**ABILITY PARTNERS** FOUNDATION

Spring 2016

# COPPENINGS Newsletter

Bill, Erin, and Kelly Hart

Keynote Speaker Erin Hart is joined by her father, Bill, at the 13th Annual Happiness House Gala Dinner and Auction Event.

# From Erin Hart

"My name is Erin Hart. I attended Happiness House from 2006 to 2009. I started a few months after my second birthday. My physical therapist from Early Intervention suggested my parents enroll me in the Little Friends room, a class for two year olds. When I started school, I wasn't able to walk by myself; I was only able to crawl. My muscle tone was very low and I had to stand in a 'stander' for several minutes a day to strengthen my leg muscles. A short time later, I started occupational therapy to work on holding objects and feeding myself. By the time I celebrated my third birthday, I was able to walk all by myself without anyone's help!

I went on to Happiness House's New Friends Preschool. I started receiving both speech and music therapies. I continued to grow and get stronger every day. I was very sad to graduate from Happiness House, but I was ready to move on to kindergarten with the skills I learned from this wonderful place.

I am now 12 years old and in sixth grade at Geneva Middle School. I still receive all of the services that were begun at Happiness

> House. I not only walk, but I can run and jump, and have gotten much stronger physically. My mom and dad say that miracles happen every day at Happiness House. I am proof that they do!"

> > Erin

#### Where's The Voice Newsletter?

THEVOICE With the partnership between CP Rochester and Happiness House, and the formation of Ability Partners Foundation (see page 3), we have suspended production of CP Rochester's *The Voice* newsletter. In its place, donors of CP Rochester as well as donors of Happiness House and Ability Partners Foundation will all receive the Happenings newsletter. This expanded newsletter will include stories, insights, and donor contributions from our entire family of agencies. If you would like to be included on our mailing list, see the back cover.



www.Facebook.com/CPRochester www.Facebook.com/HappinessHouseCP





#### Leadership Team

Mary Walsh Boatfield President/Chief Executive Officer

Judi Zoltoski

Executive Assistant

Lauren Eilers-Lloyd

Executive/Human Resources Assistant

Patricia L. Cunningham

Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer

Terrie L. Meyn

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Darrell Whitbeck

Vice President, Clinical Services and Quality Assurance

Donna Poccia

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William Bartholomay

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Stacy Calvin

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Lynne Colacino

Director, Children's Services, Canandaigua Site

Harlene Gilbert

Director, Psychology Services and Evaluation Services

Nicole Cilento

Director, Residential Services

Christine C. Shultz

Director, Children's Services, Geneva Site

Lynn Keller

Director, Agency Advancement

Dave Carro

Director, Marketing and Communications

Jessica Mytych

Director, Billing

Necebbia DeTaeye

Assistant Director, Children's Services Waterloo and South Seneca Sites

Tina Bennett

Manager, Volunteer Services, Winton Site

# CP Rochester A Message from...

#### **Ability Partners Inc., Formally Welcomes Rochester Rehabilitation**

Thanks to the efforts of our Board of Directors. along with assistance from our staff and the United Way of Rochester, I am pleased to announce that Rochester Rehabilitation has become an official partner agency of Ability Partners, Inc. This process began a year ago following the Executive Staffing Agreement Happiness House signed to



provide senior leadership to Rochester Rehabilitation in March 2015.

Rochester Rehabilitation now joins Happiness House and CP Rochester as an official affiliate agency of Ability Partners, Inc., the passive parent corporation overseeing all three agencies as independent subsidiaries.

The addition of Rochester Rehabilitation to Ability Partners Inc. will enhance the scope of high quality services of all three organizations, provide a larger operational platform, leverage resources, and enhance cost-effectiveness.

As we move forward as partners, our agencies are poised to serve an even greater number of children and adults from all corners of the Rochester and Finger Lakes region. We appreciate the support our agencies receive - it helps fuel our mission to change lives forever in a community that opens doors and enriches lives.

Mary Walsh Boatfield

President and CEO

Happiness House, CP Rochester, Rochester Rehabilitation

Mary Walsh Boatfield

#### **Happiness House and CP Rochester Board of Directors**

#### **Officers**

Jeffrey W. Baker, Chair Jacqueline Hawks Lyttle, 1st Vice-Chair Sean R. Ossont, 2nd Vice Chair James H. King, Chair, Audit & Finance Brian DiGiacco, Assistant Chair, Audit & Finance Ann E. Kurz, Secretary Mary Herlihy Gearan, Esq., Assistant Secretary

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Charles T. Graham

John Horvath Robert C. Maddamma Martha E. Mock Michael A. Coppola Brendan P. O'Riordan Jay W. Quinn Kevin Reeder Joyce W. Weir

# The Launch of Ability Partners Foundation!

In January 2015, CP Rochester and Happiness House formed a passive parent corporation called Ability Partners, Inc., As a result of the formation of Ability Partners, Inc., the well-established Happiness House Foundation joined with CP Rochester to create the Ability Partners Foundation. The Ability Partners Foundation is a separate, not-for-profit organization with a separate

Board of Directors whose sole purpose is to raise and generate funds that will promote, support, and augment the continuation of long-term services for people with disabilities offered by Happiness House and CP Rochester. In six months 1,700 gifts have generated \$300,000 in income!



