

## *Happenings*

### Making Dreams Become a Reality

Welcome Home to 5415 Independence Lane



Our community has come together to promote and provide opportunities for independence! Similar to the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), the Transitional Home at Happiness House started with a grassroots concept: parents advocating for a better quality of life for their special needs children. The generosity and hard work of parents, agencies, and the community has enabled Happiness House/Finger Lakes United Cerebral Palsy, Inc. to make these parents' dreams a reality - by providing a home where young adults with Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) or developmental disabilities can live, work, volunteer, or attend school, all while learning skills that will allow them to transition to an independent lifestyle.

Partnering with The Golisano Foundation, \$665,000 was raised by supporters including the Federal Home Bank/Lyons National Bank, Wegmans and First Niagara Bank. Guardian Industries donated the windows, Frank Marianacci, Inc. donated the on call system as well as Wegmans, who in addition to their gift, offered to fill all nine pantries. Funds raised at our Annual Gala at Belhurst Castle were used to purchase 27 appliances, a flat screen TV and patio furniture sets.

This transitional home was built in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, OPWDD, and the Department of Health. It is unique because it is a non-certified home (regulated by Happiness House rather than the state), and OPWDD has recognized this model as an effective and efficient housing concept. It is transitional in nature and will serve as a catalyst in providing lifelong opportunities for individuals with disabilities as they strive toward independence within their community. Up to 40 individuals will live in the transitional home over the next 10 years, and using this best practice housing model will save New York State an average of \$60,000 per person, per year. This is a win-win for the state, the community, and the residents.

Built on five acres of land owned by Happiness House, the 5,300 square foot home is equipped with eight efficiency apartments. It is now home to five young adults with TBI and three young adults with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities, including Autism.

We are so thankful for such caring and giving individuals who believe in our vision and have helped to create a one-of-a-kind opportunity for the many individuals who will benefit from this home in the future.

**Autism Services Update** p. 3

**Success Stories** p. 4-5

**Past Events** p. 6

**Upcoming Events** p. 7

**Morning with Monica** p. 8



## happiness HOUSE

### Finger Lakes Cerebral Palsy Association

731 Pre-Emption Road, Geneva, New York 14456  
Administration: (315) 789-6828  
Children's Programs: (315) 789-6850

5415 County Road 30, Canandaigua, New York 14424  
Adult Programs & Community Services: (585) 394-9510  
Children's Programs: (585) 394-1190

#### OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

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Lynne Colacino  
DIRECTOR/CANANDAIGUA CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

#### PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Autism Services of the Finger Lakes  
Autism Supports & Services  
Aqua, Music & Pet Therapy  
Article 16 Clinic  
Article 28 Diagnostic & Treatment Clinic  
Community Habilitation  
Community Integration Counseling  
Day Habilitation  
Developmental Disabilities Supports & Services  
Developmental Evaluations  
Developmental Toddler Groups  
Early Intervention Program  
Elks Home Services Program  
Environmental Modifications  
Family Support  
Head Start  
Home & Community Support  
Independent Living Skills Training & Development  
Licensed Home Health Care Agency  
New Friends Integrated Preschool  
New York State Licensed Child Care  
Occupational, Physical & Speech Therapy  
Pre-Vocational Day Program  
Psychiatric  
Psychological  
Recreation  
Residential  
Respite  
Service Coordination  
Special Education  
Traumatic Brain Injury Services & Day Program  
Universal Pre-Kindergarten



## A COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER MARY WALSH BOATFIELD

Happiness is truly an integral part of our success here at Happiness House. We are leading the way in the Finger Lakes Region! I am happy to share some of our latest news with you.

