

DURAND NEWSLETTER

Fall 2025



*Words from
Marc Sano
Executive Director,
CEO
Durand, Inc.*

As we reflect on this season of remarkable progress, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible people who make Durand thrive—our staff, families, partners, and community.

Each milestone we've celebrated, from the opening of our new group home to our growing partnerships and vibrant community events, reflects a shared dedication to creating opportunities for individuals with autism to learn, grow, and live fulfilling lives.

Thank you for your unwavering support, your belief in our mission, and the compassion you show every day. Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive future for the individuals we are privileged to serve.

As we close out the year 2025, we are so proud of the work done by all our employees and the impact they have had on all our clients. We look forward to continuing growth and new opportunities in the year ahead of us.

This fall has been a season of growth, celebration, and meaningful community impact across [Durand](#). We proudly honored our dedicated staff with Service Awards, recognizing the heart and commitment that fuel our mission every day. We also opened a brand-new group home, expanding our ability to provide safe, supportive living for individuals with autism.

Our new partnership with Common Energy is bringing sustainable savings and expanded opportunities to the families we serve. Our teams continued to shine at statewide professional events, including participating at the Autism Conference in Atlantic City, NJ.

Community engagement has never been stronger at [Durand](#). These events include more than 125 supporters at our Superheroes for Autism 5k-ish Walk, celebrated creativity and local talent at our Holiday Market, and brought joy and movement to students during our colorful Color Run.

Compliance & Ethics Week reminded us of the importance of safety, integrity, and accountability—values that underpin every program we offer. From schoolwide celebrations to residential activities, this season has been filled with connection, purpose, and the enduring spirit of [Helping Individuals With Special Needs Learn and Grow](#).

*"We are what we repeatedly do.
Excellence, then, is not an act, but a
habit." – Aristotle.*

Durand announces 9th Adult Residential Group Home!



"This milestone reflects our ongoing commitment to providing safe, supportive, and meaningful living environments for adults with autism. This home offers comfort, stability, and independence, with individualized supports that honor each resident's strengths, needs, and personal goals." says Tonya Faggins, VP of Residential Services. "From thoughtfully planned living spaces to 24/7 dedicated staff, every detail ensures a warm and inclusive home where residents can truly thrive."

This expansion of **Durand's** residential program is a direct response to the growing need for high-quality, person-centered housing options for adults with autism in South Jersey. Each new home represents more than a place to live—it represents opportunity, dignity, community, and a path toward greater independence. We are grateful to our incredible team whose hard work, expertise, and compassion make these homes possible, as well as to the families who trust us to be part of their loved ones' lives.

As we celebrate this significant achievement, we remain focused on our mission of **Helping Individuals with Special Needs Learn and Grow**. The opening of our 10th home marks another step forward in ensuring that adults with autism have access to the long-term supports they deserve.

Durand Partners with Common Energy to Expand Clean Energy & Reduce Costs

Durand is proud to announce a new partnership with Common Energy, which will bring clean, renewable energy to several of our adult residential group homes. **Durand** will now benefit from reduced electricity costs through community solar programs—allowing us to redirect savings back into the programs and supports that directly impact the individuals we serve.

This partnership reflects **Durand's** commitment not only to responsible stewardship of our resources, but also to environmental sustainability. By transitioning to solar-supported energy, our agency is reducing its carbon footprint while embracing cost-effective solutions that strengthen long-term financial stability. The reduced utility pricing offers meaningful savings, ensuring that more of our funding can be dedicated to enhancing services, improving facilities, and supporting our staff and residents.

This collaboration underscores our ongoing efforts to innovate, conserve resources, and create a healthier environment for our community.



Respect, kindness, and a splash of color!



Durand students capped off their Week of Respect with a joyful Color Run — a celebration of friendship, inclusion, and the vibrant spirit of our school community. 🌟

Every burst of color represented the respect we show one another every day — for our differences, our strengths, and the unique gifts that make us who we are.

Way to go, **Durand** students and staff — you've painted the world with kindness! 🎨💪



🌟 **Durand** at the 2-Day Autism Conference! 🌟

In October, Principal Jennifer Amoroso and Rae Pastore, Director of Marketing & Development, proudly represented **Durand** at the 2-Day Autism Conference held at Harrah's in Atlantic City.

The event brought together educators, health providers, caregivers, and vendors who share a common goal — to learn, connect, and support individuals with autism and special needs. 🌈



We're grateful to be part of such a dedicated community working together to make a difference every day!



