

REFLECTIONS

FALL 2017 + WINTER 2018



**THIS IS
WHAT LIFE
SHOULD BE.**

As one year ends and a new one begins, Camphill embraces those that have helped build our community upon a foundation of discovery, joy, and love.



CAMPBILL SPECIAL SCHOOL

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EDITOR
Courtney Coffman

CONTRIBUTORS
Traci Connaughton
Elizabeth Flynn and
Laura Stalter
Lauren Geiger-Martin
Karuna Kasturi and
Barbara Rodger
Rick Moseley
Michael Oliveira and
Lisiane Queiroz
Ntsikelelo, Ryoko, Yuga,
Themba, and Aska
Saul

REFLECTIONS

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John R. Fish, O.D.	Bernard Wolf
Brent Franklin	
Lynn Garner	
Jan Christopher Goeschel, Ph.D.	
Bill Hagner	

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTRIBUTORS Caleb Williams and Michael Oliveira

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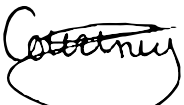
This is what life should be.
This is Camphill Special School.



OVER THE SUMMER MY FAMILY AND I WERE INVITED TO LUCAS HOUSE (THE NEW HOUSE AT OUR TRANSITION PROGRAM) to celebrate Ani Alma's 50th birthday. We were thrilled to be able to attend. My oldest son, Harris, was especially excited. He loves to visit Beaver Farm to pick up the chicks, pet the piglets, explore the fields, and visit Bob, the farm dog. His most favorite thing, though, is to have crackers and jam with Ani. He loves to perch on the stool in Silver Maple's kitchen and chat with her while she prepares the house's supper and smears yet another cracker with glorious strawberry goop for him to gobble up.

Ani was very happily surprised by her party and all who attended. Harris ran right up to her and gave her a big birthday hug. He then scampered off to a field where the young coworkers and a few students were playing Frisbee. The young coworkers patiently showed my eager six-year-old how to throw and catch and the rules of their game as I looked on from afar knowing he was in good hands. As I watched, Harris and Noah, a Transition Program student, began playfully chasing Liam, one of the young coworkers. Somehow this Frisbee toss became a contact sport as Harris and Noah grabbed Liam's legs and waist to slow him down. The laughs of joy and fun emanating from the playing field gave the party the perfect background music.

Every time we pass by the Farm and Lucas House, Harris asks to stop. He wants to play with his friends, the animals, and most especially, see Ani. This is community. This is relationships. This is what life should be. This is Camphill Special School.


Courtney Coffman, Editor

CONVERSATION BETWEEN LAURA AND ELIZABETH “ON COMMUNITY”

LAURA AND ELIZABETH, TRANSITION PROGRAM STUDENTS AND BEAVER FARM COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Laura: Spill the beans girl.

Elizabeth: Which beans? I’m not the one in kitchen crew. [both laugh]. OK, OK, OK. Let’s get to it. Community. Before I came to know Camphill, I never really had interest in or knew about community living.

Laura: For me, I didn’t know the word community until I came to Camphill. When I first came to Beaver Run, I was clueless about what a community was.

Elizabeth: Let’s put it this way – you were never really familiar with the aspect of the word community. We never really gave it much thought because we just thought about community meaning a town or a city or a township – like a local kind of thing. But in a deeper meaning of the word, community is more than that. I don’t think the word ‘community’ makes the average person think about the ‘life-living’ that we do here. But when you think about it, we are not only people that live close to each other, we are also each other’s main backbone, as corny as that sounds.

Laura: I’m part of our community, but I don’t live here – I come here during the day.

Elizabeth: You’re not residential like me. So there is a difference in our opinion. The lifestyle is different.

Laura: It is different. I get here on a bus every morning.

Elizabeth: But we have a lot in common. What we have in common is that we both learn differently – through working activities. And we’re both really verbal.

Laura: You’re definitely a talker.

Elizabeth: Do you ever wonder what we do on evenings and weekends?

Laura: Yeah. What’s it like on Saturday and Sunday mornings?

Elizabeth: Well, we don’t have crews but we still have to do the farm work – that has to be done every day, no matter what. And we always have later, laid-back breakfasts like pancakes or something. What’s it like for you to be at home full-time and to transition from home life to school life?