- Happiness House joined forces with "Faces 4 Autism" in their attempt to set the Guinness World Record for blowing bubbles. Each participating agency had to record their number of participants and have a witness sign a statement verifying the number of individuals present for the event. The children, staff and families were very excited about taking part in this event!
  - The Garden Club as well as other members of our Structured Day Program plan on growing pumpkins to help provide "Harvest Festival" activities for our preschoolers in the Fall.
  - Program Participants held an Art Show with 80 people in attendance.
  - A rehabilitation pulley system was installed in our main clinic. This pulley system is designed with accessibility in mind and will offer our program participants a great opportunity to further improve their independence. This system was purchased with grant funding from the Happiness House Foundation.
  - We had 2,600 hits on the website and 1,900 hours in volunteer work this month at Happiness House.
- Keeping with the theme of "community", we are very appreciative to the following organizations that helped raise funds for us and include:
- \$711 was raised in donations as a result of the Finger Lakes Radio Group hosting the Craig Morgan concert earlier this month.
  - Hobart and William Smith Colleges Phi Kappa Sigma and Sodexo marketing students raised \$1,290 as a result of the Italian Feast fundraiser held in April. This will become an annual fundraiser.
  - Art Garvey and Max Johann, Hobart and William Smith football players raised \$1,645 by hosting a Quad Olympics on campus. This will also become an annual event.
  - The Elks held their annual Freezefest Polar Plunge in April. Marge Donhauser raised the most money - over \$6,000 - designating \$3,000 of it to our Traumatic Brain Injury program.
  - Our latest community event was the 3rd annual Happiness Run, hosted by Peter Roberti of Adrian Jules. Registration and a continental breakfast began at 8:00 am at the Men's Room on Monroe Avenue in Brighton. After the run, a cookout (provided in-kind by Pasta Villa) and awards were held at 12:00 pm at Adrian Jules.

We applaud the effort of our community to support the programs and services of Happiness House!

[www.happinesshouse.org](http://www.happinesshouse.org)

# Autism Services of the Finger Lakes

## SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS AUTISM CONFERENCE 2012

We were pleased to host Jesse A. Saperstein, author of the best-selling memoir, *Atypical: Life with Asperger's in 20 1/3 Chapters* at our second annual Autism Conference. Jesse A. Saperstein is a best-selling author, autism advocate and motivational speaker. He also has a form of Autism called Asperger's syndrome (AS). He provided exceptional insight into the life of a person who lives with an Autism spectrum disorder, and brought his special brand of humor to the day as well.



Participants in the day long conference received encouragement and timely information which they can use to help a loved one with Autism reach their fullest potential.

We look forward to presenting our third annual Autism Conference next Spring. If you would like to be added to our Autism Conference email list (which will ensure that you receive information as soon as it is available) please contact Amy Coron at (585) 394-8178 x7213.



## ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY ENHANCES KINDERGARTEN READINESS SKILLS FOR HAPPINESS HOUSE'S NEW FRIENDS PRESCHOOL STUDENTS

The utilization of interactive technology has been significantly enhanced by the introduction of the eBeam and iPads into the Happiness House New Friends Preschool classrooms. This cutting edge technology affords classroom teachers dynamic and interactive learning tools right at their fingertips! The eBeam and the iPads offer technological components which enable teachers and therapists to present preschool curriculum in a manner that meets the needs of all learners, including those children diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder.



These technological tools assist children with an Autism diagnosis in a number of areas, particularly those of turn taking, eye/hand coordination, attention and focus, pre-academics and the overall reinforcement and generalization of skills. The devices' vibrant images and interactive capacities (movement through touch) truly improve children's motivation, focus and overall performance by creating hands on learning experiences. The preschool children can not only learn about colors, shapes and numbers

through both a visual and touch based manner, but can also take virtual field trips and explore numerous preschool based websites. The introduction of the interactive technology is truly an asset to the New Friends Preschool Program as it serves to further enhance and foster the readiness skills Happiness House strives to obtain for our young learners!

## OUR SECOND ANNUAL AUTISM WALK WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Our Annual Autism Awareness Walk was a success due to the overwhelming support of Happiness House families, volunteers, Happiness House employees, and community organizations! 300 walkers participated from various organizations to show their community support, raising \$21,000. Thank you to Kim Parmarter, our honorary chair for this event.

We are grateful to our top fundraisers:

### Top Team Fundraiser

Team Dylan: Brooke Carlson, Captain

### Honorable Mention (Team)

The Pink Ladies

### Top Fundraiser

Kim Parmarter

### Honorable Mention (Individual)

David Keller

### Raffle Winner of the Sony PlayStation Vita WiFi portable gaming system

David Keller

Approximately 67 million  
people worldwide are  
affected by autism.





