

Connections

NEWSLETTER



1



2



3



4

"Once-in-a-Lifetime" storm is endured by Canandaigua Happiness House

Pictured above:

- 1 - The flood infiltrating the Transition Apartments
- 2 - Water impacting our Phase I Apartments
- 3 - Clean-up inside of the Phase I Apartments
- 4 - The Main building narrowly avoided the flood

Read more inside on page 2.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>CEO Update</i>	2
<i>Agency Stories</i>	3-5
<i>APF Events</i>	6-7
<i>Grant Awards</i>	8
<i>Employee Recognition</i>	9
<i>Donors</i>	10-11

AN UPDATE --- FROM THE CEO



Darrell J. Whitbeck
PRESIDENT & CEO

On July 9th, Canandaigua experienced a devastating natural disaster, caused by torrential rain and damaging flooding. Our agency was in the bulls-eye of the flooding, with two of our residential buildings, our Transitional Apartment and Affordable Housing Apartment Buildings being overwhelmed by flood waters. Immediate action from first responders, town officials, staff, and the community led to the successful evacuation of trapped tenants, retrieval of personal belongings, and relocation to safer areas.

This once-in-a-lifetime storm left 26 individuals and families displaced and their home severely damaged. Tenants, who were able to, stayed with friends and families, and those who did not have that option were graciously hosted by the Zion Church, while plans could be made to secure temporary housing. Plans were swiftly made to move people to the Microtel in Geneva the following morning.

Through extensive clean-up efforts, we managed to remove water, mud, silt and debris from the buildings and begin repairs of over 1 million dollars in damages. We are nearing completion of the reconstruction phase of our recovery, which included replacement of damaged floors, walls, counters and appliances. We have been able to move tenants back, in phases, as we complete sections of the rebuild. We hope to have the buildings repaired and ready to welcome all tenants back within the next few months.

I am very thankful for the tenants, our community partners, and staff who have come together and worked so hard to make the best of a very difficult situation.

Other major milestones for our agencies:



All three agencies accepted over 500 individuals into our clinics ensuring no gaps in service when a local agency closed their doors.



Our Mental Health Clinic expanded. With the addition of a child psychologist we are able to serve ages 5 and older.



We secured a grant to purchase 8 vans and 1 truck through CDBG Cares to enhance our fleet and decrease transportation costs.

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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*deceased

MEET MILO



Milo Howick's parents says he had a "bumpy" start to life involving a heart surgery, a nose surgery, and a skull surgery all before the age of one. Now, the 4-year-old preschooler attends our Geneva Happiness House and is finding his stride. When he started in preschool, he spoke only in vowels and was frustrated when he wasn't understood.

"By Christmas, Milo had an explosion of vocabulary and has now, along with his sister, Elsie, become quite the chatterbox and can even do a convincing British accent! The fantastic speech therapists at Happiness House worked with Milo one-on-one and gave us guidance on how to help at home," said parents Catherine and George.

Milo helped the Hobart Statesmen toss the coin to begin their annual Tackles & Touchdowns fundraiser. This year, the Statesmen shut-out the St. Lawrence Dutchmen in their homecoming game 35-0! Prior to the game, over 30 players visited Happiness House's Geneva site to spend time with the preschool children.





You Can't Judge a House by its Size

When Jeffrey (JJ) and his family started looking for an Individualized Residential Alternative (IRA) they approached CP Rochester for a visit. The first house they toured was too small for JJ's liking and he and his family became discouraged. However, CP Rochester had another opening in a bigger, more populated house.

With his family in tow, JJ toured Benedict and stayed for dinner swapping stories with the residents. By the time he got home, he went right to his room and began packing, his sister remembered. The IRA that could have been a deterrent for some with its large capacity, felt instead to JJ like a big happy family. He had found his niche, his own space, his home.

Now, JJ has been a resident for six years and wouldn't change a thing. JJ's favorite things about living at Benedict are the variety of meals, the friends he lives with, the staff he spends time with, and creating his own rules in every game of Uno.

If you or a loved one are looking for IRAs, JJ recommends touring with an open mind because you never know when you will find your forever home.

ALL AROUND THE AGENCIES



JOHN CLARY AWARDS

Winners from L-R: Kim & Mike

Finalists from L-R: Irene, Scott, Kim, Mike, and Sumer.

Not pictured: Scott & Kathy

- Happiness House's Adult Structured Day Program recognizes the hard work and perseverance necessary to overcome a serious brain injury. This year's John Clary Award winners were Kim Cromwell and Mike Karge.
- Kim was nominated and chosen as a winner for her perseverance, caring demeanor, strength, and for being a role model as a quiet leader.
- Mike was nominated and was chosen as a winner for being helpful and caring to peers, for his positive attitude and good sense of humor and for his perseverance in walking regularly to regain his strength to remain independent.

SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER



Through Thanksgiving and Christmas, our employees have been hard at work ensuring a magical holiday season to all of our families. This year, with the help of generous companies and individuals, we provided Thanksgiving meals to 208 people and Christmas gifts to 217 people across all three agencies.

Every child in our preschool programs was given a gift during the holiday season.



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: Massa Construction, Inc. and OneGroup

Tournament +: Bill Cram Chevrolet

CO-ED WINNING TEAM
TEAM MITCHELL

WOMEN'S WINNING TEAM
TEAM STEO

MEN'S WINNING TEAM
CANANDAIGUA FINANCIAL



5K RUN & FOR FUN
1M WALK FOR WELLNESS

Taking strides for people of all abilities

A huge thank you to the 15 sponsors, and 100 runners/walkers/volunteers who raised over \$7,000 for Ability Partners Foundation!

A shout-out to our Honorary Chair, Zach Sands!

Top Runners Men:

- Noah Mandel - 16m 40s
- Josh Harter - 18m 16s
- Venelin Tchamov - 20m 31s

Top Runners Women:

- Audry Mattle - 21m 46s
- Kim Eisler- 29m 51s
- Ginelle Knittle - 31m 23s

Top Runners Kids:

- Matthew Mayeu - 21m 37s
- Whitney Finger - 23m 19s
- Alex Knittle - 28m 59s

Gold: Alesco Advisors LLC

Copper: Lawley Insurance

Bronze: Al Sigl Community of Agencies, Benefits Management, Inc., Burke Group LLC, Colonial Fire Protection Systems, Inc., Chuck & Donna Graham, and Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.

Patron: AP Plumbing and Joyce Weir

Friend: ComTon, Inc. and Saul & Abigail Rasnick



Tournament: Relph Benefit Advisors | The Alera Group, Canandaigua Financial Group, Edward Jones, Morgan Stanley, Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, and Lamar Advertising

Double Eagle: Gloria Grant Dalfonso (IHO Ty Coppola) and Janet Hardy

Eagle: Integris IT, Jenkins Family & Scott, Ron & Mary Pluta, J. Michael Reed, Jennie & Chuck Ryan, Seneca Meadows, and Philipp & Daniele Bonafiglia Wirth

Birdie: Downtown Deli, Ferrara Building Supplies Inc., Generations Bank, Richard Hawks Jr., Bob & Mary Ellen Kernan, and Xylem, Inc.

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Other: Mona Alongi, Bob & Chris Latella, Joseph & Lauri Nigro Jr., Pandion Optimization Alliance, William & Linda Turri, Smooth Sailing Dental | Dr. W. Roger Long

AM
GROUP



BOWLING to **raise BUCKS**

returned to a SOLD-OUT crowd and raised over \$20,000!

Thank you to our generous sponsors!

Trophy Sponsors: Eileen & Craig Gage, Massa Construction, and USI Insurance

VIP Sponsors: Bill Cram Chevrolet, Goldman Sachs, Chuck & Donna Graham, and Relph Benefit Advisors | The Alera Group

Turkey Sponsors: Roseland Bowl, Seneca Lake Power Washing, Dale Twardokus/New Vision Development Group, and Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.

Board Challenge Sponsors: Andy Bonafiglia, Rick & Linda Hawks & Families, Rachel Kielon, Diana Smith, and Elsa Steo

Strike Sponsor: Wiretek Communications



GRANTS RECEIVED

AMONG THE AGENCIES

NY STATE EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT

\$740,000 was awarded to Rochester Rehabilitation for building renovations and updates to the University Avenue location.

CP STATE COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH PROGRAM (CHOP)

CP Rochester was awarded \$10,000 to purchase two x-ray arms for the Family Dental Center. Happiness House received \$5,100 to repair the deck and doors of the Maple Ave IRA and a \$4,900 grant award for employee PCA training sessions.

KILIAN J. & CAROLINE R. SCHMITT FOUNDATION

CP Rochester was awarded \$5,000 to be used by the Adaptive Workshop to make sensory materials for the preschools and replenish supplies in the Workshop.

STARBUCKS FOUNDATION

A \$1,000 grant was awarded to Ability Partners Foundation for the Acts of Kindness program.

ROCHESTER PRESS-RADIO CLUB

SportsNet was awarded \$750 to purchase a new computer and its software.

NEW YORK OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

A total of \$134,740 was awarded to CP Rochester and \$409,760 was awarded to Happiness House for staff recruitment and retention.

UNITED WAY OF GREATER ROCHESTER & THE FINGER LAKES OFFICE OF COMMUNITY IMPACT

A \$63,333 grant was awarded to Rochester Rehabilitation for general operations.

MCGOWAN GIN ROSICA FAMILY FOUNDATION, INC.