DURAND'S SUPERHEROES FOR AUTISM

5K-ISH WALK

Benefitting
The Durand Foundation
DURANDINC.ORG/WALK



Sat. Oct. 25th,
9am -11am
**Laurel Acres
Park**
Mt. Laurel, NJ
08054

Durand's Superheroes for Autism 5k-ish Walk: A Day of Community, Celebration, and Everyday Heroes

On a crisp fall morning, more than 125 community members, families, staff, and supporters came together for **Durand's** first annual Superheroes for Autism 5k-ish Walk—an inspiring event that celebrated the everyday heroes who make a difference in the lives of individuals with special needs. Participants arrived in capes, masks, and bright colors, ready to walk in honor of our students, adults, families, and the dedicated professionals who support them. The energy was electric as teams gathered, photos were taken, and our community united around a shared mission.





Throughout the event, we proudly recognized the real superheroes among us: our teachers, DSPs, clinicians, nurses, residential staff, transportation team, and all those who show up each day to help individuals with autism learn and grow.

Local police, fire, and emergency responders also joined us in solidarity, reflecting the strength of our community partnerships. While we raised a modest amount of funds, the true success of the day was the overwhelming sense of connection, awareness, and unity that filled the event.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who registered, donated, volunteered, or cheered us on. Your support fuels **Durand's** mission and ensures that individuals with autism continue to receive the highest quality services. We're already looking forward to next year's walk—and to building an even stronger community of superheroes!



Thank you to our generous Sponsors!

Durand's SUPERHEROES FOR AUTISM 5K-ish Walk

www.durandinc.org



Edward Jones

KELLI BRACK
FINANCIAL ADVISOR



CAPEHART
SCATCHARD

Not all heroes wear capes

Celebrating Dedication

Durand's Annual Service Awards



This month, **Durand** proudly honored the remarkable dedication and commitment of our staff at our annual Service Awards celebration. Each year, we take time to recognize the individuals whose work strengthens our mission of *Helping Individuals with Special Needs Learn and Grow*. From classrooms to residential homes, from transportation to administration, our honorees represent the heart of **Durand**—the people who show up day after day with compassion, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to those we serve.

Awardees were recognized for milestone years of service, reflecting journeys of impact, growth, and deep connection to our community. Whether celebrating five years or more than three decades, each staff member has contributed to creating an environment where students, adults, and families feel supported and empowered. Their dedication not only enhances the quality of our programs, but also inspires their colleagues and brings strength to the entire **Durand** organization.



Dr. Durand Leadership Awardees with CEO Marc B. Sano, pictured here center, with Kelli Buce, Erik Weiss, Loraine Rowe and Maliyha Walker from left to right.

In addition to the Service Awards, we once again highlighted exceptional performances of four staff by giving out the Dr. Durand Leadership Awards. These are designations given by peer nomination and for the purpose of recognizing those who demonstrate Dr. Durand's passion for helping others. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all honorees for their years of service and their continued devotion to our mission. **Durand's** success is built on the passion and perseverance of our team, and we are proud to celebrate the individuals who make this work possible each and every day.

DURAND, INC.

2025

Service Award Recipients

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED THEIR COMMITMENT AND LOYALTY TO DURAND

5 Years

VANESSA ADAMS – SCHOOL
GREGORY ALLEN-JACKSON – SCHOOL
ISAAC AMOAH – RESIDENTIAL
ALI BERETE – RESIDENTIAL
KAYLA BOWE – FAMILY SUPPORT
SHONDA CHAVIS – ADMINISTRATION
PATRICIA COROSANITE – FAMILY SUPPORT
DEBRA FEERRAR – FAMILY SUPPORT
PHILIP FREEMAN – FAMILY SUPPORT
ERIC GLADFELTER – SCHOOL
CRAIG HOFFMAN – SCHOOL
NOELLE JACOB – FAMILY SUPPORT
PARISSA JOHNSON – DAY PROGRAM
STEPHANY PAYTON – DAY PROGRAM
NOEMI SAED – FAMILY SUPPORT
CHRIS TABOR – RESIDENTIAL
ZENA VIGO – RESIDENTIAL
JARRYD WILSON – ADMINISTRATION
PAULA WATSON – DAY PROGRAM