## happiness **House**





**Amy Cram** 

It is with eagerness and excitement that I take the reigns as Chair of the newly-formed Ability Partners Foundation. I want to acknowledge Bob Schick as outgoing Chair of the Happiness House Foundation. He demonstrated amazing leadership for the

past two years and during the transition to Ability Partners Foundation. I am thrilled to continue to work alongside Bob and will regularly seek his guidance, as well as the guidance of the entire Board.

The past few months have been extremely busy for Ability Partners Foundation. Cheryl Schaefer-Coppola was named Vice President of the Foundation and Development. Dave Carro, Director of Marketing and Communications, joins us in his same role. Lisa Hubler has been hired as our Events Coordinator, and Darlene Alexander continues in her role as Development Assistant. Our new office is located at 10 East Main Street in Victor.

We have enjoyed much success with our fundraising events! Thank you to all who sponsored and participated... YOU make the difference!

As we move further into 2016, I want to thank you for being such a special part of the Ability Partners Foundation, Happiness House, and CP Rochester family. We will continue to work together to enrich the lives of those who seek our services.

amy Cram

The Ability Partners Foundation is a not-for-profit organization established to raise and generate funds that will promote, support, and augment the continuation of long-term services for people with disabilities offered by Happiness House and CP Rochester in the Finger Lakes and Greater Rochester areas including Ontario, Seneca, Yates, Wayne, Livingston, Monroe, and Orleans Counties.

#### Ability Partners Foundation Board of Directors

Amy Cram - Chair Elsa Steo - Vice Chair Jeffrey W. Baker - Secretary Roy Beecher - Treasurer Robert Schick - Immediate Past Chair Charles T. Graham - Founder

#### Members

John Bartholf Margaret M. Clark Michael A. Coppola Catherine Frangenberg Richard H. Hawks, Jr. John R. Horvath Edward A. Trevvett, Esq. Joyce W. Weir, Ph.D.

#### Advisors

Gerald Archibald Ann Costello Mark Gearan, Esq. Betsy Kubiak Brian P. Meath, Esq.

#### Vice President of Ability Partners Foundation and Development

Cheryl Schaefer-Coppola

"We are fulfilling our vision and mission and are headed in the right direction."



Jeff Baker

The successes of this past fiscal year have demonstrated the value of the decision to affiliate with CP Rochester and the value of continuing to search for creative means of providing service delivery. Everyone at Happiness House should be proud of what has been accomplished this year. As our Vision states: We envision every community being ready to welcome and utilize the talents and abilities of all individuals. Thanks to our staff, our volunteers, the individuals and

families we serve, and so many other supporters, we are fulfilling our vision and mission and are headed in the right direction.

# A Return to Health and Independence

Individuals who have suffered a traumatic brain injury seek assistive services or residential options that will help them improve their quality of life. But for Arnie Done

for Arnie to visit the emergency room stopped. In fact, he can't remember the last time he went to the hospital. In addition to stabilizing his health, Happiness House staff



Arnie truly enjoys visits from his sister, Patty Guarino.

of Canandaigua, finding supportive services was much more than improving his quality of life... it was a critical need.

When he was five years old, Arnie was struck by a car while chasing a ball, suffered a traumatic brain injury, and was in a coma for three weeks. However, throughout his childhood and early adulthood, Arnie did not receive the support necessary to help him adapt to his needs. It was quite common for Arnie to be admitted to the emergency room three times in a week. Something had to be done.

As Arnie grew into an adult, his older sister, Patty Guarino, was determined to find the proper supports he needed to live a good life. Patty reached out to a social worker at the Canandaigua VA who referred Arnie to Happiness House.

The 47 year-old not-for-profit health and human services agency had recently opened a Transition House at its site on County Road 30. The House offers residences specifically designed for individuals with disabilities. Residents are supported by Happiness House staff through the New York State Community-Based Waiver program.

Arnie moved into the Transition House in early 2012. The results were spectacular. Almost immediately, the need

worked closely with Arnie to help him develop the skills he needed to live in a traditional, community-based apartment. They taught Arnie money management, safety, home maintenance, cooking, nutrition, and selfcare. Arnie also attended, and still attends, a Happiness House structured day program which helps him develop

an even greater sense of self-worth.

As the name implies, the Transition
House is designed to support individuals with disabilities for a short period of time. After two-and-a-half years of receiving the proper care and attention from Happiness House, Arnie was ready for the next stage of his journey. He transitioned into Happiness House's Community Apartments in November 2014. Situated near the Transition House, the Community Apartments is now where Arnie calls home – and he couldn't be happier.

"I like being independent," Arnie said. "There is so much to do here; I can do anything I want!"

The Community Apartments feature many cost-effective units for people with and without disabilities. The building has a community room, kitchen facility, laundry

facilities, office space, and easy access to public transportation. It's independent living for the residents, with help always available based on individual needs. According to Patty, her brother Arnie has adapted extremely well to life in the Community Apartments. She visits quite often to share a meal, watch a movie, or take him to church.

Around the same time Arnie was moving from the Transition House to the Community Apartments, Happiness House offered him a job as part of the custodial crew. Arnie lights up when he talks about his job.

