

Connections

NEWSLETTER



Ability Partners - Powered by Progress

This year marks 10 years of partnership between the Ability Partners agencies—a decade defined by collaboration, innovation, and an unwavering focus on the individuals who matter most. Together, we've created life-changing opportunities, removed barriers, and strengthened our communities.

As we launch our annual campaign, **Powered by Progress**, we're excited to share stories that highlight the incredible work happening across our agencies, from successful job placements and impactful community partnerships to the transformative power of assistive technology. These stories reflect not only where we've been, but where we're going. With our shared vision and commitment, the progress we've made is just the beginning.

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Darrell J. Whitbeck
PRESIDENT & CEO

AN UPDATE FROM THE CEO

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with pride at how far our three agencies ~ CP Rochester, Happiness House, and Rochester Rehabilitation Center have come together. We have stabilized after the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and emerged stronger, more resilient, and more focused than ever. Even in the face of the devastating flood in Canandaigua, our teams responded with determination, compassion, and a deep commitment to the people we serve. That strength is what powers our progress.

Progress is more than a word—it's visible in the services we continue to expand, the opportunities we create, and the lives we touch each day. From opening new doors for children and adults with disabilities, to building innovative programs that meet people where they are, our agencies

remain committed to ensuring everyone has the chance to reach their fullest potential. Every success story fuels our mission and reinforces the importance of what we do together.

Our progress is also powered by partnerships—within our community and with local and state leaders who share our vision for a more inclusive future. The conversations we are having, and the inroads we are making, strengthen our ability to advocate for critical support and resources. Together, we are advancing services and shaping a stronger foundation for those we serve today and for generations to come.

As we look ahead, I invite you to join us in powering even more progress through our annual campaign. With your generosity, we can continue to expand opportunities, strengthen programs, and respond to the evolving needs of the people who count on us. Information on how to support this effort can be found at the end of this newsletter. Your partnership ensures that every step forward is shared, and every achievement is possible.

Thank you for all that you do!

CHAT WITH THE CHAIR



Progress is possible because of people like you. I see every day how generosity fuels our mission at CP Rochester, Happiness House, and Rochester Rehabilitation Center. The support we receive from donors, community partners, and friends allows us to go beyond meeting needs, it allows us to open doors, spark opportunities, and change lives.

This year, your gifts have helped us recover from unexpected challenges while also giving us the strength to expand programs and create new possibilities for the children and adults we serve. Every contribution, large or small, plays a vital role in powering that progress. And with one of the lowest administrative costs in our region, you can be assured that every dollar you give goes directly to programs and services that make a difference.

We are deeply grateful for transformational support, like the extraordinary generosity of Mr. Tom Golisano. His gift has already created tremendous impact. Yet, even with such incredible support, there is still so much to be done; keeping our facilities safe and accessible, growing our programs, and ensuring our staff have resources they need to provide the best care and opportunities.

As we launch our annual campaign, I encourage you to consider how your support can make a difference in the year ahead. Your generosity is an investment in hope, resilience, and a future where people of all abilities are valued and included.

Together, we are truly powered by progress,

Eileen Gage | APF Board Chair

AGENCY APPAREL ONLINE SALE

A PORTION OF PROCEEDS WILL GO TO SUPPORT ABILITY PARTNERS AGENCIES!



We're thrilled to introduce our brand-new online store, hosted by KB Graphics, Inc. The store offers a variety of clothing and accessories that you can customize with our agency logos—making it easy to represent and support the work we do every day.

Our first group order closes October 17, with the next opportunity in the Spring of 2026. Staff and program participants will have their items shipped directly to their program site, while supporters can enjoy convenient home delivery.

Visit the store today and show your pride in being part of our community. Scan the QR code or visit ability.mybrightsites.com





Kelly wanted to wear her dress every day leading up to the ball!

THE SNOW BALL

CP Rochester's Day Habilitation Program held their first annual Snow Ball complete with boutonnieres, corsages, snacks, and superlatives!

Participants were able to borrow suit jackets made available by the Canandaigua Music Department, select & KEEP dresses donated by the Fairy Godmothers of Rochester, and get their hair & nails done courtesy of Shear Ego International School of Hair Design. Many thanks to the staff, volunteers, and donors who made this possible.



Ramon couldn't wait to get the party started!



Junior & Sydney were crowned Snow Ball King & Queen!



PJ worked hard to make sure everyone is laughing.



Salima won best smile at the Snow Ball and loves to show it off!