## "TUFFY THE TOOTH" MEETS HAPPINESS HOUSE UPK STUDENTS

Hygienists Sandy Montinarelli and Erin O'Brien of the Eaves Family Dental Group visited preschool children in the Waterloo UPK program/Happiness House to provide an educational presentation to the children. They read *The Adventures of Tuffy the Tooth*, a story written by the experts at Eaves. Tuffy is a strong tooth that gets into some trouble after eating "junk" food.



The children were given an opportunity to practice their brushing skills using a set of enormous teeth with a gigantic toothbrush! The hygienists described tools the children might see in the dental office and each child was given a set of pictures on a ring which could be referenced prior to visiting the dentist in hopes

that it would alleviate some anxiety. Each of the 66 students was provided with a complimentary goody bag that included a toothbrush, toothpaste, pencil, lip balm and a sticker.

## HAPPINESS HOUSE OFFERS INNOVATIVE PET THERAPY PROGRAM

If you have visited the Canandaigua site recently, you have probably met our furriest volunteer, Tucker. Tucker is a labradoodle, and has been working as a therapy dog for most of his life. He is friendly, hypo-allergenic, and doesn't shed! Children and adults alike love having him around. Therapy dogs are trained to provide affection and comfort to people in hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, schools, people with learning difficulties, and stressful situations. A good therapy dog must be friendly, patient, confident, gentle, and at ease in all situations. Therapy dogs must enjoy human contact and be content to be petted and handled, sometimes clumsily.

Therapy dogs are especially helpful when working with children who have a diagnosis of Autism. Dogs have been shown to improve the quality of life, independence, and safety of a child with Autism. The presence of a trained dog can reduce aggressive behavior, calm the child, and serve as a link to the child's community.



We are grateful to have Tucker "on staff" here at Happiness House!

## ELIZABETH J. AMIDON MEMORIAL AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Each year Happiness House accepts nominations for the Elizabeth J. Amidon Memorial Award. Nominees must be high school seniors who have overcome a challenge and who will be graduating from high school at the end of the school year. Each student received a cash award and a certificate in recognition of his or her accomplishments. Amidon recipients represented the following schools:

Bloomfield Central School  
Canandaigua Academy  
Geneva High School  
Honeoye Central School  
Honeoye Falls-Lima  
Lyons High School  
Manchester-Shortsville  
Midlakes High School  
Mynderse Academy  
Naples High School  
Newark High School  
Palmyra-Macedon High School  
Penn Yan Academy  
Romulus Central School  
South Seneca Central School  
Victor Central School  
Waterloo High School  
Wayland Cohocton Central School  
Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES – Newark  
Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES – Stanley  
Wayne Finger Lakes BOCES –  
Williamson

More children will be diagnosed with Autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes & cancer combined. It is the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the U.S., and costs the nation \$126 billion per year.

## CHESHIRE QUILTER SHARES HER TIME & SKILLS

Happiness House's Structured Day Program (SDP) has been working on a beautiful quilt project with a very special member of our community! Wendy Oyler of the Cheshire Quilters Club has been working with participants on various quilting activities during our Thursday recreation craft club since June 2011, and has been a wonderful addition to our evening recreation program.

Wendy is teaching participants about fabrics, measuring, design, color, cutting, sewing and the tools and terms needed to sew. She has also donated a sewing machine, which she has taught the group how to prepare and use. Every Thursday, the participants use the machine to work toward completing the quilt. Julie Bertram, SDP program specialist arranged for Wendy to work with our group and the pairing has been a huge success. We are grateful to have such a creative and giving person living in our own community.



## HAPPINESS HOUSE IN THE COMMUNITY

Happiness House participated as part of the steering committee and in the day's events at the annual Geneva Community Center "Day For Kids" event at their Carter Road location. Happiness House had an information booth with photos, brochures, and event fliers, and also facilitated several preschool based activities.