Laura: I like to go back and forth – I like the change.

Elizabeth: There are differences in the ways things are at home and the way things are here. I can share in that feeling you have. I get that feeling when I go home for the weekends.

Laura: And Beaver Farm is different from Beaver Run. It feels like Beaver Farm has more stuff going on all the time.

Elizabeth: Which is funny because it’s actually a smaller community.

Laura: But we’re all more busy doing our own things.

Elizabeth: And around people from all over the world.

Laura: You learn about people’s history and how they got here and it’s kind of interesting.

Elizabeth: It’s funny that Laura and I are in a community here, because she was born in Russia and I was born in China. We were neighbors a long time ago too! I find that living in community is one of the best ways of really getting to know people. I tell people, “If you want to know about community, Camphill is the best place to start.”



Elizabeth and Laura

BEAVERFARMCRAFTS

BY LAUREN GEIGER-MARTIN, PROGRAM MANAGER AT BEAVER FARM



The pottery crew engages in a collaborative glazing experiment

BEAVER FARM HAS SEVERAL ARTISAN CRAFT STUDIOS on the premises which include pottery, fiber arts, and woodshop. Consumer interest in the products produced with the students at the school has been steadily increasing. In particular, the pottery workshop has been generating income from both school fundraisers and extracurricular sales. Therefore, we at Beaver Farm will be expanding into online sales.

The platform for our store, *BeaverFarmCrafts*, is Etsy, an online marketplace showcasing vendors from around the world who sell handmade or vintage products. On March 1st, we launched our first mini listing on the site! We showcased our favorite spring items that include vases, platters, mugs,

and pitchers. We plan to launch a grand opening in the fall.

Apart from the production process of creating beautiful sale-worthy pieces, many functional academic and social opportunities are inherent in this process. Already our students are busy learning how to take photographs of our beautiful creations and upload them to the store website. We also are having fun titling and writing descriptions for items, developing pricing, and measuring and weighing the pieces. Once the store is open, we will answer customer questions, process orders, and pack and ship items. All of these activities create an opportunity for guided social interactions and outreach into the community.

The story behind how our pottery is produced by people with special needs is what makes it unique. People like to feel good about

what they are buying, and every dollar of proceeds from the pottery and craft workshops goes toward supporting and growing Camphill Special School. Not only are we fundraising for our school, but we are providing a unique educational opportunity for our students. We are advocating for people with special needs and their work abilities.

We would like to thank the wonderful students who attend Camphill Special School, as well as their families, and our donors who support them for all of their hard work, dedication, and spreading the word about what is happening at the Transition Program. Our success is because of you. Please visit etsy.com/shop/BeaverFarmCraft to see our progress, and we will be sure to keep you up to date on the latest developments of our Etsy store, *BeaverFarmCrafts*.

TIME TRAVELERS

BY BARBARA RODGER AND KARUNA KASTURI

DID YOU KNOW WE CAN TIME TRAVEL INTO THE PAST? IT'S TRUE! When you are outside on a clear night, look up at the stars. Our sky is a direct portal into the past. Our closest star, Alpha Centari for example, takes over 4 years for its light to reach us, so when we look up at it, we are seeing that star 4 years in the past. Pretty cool, right? Well, maybe it isn't exactly like Doctor Who with his whirling TARDIS and trusty companion, but it is possible. Another example much closer to home, takes place right here in our backyard.

The woods that encompass Beaver Run are long, beautiful and full of untold stories waiting to be discovered. One day, on the hiking paths, a friend and I stopped to take a break. It was in that silence that our eyes changed, or maybe it was the land around us, either way it suddenly all looked just a little different. We were crossing over a fallen tree along the path, as we placed our hands on it for support, a thought immediately entered my mind: How old is this tree? My friend, who is quite the historian, told me that the trees all around us weren't even the original land. It was all cut down and reforested after the French loggers and European colonists took over. I was awestruck. The enormous trees surrounding us, which took hundreds of years to reach their height and expansion, were not even the first to grow here. Before the settlement and 'discovery' of America, the Lenni Lenape Native Americans were the first to freely roam and love our lands. Our original people and founder's name literally translates to just that - The Original People. Their history and energy is all around us, and like my time traveling friend, Barbara, sometimes if you're lucky enough, even physical fragments of their history make their way to us and transport us back to their time.

