

2021 Annual Report

Your Support in Action:

*Healthier Communities. Bigger Impacts.
Greater Opportunities for Getting Better at Life.*



Center for
Disability Services



A letter from our CEO

Your Support in Action: Healthier Communities, Bigger Impacts, Greater Opportunities for Getting Better at Life.

2021 was certainly about keeping our community healthier, with the ever-present goal of getting everyone better at life. It was a year of adjustments as we continued to deal with the different COVID variants while working to bring back some programming, activities, and visitation with family and friends for the individuals we support and their families.

To achieve our goal, we needed to vaccinate our staff and those in our care aggressively. Through an amazing partnership with the Capital Region Vaccination Hub coordinated through Albany Medical Center, we ensured that the disability community got access early in the process. Read all about this successful effort in this report.

While managing the pandemic accounted for a disproportionate amount of our efforts, we also continued to advance innovation through the Health Innovations Incubator and Technology Center (HII Tech), the research and development division of the Center. In July 2021, Dr. Eric Ledet joined us on a full-time basis as the Vice President of Research and Development and Director of HII Tech. Dr. Ledet is a Biomedical Engineer with extensive experience

in the medical field, in addition to the 10 years of knowledge in the disability field he has gained working with the Center on other projects. He leads a team that will continue to develop products to improve the independence and lives of individuals with disabilities, such as our patent-pending oral hygiene product. We are excited for the future of our incubator, and the impact that we can make for individuals with disabilities, allowing them to be more independent and inclusive in their community.

As we look back on 2021, the truly heroic efforts of our staff shine brightly. From the beginning of this pandemic, we have had to make constant adjustments, many of which change the day-to-day routine of our staff. Regulations changed often, sometimes multiple times per day, as information became available and new variants started to emerge. Our staff remained committed to keeping the individuals in their care as safe as possible, and went above and beyond to make sure that family members were able to stay in communication when a particular home or program was closed to outside visitation.

Our staff did what they always do—they put the needs of the individuals in their care first. This is why our staff are so valued by family members and our agency. They embody our mission, and



we value each of them and want to highlight their dedication and commitment.

We look forward to the balance of 2022 with the hope that we emerge from the grips of this pandemic and start seeing people back together with a new set of priorities and expectations. We certainly never could have predicted what has happened this past 18 months, and likely cannot predict the next 18 months either. What we can predict with some certainty is that the Center staff, the Pillars of this organization, will continue to address the challenges before us, and with the continued support of our families, community partners, and the Capital Region, we will work to make the Center the place **Where People Get Better at Life.**

Gregory J. Sorrentino

Gregory J. Sorrentino
President/Chief Executive Officer

A letter from our Chairperson

The Center deeply values it's relationship with the Community. We are an important resource in the Capital Region and greater Region as well. The Community stepped up again to support our #518 Gives fundraiser and making for a "Bigger Impact" and successful start to the year.

With all the challenges the Center faced in 2021 came "Greater Opportunities" to forge and deepen relationships and make for a "Healthier Community". We have and are working with Albany Medical Center and the New York State Industries For The Disabled(NYSID) to help provide expanded health opportunities and employment opportunities for those with disabilities respectively.

Our relationships with many Government leaders has grown

considerably and the Center's reputation and the important work we do is well respected by our State Government. This partnership is very important to the State and our Community now and into the future.

Regardless of the challenges the Center faced in 2021 the "Commitment to Excellence" in serving the consumers and their families never wavered. The Center continues to provide outstanding care and services as well as opportunities to those we serve.

The entire organization should take great pride in its ongoing mission to create and sustain an environment helping those with disabilities regardless of the many challenges. The future for the Center looks very bright.



I have been associated with the Center for over 22 years and I continue to be very proud to be associated with such an exceptional organization **Where People Get Better At Life.**

Milton C. Hall, III

Mr. Milton C. Hall, III, CLU
Chairperson of the Board

2021 Governing Board of Directors

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For a listing of other Center for Disability Services Boards, please visit our website cfdnsny.org



Notes from a busy 2021 of supportive programs

Day Programs

As 2021 progressed, the Center slowly, but safely, began to return to in-person programming. Of course, COVID-19 was and continues to be an ever-present concern, but across our programs and services, we were able to increase the number of individuals served in our day program sites and began visitation at St. Margaret's Center in accordance with State guidelines and agency established protocol.