"I make sure all the rooms are clean and safe for all the employees, visitors, and people who attend program at Happiness House," Arnie said while grinning and jingling his own set of keys to the maintenance closet.

"I am more confident. I am better off than I have ever been," Arnie said. "I have so many friends now."

The success of Happiness House's Transition House and Community Apartments is clear. In fact, these residential programs continue to receive immense support from many area lenders, legislators, and foundations. Happiness House plans to expand the scope of residential development over the next several years due to the growing needs of people like Arnie.



Arnie is a very hard worker and loves his job.

"Happiness House has truly been a blessing and a miracle; I can't thank them enough," said Patty. "I never imagined Arnie could ever be this happy... and me too."

# **Start-Up Company Creates Jobs for All**

BenOfficial Goods™ is a start-up company created to help fill the gap in work opportunities for individuals of differing abilities. BenOfficial Goods™ provides meaningful employment to individuals who are supported by Happiness House, CP Rochester, and Rochester Rehabilitation. The goal is to establish rewarding work environments for adults with special needs that encourages, supports, and fosters their success in an inclusive work setting.



Andy Bonafiglia Ability Partners Board Member

The products sold under the BenOfficial Goods™ name are created, packaged, and/or distributed by BenOfficial Goods™ employees, providing meaningful work which promotes a sense of accomplishment and pride - while earning a paycheck. Enriching the experience is a supportive, safe work setting that allows for the development of new relationships and a sense of belonging while learning the skills necessary to be a successful employee.

BenOfficial Goods™ presently carries salsas, nuts, preserves, and special butters, and recently added greeting cards created by the photography club at Happiness House in Canandaigua. All profits from the sale of these goods are returned to Happiness House, CP Rochester, and Rochester Rehabilitation so they may continue to develop and enhance



support services for people of all abilities as they search for their own pathway in life.

BenOfficial Goods™ vision includes placing its products at small gift shops and grocery stores, and someday in its own storefront. In the meantime, customers can find the products this summer at farmer's markets, charitable events, and local festivals. The goal is to strive for a day when BenOfficial Goods™ can provide ALL people who have a special need... a very special job.

Visit www.benofficialgoods.org for more information, a complete listing of available products, and ways you can help.













Francis "Ben" Bonafiglia Happiness House

Golf Tournament

Presented by the Bonafiglia Family

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2016



# Tackles and Touchdowns for a Cause

By Cheryl L. Schaefer-Coppola Vice President, Ability Partners Foundation and Development

It is with deepest gratitude and humblest hearts that Happiness House acknowledges the amazing Hobart College Statesmen football team for their dedication to our mission of supporting people with disabilities. Players, along with the Hobart College Athletic Department, commit their time, effort, and contributions in support of our Foundation Endowment Fund through their Tackles and Touchdowns fundraiser.

We want to especially thank players Patrick O'Connell and Austin Gallegos for leading the charge for the second year in a row. Donors either gave a direct gift or made a pledge to give based on the number of 'tackles' and 'touchdowns' the Statesmen got in their game against St. Lawrence (which Hobart won 19-17). Pledges are still coming in for this fundraiser, but since 2010, Tackles and Touchdowns has raised over \$30,000 for our agency. We were also very pleased that Holly Miller, a preschooler at Happiness House, was on-hand to help with the coin toss at the game.

As a precursor to the big game, Patrick and Austin were joined by teammates James Hedger, Brad Burns, and Zackary Robak in the New Friends preschool classrooms at Happiness House's Geneva site. The players witnessed firsthand how our agency changes lives every day. The children had a blast with the Statesmen, playing a gentle version of football with them and experiencing true caring and compassion from these wonderful young men.

All schools compete to receive high rankings in official college reports. However, to the staff, individuals, and families of Happiness House, Hobart will always rank number one. Thank you, Hobart Statesmen, for all that you do to support the mission of Happiness House!









# What a Wight! Record-setting Gala Raises \$120,000

# Happiness House Gala Fundraiser Honored Champions of Disability Services

Nearly \$120,000 was raised from the 13th Annual Happiness House Gala and Auction Event at Belhurst Castle in Geneva. The Belhurst, owned by Ability Partners Board Member Kevin Reeder, served as the event's Founding and Major Sponsor (for the 13th year in a row). Five Star Bank underwrote this event as Presenting Sponsor, along with our dear friend Nozomi Williams. WHAM-TV Journalist Patrice Walsh excelled as the Mistress of Ceremonies. All proceeds from the Happiness House Gala and Auction Event benefit Ability Partners Foundation in support of the programs and services of Happiness House and CP Rochester.

The event recognized three dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to help our agency thrive: Ability Partners Board Members Robert 'Bob' Schick and Margaret 'Peggy' Clark, and Gail Hewson. Bob Schick was presented with this year's *Happiness is Helping Humanitarian of the Year Award*. Bob, President and Chief Executive Officer of Lyons National Bank, was recognized for his dedication to the agency and time he spends advocating for, and on behalf of, people with disabilities. Past recipients of this prestigious award include Charles T. Graham, Senator Michael F. Nozzolio, Kevin W. Reeder, Mary Herlihy Gearan, B. Thomas Golisano, Nozomi Williams, and Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb.