Barbara Rodger, a worldly, witty and extremely kind-eyed woman is an elder at our Camphill Community and also one of my dear friends. We share many things in common, including our love for sweets, our birthdays, and, most recently, our

experiences into the distant past. She told me of a time when she was walking through Beaver Run woods and found a true relic, a genuine quartz arrowhead, buried along the Rowan path. "It was beautiful," she said. She held onto it for many years until finally she had passed it on to a new owner. She even recalls a time, many years ago, when a coworker was also able to feel and see the history of our Native Americans.

Here is her story: "An unknown secret history follows Beaver Run through the years. It is the history of the Native Americans who once hunted and lived on this land. In the early days of Camphill when the residential houses were being built, many arrowheads were found around the construction sites. For me it was a thrill to discover two beautiful white quartz arrowheads. In the early 1980's we had a coworker from Lancaster County. She felt very much akin to these native people and soon made it her task to build an enormous teepee of authentic regulation size. Her

vision soon began to unfold in the School House on the gym floor. (This was before the Blue Room.) For months the poles and canvas strips were measured and re-measured until at last all the parts were brought up to Rowan field. The great teepee was then erected with all due ceremony. The children and coworkers alike were overwhelmed. And so began many happy years of birthday parties and house gatherings around the little fireplace on cold autumn afternoons. The joy it brought the children and thereby the whole Community cannot be easily forgotten...and likewise hopefully brought honor and respect for those who lived on this land long ago."

We are all constantly being pushed forward in time, but it if you stand still long enough, you can see and feel the energy of the past all around us, gently beckoning us in to hear their stories. As the infamous Time Traveling Doctor Who once said, "We are all stories in the end, just make it a good one, eh?"



Barbara and Karuna

THE SAUL CHILDREN

NTSIKELELO AND RYOKO SAUL ARE HOUSE PARENTS IN LONGHOUSE THIS YEAR. They have lived in the community with their three children since 2014. Yuga is 9 and in fourth grade, Themba is 8 years old and in second grade, and Aska is 6 years old and in the first grade. They attend the Kimberton Waldorf School. The parents asked their children some questions about their lives as Camphill Special School "staff children."

Ntsikelelo: What is your favorite thing about living in the community?
Yuga: Being with the students. They are fun.
Themba: Swimming, riding bikes, and horse riding.
Aska: Swimming, sledding, biking, and visiting people.

Ntsikelelo: Who are your favorite people in the community?
Yuga: Martina (coworker), Alana (student), and KK (student).
Themba: Lottie and Clara (staff children), Gabe and Emanuel (staff children), Matthew (student), KK (student), Alana (student), and Mansour (student).
Aska: Lottie (staff child), Martina (coworker), Leta (student), and Rebecca (student).
Ntsikelelo: What do you tell your friends your life is like living in the community?
Yuga: It is fun.
Themba: Good. It snows and there is a pool.
Aska: Swimming in the pool, sleepovers, and riding bikes.
Ntsikelelo: What is a memory from living

here that you'd like to share?
Yuga: I remember the first time sledding.
Themba: Going to kindergarten at Chantry.
Aska: Kindergarten in Beaver Run with my friend Bronwen. Nice hills for sledding.
Ntsikelelo: What or who are your favorites to play with?
Yuga: Lottie, Clara, KK, and Alana. I like reading and drawing.
Themba: Leon, Lottie, Clara, and Gabe. I like to ride bikes, tractors, and trains.
Aska: Lottie and Clara, Leon, and Josh. I like biking and board games.
Ntsikelelo: What do you want to be when you grow up?
Yuga: I don't know.
Themba: A farmer.
Aska: Shop person.



Themba, Yuga, and Aska with their parents Ntsikelelo and Ryoko

GIVING TO CAMPHILL: THE PA EITC PROGRAM IS A GAME CHANGER!

IT'S NOT JUST FOR BUSINESSES ANYMORE.
TURN YOUR PA TAX DOLLARS INTO TUITION
ASSISTANCE FOR OUR STUDENTS.