10 Years

JENNIFER AMOROSO – SCHOOL
ARYCCA FLOWERS – RESIDENTIAL
LESLIE KANE – ADMINISTRATION
TESENIA MEDINA – DAY PROGRAM
IVY PINCKNEY-DAVIS – FAMILY SUPPORT
MARKIA SYKES – RESIDENTIAL
SHANTAY WALLS – DAY PROGRAM

15 Years

GEORGE DIXON – RESIDENTIAL
KELLI SCHAEFER – SCHOOL
SANDRA SCHAUFFELE – SCHOOL

20 Years

JILLIAN BIANCO – ADMINISTRATION
TIEMERE CARMICKEL – ADMINISTRATION
ERIC HALL – RESIDENTIAL
BRENDA KIRCHER – SCHOOL
DONALD KIRCHER – SCHOOL
ROSEMARY SMITH – ADMINISTRATION

35 Years

VALERIE BRANNIGAN – SCHOOL

***Helping Individuals With Special
Needs Learn and Grow***



Compliance Week

In November, **Durand** proudly celebrated Corporate Compliance and Ethics Week — a perfect time to reinforce our commitment to doing what's right.

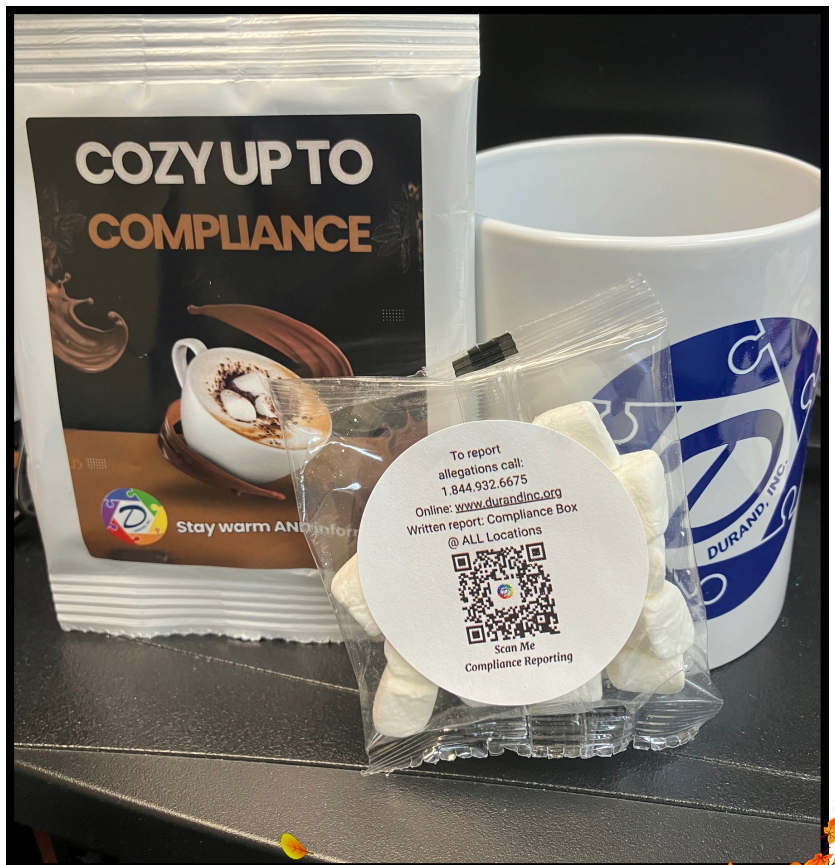
At **Durand**, compliance isn't just a requirement—it's a commitment to the safety, dignity, and well-being of the individuals with autism we proudly serve. By following ethical standards, safeguarding privacy, and ensuring proper reporting and accountability, we create a stable, predictable, and trustworthy environment where our students, adults, and families can thrive. Compliance protects our community, strengthens our services, and upholds the mission of *Helping Individuals with Special Needs Learn and Grow.*



Our ATS and Residential staff joined in the fun by receiving special **Durand** mugs and custom hot chocolate packets, each featuring a QR code that linked to a training video on reporting concerning conduct — a reminder that ethical action always starts with awareness.

At **Durand**, we're keeping things warm, cozy, and compliant all year long- ☕💙

Stay warm and informed!



Fall Celebrations

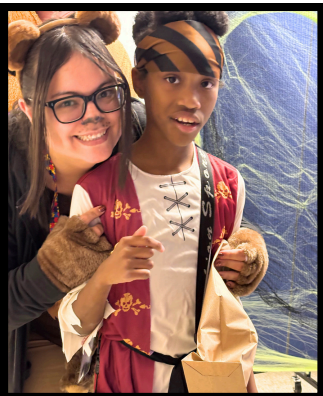


This fall, **Durand's** programs enjoyed a vibrant season filled with celebration, creativity, and important reminders about safety and ethics.