Jackie Schmit, Chris Shultz, Luann Ryan and Jill Kaim planned three different activities for the children to participate in which included a popcorn ball toss, thumb print art and an "Adopt-A-Pet" station. At "Adopt-A-Pet", children chose a small stuffed animal and book and were invited to sit on a comfy rug to read the book to their new "pet". The children were then able to leave the station with both a pet and a book donated by Happiness House employees to take home. The day was fun filled and busy, as the Happiness House activities were very popular!

Assisting Jackie, Chris, Luann and Jill were Lauren Anna Schmit (age 9) and Ryann Shultz (age 10) who also volunteered their time at the event. The girls were a great help in managing the popcorn toss activity, as well as guiding participants through the other activities. It was wonderful to be visited by a number of Happiness House alumni who are now in elementary, middle and even high school! The event drew 200 participants and it was a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with other agencies and organizations within the Geneva area.

## JOHN P. CLARY AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Happiness House/Finger Lakes Cerebral Palsy Association held its annual John P. Clary Award ceremony at the Steamboat Landing in Canandaigua. The award is given to the consumer that consistently displays the characteristics that made John such a special person. These characteristics include: demonstrating a good work ethic, having good attendance, possessing a sense of humor, being caring and friendly toward others, and being outgoing. The award is given once a year in memory of John and in recognition of our consumers' hard work. Amber Hopkins and Bruce Proper are the most recent recipients of this award.

Amber showed dedication in all aspects of programming, including therapy, day program, and at home. She made a lasting impression on everyone who worked with her by giving 150% in all that she did, even when she was ill and fatigued. Amber had a caring heart, was giving, and was thoughtful of others, going out of her way to help regardless of her own circumstance. Always willing to accept new challenges, her courage & strength were inspiring to all.



Bruce is a very thoughtful man. He doesn't hesitate to show his kindness by holding the door for others, buying a cup of coffee for a peer, or sharing his lunch. Bruce also has been known to make cards and artwork for peers and staff with words of appreciation. Bruce broke his arm during the garden project, but never complained and continued to work on the project as the safety foreman. Bruce is also an active member of the men's group and Photography Club.



In addition to the John P. Clary Award, the Continued Success Award Recipients included: Carl Beach, Sylvia Bailey, Jim Daley, Carol Jaycox, and Johnny West.

## NOZOMI WILLIAMS RECEIVES "CITIZEN OF THE YEAR" AWARD

Nozomi Williams has been awarded "Citizen of the Year" by the Geneva Area Chamber of Commerce. Happiness House was pleased to nominate Nozomi for her more than 35 years as an unsung Hero in our communities. She is very interested in the education of children, youth and young adults in our community and has donated her time and talents to focus on quality of life issues. Nozomi has helped to enhance educational opportunities for children and adults with and without disabilities at Happiness House. We are very grateful for her contributions to our agency, and are happy to see her recognized for her hard work.



**The Happiness Run  
Sponsored by  
Adrian Jules, Ltd.**



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## **Bowling to Raise Bucks for Happiness House**



**Founding & Major Sponsor Belhurst Castle  
Happiness House Gala Dinner & Auction Event  
Presented by Five Star Bank**

**Happiness House  
Car Show  
Sponsored by  
Geneva Foreign  
& Sports**



**Annual Autism Awareness Walk**



**Keep up to date on all our latest events!  
[www.happinesshouse.org](http://www.happinesshouse.org)**

**Save the Date!**

The  
Francis "Ben" Bonafiglia  
Happiness House  
Golf Tournament

Presented by the Bonafiglia Family



FOUNDING AND  
MAJOR SPONSOR



**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2012**

**SENECA FALLS COUNTRY CLUB  
2790 RT. 89 SENECA FALLS, NY**

**RAFFLE DRAWINGS**

**GAMBLE ON THE GREEN - MULLIGANS**

Entry fee: \$110 per golfer (\$45 is tax deductible)

\$660 per team of six golfers (\$270 is tax deductible)



Includes:

- 18 holes of golf with cart, buffet dinner (cash bar), drawings for door prizes, putting contest, men's & women's contests, & hole-in-one.
- Food & beverages all day on the course, prizes for OVERALL winning two teams, golf gift for each golfer, & prizes for top team in each flight.
- Reservations accepted on a first-come first-served basis.