Students enjoy a
crisp fall day.

Why is this opportunity through the PA EITC program so significant? Essentially, it enables you to redirect your Pennsylvania tax dollars – almost dollar for dollar – to Camphill Special School, for tuition assistance for our students from Pennsylvania and other qualifying purposes. This is “tax-efficient giving” at its very best. To qualify for the program, individuals should pay \$7,000 or more in PA taxes annually.

In the case of a typical charitable, tax-deductible donation, the amount of the donation may be deducted from one's income, reducing the taxable income amount and therefore one's tax bill. However, there is still a significant net cost to the donor, depending on the donor's tax bracket and various other factors. Perhaps two-thirds or three-quarters of the donation amount is still out of pocket to the donor.

However, in the case of the EITC program and individual tax credits, the donor's net cost of the donation can be as little as 6-7 cents on the dollar. **Effectively, you can make a donation to the Camphill Special School instead of paying taxes to the Commonwealth of PA.**

Interested individuals can call Traci at 610.469.9236 x133 to learn more about the specific mechanism for participating in this program.

IF YOUR BUSINESS PAYS PA TAXES, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GIVE AND RECEIVE

The EITC (Educational Improvement Tax Credit) Program enables Pennsylvania businesses to directly invest in the education of our children through scholarships. The application process is simple, and the benefits to our students and their families are transformational.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR EITC?

Any business authorized to do business in **Pennsylvania** that is subject to one or more of the following taxes:

- Personal Income Tax
- Capital Stock/Foreign Franchise Tax
- Corporate Net Income Tax
- Bank Shares Tax
- Title Insurance & Trust Company Shares Tax
- Insurance Premium Tax (excluding surplus lines, unauthorized, domestic/foreign marine)
- Mutual Thrift Tax
- Malt Beverage Tax
- Retaliatory Fees under section 212 of the Insurance Company Law of 1921

Individuals may qualify if they pay at least \$7,000 in PA taxes annually.



A coworker and Julie

THANK YOU!

We are so grateful to the following businesses for contributing to our EITC program:

CustomersBank



eagle eye associates
Ensuring the vision of our community.



Would you like to see your business on this list next year?

Contact Traci at 610.469.9236 or
tcnaughton@camphillspecialschool.org.

HOW DOES EITC BENEFIT MY BUSINESS?

Eligible businesses can receive a tax credit equal to 75% of their contribution to Camphill Special School. This credit increases to 90% if the business commits to give the same amount for two consecutive years.

HOW DOES THIS PROGRAM BENEFIT CAMPHILL SPECIAL SCHOOL?

Funds donated by businesses will support our financial aid program for Pennsylvania students who lack government or personal resources.

HOW DOES ONE APPLY?

The process is simple, but deadlines and timely compliance must be emphasized. Applications are submitted on July 1 for all first-time business applicants. To participate in the EITC program, visit the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) website (newpa.org/) to complete an online application.

IMPORTANT DATES

MAY 15 Business applicants that have fulfilled their two-year commitment and wish to reapply in 2018–2019 to renew their two-year commitment*

MAY 15 Businesses that are in the middle of their two-year commitment

JULY 1 All other businesses

Have your tax credits equal 90% of the contribution up to a maximum of \$750,000 per taxable year with a two-year commitment or 75% of the contribution for a one-year commitment.

“

And day after day we learn with each other,
we grow from our difficulties, and we
overcome obstacles together.



Coworkers Linda, Lisiane, Roselyn,
and Michael in Washington, DC

NO REASON NOT TO DO THE SAME

SHARED BY MICHAEL OLIVEIRA AND LISIANE QUEIROZ

Michael: “Your first impression is the last impression.” is a very popular saying in Brazil and when I look back five years ago, to the day that I met Lisi, I’m forced to believe in that. It was August of 2012, I had just returned to work after spending some time in Cuba. As soon as I entered the office I heard a laugh, not a normal calm office laugh, but a loud, very contagious laugh. I was shocked at first; nobody laughs like this in a Sao Paulo business office. But this is Lisi: always unique, always with a smile on her face, always laughing no matter how hard things get. Over the years we went through a lot together and we became good friends, even though that seemed unlikely to happen. Let’s be honest, we were very different from each other, like water and vinegar, but somehow we grew very close together.