The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Gail Hewson. A former business owner and employee at Monroe BOCES #1, Gail began volunteering three years ago, working with the children in the Head Start program. Having spent over two decades in public education, Gail has seen how difficult it is for children who start school without any early education intervention. She believes when children see caring adults in a loving environment it makes a difference to a child.

Peggy Clark received the *Board Member of the Year Award*. Peggy retired as Vice President of Government Program Compliance from Excellus BlueCross BlueShield in December 2006 after 33 years. Following Excellus, she worked for two years as the Director of Planning and Capacity Management at the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency. Peggy and her husband believe strongly in the mission and vision of Happiness House and Ability Partners Foundation. They feel the results achieved by the agencies allow children and adults to reach their full potential and positively impact their lives, their families, and the community.

Special thanks go to Keynote Speakers Erin Hart and her parents Bill and Kelly Hart. Erin attended Happiness House's programs in Geneva for three years while her younger brother Joey attended the Universal Pre-Kindergarten program. This event is made possible through the enthusiasm and support of our sponsors: Belhurst Castle, Founding and Major Sponsor; Five Star Bank, Underwriter; and our Friend Nozomi Williams. Major Sponsors include BonaDent Dental Laboratories, The Bonadio Group, and Relph Benefit Advisors. Corporate Sponsors include Bill Cram Chevrolet, Finger Lakes Health, First Niagara, Harris Beach PLLC, Guardian Industries, LECESSE Construction, Lyons National Bank, and Nationwide Retirement Plans.

Table Level sponsors include Cayuga Lake National Bank, Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State, Frank J. Marianacci, Inc., Friends of Assembly Minority Leader Brian Kolb, Massa Construction, Inc., MVP Healthcare, and Mark D. Gearan and Mary Herlihy Gearan. Patron Level sponsors include the Al Sigl Community of Agencies, Canandaigua Financial Group, Seneca Meadows Landfill, RIST Transport LTD (Division of Wadhams Enterprises), and Brian and Kelly Meath. Thanks also to donors Roy and Nancy Beecher, Ann and Harry Burt, Sam and Julia Cannioto, Edward and Dorothy Clark, Eric Fisher, Patricia Gilbert, Heather and Jim Hines, Barb Marianetti, Dr. Martha Mock, the Honorable Thomas Reh, Thomas and Karen Vasile, and Wilson Press, LLC.



Happiness House President and CEO, Mary Boatfield (center) is joined by Ability Partners Foundation Vice President Cheryl Schaefer-Coppola (to her left). With them is (I to r) sponsor and friend Nozomi Williams, Board Member of the Year recipient Peggy Clark, Humanitarian of the Year recipient Bob Schick, and Volunteer of the Year recipient Gail Hewson. Keynote Speaker Erin Hart (far right) is joined by her mother and father, Kelly and Bill Hart.







Photos (clockwise from top left):
Adaptive Workshop Volunteers;
greeter Giana Bisnett with her mom
and dad; Ashley and Debbie Cardarelli from Cardwell Construction;
Dr. and Mrs. Elmar and Catherine
Frangenberg; and Board Chair
Jeffrey Baker with President Mary
Walsh Boatfield and the Weir
Family.



Over \$55,000 was raised from CP Rochester's second annual fundraising Gala at ARTISANworks in Rochester. The event recognized companies and individuals who were instrumental in the formation of the agency nearly 70 years ago and those who continue to help it thrive. All proceeds from the Evening of Stars fundraising Gala are applied to the Ability Partners Foundation in support of CP Rochester and Happiness House to benefit the adults and children with physical, intellectual, and developmental disabilities who receive services from the agencies.

WHAM-TV Journalist Patrice Walsh was the emcee of the event, with Board of Directors members Sean Ossont and Mike Coppola serving as live auctioneers. After cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and music from Eastman School of Music students, the 160 guests were treated to music from the University of Rochester Midnight Ramblers, live auction, a dessert buffet, and an awards presentation.

Champions of CP Rochester's mission who were honored at the Evening of Stars Gala include the Weir Family who received *The Harold C. Augustin Founders Award*; the volunteers who work in CP Rochester's Adaptive Workshop who received the *Volunteers of the Year Award*; Cardwell Construction that received the *Community Partner of the Year Award*; Jeffrey Baker who received the *Outstanding Board Member of the Year Award*; and Dr. Elmar and Catherine Frangenberg who received the *Humanitarians of the Year Award*.

The Gala was presented by The Lilliputian Foundation, and sponsored by AutoCrafting Mobility Solutions; Barclay Damon LLC; The Bonadio Group; Burke Group; Ceridian; Fleetwood Accessibility Services; Interpretek; Lawley, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP; Miller's Pharmacy; NFP Telecom; Peter L. Morse; Relph Benefit Advisors; Rizzo DiGiacco Hern & Baniewicz; State Farm Insurance; and URMC.