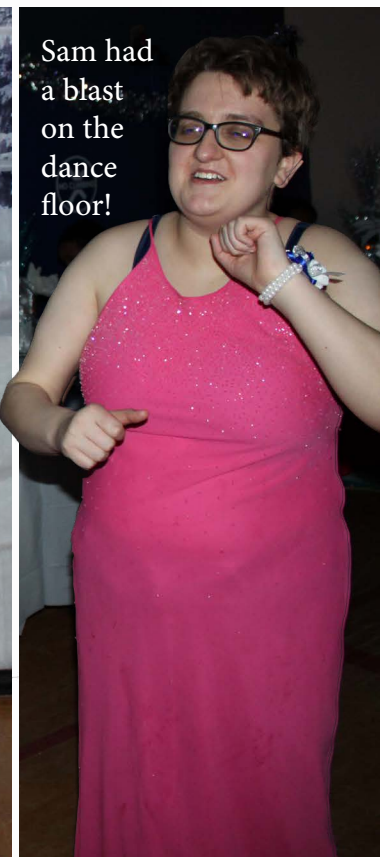
Joe, the special guest DJ, kept the beats bumping!



Anthony looked sharp in his suit jacket!



Kathy was a vision in red - to match her hair!



Sam had a blast on the dance floor!



Jeremy made the most of the photo booth!



15th Autism Awareness & Acceptance Walk

A **HUGE** thank you to the 21 sponsors and over 450 participants who raised over \$30,000!

A special thank you to our Honorary Chair Carmelo!



Grand Prize Winner:
CP Rochester Children's Program
Top Fundraising Team:
Mason Moran's Family
Top Individual Fundraiser:
Addie Zajonczkoski

Over \$500 Club:
Mason Moran's Fam
Sprunki Steps for Addie-Z
The Pink Room- Canandaigua
Happiness House at the GAC
Jumping James
CP's Augustin Children's Center
Blake and Brady
Clinic Crusaders
Team UDN

Honoring **HEROES** Gala and Auction

We thank our heroes, award winners, generous sponsors, and guests for helping us to raise over \$110,000! This money will be used to fund programs and services at Ability Partners agencies.

Guests were treated with a silent auction, wine cork pull, cash appeal, award presentations, and two keynote speeches from the Maslyn Family & Tyler Davis.

Four award recipients were recognized congratulations to:



Joe Lomonaco
 Humanitarian of the Year

Cynthia & Edward Caldwell
 Volunteers of the Year

Five Star Bank
 Community Partner of the Year

Paul Davidson
 Board Member of the Year



MINI GOLF MASTERS



The return of our Mini Golf Masters event was a hole-in-one! Thank you to our sponsors and our enthusiastic teams who helped us raise over \$7,000!



A big thank you to our major sponsors of the Francis "Ben" Bonafiglia Golf Tournament

- Naming:**  **bonafiglia family foundation**
- Founding & Major:** Sam and Tom Vasile
- Elite:** Andy Bonafiglia & Lamar Advertising
- Tournament +:** Bill Cram Chevrolet

CO-ED WINNING TEAM
LAMAR ADVERTISING

WOMEN'S WINNING TEAM
BEN'S BEAUTY'S

MEN'S WINNING TEAM
LYONS NATIONAL BANK



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

WE HAD A GREAT TIME CELEBRATING THE DEDICATION AND HARD WORK OF OUR TEAMS AT HAPPINESS HOUSE AND CP ROCHESTER DURING TWO RECENT EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION EVENTS! WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO HONORING OUR ROCHESTER REHABILITATION CENTER STAFF THIS FALL.



2025 Mary Griswold Professional Service Award Winners
Amanda Hefferon, Kristin Ireland, and Sharlene Manko

- Happiness House**

5 Years of Service
Julia Gleason
Amanda Hefferon
Terry Hurlburt
Kristin Ireland
Kristen Miskey
Grace Munzer
Chelsea Reyes

10 Years of Service
Shawn Inglesby
Sharlene Manko
Barbara Reid

15 Years of Service
Heather Ryan

25 Years of Service
Necebbia DeTaeve

30 Years of Service
Maureen Schuck
- Mary Griswold Finalists**

Holly Bruzda
Braedy DelRossa
Amanda Hefferon
Kristin Ireland
Derek Janto

Sharlene Manko
Kathleen Powell
Alexandra Turner
Juliana Sledziewski
Kirsten Walkland