This October marked one year since Lisi decided to let go of her life in Brazil to join me in the Camphill Life. I asked her to look back to this journey and share a little bit of that process.”

Lisiane: About ten years ago I was looking for something more to do with

my life. I’ve never had the opportunity to go abroad and see the world, but I knew I wanted to help people and so I tried to find a job as an au pair. That didn’t work. I ended up using the money I’d saved to go to college, but that idea never left my head. When we met, I was part of a youth group in church that organized events for needy communities, supporting them with basic needs and services. That was something I loved to do and gave the same sense of purpose that I was looking for. When you moved to England to volunteer in The Shelling Camphill, I started to see the things that you shared about the community. That wish to go abroad, to learn, to help, came back at once, but the process was long and full of obstacles.

My English wasn’t very good and because of that I failed in my first interview. I was given another chance, studied a lot for three months, and after my second interview, I was accepted. I remember when you called me, Michael, at 11 pm and said, “How quick can you pack your bags?” I was in shock. I couldn’t believe and just started crying. It was a life-changing opportunity,

but I had no money to come. So I stated a bunch of raffles, baked cakes to sell. My friends were so important in those few weeks. I had to prepare myself to move to Beaver Farm. I wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for their support, emotional and financial.

I spent more than a day traveling. My flights were a mess, but I was happy and after this year I can honestly say it was worth it. All the wait, all the struggles, all the crying. It’s worth it. I’ve learned so much here and my life is never going to be the same again. I’m more patient, I can communicate better, and put things in perspective. I have many problems and struggles, but that is not exclusive, the kids here overcome so much and they grow and learn and develop so much. I came to learn that I have no reason not to do the same. It’s a true inspirational experience.”

Michael: And day after day we learn with each other, we grow from our difficulties and we overcome obstacles together. Five years ago I could never imagine, Lisi, that you and me would be experiencing this, but I’m forever thankful that life guided us this way. 🏹



#GIVINGTUESDAY

OUR HOLIDAY WISH LIST: #GIVINGTUESDAY

ON NOVEMBER 28, 2017 CAMPHILL SPECIAL SCHOOL will once again take part in #GivingTuesday, kicking off the charitable season - when many focus their holiday and end-of-year giving. Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday are recognized days of holiday shopping. #GivingTuesday fills out the calendar bringing attention to philanthropy, donations, and kind actions. Get involved:

- **Create a personal fundraising page!** Head to bit.ly/cssGT2018 and start your own

fundraising page to benefit the school's #GivingTuesday Campaign. It's simple, customizable, and sharable on social media. Plus, we are running a friendly competition for the team that brings in the most donations - yes, there will be a prize for the highest!

- **Make a donation** on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 that will create transformative educational opportunities for Camphill Special School students. Join together with the Camphill community by making your gift on this national day of giving.
- **Give in honor** of a friend, neighbor, family member or coworker. In doing so, you will

be able to share Camphill Special School with someone who might otherwise not know about us. By introducing new people to the school now, you are creating the potential for supporters in the future.

- **Share our messages** on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and of course by word of mouth. *Your endorsements and support are critical to the success of this one day campaign.*

Questions? Contact Traci at 610.469.9236 x133 or tconnaughton@camphillspecialschool.org.

We hope you will keep Camphill Special School in mind this 2017 holiday season! 🏡



Everett peels apples at Meadowsweet

CORPORATE PARTNERS: CSI INTERNATIONAL

OUR THIRD CORPORATE PARTNER, CSI INTERNATIONAL, was inducted at the Gala on June 2. An organization will be considered for Corporate Partnership when it provides three or more of the following: financial contribution, product (in-kind) donation, volunteer mobilization - employees and/or customers, grant awards, expertise (board membership, committee participation, advisory role), or

EITC program commitment.

CSI International is a provider of janitorial, building operations and maintenance, and facilities management services to corporate, commercial, and educational facilities.

CSI International has provided sponsorship of our annual Gala for the past eight years, a maintenance employee for a year at no cost to the school, and advice to the staff on a wide variety of matters and initiatives. "We are incredibly grateful for what the

leadership and employees at CSI have helped our school accomplish through their support, advice, and friendship," said Guy Alma, Camphill's Director of Development.