## United Way Gives \$10,000 in Support of CP Rochester/ Happiness House Partnership

For several years, United Way of Greater Rochester has used its Synergy Fund to work with local non-profits in a technical assistance capacity, helping to explore potential mergers, acquisitions, joint-ventures, and other types of formal, long-term collaborations. Recently, United Way's Synergy Committee expanded the nature of the Synergy Fund to provide the opportunity for non-profits to apply for Synergy Implementation Grant funding. Mary Walsh Boatfield and Lynn Keller met with representatives of United Way's Synergy Committee to discuss the positive outcomes CP Rochester and Happiness House have experienced as a result of our working collaboratively since May 2013.

We are pleased to announce Ability Partners, Inc. was selected as the first local non-profit to receive the United Way of Greater Rochester's Synergy Implementation Grant. Patricia Leo, Director of Community Investment for United Way of Greater Rochester, notes that Synergy Committee volunteers "were impressed by the commitment to fiscally sound and high quality service standards that have already resulted in considerable cost savings and the framework for aligning business practices of the partner organizations."

The grant award, in the amount of \$10,000, will be shared by CP Rochester and Happiness House to cover expenses associated with the creation of Ability Partners, Inc. We thank United Way of Greater Rochester and the Synergy Committee for making this unique funding opportunity available to the local non-profit community.

# **Project ACCESS Received Additional** \$22,000 to Provide Transportation

CP Rochester's Project ACCESS transportation initiative was awarded an additional \$22,392 in Family Support Services funding through the local OPWDD Finger Lakes DDRO. This was a very competitive round of grant applications. CP Rochester's award represents 10% of all award dollars available to the Monroe County area in this round.

Project ACCESS currently provides reduced cost transportation to assist 75 families in connecting their loved one with their community. Individuals who do not have a driver's license, an automobile, or a family member readily available to transport them to/from community employment, turn to Project ACCESS as a means of getting to/from work when no other transportation is available to them. The additional funding will enable Project ACCESS to expand the number of trips/units of service it can make available to individuals residing in the community with their families expressly to meet the increased demand for more transportation trips to assist individuals in getting to/from work. Our collaborative partner, Medical Motor Service, is working with CP Rochester to expand hours of operation and explore new strategies to be used in expansion of Project ACCESS services.



#### \$26,000 Gifted for Lift-Free Technology in CP Rochester Residences

Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation, John Ben Snow Memorial Trust, Davenport–Hatch Foundation, Inc., Wyman-Potter Foundation, and J.M. McDonald Foundation, Inc. contribute to our goal.

CP Rochester has been working to secure funds from a number of foundations to provide the financial resources necessary to implement 'Lift Free' technology throughout the agency. These funds will enable CP Rochester to provide a home living environment better designed to meet the ongoing lift and transfer needs of the individuals we serve and the staff who support them.

As part of this initiative, we are pleased to announce the agency has received grants from the Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation - \$1,000; the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust - \$5,000; the Davenport-Hatch Foundation, Inc. - \$10,000; Wyman-Potter Foundation - \$5,000; and the J.M. McDonald Foundation, Inc. - \$5,000.

The gift from the Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation reflects its mission to "improve the well-being of residents in Yates and Monroe Counties." The John Ben Snow Memorial Trust seeks to "respond to the ever-changing needs of various segments of the population, especially to the needs of young people and people who are disadvantaged either physically or economically." For the past 50 years the Wyman-Potter Foundation, administered through HSBC Bank, has supported a wide range of health and human service organizations in the greater Rochester and surrounding areas. Additionally, for over 62 years, the J.M. McDonald Foundation, Inc. has been awarding grants to education, humanities, health, social, and human service organizations primarily in upstate New York.

#### Workforce Development Institute Gifts \$4,000 for Employee Training

Through a unique grants program, the Workforce Development Institute (WDI) makes investments that lead to workforce development and economic growth in New York State. CP Rochester received a grant in the amount of \$4,000 tailored to meet the needs of the agency as it works to ensure all currently employed direct support personnel receive training in Core Competencies as required by OPWDD.

#### Ronald McDonald House Charities Awards CP Rochester \$8,000

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Rochester NY, Inc. (RMHC) not only operates the Ronald McDonald House, but also provides grants to non-profit organizations that serve children in the greater Rochester community and surrounding counties.

In 2015, representatives from CP Rochester's Augustin Children's Center attended an awards presentation at RMHC where six local charities were awarded grants. Augustin Children's Center was given \$8,000 for the renovation and upgrade of the adaptive playground area (including assisting with the installation of the adaptive zip-line). This sizable grant was made possible through a \$4,000 grant from RMHC of Rochester and a matching grant of \$4,000 from RMHC Global.

RMHC of Rochester places children's health as their highest priority. Grants are awarded to projects and programs that promote wellness; prevent illness, injury and disease; and provide quality care for children with acute or chronic illnesses or conditions. CP Rochester thanks Ronald McDonald House Charities of Rochester



Rochester thanks Ronald McDonald House Charities of Rochester NY, Inc. and RMHC Global for their generous support of the adaptive playground renovation initiative!

#### M & T Bank Makes \$2,000 Gift



Representatives from M & T Bank including Daniel J. Burns, President of the Rochester region; Curt Provenzo, Vice President; and J. Theodore Smith, Administrative Vice President and Group Manager visited CP Rochester. During their visit, they took the time to discuss with Mary Walsh Boatfield, Terri Meyn, Patti Cunningham, Donna Poccia and Lynn Keller, the needs of individuals with developmental and acquired disabilities and how the changing insurance and funding landscape will impact the way in which agencies provide future services to the individuals we support.