ASK ABOUT SPONSORSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES

Cheryl Coppola (585)394-8178 x 7264  
ccoppola@happinesshouse.org

8:30 a.m. - Registration & Continental  
Breakfast

10:00 a.m. - Shotgun Start (SIX PERSON SCRAMBLE  
FORMAT)

4:30 p.m. - Dinner

 **happiness HOUSE**  
FOUNDATION  
[www.happinesshouse.org](http://www.happinesshouse.org)

Proceeds go to Happiness House Foundation to benefit  
Happiness House's programs and services.



**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Motorcycle & Auto Run and Show  
for Autism Awareness**

**Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

**Start:** The American Legion  
1513 Palmyra St./Rte.21, Shortsville

**Finish:** Geneva Foreign & Sports  
2787 Lyons Rd., Geneva



**Our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Motorcycle & Auto Run and Show for Autism Awareness will be held on Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012.  
Registration and pancake breakfast will take place from 8:30 am - 9:30 am.**

Join us at the American Legion in Shortsville to register for a scenic 85 mile run that will begin at **9:45 am**.

Entry fee: \$20 for each driver (add \$5 to participate in show)  
\$15 for each rider or non-participant.



The cost of the run includes a breakfast, non-alcoholic beverages, and gift prior to start. The run will finish at Geneva Foreign & Sports in Geneva ending with 50/50 and raffle prize drawings to close out Jeremy's Journey for Hope. Lunch will be available to purchase. Additionally, there will be raffles, a 50/50 drawing, food & entertainment throughout the afternoon presented by Geneva Foreign & Sports. All vehicles are welcome! Prizes will be awarded at 3:30 pm and will include 1st & 2nd place for each class and best in show for both motorcycles and autos.

All proceeds from this event will go to Happiness House Foundation to benefit Happiness House programs and services. For more information, and to learn about sponsorship opportunities, contact:

Cheryl Coppola at (585) 394-8178 x 7264 or ccoppola@happinesshouse.org  
or Kim Parmarter (Jeremy's mother) at the Shortsville American Legion at (585) 289-4186.





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Change lives forever.  
Donate online at  
**[happinesshouse.org](http://happinesshouse.org)**



# Girls Day Out: Morning with Monica

presented by



happiness HOUSE  
FOUNDATION

**Tuesday, August 14, 2012 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**Tennis Club of Rochester, 570 Kreag Rd., Pittsford, NY 14534**

## **A unique opportunity for teenage girls & women for all ages!**

Spend the morning with Monica Seles, former world #1 professional tennis player and member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Monica will share her insights on sports nutrition for teen athletes and talk about her book, *Getting A Grip: On My Body, My Mind, My Self*. She will then hold an exhibition with local pros. It's a great opportunity for a mother-daughter outing!

**Adult admission: \$75.00 Student admission (age 18 and under): \$50.00**

Your "Grand Slam" admission includes the following:

Monica's book, *Getting A Grip: On My Body, My Mind, My Self*.

Continental Breakfast

Monica Seles, Keynote Speaker and Q & A

Tennis Demonstration & Exhibition with Pros followed by Book Signing

Enter our raffle drawing for a tennis racket signed by Monica Seles!

**Sponsorship opportunities are also available.**

Additional books will be available for purchase.

Coaches package available for groups of 10 or more.

### **Fast Facts:**

*Monica stands alone as the simultaneous holder of 3 consecutive Australian Open and French Open singles titles. She is a former world #1 professional tennis player, listed as the 13th greatest player of all time by (U.S.) Tennis Magazine.*

- *Australian Open: undefeated streak of 33-0 with 3 consecutive wins.*
- *French Open: 3 consecutive wins; stands alone as the youngest ever champion at 16 years old.*
- *Won her first six Grand Slam singles finals; holds title for most Grand Slam titles as a teen (8 by age 20).*
- *Reached all four Grand Slam finals in 1992.*
- *Winner of the Sanex Hero of the Year award in 2002.*
- *Inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2009.*

For more details, contact  
Cheryl Coppola  
(585) 394-8178 x7264 or  
[ccoppola@happinesshouse.org](mailto:ccoppola@happinesshouse.org)