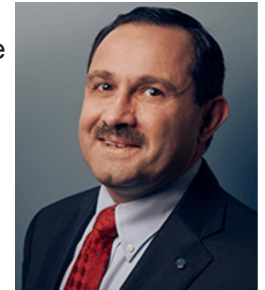




I hope everyone had a nice summer, and have been able to enjoy the great start to the fall season.

The Center is entering the time of year, where we recognize the staff through recognition events in-house and at the State level through our Provider Association Conference in late October. Soon after the pumpkins go away, we enter the holiday season, we are thankful for many things, and the work our staff do each day, is at the top of the list. This newsletter recognizes some of our staff recognition events, staff who have been award winners, and opportunities we have as an organization to serve those in our community who need us, and the programs and services we offer.



I would like to congratulate our most recent awardees, we had four Winners of the Cerebral Palsy of NYS Awards (State CP), which recognize staff who were nominated by their peers for these statewide awards. Susan Brady, Activities Specialist (Day Program), Ileana Larios, LPN (St. Margaret's Center), Shamell Anderson, Resident Counselor (Residential Program), and Elizabeth "Beth" Keating, Physical Therapist, (Center Health Care) were all award winners this year. All four individuals combined, have 70 years of Mission driven service at the Center, and represent the essence of what the Center for Disability Services is about. I would also like to acknowledge James "Jim" Luther, who received the Patrick J Rielly Award, for Exemplary School Spirit, at the Kevin G. Langan Graduation in June. I would also like to recognize Stephanie Ostrowski, as she is the recipient of the Anthony J Koenig Volunteer Service Award. This statewide award, recognizes Stephanie's dedication to the residents, and staff at St. Margaret's Center. Stephanie's generosity of her time through weekly visits, gifts for residents, and overall positive impact on everyone at St. Margaret's, makes her the perfect person for statewide recognition.

On September 10th and 11th, we held our Direct Support Professionals events, celebrating at Cook Park in Colonie, combining our DSP workers from our Day and Residential programs. It was two beautiful weather days, with food and ice cream trucks, games, parent speakers, and a few hours for our hard working staff to relax, and socialize with co-workers, as we recognize these individuals for their important and valuable work.

On September 11th, we recognized our Environmental Services staff for the tremendous work they do each day keeping our programs clean, safe, and comfortable for those we support and for our staff. The Environmental Services staff are very dedicated to their craft, and make us all proud when we walk our buildings and take pride in the appearance and cleanliness.

On September 17th, we recognized our Center Health staff, for the work they do, in one of the few clinics that remain in New York State, focused on the accessibility and services needed for the individuals we support.

On September 30th we held our DEI Kick-Off event, which is the culmination of our three year project working with a DEI consultant. Thank you to the members of our DEI team, both past and present, who have worked together to develop a culture of acceptance and inclusivity at the Center. We value all of our staff, and want to continue a culture of teamwork, cooperation, and acceptance for all of our employees.

While we designate certain times of year to formally recognize staff, our trust and appreciation for the work all of our staff do, exists each and every day. Thank you to all members of the Center team for making the Center for Disability Services, where *People Get Better At Life*.



Message From Maria Kansas Devine  
Chief Medical Officer

Dear Center Families

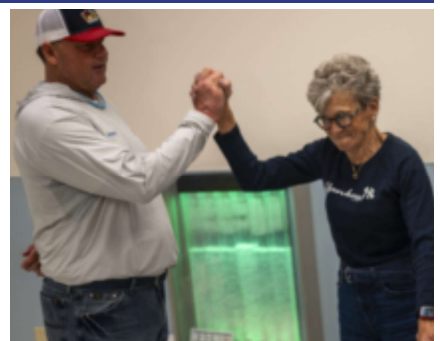
Center Health Care is proud to announce the opening of a new blood draw site at 314 So Manning. Many years of discussion and collaboration with Albany Medical Center have resulted in the creation of a fully disability accessible blood draw space which will provide a much needed and often neglected medical service. Individuals with physical and developmental disabilities have logistical challenges to having routine and urgent bloodwork done that are critical in monitoring complex medical issues. Our space has three open bays which while ensuring privacy have adequate space to accommodate those with special needs as well as routine patients. Our parking lot allows simple access through the outside of the building for all comers. We are always happy to extend additional service and to simplify our patients' access which ultimately, enhances safety and health monitoring. Welcome Albany Med Laboratory Services!



MLB Legend Roger Clemens



! Boston Red Sox/NY Yankee an 11-time MLB All-Star and two-time World Series Champion Roger Clemens took time out of his busy schedule to visit with the individuals served, staff and families at our 314 South Manning Blvd site.



After a press conference, mingling, posing for photos, signing autographs for Clover Patch Preschool and Langan School students and Day Habilitation Program Participants. Clemens went on to be the Sports Celebrity Guest at the 30th Anniversary of An Aficionado Experience event presented by Northwestern Mutual.



Everyone at the Center would like to thank our hosts-Gina and Alessandro Tronco and Christine and George R. Hearst III and Roger Clemens for providing so many smiles and great memories for all!



# Exciting Updates from the Incubator

Hello, everyone!

I'm Jonathan Underwood, the new Director of the HII-Tech Incubator at the Center for Disability Services. Drawing on my background in mechanical engineering and eight years of experience in delivering innovative designs and advanced manufacturing systems across the globe, I'm thrilled to lead our team into an exciting new chapter.



## My Background

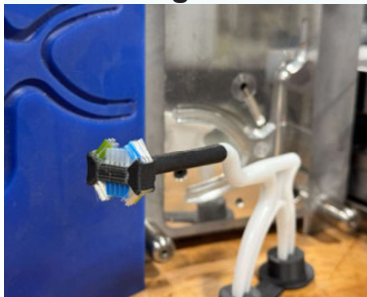
Throughout my career, I have focused on product design, development, and manufacturing from engineering to project management. My experience includes overseeing the delivery of cutting-edge research machines for the metallurgy industry, as well as machine tools and manufacturing processes in the aerospace and defense industries. I am passionate about leveraging technology as an accelerator for innovation.

## Incubator Updates

I'm excited to share some fantastic news from our incubator:

- **Innovation:** We've been awarded three patents, with two additional patents filed. This is a testament to our commitment to innovation! We have a few projects with conceptual prototypes, but I can't share those details just yet - stay tuned!

- **Caregiver Toothbrush:**



Our caregiver toothbrush was born out of a need for a more efficient brushing process. We have completed the Research & Development phase and are now undergoing clinical trials with Tufts University. The clinical trials have progressed through the first two phases, with one phase remaining. In the second phase, the results showed that the caregiver toothbrush significantly outperforms a standard toothbrush at brushing another individual's teeth. This is a major victory!

## Meet the Team

I'm proud to work alongside our Operations Manager, Dr. Larry Ruff, PhD, and three talented volunteers from RPI. The contributions from our alumni are invaluable, and we thank them for their contributions to our mission of improving lives through innovation. As the summer has concluded, so has the tenure of our fellows and many volunteers, who are the backbone of the team here at the incubator. To that end, we're recruiting fellows, interns, and volunteers. We welcome all education levels, disciplines, and skill sets, particularly those in STEM and business. If you're interested in joining our mission, I'd love to hear from you!

Thank you for being part of our journey. Together, we're making strides in innovation and improving lives!



### Direct Support Professional Recognition

On September 10th and 11th we held three events to honor our DSPs from both Day Program and the Residential Division. The weather was very cooperative and everyone had a great time!

Special thanks to our family speakers; Marianne Heigle, Sue Nevins and Donna Lamkin. Thank you to the committee for their hard work and most of all thank you to our dedicated DSP staff for the work they do each and every day!



## The 2024 CP State Annual Conference



Please join us in congratulating; Greg Sorrentino, President & CEO at the Center, and Stephanie Ostrowski, Volunteer at St. Margaret's Center, who were each presented with awards at the Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State conference, recognizing their commitment to bettering the lives of individuals with disabilities. Stephanie Ostrowski received the Anthony J. Koenig Volunteer Award in recognition of her heartfelt volunteerism at St. Margaret's Center. Stephanie became part of the St. Margaret's family through her daughter who lived with us for 16 years and has remained involved through our volunteer program. Stephanie does anything she can to better the lives of everyone involved with St. Margaret's Center; whether that means being a support to the people who live and work there, engaging with families, or as a mentor to our other volunteers. She is consistent in providing words of encouragement and provides insight when it comes to advocating for and understanding people's needs or interests.

Greg Sorrentino received the Susan Constantino Leadership Award in recognition of his efforts to address healthcare inequities for people with disabilities. Greg works relentlessly to educate governmental funding agencies and our leaders and legislators on the critical role our clinics provide in delivering accessible services, and the inadequacy in funding to perform these services. Through these efforts, Greg continues to successfully increase awareness and education of the importance of respecting and valuing services for all people with disabilities, their families, and those who support them.

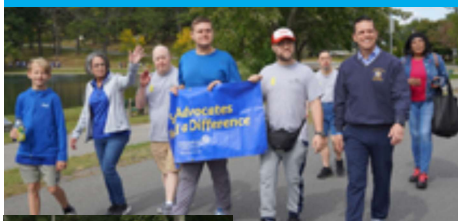
We appreciate and respect Stephanie and Greg's passion for what they do and for their efforts to make a difference in so many lives. On behalf of all people with disabilities, their families and staff, thank you for all you do!



Congratulations to Ileana Larios, LPN; Shamell Anderson, Resident Counselor; Susan Brady, Activity Specialist; and Elizabeth Keating, Physical Therapist; who were all recognized at the CP State conference in October! These four members of our Center team have a combined 70 years working for our agency. Their work changes lives every day, as is evidenced by their peers who nominated each of them for this statewide award.

Thank you Ileana, Shamell, Susan, and Beth, for all you do each day, helping *People Get Better At Life!*

# Buddy Walk



On September 28th the community came together to celebrate individuals with Down Syndrome and raise awareness and funds for the Down Syndrome Aim High Resource Center.

It was a wonderful day as we surpassed our \$50,000 goal! Thank you to our Title Sponsor, Central Self Storage, and all our sponsors, committee members, teams and supporters for making the walk a success!



Presented by  Berkshire Bank

November 29th - December 1st

11-6pm

The Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls

All proceeds to benefit Prospect Center

Thank You to Our Sponsors

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Kevin Richards-CMA Winner from

100.9/107.1 The Cat and Big Country 87.9/104.9

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SUNY Adirondack Culinary School/Seasoned

The Queensbury Hotel

## Schedule of Entertainment

### Friday

11:00-12:00

Kelsey Dodd - Vocalist

12:00 - 1:00

Al and Kathy Bain

1:30 - 2:00

Laura Papparatto - flute

3:00

St. Mary's Choir

### Saturday

11:00- 1:00 p.m.

Ryan Clark - Pop Artist

1:00-1:30

Glens Falls Tae Kwon Do

2:00

Handbells

3:00

Tuba Christmas -

4:00 - 5:00

Rascal Mountain

### Sunday

4:00 - 5:00

Queensbury String Ensembles