At the conclusion of the visit, Mary Walsh Boatfield was presented with a grant of \$2,000 from the M &T Charitable Foundation. These funds were used to purchase a white board and projector which will be instrumental in updating service delivery methods to the individuals served through Day Habilitation. This is the fourth consecutive year M &T Charitable Foundation has awarded grant funds in support of CP Rochester service initiatives and we thank them for their ongoing commitment in support of the individuals we serve.

#### \$25,000 Gift from the Al Sigl Sports Committee for Various Programs

Mary Walsh Boatfield recently attended the Al Sigl Sports Committee luncheon accompanied by Matt Houppert, a student in his second year with the B.E.L.L. program and Melvis Roman, a participant in Rochester Rehabilitation DriveOn and OneSource Solutions with the assistance of a Spanish speaking interpreter. At the conclusion of the luncheon, it was announced that CP Rochester and Rochester Rehabilitation were the recipients of a grant award totaling \$25,000 from the Al Sigl Sports Committee. Each agency received \$12,500 with funds designated as follows:

- \$5,000 for scholarships to students enrolled in B.E.L.L. through CP Rochester's collaboration with Roberts Wesleyan College and Monroe 2 Orleans BOCES.
- \$7,500 funds Shared Ski Adventures (SSA) operations and certification training for SSA ski volunteers.
- \$6,500 in support of Rochester Rehabilitation's DriveOn program.
- \$6,000 to fund language translation services for individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP) accessing services through Rochester Rehabilitation.

# The Golisano Foundation Commits Resources to SportsNet

It is the vision of The Golisano Foundation that "communities will encourage and commit to the inclusion, acceptance and opportunity for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and provide services that empower individuals who make their way productively and creatively in their communities." An exemplary representation of this vision are the Rochester Rookies of the SportsNet program. This program provides training and competitive track and field opportunities for youth (ages 4-19) diagnosed with a disability who are typically excluded from scholastic competition at regional and national levels. The program focuses on the development of the whole athlete promoting social engagement opportunities, with a focus on enhanced physical well-being and accountability through assessment during weekly training. In 2015, Rochester Rookies participating in a national track and field competition brought home three gold, nine silver, and two bronze medals, as well as two national records for power lifting and one for shot-put. At the national banquet, the Rochester Rookies received first place for the small team category!

The Golisano Foundation has played a critical role in providing the financial resources needed to fund costs associated with athlete training, transportation, lodging, fees, and coaching costs incurred for Rochester Rookies participation in regional and national competitions. The Foundation provided \$10,000 in grant funding for this initiative in 2015. It also announced it will provide a 2016 grant in the amount of \$7,500 in support of Rochester Rookies athletes.



# **CP Rochester and Happiness House Receive Large State Grants**

CP Rochester and Happiness House are the recipients of two OPWDD Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) funding grants worth more than \$800,000. This was a very competitive grant process; with fewer than half of all applicants being granted an award.

The \$224,785 CP Rochester award supports an initiative to be undertaken by CP Rochester, Al Sigl Community of Agencies, and Epilepsy-Pralid, Inc. Together, these three organizations will work to create a collaborative community housing model for the development of affordable, non-certified, integrated, community housing.

The \$592,900 Happiness House award supports four initiatives that will greatly benefit both agencies:

- Complete activities related to the establishment of Ability Partners,
   Inc. and additional activities related to the longer-term alignment of both agencies.
- Identify and implement a comprehensive Electronic Health Information system for both agencies.
- Expand dentistry and offer primary medical health services within both agencies' clinics.
- Provide intensive case management training to staff of both organizations.

Both CP Rochester and Happiness House have the solid foundation and expertise to excel in these endeavors. We anticipate success at all levels and look forward to providing greatly enhanced services to adults and children with and without disabilities in the Rochester and Finger Lakes regions.

#### Other Generous Grants for Happiness House and Rochester Rehabilitation

**Nozomi Williams** awarded Happiness House \$25,000 in support of the New Friends Preschool Program in Geneva.

**The Marshall Family Foundation** awarded Happiness House \$10,000 for Wayne County families.

**United Way of Seneca County** awarded Happiness House \$1,000 at their Annual Meeting to benefit the agency's Summer Camp program.

**Assemblymember Brian Kolb** awarded Happiness House \$20,000 to offset the costs of purchasing therapeutic equipment.

**Wegmans** awarded Rochester Rehabilitation a \$7,500 grant as Presenting Sponsor of an April conference focusing on employment outcomes for special populations (see page 15).