CP Rochester

5 Years of Service
Jani Green
Ann Lamphron
Whitney Lipp
Michael O'Hare
Marisha Reed

10 Years of Service
Nicole Cilento

John Horvath Finalists
Darlene Atkins
Corinne DerCola
Kelly Dreimiller

15 Years of Service
Erin Greenfield
Lindsay Taylor

20 Years of Service
Dawn D'Aversa
Christina Newton
Elma Reid
Mark Santillo

30 Years of Service
Loni Williams

2025 John Horvath Professional Service Award Winners
Carly Gioia, Shana Green, Darlene Atkins



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At OneSource Solutions, we know that a clean facility sets the standard. What makes this work even more meaningful is the impact it has on the people we employ. More than 75% of our janitorial team members are individuals with disabilities who are building valuable skills, exploring career opportunities, and contributing in ways that make a real difference.

CALL TODAY: 585.473.2052

or contact Jen Bellows, Director of Employment Solutions, at jbellows@rochesterrehab.org

Choose Rochester Rehabilitation Center as your vendor of choice for a fresher approach to a cleaner facility.
Clean doesn't just feel better, it looks better too.



GRANTS RECEIVED
AMONG THE AGENCIES

FLORENCE M. MULLER FOUNDATION

A \$45,000 grant was awarded to CP Rochester towards Family Dental Center operations.

DASNY NONPROFIT INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (NICIP)

\$181,486 was awarded to Rochester Rehabilitation Center for renovations at the University Avenue location.

OFFICE OF PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (OPWDD)

Happiness House was awarded \$831,621 and CP Rochester was awarded \$864,765 to help fund Family Support Services for each agency.

MARILYN LICHTMAN FOUNDATION

CP Rochester's Family Dental Center was awarded \$25,000.

ROCHESTER PRESS-RADIO CLUB

SportsNet was awarded \$1,250.

PAYCHEX CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

\$2,500 was awarded to CP Rochester & Happiness House and \$3,000 was awarded to Rochester Rehabilitation Center for general operations and support.

CP STATE COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH PROGRAM (CHOP)

Happiness House was awarded \$4,081 to purchase a SmartBoard for the Geneva preschool's Blue Room. CP Rochester was awarded \$7,826.40 to update the ceiling lift and track system in the locker room at the Winton site.

CP STATE

\$6,654.74 was awarded to the CP Rochester Dental Center to purchase dental equipment.

RCIPA

CP Rochester's Family Dental Center was awarded \$25,000.

MARY CLARK THOMPSON

\$1,609 was awarded to Happiness House to purchase an AED machine for the Canandaigua site.

GRANTS AWARDED

ABILITY PARTNERS FOUNDATION AWARDED OVER \$30K TO ABILITY PARTNERS AGENCIES IN INTERNAL GRANTS IN 2025

CP ROCHESTER

- The Clinic was awarded \$1,425 to purchase a laptop, computer cart, iPad, keyboard, monitor, cables, and mice to improve their point of service documentation equipment; \$1,800 to reupholster physical therapy mats on tables; \$400 to replace clinic stools.
- The Residential Program was awarded \$3,000 for new living room furniture at Elmwood Avenue.
- Day Habilitation received a grant of \$575 to purchase Sensory Zen items to enhance the workshop-created table for individuals with dementia and Alzheimer's.
- SportsNet was awarded \$2,550 for golf cart batteries & equipment upgrades; \$250 to replace aquatic equipment.

HAPPINESS HOUSE

- Maple Avenue was awarded \$500 to invite friends & family over to celebrate the holiday season.
- Canandaigua Preschool's Blue Room was awarded \$310 to purchase carpet circles & flooring for classroom activities; the Yellow Room received \$805 to upgrade their cabinets.
- \$2,010 was awarded to preschool staff for the purchase of Gross Motor Equipment that helps children of all abilities meet their goals and objectives; \$1,680 was awarded to the children's department for temporal scanners at each location; \$1,645 was received to adjust the playground's accessibility.
- Canandaigua clinic received \$2,000 to update their waiting area furniture and purchase new desk chairs for the staff.
- The Lochland School clinic location was awarded \$950 to purchase TheraBands, cuff weights, an OT table, chairs & stools.

ROCHESTER REHABILITATION CENTER

- OneSource Solutions was awarded \$3,820 to purchase a semi-electric straddle stacker for the production floor & \$2,100 for a commercial air scrubber.
- \$850 to update medical equipment for providers in the Mental Health Outpatient & Rehabilitative Services Program and to pass out COVID tests to consumers; the Mental Health Clinic was awarded \$1,400 for waiting room enhancements.
- \$510 was awarded to assist families & individuals during the holiday season.
- University Avenue was awarded \$1,500 to purchase a refrigerator and microwave for the employee breakroom



ROUND
OF APPLAUSE



Congratulations to Erica (back right), the 2024 John Clary Award winner!

At the Happiness House TBI Structured Day Program's end-of-year party, Erica was honored for her exceptional perseverance and leadership while living with a traumatic brain injury.

We also recognized nominees Scott, Helen, Jackie (not pictured), and Jim & Sumer, who were celebrated as Continued Success honorees, having previously won this prestigious award.

We are so proud of Erica—and of every participant in our program—for the strength, dedication, and inspiration they bring each day.

GET INVOLVED

Looking for ways to give back?
You can make a difference in the lives of those we serve. Whether it's sharing holiday joy, lending your time, or bringing your workplace together, there are many ways to get involved

- Adopt a Family for the Holidays**
 - Provide Thanksgiving fixings or Christmas gifts to individuals/families in need.
- Volunteer Your Time**
 - Visit our programs or sites to spend meaningful time with participants.
- Lend a Hand**
 - Help with projects at our facilities and make a direct impact.
- Get Involved Your Way**
 - Volunteer as an individual, family, or group—or rally your workplace to join in.

Contact Erin Greenfield, Volunteer Coordinator
egreenfield@cprochester.org | 585.334.6000 ext.1321



Congratulations to Billie (middle), our RN Supervisor, for being recognized by the Rochester Business Journal for her excellence in nursing. We are so grateful for the loving care and dedication she shows the individuals we serve every day.



THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Few of us will change the course of history, write a timeless symphony, or cure a terrible disease, but everyone has an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. By supporting APF through planned giving, you can help to assure more fulfilling lives for future generations.

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~Gerald & Betsy Archibald
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*deceased

THANK YOU to the generous donors who contributed to the foundation and our agencies. We are grateful to all who volunteered their time and treasure to strengthen our community. We acknowledge all donors who donated between November 6, 2024 - July 31, 2025.

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Progress begins with one step forward: a word spoken, a skill learned, a door opened. Over the past year, we have seen countless steps like these, and each one has been powered by your support.

Carmello, a preschooler at Happiness House, had always struggled to make his wants and needs understood. With the support of an adaptive speech device, he found his voice—literally. The first time he told his family what he wanted, a whole new world of connection opened between him and the people who love him. His progress is a reminder that the right tools, and the right support, can transform a child's future.

At Unity Hospital, individuals in our Workforce Development program at Rochester Rehabilitation Center gained internship experiences that led to eight meaningful job placements. Nicholas, one of these individuals, started as an ACCES-VR participant, graduating from the WFA Customer Service Class in August 2024. In January, he was able to complete a work experience at Unity Hospital in the Food Service Department leading to his current position as a Food Service Associate. Through perseverance, Nicholas has not only secured and maintained employment but has also achieved a significant milestone: saving enough to move into his own apartment. These partnerships prove that opportunity is one of the most powerful tools for change.

Maria has grown up with our agencies, from living at Happiness House's children's IRA to now thriving in a CP Rochester adult IRA while attending Day Habilitation. Along the way, she's built independence and confidence, while also giving back as a volunteer in the Augustin Children's Program classrooms. This year, she reached a new milestone: acceptance into the B.E.L.L. college program through our partnership with BOCES II and Roberts Wesleyan University. With her sights set on becoming a nurse, Maria is stepping boldly into her future.

Progress takes many forms. Sometimes it's found in a moment of connection, other times it's through formed partnerships, or striving towards your goals. Every day, we witness moments of progress that change lives in ways both big and small. With your gift, that momentum continues—opening doors, fueling independence, and building stronger communities for all.



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GIVING OPTIONS:

Please use the enclosed remit envelope to make your donation and indicate you would like your donation to be designated to the 2025-2026 Annual Campaign.

Gifts to the Annual Campaign can be made in honor/in memory of a loved one as well.

Remember, all donations are tax deductible. Thank you in advance for your kind support! If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Hawks Lyttle at jhawkslyttle@happinesshouse.org.



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10/19
2025

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10/25
2025

Tackles & Touchdowns with the Hobart Statesmen

11/7
2025

Bowling to Raise Bucks

1/31
2026

Mini Golf Masters

4/25
2026

Autism Awareness & Acceptance Walk



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