The Center's New Karner site was opened as a rec center for some individuals who have not been able to return back to their day program, providing an opportunity for individuals to come together, socialize, and participate in a variety of different activities.

Down Syndrome Aim High Resource Center

In 2021, the Down Syndrome Aim High Resource Center provided 25 Expectant/New Parent Packets with critical resources at area hospitals, and delivered 10 Welcome Baby baskets to new parents. DSAHRC also provided Professional Development & Educational Consultation on successful strategies for education of

students with disabilities to 66 Education Professionals (Teachers, Administrators, and Teaching Assistants).

Education

Congratulations to the graduates of the Kevin G. Langan School Class of 2021! Chloe, Taylor, Talia, Brian, Rashad, Timothy, and Shakeem have all worked very hard over their many years at Langan School to achieve their diplomas. It was a wonderful outdoor graduation, with inspiring words from commencement speaker, Siena College president Dr. Chris Gibson. A very special thank you to our dedicated and caring staff, who nurtured, educated, and supported these graduates, and helped them reach their goals. Your work was on display last evening, and you should be very proud of the accomplishments of these 7 graduates.

Also in 2021, push-in educational services were brought to the residents' living spaces and two classrooms at St. Margaret's Center to maximize learning opportunities for students who have not returned to Langan School due to the pandemic.

St. Margaret's Center

In March, 2021, the MDRT Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant to assist with a bedroom renovation project at St. Margaret's Center, the Center's pediatric and adolescent nursing home. In addition, a grant from the JM McDonald Foundation helped St. Margaret's acquire a ceiling projector that allows children and young adults interact with a virtual display on the floor, complete with engaging graphics and sounds that encourage interaction, discovery, and play.

Family Services

In 2021, the Center opened a new freestanding respite location in Queensbury. This facility will provide much needed respite services to families and caregivers in and around the North Country. The new facility will allow us to provide respite services to 15 people in the day to early evening hours and 8 people overnight, with services available to individuals aged 6 and up living with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Residential Services

