal staff assistance.









*The Key  
To Success*





## SAVE THE DATE

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Human First will be presenting our 2nd Annual Casino Night at Villa Russo in Queens, New York. Help us achieve a “full house” at our lively fundraiser, where you’ll enjoy table games, great food, wine tasting and more! Get ready to roll the dice and support a great cause!

Save The Date

**HF** HUMAN FIRST  
Quality of Life is our First Priority

**CASINO**  
Night

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019 · 6PM - 10PM

VILLA RUSSO · 118-16 101ST AVE, QUEENS, NY

CLASSIC CASINO GAMES · RAFFLE PRIZES

PLEASE VISIT: HUMANFIRST.ORG

NEWSLETTER **SPRING 2019**



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