#### Happiness House and CP Rochester Receive Grants from Ability Partners Foundation



Since its inception, the Foundation Board has approved over \$60,000 in grants to benefit Happiness House and CP Rochester programs and services. Recently, the following awards were presented:

#### **Happiness House (awarded \$5,000 total):**

- Crash Mat for Canandaigua OT/PT Gym submitted by Amy Atwater, MS, OTR/L for \$256.81
- Classroom Select Apollo LockEdge Activity Table & Chairs with Ball Glides submitted by Jamie McKenna, Waterloo UPK/Elementary Education Teacher for \$1,538.75
- Funding for four evaluations through the Happiness House Autism
   Diagnostic and Evaluation Clinic submitted by Harlene Gilbert, Director of
   Psychology Services and Evaluation Services for \$3,204.44

#### CP Rochester (awarded \$5,000 total):

- Speech Language Testing Materials submitted by: Jane Murray, Speech Pathologist Supervisor for \$657.18
- Prime Symmetry Stander submitted by: Katherine DiNicola, DPT and Carrie Nicholas, DPT for \$2,504.00
- In-Fun-ity Climbing System submitted by Laura Hill, Children's Program Clinical Supervisor and Stacy Calvin, Children's Program Director for \$1,838.82

Thank you for your support as we ensure those we serve realize *What Happens Here Changes Lives Forever* in a community that *Opens Doors and Enriches Lives*.



Accolades and Awards for Staff of Happiness House and CP Rochester



Congratulations to the employees from CP Rochester and Happiness House who were recognized for their outstanding commitment to the mission of our agencies at the 2015 CP of New York State Conference! Awardees were Shawn Stenquist, Jamie Simon, Katherine Gorom, Diane Kozar, Kristi Powers (not pictured), Lynn Keller, (not pictured) and Melissa Nesmith (not pictured).



Congratulations to Patti Cunningham, Executive Vice President/CFO for receiving the Daniel Wieder Leadership Award.





Sean Ossont, Board of Directors' member, received the Anthony J. Koenig Volunteer Service Award.



# **SportsNet Has a Bright Future!**

The SportsNet program provides adults and children with disabilities the opportunity to explore adaptive sports and inclusive recreation. Activities include cycling, golf, canoeing, hockey, basketball, and more.

We are very pleased to announce that SportsNet has officially become a partnership among the Al Sigl Community of Agencies, CP Rochester, and Rochester Rehabilitation. This partnership provides the SportsNet program fiscal stability and brings together decades of experience in recreation, integration, and collaboration.

The support of the collaborative partners will allow CP Rochester to enhance SportsNet's offerings and provide a greater selection of adaptive sports and inclusive recreation opportunities to individuals with disabilities. We anticipate offering sport and recreational activities to people currently served by CP Rochester, Rochester Rehabilitation, and SportsNet, as well as expanding opportunities to new individuals in the community.

For more information, or to make suggestions regarding new recreational opportunities we should offer, contact SportsNet at 585-334-6000 x1120. Mike Cocquyt is the SportsNet Supervisor and would happy to speak with you!









#### A Day at the Races Nets Happiness House and CP Rochester \$4,500 for SportsNet

CP Rochester and Happiness House participated alongside five other not-for-profit agencies in the Finger Lakes Gaming & Racetrack \$30,000 Charity Cup in October.

By attempting to choose the winning horses in six races, CP Rochester and Happiness House won \$4,500! All revenues from the Charity Cup will benefit SportsNet, a collaborative effort among CP Rochester, the Al Sigl Community of Agencies, and Rochester Rehabilitation that celebrates the accomplishments of athletes of all abilities. A group of specially-invited SportsNet athletes, families, and staff from our agencies actively participating in the Charity Cup.



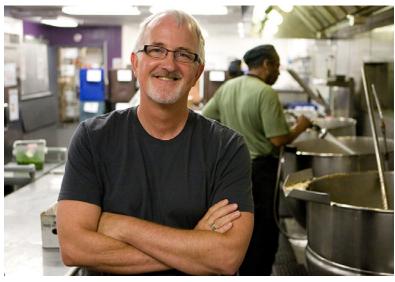
Accepting the ceremonial check from the Finger Lakes Charity Cup is Mike Cocquyt, SportsNet Supervisor; Tom O'Connor, Vice President of Operations and Marketing for the Al Sigl Community of Agencies; Cheryl Coppola, Vice President of Ability Partners Foundation; and Sara Taylor, Vice President of Employment at Rochester Rehabilitation.



### **Wegmans is Presenting Sponsor** for Employment Conference

Rochester Rehabilitation will be hosting a firstof-its-kind employment conference in Western New York, focusing on employment outcomes for special populations. This conference, presented by Wegmans, will offer workshop sessions for both human service providers and other businesses. It

will feature evidenced-based, best practice models and highlight successful partnerships between non-profit vocational employment programs and local businesses. For more information, contact Jen Bellows at 585-473-2052 or Laura Marron at 585-271-2520.



Keynote Speaker is **Robert Egger**, a nationally-known non-profit leader, author, speaker, and activist. Mr. Egger spent 24 years as the President of the DC Central Kitchen, the country's first "community kitchen," where food donated by hospitality businesses and farms is used to fuel a nationally recognized culinary arts job training program. Since opening in 1989, the DC Central Kitchen has produced over 30 million meals and helped 1,500 men and women gain full time employment.

# **EMPLOYMENT FIRST:**

Maximizing Success and Improving Employment Outcomes for Special Populations

**Radisson Rochester Riverside** 120 East Main Street, Rochester

> Thursday, April 28, 2016 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m

Presented by:

Wegmans

The emphasis to create jobs and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, veterans, individuals living in poverty and those with other disadvantages has become a priority for New York State and local leaders. In order to successfully improve employment outcomes for special populations, human service providers must continue to develop partnerships with businesses that embrace diversity and inclusion within their workforce.



