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February 25, 2022

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Dear Individuals, Families, and AHRC Suffolk Team Members:

This month, individuals in our Program Without Walls in Bohemia explored the importance and significance of Black History Month. Each section chose an important historical figure to study, including Muhammad Ali, Martin Luther King Jr., Sidney Poitier, Jackie Robinson and Harriet Tubman. Working together with the support of their staff, the groups researched their person of interest and collected important facts and figures. Each group then used their creativity to construct display materials to use during their Black History icon presentations. We are so proud of the hard work of the individuals and the staff on these meaningful and important projects. I encourage you to keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages for upcoming photos and videos from today's presentations.

In conjunction with their learning, we asked a few individuals for their reflections on Black History Month.

"Everyone should learn about Black History Month, because we need to stand united," said Tamara T.

"We celebrate for a month to remember that we don't want to go back to having to be separated from our friends and family because of the color of our skin," said Caleb T. His girlfriend, Ashley H., added "we can't make progress if we don't talk about the past and I couldn't imagine not being able to love Caleb openly and freely!"

When asked about why it is important to reflect and recognize Black History Month, Larry F. responded that it's important that we celebrate African Americans because they fought hard during the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s to be free of discrimination. "I grew up in the 60s, so I know firsthand how it was and how far we've come," he said.

As the month of reflection concludes, it is important to continue to learn, recognize, appreciate and honor the accomplishments and sacrifices of all.

Stay well, stay safe and thank you for all you do,



Paul H. Torres  
Chief Executive Officer

