

happiness HOUSE

Finger Lakes Cerebral Palsy Association

731 Pre-Emption Road, Geneva, NY 14456

Administration: (315) 789-6828

Children's Programs: (315) 789-6850

5415 County Road 30, Canandaigua, NY 14424

Adult Programs & Community Services: (585) 394-9510

Children's Programs: (585) 394-1190

South Seneca Elementary School

8336 Main St., Interlaken, NY 14847 (607) 869-9636

Skoi-Yase Elementary School

65 Fayette St., Waterloo, NY 13165 (315) 539-1586

OFFICE HOURS

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

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A COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

I'm writing today to relay a story about a 3 year old who recently visited WIC and is now enrolled in your Happiness House New Friends Preschool Program in South Seneca. This boy seemed familiar, but I couldn't remember why. Then there was something in his gait that flashed back to my first WIC encounter with him. His former stiffness and unsure footsteps had almost evaporated. His walking, posture, and general demeanor had changed radically since being enrolled in your program. His intellectual development appears fine, but his motor skills have so improved.

When I mentioned this to his young mom, she was very appreciative of the comment on her boy's progress. She explained that she and the family see the boy every day and had not really noticed changes. She was thrilled - and very reassured - that the decision she made to enroll him in the program at such a tender age was the "right" thing to do.

She does transport him daily, so perhaps the next time we meet, her son might possibly be on the bus! Thank you, Happiness House, for all you do for the children and families of Seneca County.

Fondly,
Dede Olufsen
United Way Board Member

HAPPINESS HOUSE IS...

I just had to share with you something Brady said the other day. As we left Happiness House after the daycare program...

Brady: "Mom, do you know what Happiness House is?"

Me: "What?"

Brady: "A place where everybody likes you."

This brought tears to my eyes. I feel so very fortunate that Brady had two years at Happiness House and now is able to go back for after school care. Brady is a successful kindergarten student because of the great teachers and staff members he has worked with over the years.

Thank you!!

Tamara J. Coffey-Keller

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

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

Family Support

Head Start

Home & Community Support

Independent Living Skills Training

& Development

Licensed Home Health Care Agency

New Friends Integrated Preschool

New York State (NYS) Licensed Child Care

NYS Home & Community Based Waivers:

• Nursing Home Transition & Diversion

• Office of Persons with Developmental

Disabilities

• Traumatic Brain Injury

Occupational, Physical, & Speech Therapy

Positive Behavioral Intervention & Support

Pre-Vocational Day Program

Psychological

Recreation

Residential

Respite

Service Coordination

Special Education

Structured Day Program

Universal Pre-Kindergarten

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Summer 2013

happiness HOUSE



Finger Lakes United Cerebral Palsy (FLUCP), Inc./Happiness House Awarded \$3.8 Million to Build Living Center and Revitalize the Finger Lakes Region

FLUCP, Inc./Happiness House has been awarded \$2.4 million through Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's New York State Homes & Community Renewal (HCR)'s Unified Funding Application, a single-source process to apply for several funding streams for affordable, multifamily developments, part of the Governor's efforts to break down the inefficient and duplicative silos that had previously governed state funding. The low-interest loans and tax credits will build and preserve a non-certified residence equipped with 20 apartments. This Living Center will serve adults with Traumatic Brain Injuries, adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities, or any individual who is eligible for affordable housing. In addition, a \$1.4 million grant was awarded last month, as well as very generous gifts from community funders who provided us with the funding for engineering and start up costs of this project.

FLUCP, Inc./Happiness House Living Center will construct a 20,000 square foot, two story wood frame and brick building, which will be built on our current campus, located on .96 acres at 5415 County Rd. 30 in Canandaigua, NY. This 20 unit home will have 18/one bedroom units at 650 sq. ft., 2/ two bedroom units at 900 sq. ft., a living room, small kitchen and bathroom. This Living Center will be equipped with a community room, kitchen, laundry facilities and office space as well. (read more p. 2)



A NEW SEASON - A NEW OPPORTUNITY

I am pleased to share with you that effective May 20, 2013 Happiness House/FLUCP, Inc. and CP Rochester have entered into an Executive Staffing Agreement regarding leadership at both agencies. This Executive Staffing Agreement is the result of weeks of work between the Boards of Directors of Happiness House and CP Rochester.

I have assumed the role of President/CEO of CP Rochester, while continuing in my role as CEO of Happiness House. Brian Klafehn will serve as executive advisor until his formal retirement in September 2013.

I recognize the immense value to be gained for both organizations with this agreement. It will enhance and strengthen the scope of high quality services to the more than 3,600 individuals and families we serve, provide a larger operational platform, leverage resources, and become more cost-effective. Together, we offer a comprehensive array of services including evaluation, habilitation, therapeutic, educational, residential, recreational, residential, and family support services.