For more information, contact **Jen Bellows** at jbellows@rochesterrehab.org or 585-473-2052 or **Laura Marron** at Imarron@rochesterrehab.org 585-271-2520.

# In Memory



Mr. Donald Potter

Much of CP Rochester's early success and stable foundation can be credited to attorney Mr. Donald Potter. As parents of a child with developmental delays, Don and his wife took it upon themselves to find the support their son needed so he could have a happy life. Don quickly became as involved as his son with the new agency, donating years of his time sitting on the Board of Directors, offering legal assistance, and providing incredible leadership which helped expand the fledgling organization into the vibrant and growing CP Rochester of today.



Mr. John Meade

When John Meade was a young professional in the hospital industry, he started looking for ways to become engaged in the community. A colleague suggested that he look into CP Rochester. When he did, was struck by one reality—the amazing commitment of the staff and the impact their hard work and dedication had on the individuals they supported. John served on the Board of Directors where his experience in strategic planning, financial management, and operational efficiencies helped lead CP Rochester into the future.

# **Understanding Where Your Gift Goes**

Now that the Happiness House Foundation has transitioned into Ability Partners Foundation (and by doing so, incorporated CP Rochester into its mission), it is important to understand where monetary and in-kind gifts go once they are given by a donor.

Nearly every gift given to CP Rochester, Happiness House, and Ability Partners Foundation benefits ALL organizations! Monies raised from the Happiness House and CP Rochester galas, the *Autism Walk, 5K Run for Fun, Francis 'Ben' Bonafiglia Golf Tournament, Dash to Dash, Bowling to Raise Bucks*, and most other events are accepted by Ability Partners Foundation. This means, by participating in any of either agency's events, your contribution helps **both** agencies! Now, donors' gifts carry a much greater impact. In addition, general gifts to CP Rochester and Happiness House throughout the year benefit both agencies.

There are certainly exceptions to the rule. Gifts that are made to a specific program or service at an agency are reserved solely for that agency. For example, if a donor wishes to give \$1,000 to the Happiness House Structured Day Program, Ability Partners Foundation will process the gift and only apply it to that specific program at Happiness House. Where this is typically most prevalent is with in-kind gifts (furniture, food, etc.) but it can happen with monetary gifts as well. In order for this type of *donor designated* gift to occur, the donor must submit the request in writing when making the gift.

When writing a check to benefit CP Rochester or Happiness House, we ask you to make it out to **Ability Partners Foundation**. However, even if your check is made out to one of the agencies, it will still benefit both (unless you designate your gift).

Thank you for your generosity over the years! Rest assured, both Happiness House and CP Rochester apply good stewardship to any and all gifts given to our agencies. If you would like to make a donation now, you can do so using the enclosed envelope, or visit us on-line.

www.HappinessHouse.org www.CPRochester.org



# **Ways to Give**

Many donors choose to give from their immediate assets such as cash and check (or via credit card). In addition to this type of giving, there are a number of creative ways to provide long-term financial support, such as with a 'legacy' gift. The goal of the Legacy Society is to plan for our organizations' future and set the course for a strategic vision which will carry the agencies forward. Legacy gifts include bequests, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, life insurance, real estate, and others.

Every member of the Happiness House and CP Rochester family has the power to make future change possible. Together, we continue to ensure the long-term sustainability of programs and services for the 3,150 individuals we serve each year.

#### **Legacy Gifts**

- Stocks Gifts of stock enable donors to avoid capital gains on the appreciation in market value of the shares.
- Bequests Simple bequests may be made through a donor's will and can specify any dollar amount, percentage, or portion of the estate.
- Charitable Gift Annuity A charitable gift annuity is when a donor transfers property (cash, securities, real estate) to our agencies in exchange for a fixed dollar payment during the donor's lifetime.
- Charitable Gift from an IRA Individuals over 701/2 may designate direct contributions from an IRA.
- Charitable Remainder Trust A charitable remainder trust pays income to the donor or beneficiary for a period of time, after which the property in the trust passes to our agencies.

- Charitable Lead Trusts A charitable lead (income) trust is established when a donor transfers property to a trust, which generally pays interest income to CP Rochester and Happiness House.
- Life Insurance A gift of life insurance allows a donor to pass on part of his or her estate with minimum cost, maximum benefit, and often an estate tax advantage.
- Real Estate Gifts of real estate include a principal residence, vacation home, farm, commercial property, and land.

For more information on making an immediate or longterm legacy gift to Happiness House and CP Rochester, call Cheryl Schaefer-Coppola, Vice President of Ability Partners Foundation, at 585-286-9711 x1325 or via e-mail at ccoppola@happinesshouse.org.

## Donations from June 1, 2015 through January 31, 2016

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Join us for CP Rochester's 11th Annual 5K Run for Fun and 1 Mile Fun Walk

Saturday, May 7, 2016 3399 Winton Road South in Henrietta Certified 5K course (#NY06129KL)

For more information, contact Lisa Hubler at 585-286-9711 x1324 or Ihubler@cprochester.org.

# Cash and other prizes for top runners, food, music.

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