\$6,635 was received to purchase supplies and install an x-ray arm for the CP Rochester Family Dental Center.

WEGMANS

\$1,950 was awarded to support the tenants evacuated from the Canandaigua floods.

F.F. THOMPSON FOUNDATION

A \$1,000 grant was awarded to Happiness House to purchase and install raised garden bed kits for the Day Habilitation program to maintain.

THE MARILYN LICHTMAN FOUNDATION

A \$50,000 grant was awarded to CP Rochester's Family Dental Center (FDC) to be used towards FDC operations.

GRANTS AWARDED

ABILITY PARTNERS FOUNDATION AWARDED \$15K TO ABILITY PARTNERS AGENCIES IN INTERNAL GRANTS IN JUNE 2023

CP ROCHESTER (\$5,000)

- The Clinic was awarded \$2,263 to purchase Blazepods, Playball, and Tidal Tanks apps and resources for therapeutic rehabilitation.
- Family Dental Center received \$1,330 for new stools for the hygienists.
- \$1,407 was awarded to purchase clothing/apparel for consistent branding when staff are in the community in a professional setting.

HAPPINESS HOUSE (\$5,000)

- The Apartments were awarded \$1,000 to purchase housing assistance.
- \$3,478 was awarded to the Structured Day Program for garden improvements.
- \$522 was awarded to purchase clothing/apparel for consistent branding when staff are in the community in a professional setting.

ROCHESTER REHABILITATION (\$5,000)

- DriveOn was awarded \$833 for adaptive cameras in a training vehicle for individuals with a limited range of motion in their necks.
- \$3,425 was awarded to OneSource Solutions to purchase door jammers, door locks, and lined insulated drapes for the office areas.
- Ventures PROS received \$500 to purchase lighting, audio equipment, and backdrops for their annual talent show.
- \$192 was awarded to purchase clothing/apparel for brand management.



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

OUR AGENCIES RECOGNIZED THE DEDICATION AND HARD WORK OF ALL OF OUR EMPLOYEES AT EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION EVENTS.



2023 Mary Griswold Professional Service Award Winners
Renee Yarger, Riley Eike, and Marsha Edwards

5 Years of Service

Joanne Dirlam
Jillian Holtz
Linda Linkner
Stephanie Manno
Cynthia Sabin

10 Years of Service

Michelle O'Brien

15 Years of Service

Laura Wakley

20 Years of Service

Julie Bertram
Amy Hamlin
Darrell J. Whitbeck

25 Years of Service

Anne Battaglia
Lynne Colacino
Diane Crofoot
Donna Poccia

30 Years of Service

Jacqueline Schmit

5 Years of Service

Shatyra Oliver
Emily Orban
Alicia Pope
Jessica Pratt
Alexandra Rhinewald
Melissa Wheatley

15 Years of Service

Latiffany Anderson
Carly Gioia
Shana Green

20 Years of Service

Letecia Bryant
Maryann Hobson
Melisa Steinmetz
Wilma Walker

25 Years of Service

Marcus Benjamin

30 Years of Service

Laurie Gendron



2023 John Horvath Professional Service Award Winners
Emily DeSanctis, Joanne Huenemoerder-Dohse, & Melissa Nesmith



2023 Professional Service Award Winners
Carol Anderson, David Landers, and Edward DiFiore

5 Years of Service

Ricky Benion
Pamela Brown
Teretha Holmes
Michael Litavsky
Michael Lucyszyn
MaryLou McCloud

10 Years of Service

Be T. Nguyen

15 Years of Service

Hana Adur
Christopher Morrison
Ray Ornt

20 Years of Service

Tina Shoemaker

25 Years of Service

George Wagner

35 Years of Service

John Hahn

RETIREMENT NOTICE



Congratulations to Anne Battaglia, Executive Vice President of Human Resources on her retirement in February 2024. Anne has been a part of Happiness House and the Ability Partners family for 26 years.

Anne was instrumental in the partnership of Happiness House, CP Rochester, and Rochester Rehabilitation through policy creation and leadership transitions. She continues to lead the Human Resource team and has helped to reduce vacant positions by 20% since the Pandemic!

Anne looks forward to spending time doting on her grandchildren and traveling.

Sponsors and Donors

THANK YOU to our generous donors who contributed to the Foundation and our agencies. In the following pages we acknowledge all donors who donated between May 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023.

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\$25,000+

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\$10,000 - \$14,999

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2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**4/27
2024**

**Autism Awareness &
Acceptance Walk**

**5/17
2024**

**Honoring Heroes Gala & Auction
in the Finger Lakes**

**8/7
2024**

**Francis "Ben" Bonafiglia
Golf Tournament**

**12/1
2024**

Bowling to Raise Bucks



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