



Corporate Office:
8 Southwoods Blvd, Suite 110
Albany, NY 12211
(518) 235-1888
www.caredesignny.org

August 6, 2025

To Silver Lake Specialized Care Center:

My name is Rose DiLiberto. I am a Care Manager at Care Design New York, which is a Care Coordination Organization, operating under OPWDD (Office for People With Developmental Disabilities) and OPWDD. Additionally, I am a Willowbrook Specialist, meaning that people on my case load are part of a protected class under the Willowbrook Permanent Injunction.

People that are a part of the Willowbrook Class Action Suit against the State of NY, are considered a special protected class, for the rest of their lives. This is due to a lawsuit against the State of New York, for the historical mistreatment of attendees of the now defunct Willowbrook State School in Staten Island.

I am writing to speak on behalf of Vincent Brown, a person on my caseload that has been in receipt of services from Silver Lake. I want to sincerely thank the entire team at Silver Lake, from the start of his care to the final conclusion.

Mr. Brown, a Willowbrook Class Member, was initially hospitalized earlier this year, at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY. He was sent there initially for treatment of Sepsis/Aspiration Pneumonia, on February 1, 2025. While the initial condition was treated and resolved, Mr. Brown unfortunately developed skin ulcers to his lower legs. He was not eating well and assessed by the GI team for possible PEG placement, but it was not possible, due to the positioning of his body (Cerebral Palsy/Spastic Quadriplegia). Palliative Care became a consideration, as his appetite remained poor and his nutritional needs were not adequately addressed.

A hospital discharge planning meeting was held on March 31, 2025, where upon his residential team (CP Unlimited Supervised IRA setting group home) stated they would not be able to accept him home with open wounds to his legs. They did not have nursing oversight available to provide daily care.

A PASRR Level II was completed and a packet sent to all available nursing homes. There was only one response. Silver Lake Specialized Care Center. We were grateful!

My initial contact with Silver Lake was with Denise DeRenzo, on April 3, 2025, who collaborated with me to obtain the initial documents needed to promote his move. By April 4, 2025, he was safely transferred to Silver Lake. She made a very positive impact, helping to get the paperwork confirmed so quickly.



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Mr. Brown arrived at Silver Lake in a fragile state. There were 9 leg/feet wounds, that were open and not clear if they would be able to adequately heal. When I came to see Mr. Brown, I was immediately impressed by the care team on his floor. The RN, Lisa, was informative and very knowledgeable. She provided reassurance that she would personally be monitoring his health care needs, and she did not disappoint.

As his healing progressed, with careful oversight of weekly visits by the Wound Care Physician, his appetite also greatly improved. I met with staff, over the course of visits, who demonstrated such deep compassion, care, and advocacy for Mr. Brown. They worried over him and rejoiced in his progress that they helped promote.

When Mr. Brown demonstrated a sudden downturn in his appetite, the Silver Lake team sent him to the Richmond University Hospital in Staten Island, for assessment, on May 29, 2025. While there, Mr. Brown was diagnosed with Sepsis, secondary to a UTI and Pneumonia. We learned he had tested positive for ESBL E Coli in his urine samples.

As those initial conditions resolved, we were informed he was now diagnosed with Osteomyelitis of his Left Foot. He would need a six-week course of IV antibiotics, with PICC line.

The team met again to discuss options. He would not be able to return to the residence, with IV antibiotic treatment. The residence hoped for a move to a short-term rehab facility that would be closer to Mr. Brown's home in Brooklyn. His packet was sent out, and I believe it went to 50 possible Nursing Homes. There was only one response: Silver Lake Specialized Care Center. You were the only team that was willing to accept a high-risk individual, and once again, we were blessed by your acceptance of this lovely man. Yes, he remained fragile, but your team was up to the challenge. You saw him, beyond all the deficits. You saw him as a person, in need of your care. And you accepted him with open arms, once again.

Flash forward now, to July 25, 2025. The Wound Care Doctor declared him healed! All 9 locations of open wounds, upon his first stay with you, are now closed and healed. Unbelievably good news! His IV antibiotic treatment is now completed, and the follow up lab work reveals no signs of infection. Remarkable!

Today, August 6, 2025, we held a discharge planning meeting. Your team showed up, once again, to help ensure a smooth transition for Mr. Brown, back to his home and life in Brooklyn. Your team has had to deal with a lot of extra people involved in Mr. Brown's care. That is not an easy task. There is the Residential Team, which includes the Nurses and Supervisors. There are the daily staff, that come to sit by Mr. Brown's side. There is the Representative from the



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Consumer Advisory Board, very involved as an extra advocate. And the OPWDD Willowbrook Liaison. My role, as Care Manager, was to ensure all parties were kept informed on Mr. Brown's progress. The Social Work team of Lori Questal and Jennifer Wong proved vital in helping to keep us all abreast.

The dedication of the entire Silver Lake team is outstanding. The fact that Mr. Brown is leaving your facility, healed, is something right out of the miracle book. I have the utmost respect for all of you. You have helped to save this man's life, and never once treated him as dispensable. You said yes, when everyone else said no. You gave hope, when everything looked so hopeless.

Mr. Brown, if he could verbally express it, no doubt would also extend his greatest thank you to every single one of you.

Thank you for taking on a complicated case and not blinking an eye while accepting his unique care needs.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Sincerely,

Rose DiLiberto

Rose DiLiberto

Care Manager, Willowbrook Specialist - Queens/Brooklyn



(P): 718-532-4812 x2025 | (C): 518-937-6979

www.caredesignny.org |

RDLiberto@caredesignny.org

Mailing Address: 222-15 Northern Blvd., Suite 300,
Bayside, NY 11361