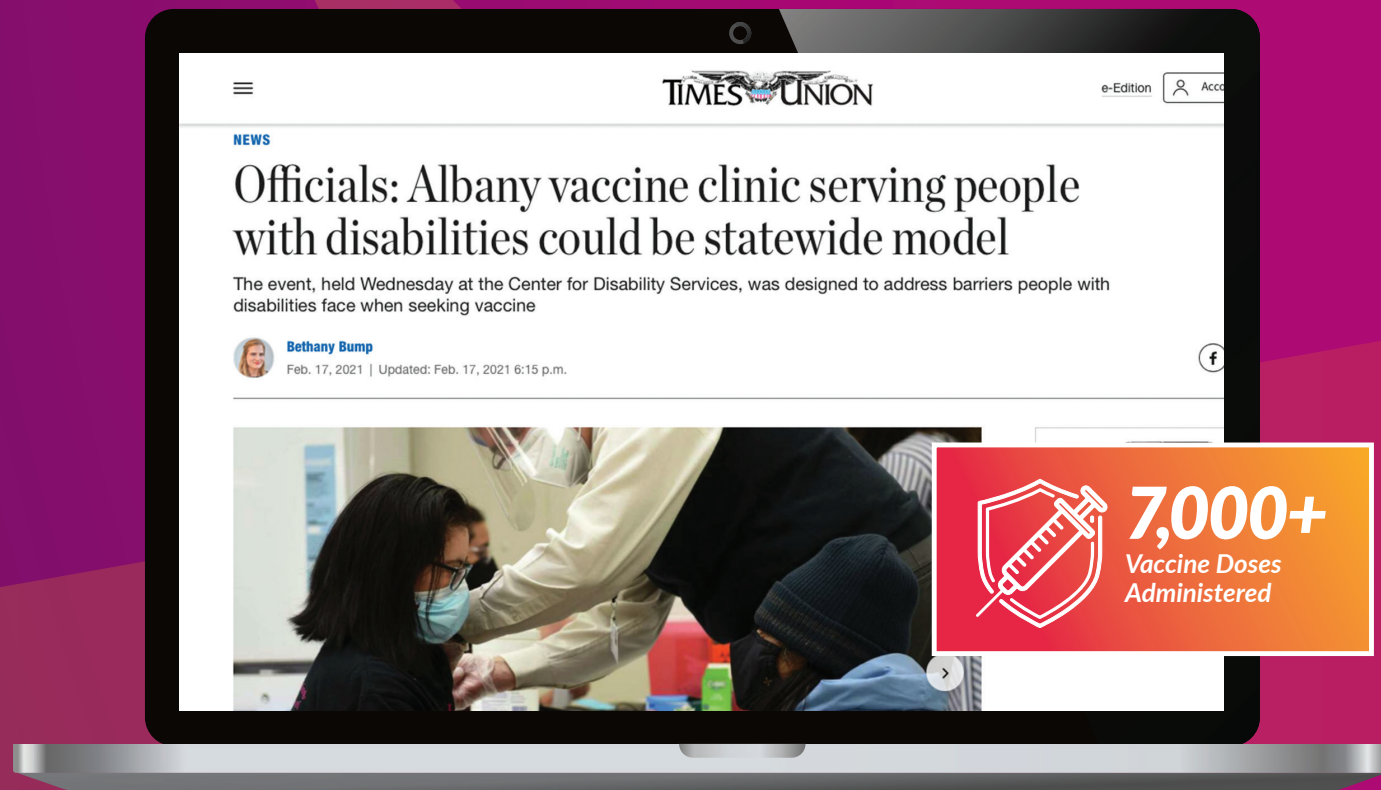
New Adult Recreation Programs are now offered at Corporate Circle and 700 South Pearl Street.

These programs provide activities and socialization opportunities for individuals living within our residential program.

The Center for Disability Services now operates 53 residences.

Center Health Care

Phase II renovations and upgrades to Center Health Care's Dental Clinic are now complete thanks to grants from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation, Cohoes Savings Foundation, Hearst Foundation, and Jacob & Sophie Rice Family Foundation. The dental clinic was started in the late 1970's in a one room office in the Center's school program and has evolved over the years into a state-of-the-art clinic that provides services to the Capital Region community.



Bridging the vaccine gap for vulnerable community members

2021 began with a full court press to ensure that individuals with disabilities and all of our community members had access to COVID-19 vaccinations. In January 2021, the Center for Disability Services began administering COVID-19 vaccinations to front line staff, program participants, and members of the general community.

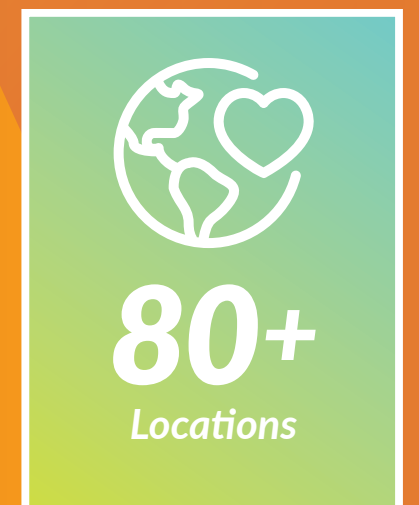
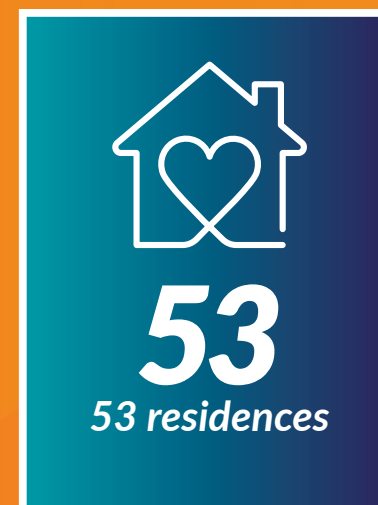
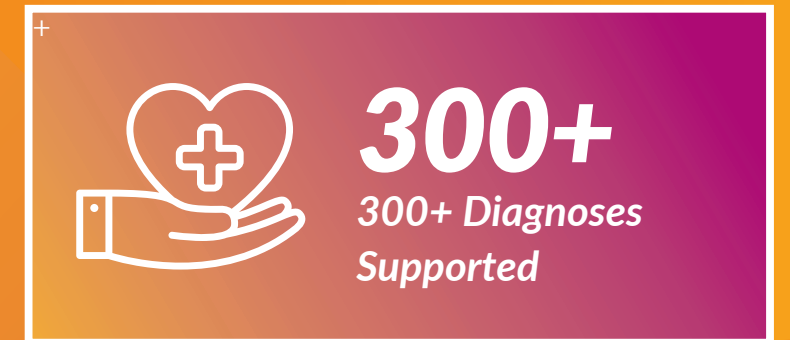
This effort bloomed over the year, from 400 shots administered on the first day, to over 7,000 doses.

This undertaking was coordinated through the Albany Vaccine Hub led by Albany Medical Center, County governments, and through the incredible dedication of our Center

Health Care staff, residential nurses, and various support staff. We have received many notes and calls from the community, and from other agencies, identifying the professionalism of our staff, and the gratitude for the ability to receive this vaccine in an accessible building, with all the necessary supports available.

There are many people to thank for this incredible effort, but we must identify Ruth Leslie from Albany Medical Center who oversaw the Capital Region Vaccination Hub, and the Albany Medical Center Leadership who prioritized individuals with disabilities, and Maureen O'Brien President and CEO of NYS Industries for the Disabled who represented the disability community on the Capital Region Hub. We also need to thank both Albany Medical Center and St. Peter's Health Partners for supplying our agency with the necessary vaccines, and Center nurses, and staff who arranged the clinics, administered the vaccine, and did a lot of work in registering individuals, scheduling appointments, and following through on second shots. The Center for Disability Services was awarded a Proclamation from the New York State Assembly and Senate for the work done through this clinic and the impact it had on our community. Because our staff and those we support are primarily vaccinated the Center was able to re-open our schools, some programs, and allow for visitation, obviously with limitations and safety protocols which we have followed and amended since March of 2020.

- Greg Sorrentino, President & CEO



News, Honors and Milestones



Center President and CEO Greg Sorrentino was honored as an Empire Blue Cross Whole Health Hero for his leadership at the Center and his efforts in ensuring continuity of care throughout the pandemic.

The Center was also named as one of the Leaders in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion by the Albany Business Review.

Several Center staff members were honored at the 75th Cerebral Palsy of New York State Annual Conference, including: Don Shorts, Senior Day Program Counselor, Stacie Sprague Cousineau, Special Education Teacher, Lameeka Tarver, Resident Counselor and Montoya Burt, Certified Nursing Assistant. In addition, NYSID President and CEO, and longtime friend of the Center, Maureen O'Brien, received the Anthony J. Koenig Volunteer Service Award.

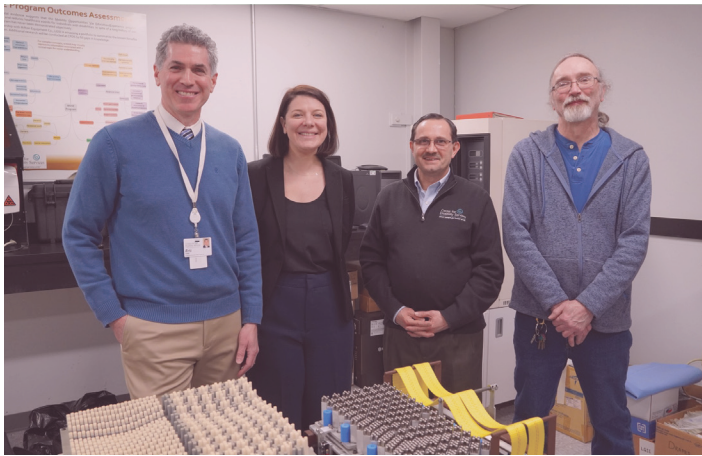


HII TECH: local innovation with global impact

2021 saw the official launch of the Health Innovations Incubator & Technology Center (HII Tech), formerly known as the Life Quality Solutions Incubator. HII Tech, led by Dr. Eric Ledet, Vice President, Research & Development, is the Center's research and development division, working to further the Center's mission, through technology and assistive products.

HII Tech's products in various stages of development include an innovative toothbrush specially designed for use by a caregiver, and tools for wheelchair users to navigate non-accessible space and mitigate pressure ulcers (bed sores) that commonly result from wheelchair use.

In 2021, HI Tech was also the recipient of a grant from the Bender Scientific Fund of the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region. With this funding, the Center was able to purchase a laser cutter for use by HII Tech's team of engineers and research and development fellows to cut and produce face shields in response to COVID-19.



Fundraising

In 2021, the Center was able to hold several of our signature fundraising events. In January, our annual #518gives telethon was completely virtual due to the pandemic, but the event was lively and filled with captivating performances and heartwarming stories. Celebrity appearances by musical artists Sawyer Fredericks, Madison VanDenburg, Moriah Formica, and Billy Gilman and special appearances by NY Giants Dion Lewis and NY

Yankees Aaron Boone made the event a memorable success. Later in the year, the Center was able to host more of our signature fundraising events in person, including the Shoppes at Newton Plaza Siro's Cup in July to kick off the Saratoga Racing Season, honoring Marylou Whitney (posthumously) and Chef Tom Dillon (posthumously), the Million Dollar Beach Volleyball Tournament to benefit Prospect Center, An

Aficionado Experience presented by Northwestern Mutual with special guest, former NY Yankee Chris Chambliss, Capital Region Buddy Walk to benefit the Down Syndrome Aim High Resource Center (which was held as a car parade), and the Festival of Trees to benefit Prospect Center. Thank you to our community for a successful year in fundraising to support the Center for Disability Services.



Center for Disability Services

Our wide range of services under a single umbrella allows us to provide a seamless continuum of care as the people we support age or as their needs change.



Whether you need us for the weekend, a week, or a lifetime, whether it's in your home or ours, the Center for Disability Services is here to support you and your family.



Prospect Center
An Affiliate of Center for Disability Services

St. Margaret's Center
An Affiliate of Center for Disability Services

Kevin G. Langan School
At the Center for Disability Services

Down Syndrome Aim High Resource Center
At the Center for Disability Services

Clover Patch Camp
At the Center for Disability Services

Camp Spectacular
At the Center for Disability Services

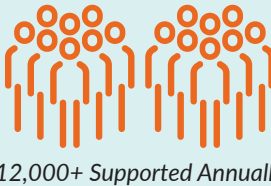
Clover Patch Preschool
At the Center for Disability Services

Financial Summary

Thank you to our supporters for their generosity.



92.28% Program Service Expenses
7.72% Management in General



Additional information of our Audited 2021 Financial Statement is available upon request.

Please join us and make the Center part of your personal philanthropy and legacy

For over 75 years, the Center for Disability Services has been one of upstate New York's largest providers of programs and services for individuals who have disabilities. The Center for Disability Services is the place where people get better at life, but we need your support. Help us in our mission to support others, and make a difference today.

Ways to Give



Your financial contributions help us support the community.



Make a planned gift and join the Guardian Circle.



Help us provide ongoing services by including the Center in your planned giving efforts.



Donations also accepted directly at cfdsny.org/giving

Since your support is so essential to our mission, we have made it easy to help us provide ongoing services and make a positive impact on more lives. Whether you are interested in sending a single one-time donation, or if you'd like to make the Center a part of your recurring charitable giving, we provide numerous options.

Please call 518-944-2121 to learn how you can support our mission.

Center for Disability Services

Where people get better at life™

“Our commitment to our mission is stronger than ever.”

–Gregory J. Sorrentino, President/Chief Executive Officer



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