Tony Horvath, Chief Operating Officer of CSI International, Inc. shares, "We are honored to be recognized as Camphill Special School's newest Corporate Partner. Thank you to all the teachers and staff for your hard work and dedication in making Camphill Special School a wonderful environment for students and their families. 🏡



Caption: Roger Garrett from CSI International receives our Corporate Partner award from Mike Innocenzo, COO of PECO.

All Roads Lead Home.

For the past six years the Phoenixville Foundry served as an incredible venue for our annual Gala. There we set records for attendance and fundraising. We are indebted to the Foundry and their staff for helping us reach these pinnacles.

Now, we feel it is time to come home. For the first time ever, the Gala will be held at our Beaver Run campus. Please plan on joining us Saturday, June 2, 2018, as we celebrate this homecoming.

For information on the event or supporting it and school with your treasure, time, or talent, please contact Courtney Coffman at 610.469.9236 x132 or ccoffman@camphillspecialschool.org.



FROM PILLAR TO PRIMROSE: ANNUAL FUND FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE AND OPERATING SUPPORT



Jasmine

IT IS OUR HOPE THAT YOU ENJOYED READING THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL REPORT and the stories of cultivating community within its pages that you are making possible.

We hope that it and the letter from fourth grader Katie have inspired you to make a donation towards our Annual Fund for Tuition Assistance and Operating Support. As Katie states, "I'm much more than a diagnosis, a prognosis, or an IEP – I'm a student at Camphill Special School."

We reiterate Katie's invitation to visit any time – we would love to see you and show you all that you make possible with your contribution. And, yes, you can take a trip down

the slide if you wish!

You may notice in the remittance envelope that was included with this year's Annual Report and this issue of Reflections that we are renaming our Giving Levels this year. In light of the nature that abounds at our campuses, we have chosen flowers as their new titles. Like these blooms, the school cultivates the beauty and growth in each of our students.

Our new Giving Levels are:

\$1-99	Daisy
\$100-249	Snowdrop
\$250-499	Violet
\$500-999	Poppy
\$1,000-2,499	Lavender

\$2,500-4,999	Primrose
\$5,000-9,999	Bluebell
\$10,000-19,999	Forget-me-not
\$20,000-24,999	Sunflower
\$25,000-49,000	Iris
\$50,000+	Trillium

Please consider being a flower in our garden of donors!

If you did not receive a copy of our Annual Report or for more information please contact Courtney Coffman at ccoffman@camphillspecialschool.org or 610.469.9236 x132. 🌻



CAMPHILL SPECIAL SCHOOL

1784 Fairview Road
Glenmoore, PA 19343
610.469.9236
camphillspecialschool.org

 facebook.com/CamphillSpecialSchool

 twitter.com/camphillschool

INDICIA



FSC LOGO HERE

PLEASE JOIN US

Nov. 26	CHRISTMAS CAFÉ IN THE BLUE ROOM	12 to 3 p.m.
Nov. 28	#GIVINGTUESDAY (see page 12)	
May 6	CAMPHILL RACQUET at Tennis Addiction Sports Club	1 to 3 p.m.
June 2	GALA (see page 14)	



HELP CAMPHILL SPECIAL SCHOOL CONSERVE RESOURCES.

Choose to receive future issues of *Reflections* via email. Send your digital subscription request to reflections@camphillspecialschool.org.

VISIT [CAMPHILLSPECIALSCHOOL.ORG](https://camphillspecialschool.org) FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT ALL EVENTS.

Waldorf® is a registered service mark of the Association of Waldorf Schools of North America (AWSNA) and used by agreement of membership in AWSNA.

Join the growing ranks of the Pietzner Legacy Society by naming our supporting foundation, Beaver Run Foundation, in your will or other estate plans. Call Courtney Coffman at 610.469.9236 x132 for more information.



Camphill Special School's mission is to create wholeness for children and youth with developmental disabilities through education, extended family living, and therapy so that they may be better understood, they may more fully unfold their potential, and they may meaningfully participate in life.

Camphill Special School does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, creed, gender, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, or disability.