From festive holiday fun to meaningful educational activities, our staff and participants embraced opportunities to learn and grow together.



Halloween brought excitement and imagination as participants dressed up, decorated pumpkins, and enjoyed themed crafts and treats. The joy continued into November with our Thanksgiving activities, where participants reflected on gratitude, shared seasonal crafts, and enjoyed the warmth and togetherness that the holiday inspires. These moments not only foster social engagement but also build independence and communication skills in a fun, supportive setting.



In addition to holiday celebrations, **Durand** observed National Compliance Week, reinforcing our commitment to maintaining a safe, ethical, and transparent environment for all. Through interactive discussions and age-appropriate activities, participants learned about making good choices, speaking up when something doesn't feel right, and understanding the importance of rules that keep everyone safe. Staff also joined in the recognition with initiatives that highlighted **Durand's** "Cozy Up to Compliance" theme.



We are grateful to our dedicated teams for creating enriching, memorable experiences that support the whole-person development of each participant. The fall season was filled with learning, laughter, and community—and we look forward to even more exciting activities in the months ahead.





DURAND HOLIDAY MARKET & FUNDRAISER

Get your gifts, decorations and holiday cheer while supporting the Durand Foundation
and South Jersey autism community!

SHOP LOCAL!

**UNIQUE ART
FESTIVE FINDS
JEWELRY
CHOCOLATE BOMBS
BAKED GOODS
FOOD VENDORS
CANDLES
HOLIDAY DECOR
AND MORE!!!**



**FREE ENTRY, DONATIONS
WELCOMED**

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER**

11AM TO 4PM

**111 GAITHER DR.
MT. LAUREL, NJ**

durandinc.org/events/holidaymarket

22ND

This year's **Durand** Holiday Market and Fundraiser was a festive celebration of creativity and community spirit, drawing families, staff, local vendors, and supporters together for a joyful day of shopping and connection. Our halls were filled with the sights and scents of the season—handmade ornaments, baked goods, holiday décor, infused oils, cozy crafts, PaperPie books, and more. Many of the items were lovingly created by **Durand** students and adults in our work-based learning programs, giving attendees a special opportunity to support their talents and hard work.

The event not only showcased the artistry within our community but also helped raise important funds for the **Durand** Foundation. Every purchase and donation contributes directly to programs that help individuals with special needs learn and grow. Visitors enjoyed hot chocolate bombs from Fairyland Confections, unique gifts from local artisans, and the chance to connect with one another in a warm, welcoming environment that truly reflected the holiday spirit.

We are deeply grateful to our vendors, volunteers, staff, and attendees for making this year's craft fair such a success. Your support helps us continue creating meaningful opportunities for those we serve. We look forward to an even bigger and brighter event next year!



Durand

Community Partnerships

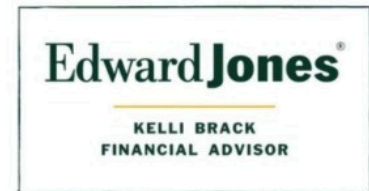


DURAND, INC.
Est. 1972



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Legacy Club
JERSEYMAN • PHILLYMAN

ONTARGET
media group



two.two
CREATIVE

Helping Individuals With Special Needs Learn and Grow

We are deeply grateful to our incredible community partner sponsors for their generous support. Your partnership makes a lasting impact — helping us provide opportunities, programs, and care that empower those we serve to thrive. Together, we're building a stronger, more inclusive community, enriching the lives of individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities.

Thank you for standing with us!

For more information on how to become one of **Durand's** Community Partners, please contact
Rae Pastore,
Director of Marketing and Development
r.pastore@durandac.org

DURAND NIGHT

AT THE

PHILADELPHIA

76ers

JANUARY 29, 2026



Tickets \$35.99

- EARLY ARENA ENTRY
- 76ers RALLY TOWEL
- DURAND SPOTLIGHT ON THE JUMBOTRON

A PORTION OF PROCEEDS
WILL BENEFIT DURAND'S
PROGRAMS FOR
INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM



Tickets available at:

www.gofevo.com/event/Durandinc2

A PORTION OF PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT
DURAND'S PROGRAMS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM