



2022 Annual Report

80 Years of Service to
the Community,
Celebrating Continuous
Growth and Innovation.

Center for 
Disability Services

A letter from our CEO

80 Years of Service to the Community, Celebrating Continuous Growth and Innovation. This summarizes what the Center has done and meant to this community for the past 80 years. While 2022 represented a milestone in serving our community, it also represents a rebirth as we emerge from the pandemic and reopen programs and services. The Center for Disability Services is proud of how we made the innovative adjustments necessary to keep those in our care safe.

Celebrating growth and innovation is something that two years ago seemed impossible. While we are not all the way back to where we were, we are in some ways further ahead. We have a growing number of classrooms, day program opportunities in the community, and developing products in our Health Innovations Incubator and Technology Center (Hii Tech.) We've started bringing individuals back to in-person programs, appointments, and social gatherings so those we support have the best life possible. We continue our recruitment and appreciate our existing staff. As individuals feel more comfortable coming back into the workforce, we can bring more participants back into the programs they need. We continue our efforts with community partners like Albany Medical Center to increase medical services in Center Health Care,

and Maria College so our staff can continue their education with support from the Center. We want to help our staff grow within the organization and as people, and do so by offering financial assistance for education and scheduling flexibility from the Center. Growth means different things to different people, we take pride in adding services available to those we support.

We made great strides with our Hii Tech program. We're preparing to enter a clinical trial with Tufts University Dental School on a patent-pending oral hygiene product which we hope will impact the future of oral health. Additionally, Hii Tech received a second patent for a seating system to alleviate pressure ulcers. Technology such as smart boards and iPads have improved our students' ability to learn and interact in education programs. Our day services' innovative program design allows more individuals to return to programs in the manner they choose, including more community-based options. We continue our efforts to build a service system for healthcare that will increase access for those with disabilities. We're working on technology to assist new applicants interested in a career at the Center and to help existing staff with their work, scheduling, etc.

As we mention staff, I would like to



once again highlight the staff who meet the community needs year in and year out. They continue to believe in our mission and value the relationships they have with those they support. Our staff is driven and committed, and we tremendously value all they do.

As we look to 2023, we see a greater need than ever. Adapting to a changing environment is a dominant component of our success. The Center may look different than it did eighty years ago or even three years ago, but our mission remains constant. Where there is a will, there is a way, and the Center will continue our efforts to help individuals who need our services, regardless of the challenges. That is what makes the Center the place **"Where People Get Better at Life."**

Gregory J. Sorrentino
President/Chief Executive Officer

A letter from our chairperson

The theme for the 2022 annual report is **80 Years of Service to the Community, Celebrating Continuous Growth and Innovation.** When I stepped into the chair role of the Center's Governing Board in 2022, it was with a thorough understanding of what the Center did, or so I thought. I did know the mission of Helping People Get Better at Life was more than just a creative tagline, having seen the love and care provided time and again, first as the liaison between the Prospect Center and the Center for Disabilities, then later as a board member at large, and now the board chair.

And while I certainly grasped just how good our organization's leadership and team are, my eyes were truly opened this past year. It's amazing how much the Center has done and will continue to do as a regional leader in innovation and care, having opened a much-needed respite home in Queensbury last year,

for example. And I was there with the executive team when Senator Schumer granted funds for a joint medical records system with Albany Med, which will not only change the face of care for those we serve but will be a model that can be replicated nationwide. We also received a Transformation Grant from Governor Hochul to assist with accessibility improvements at our clinic. There was also the ribbon cutting for the new Hii Tech Incubator, which has secured numerous patents for developing revolutionary products that will undoubtedly improve the quality of life for many.

Yes, the Center had challenges with the pandemic, and rising to those challenges alone didn't make us unique. What makes the Center unique is the level of passion and innovation all staff members, volunteers, and board members bring to **80 Years of Service to the Community, Celebrating Continuous Growth and Innovation.**



I've toured homes and day programs, met staffers working directly with individuals, attended awards and graduation ceremonies, and met the families who are being helped on a daily basis by everything the Center offers. I am honored and blessed to be a part of this wonderful organization. For 80 years, the Center has changed the quality of life for so many families, and I am so humbled to be a part of this journey.

James J. Morris IV
Chairperson of the Board

2022 Governing Board of Directors

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

Empowering lives for 80 years and building a future through innovation



- 1942:** The Cerebral Palsy Association of the Capital District, Inc. is founded by parents to secure medical care and therapy.
- 1943:** A Medical/Therapy Clinic is opened.
- 1949:** Nursery/Preschool Program begins.
- 1952:** Own facility opens, launching School-Age Program.
- 1960:** 1st Annual CP Telethon is broadcast live across the Capital Region.
- 1966:** Center School for the Disabled and Day Care Center open.
- 1972:** All programs relocate to Cerebral Palsy Treatment & Educational Facility.
- 1974:** Vocational programs begin.
- 1976:** First community residence opens.
- 1978:** Supportive Living Apartments open.
- 1980:** Infant Early Intervention and Adult Day Treatment Programs begin.
- 1981:** Rehabilitation Therapy services start.
- 1984:** Center certified as an 11-county Regional Assessment Center.
- 1986:** South Pearl Street facility opens for Adult Programs and Transportation.
- 1990:** Organization renamed Center for the Disabled to reflect work with various diagnoses.
- 1992:** Primary Health Care begins.



Scan to view full interactive timeline.



1993: Merger with United Cerebral Palsy Association of Schenectady.

1998: St. Margaret's Center joins the organization, expanding skilled nursing care. Adult Day Health Care and an independent living facility open.

2000: Merger with Residential Opportunities, Inc. Epilepsy Center is established.

2001: Cooperative relationship formed with United Cerebral Palsy Association of Fulton & Montgomery Counties, Inc. Multiple Sclerosis Care Center opens.

2006: Name formally changed to Center for Disability Services to reflect the growing scope and diversity of programs.

2013: Center for Disability Services affiliates with UCP of the Tri-Counties, Inc. i.e. Prospect Center in Queensbury.

2015: Filed DBA for the Health Innovations Incubator and Technology Center, the research and development division at the Center (formerly known as LQSI).

2015: Started Without Walls Program. Started with 8 participants and now has nearly 80.

2019: Center receives a grant to enhance Center Health Care's services to offer Telemedicine Alternatives to the Emergency Room and Urgent Care.

2020: Center opens newest residence on McGovern Drive in Niskayuna, bringing total to 53 residences.

2021: Day Habilitation starts at new site, Corporate Circle. The new site is being used in part as a Recreation Program to support individuals from our residential programs.

The Center Today

The Center now services 10,000 individuals with disabilities, with 80 locations throughout 15 counties in the Capital Region and North Country. The Center's 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. From medical care to residential services, education to day habilitation programs, the individuals we support can have all their needs managed through the Center at any stage of life.

Innovative Programming

Supported Employment

We are dedicated to providing individuals with disabilities the tools they need to succeed in the workplace while offering employers a diverse and inclusive workforce that enhances workplace morale and productivity. The program goes beyond job preparation, providing comprehensive training in resume writing, interviewing skills, and on-site support. We carefully match individuals with specific positions, taking into account factors such as location, transportation, and work environment, ensuring a sense of pride and satisfaction in their daily work.

For employees, we offer meaningful job placements in areas of interest, on-site training, and ongoing support from our professional employment specialists. We also provide advocacy and counseling services to address individual needs. Moreover, employees receive competitive pay and have opportunities for career growth through internships.

In 2022, our mail fulfillment facility was toured by Kerri Neifeld, Commissioner of the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities. Ms. Neifeld also served

as our commencement speaker at the graduation ceremony for the Langan School in Albany.

Without Walls

The Without Walls program is a transformative day program designed to empower individuals with disabilities and provide them with access to their community. By engaging in daily tasks such as volunteering, shopping, and developing life skills, participants gain valuable learning experiences that lead to increased confidence and self-esteem. Moreover, the program emphasizes the importance of acquiring practical life skills, which further empowers participants to navigate their daily routines with greater ease and independence.

By providing a structured day program, the Without Walls initiative ensures that participants have a supportive environment to learn, grow, and engage with their community. The program catalyzes personal growth, allowing individuals with disabilities to develop crucial life skills, boost their self-confidence, and build a strong sense of purpose.



RAAVE (Responsibly Addressing Autism Via Education)

Our RAAVE program is an innovative initiative that aims to provide personalized education plans for children with autism, Asperger's syndrome, and other developmental and communication-related disabilities. Through either the Clover Patch or Langan School, a dedicated team of teachers and therapists work closely with each student, tailoring their educational experience to meet their unique goals.

One of the key strengths of the RAAVE program is its emphasis on incorporating communication and socialization into the students' academic programs. We understand that effective communication and social skills are essential for their overall development and future success.

MOVE International

We had the opportunity to acquire MOVE International to expand the abilities of CFDS' innovative programming! MOVE—Mobility Opportunities Via Experience—is designed to enhance the mobility skills of individuals in a variety of settings. Employing a top-down strategy, MOVE integrates the participant's current capabilities with a targeted instructional process during engaging activities to bolster their abilities in sitting, standing, walking, and transitioning. These efforts result in positive outcomes such as improved health, independence, dignity, and social inclusion for the individual within their family and broader community.

Together, CFDS and MOVE International can not only expand upon programs already offered by the Center but bring the philosophy and programming of MOVE to more individuals all over the world.



Hii Tech

Since 2018, Hii Tech (formerly LQSI) has been pursuing technology and innovation to alleviate the everyday struggles of people with disabilities. The incubator, based out of Watervliet, is staffed by engineers, fellows, and volunteers who represent the research and development branch of CFDS.

Through product development, the team at Hii Tech is bridging the gap between accessibility and individuals living with disabilities. Currently, the team is producing solutions to an array of obstacles such as inaccessible entryways, mobility assistance for caregiver-assisted bathing, pressure ulcers for wheelchair users, and more. Hii Tech was even able to adapt during the COVID-19 pandemic to produce face shields for frontline healthcare workers.

While Hii Tech has historically focused on educational opportunities for local students, we're excited to reach our full opportunity as a local and global hub for adaptive research and development.



New York State
accredited schools
in Albany and
Queensbury



Programs to
support individuals
in any stage of life



Expanded innovative
services: Without
Walls, MOVE



State-of-the-art
innovation for
today, and the
future, at Hii Tech

10,000
Supported Annually

SEVEN Adult
day program sites including
Without Walls program

1900+
devoted and amazing
staff members

53
Residences

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.



Fundraising

In 2022, the Center brought back another year of in-person fundraising events! We started strong with 518Gives, featuring a special appearance by Anthony Volpe, the #1 New York Yankee Minor League Prospect. Lake George Aficionado welcomed former Yankee, Tino Martinez, against the picturesque backdrop of Lake George. Siro's Cup posthumously honored Bill Lia Sr. and recognized artist James Fiorentino. The Million Dollar Beach Volleyball Tournament benefited the Prospect Center, and Concert for a Cause featured the talented Ryan Clark. The Capital Region Buddy Walk fostered inclusivity, while the North Country Festival of Trees delighted with a performance by CMA winner Kevin Richards. Lastly, a raffle for Syracuse University football game tickets brought sports enthusiasts together for our cause.

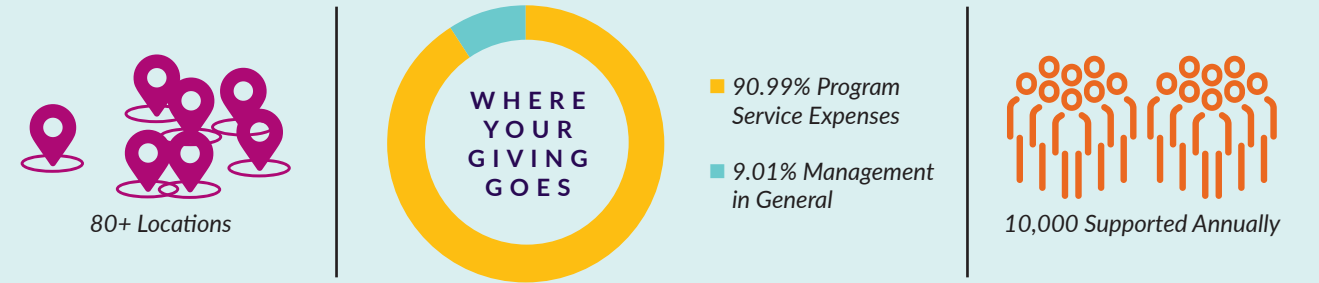
Each event left a lasting impact on our community, raising funds and spreading compassion in the process. Thank you to everyone who gathered to have fun and raise money so that we can continue to serve our community members in Upstate New York.



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.

Financial Summary

Thank you to our supporters for their generosity.



Additional information of our Audited 2022 Financial Statement is available upon request.

We invite you to join us and incorporate the Center into your personal philanthropy endeavors

For the past 80 years, the Center for Disability Services has stood as one of the largest providers of programs and services for individuals with disabilities in Upstate New York. Our organization is dedicated to helping people improve their lives, and we are seeking your support to continue making a difference today.

Ways to Give



Your financial contributions help us support the community.



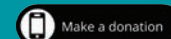
Make a planned gift and join the Guardian Circle.



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



Donations also accepted directly at cfdnsny.org/giving



Your contribution is crucial to our mission, and we have streamlined the process to make it easy for you to help us provide ongoing services and create a positive impact on more lives. Whether you prefer to make a one-time donation or incorporate the Center into your regular charitable giving, we offer a variety of options.

To discover how you can support our mission, please contact us at 518-944-2121.

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



[cfdsny.org](https://www.cfdsny.org)

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