Happiness House and CP Rochester understand our achievements, rely on the trust of our program participants and their families, donors, team members, and others; we will continue to strive to earn your confidence by conducting our business with integrity, dependability, and commitment.

We appreciate and value the relationship we have with you. Because of our steadfast commitment to the individuals who receive services at Happiness House and CP Rochester, we will continue to be true to our missions to change lives.

Living Center (cont.)

"Happiness House will provide residents with services based on their individual needs, including case management, individualized training for independent living skills, wellness and money management education, pre-vocational training, assistance with job search, and direct care support," said Eileen Gage, Happiness House Board Chair and Vice President of Nursing at Finger Lakes Health .

Mary Walsh Boatfield, Happiness House CEO adds, "Happiness House will ensure quality care, compliance and will utilize various funding streams in serving all eligible individuals with disabilities who will reside in this home." We are very fortunate, given the state of this economy, to be afforded this opportunity to expand our services and it's imperative that we continue to look for alternative, cost effective ways to provide needed services in the future.

Happiness House is committed to providing a safe environment with cost effective, integrated, lifelong opportunities for individuals with and without disabilities where they can enhance their life skills, access public transportation to our community, as they strive toward increased independence.

Happiness House is pleased to announce a partnership with iCircle Services, a collaboration of community providers who are working together to help define a path to deliver the most diversified, robust, high quality services to people with developmental disabilities and their families in the Central New York Region. Learn more about iCircle at <http://icirclefl.org>.

A SPECIAL PLACE

I am writing to you about a place that is very special to me and my family. Our son Peyton was born on June 25, 2008. Like any other parent, we were so excited for our first child! His birth was one of the happiest days of our lives. However, we were shocked to find out that things would be different because Peyton was born with a form of spina bifida called myelomeningocele. We did not know that Peyton would be born with a disability. However, we embraced it and made a commitment to do whatever it took for him to live the best life possible. We did not know much at all about this form of disability and quickly learned that Peyton would have trouble walking, have continence issues, and possible learning disabilities. As Peyton grew older we learned that he was on the Autism spectrum. I'd be lying if I said that every day was easy or that I never shed a tear. But when you look at your son who never has shed a tear over his struggles lying on a hospital bed after surgery and he says to you, "I'm okay, Daddy," you realize that you truly do have someone special.

At the age of two, we enrolled Peyton at Happiness House. He could barely walk, struggled to interact with other children, and barely spoke at all. The staff at Happiness House became part of our team in raising Peyton, and the incredible head coach of our team is my wife, Becky. Peyton has special medical needs that require attention even while he is at school. Nurse Amy at Happiness House is very special to us because she was quick to learn about Peyton's disability and his day-to-day care.

This past summer Peyton had surgery to reconstruct his bowel and bladder. Nurse Amy sometimes called my wife Becky with questions to ask doctors, or with suggestions that would make Peyton more comfortable. The Happiness House staff quickly got Peyton started in physical, occupational, and speech therapy, and he immediately began to progress.

Peyton began to walk better right away, and now walks around the classroom with his walker. He also learned to use a wheelchair. Seeing the smile on his face the first time we got to see him zoom down the hallway was something we'll never forget. Peyton's speech has also improved. He is now able to communicate his wants and needs, as well as what cartoon he wants to watch.

We've also seen Peyton begin to interact more with other children. For example, when Peyton brought his new wheelchair in to show off to his classmates last week, the kids loved it and one boy told him it was awesome, which was...well...AWESOME. All of his teachers, one-to-one aides, therapists, and classmates at Happiness House have been amazing, we can't thank them enough. We look forward to the notes that are written in his notebook telling us each day what he accomplishes. Happiness House is the perfect name; every time you go there everyone really is so happy. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank everyone that is a part of Happiness House for making Peyton's and our family's lives better.

Becky and Justin Hilimire



A VOLUNTEER PERSPECTIVE: HANNAH HOOD

Hannah Hood began as a student volunteer at Happiness House in 2010. At that time, she didn't realize the impact her volunteer experience in the preschool program would have on her career goals and her desire to continue volunteering at Happiness House through 2013!

Hannah's first volunteer opportunity came in the fall of 2010 while taking the Children with Disabilities course at Hobart and William Smith Colleges (HWS). She began volunteering in the Blue Room at Happiness House under Luann Ryan, Special Education Teacher. She soon realized that the small amount of time she had in the classroom wasn't enough, and over the course of the next year she worked with HWS to find a way to return to Happiness House. Hannah most recently completed an independent study focused on inclusive early childhood practices that support her experiences at Happiness House.

Luann refers to Hannah as their 'silent soldier'. "She arrives, hangs up her coat, and immediately interacts with the students. Her maturity and knowledge far outweigh her years, and it has been a pleasure having her in the Blue Room for the last three years. She will be missed and her empty shoes will be difficult to fill. Hannah has a genuine love of children and the field she is entering."

Hannah completed the Master of Arts Teaching program at HWS and graduated in May 2013 with dual certification in elementary education and teaching students with disabilities. Hannah has become a 2013 Teach for America (TFA) corps member in Massachusetts, where she will spend the next two years teaching special education in a low-income school district on the south coast.

Everyone at Happiness House wishes Hannah well as she embarks on her teaching career. She will always have a part of Happiness House with her and we know she too, will change lives forever.



THANK YOU, UNISYS

Unisys and Unisys Technical Services employees at The Rochester Managed Service Center work hard to develop partnerships with our local community. The Rochester site learned of Happiness House through one of its managers, Eric Fuhrmann, whose family benefitted from services provided by this wonderful organization. Working with Eric, the Rochester facility decided to help by collecting arts and craft supplies for the children and adults participating in Happiness House programs.

The supply drive was an excellent way to bring awareness to Rochester employees about this organization. Employees really connected with the effort and supplied thousands of sheets of construction paper, glue sticks, crayons, pencils, and other items over the course of the four-week drive.

A VISIT WITH SPECIAL FRIENDS

Brenda and Dave Rickey had fun learning how the Smart board is used while visiting our daycare/preschool children recently. Their generosity to Happiness House enables us to provide cutting-edge technologies that help our children learn. We appreciate their support.

www.happinesshouse.org

MIRACLES HAPPEN EVERY DAY

My son, Graham was born a micropreemie at 25 gestational weeks, weighing only 1lb. 14oz. Graham spent his first 91 days of life in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Golisano Children's Hospital, where he faced a number of medical challenges, creating an uncertain outlook on his survival.

The staff at Golisano Children's Hospital have become like family to us, and we are forever grateful to them, not only for paving the way to success for our miracle baby, but for also making a very difficult experience just a little bit easier. Not a day goes by that we aren't reminded of how their exceptional staff played a key role in his survival. Graham continues to be followed by Golisano's Cardiology, Pulmonology, Urology, and Ophthalmology Departments, as well as their Infant/Toddler Developmental Program.

After discharge, we were referred to the Early Intervention Program, which allows Graham to be followed by a physical therapist at Happiness House, who is helping him catch up to his adjusted age. Due to the support from Golisano Children's Hospital and Happiness House through the Early Intervention Program, we are confident that any delays Graham faces will be corrected at a young age, so that the need for school-aged services are not necessary. Now that Graham is home, Early Intervention provides us with a sense of relief, knowing that he is still being looked after. Graham continues to amaze us every day with his new abilities and milestones which he is able to meet because of the ongoing support of these programs and specialists that we are so incredibly thankful for.



Laura Wakley
Happiness House Service Coordinator

GOOD PROGRESS

We are so proud of "B's" accomplishments since starting school with you all! Please consider coming to kindergarten with him in the fall. :-)

Matt and I cannot thank you all enough for all that you've done for our family. "B" is doing great and we never thought he would do this well so quickly after starting school. Thank you for your commitment to these children - you are making huge life-changing impacts on a lot of families.

Gill Snyder

JOHN P. CLARY AWARD

Happiness House/FLUCP Inc. held its annual John P. Clary Award ceremony at King's Catering 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.

Allyson Dorn is the 2012 recipient of the John P. Clary Award. She participates in multiple programs at Structured Day Program, is thoughtful of others and is always willing to help when needed. Ally works hard to motivate others to join groups and activities, and has taken on the responsibility of running a group during program. Ally is very willing to try anything, even if it is out of her comfort zone, and is a role model for her peers. She takes the initiative to introduce new consumers to the program and show them around the building and mentor them by answering questions and "showing them the ropes."



Ally is joined by John Clary's father, Kevin, mother, Rhonda, and sister, Emily, as she displays her 2012 John P. Clary award.



photo courtesy of Sharon R. Hann

FREEZEFEEST/POLAR PLUNGE 2013

The Happiness House Structured Day Program joined the fun this year "Freezin' for a Reason" at the Canandaigua FreezeFest at Onanda Park, Canandaigua, NY. The group plunged into the icy waters of Canandaigua Lake to raise money for the New York Special Olympics. Go team!



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The Happiness House 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 in Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates Counties.

I/We would like to support Happiness House through the Happiness House Foundation! Enclosed is my gift of:

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 Other: \$_____

Name: _____

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Please make checks payable to Happiness House Foundation. Remember, all donations are tax deductible within the guidelines established by the Internal Revenue Service.

Thank you in advance for your kind support!

