Center for Disability Services

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF SERVICE

Where people get better at life™

Center Happenings

St. Margaret's Center has a Beautiful New Playground

At St. Margaret's Center, our pediatric skilled nursing facility, we strive to ensure all our residents have access to safe and engaging recreational opportunities. Thanks to the generosity of our committed donors, a new playground project was completed early this fall at St. Margaret's Center. The project included refurbishment of existing equipment as well as the installation of brand new, safer ground surfaces, an interactive water feature, new wheelchair accessible swings and play equipment, and a fun welcoming space designed for our community. Everyone has been enjoying the new space and we can't wait to welcome you all to see it for yourself for a ribbon cutting next Spring!







National Disability Employment Awareness Month Highlights

Throughout October, we celebrated National Disability Employment Awareness Month by spotlighting an employee each week. We began with **Gerry Stevers** of the Watervliet Dome, followed by **Jory Turner** of the Center's Mail Fulfillment Center. We concluded the series by featuring **Kelly Kindlon** of Market 32. Check out all their stories and videos on our **Facebook** and **Instagram** pages.

Celebrating Down Syndrome Awareness Month



Throughout October, we celebrated Down Syndrome Awareness Month by highlighting one individual supported by the Center each week. Check out all their stories and videos on our **Facebook** and **Instagram** pages.

The celebration followed the 30th Annual Buddy Walk, held at the end of September. Despite the rain, the event drew an incredible cowd and showed the strength of our community. There is still time to support the Buddy Walk; purchase a commemorative 30th Anniversary T-shirt or participate in our **Silent Auction**. Buddy Walk fundraising and Silent Auction close on October 31!



Halloween Fun Across Our Programs

CFDS celebrates the spooky Halloween season by getting festive in several of our divisions.

The Education, Residential and Adult divisions partnered together to host a Center-wide Halloween event on October 27. The event hosted a trunk-or-treat and haunted house for all Langan and Clover Patch Albany students, CFDS residents and day-program participants, and their families for an evening of fun, community, and Halloween spirit. Staff were also encouraged to attend with their families and enjoy the festivities together.

Prospect Center hosted a week full of spooky fun for the students, and each student was provided with a pair of spooky Halloween socks. Their festivities culminated in a Fall Festival for everyone to enjoy along with trick or treating. Clover Patch Preschool in Glenville also celebrated the season with Halloween activities while having an open house.

With so many exciting events across our programs, there were plenty of opportunities for students, residents, families, and staff to celebrate the fall season together, to join in the fun while creating lasting memories this Halloween season! 🎃🍂👻🍬







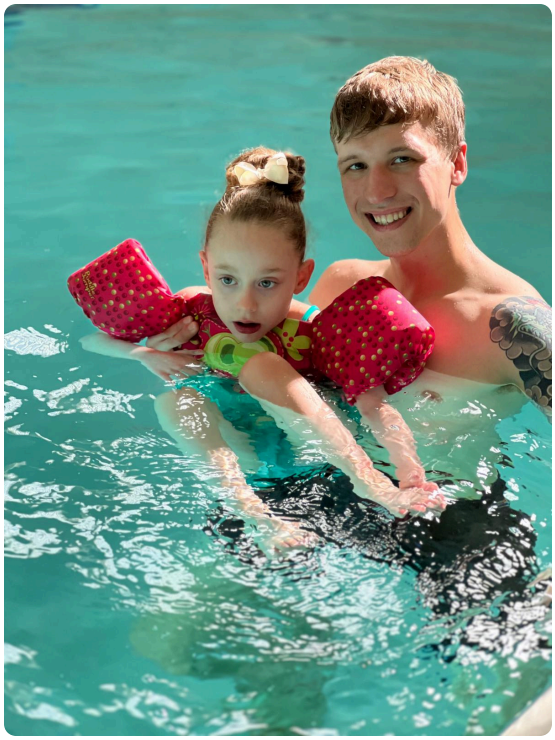






Langan Special Olympics: A Celebration of Talent

In September, Langan School students showcased their talents at the school's Special Olympics, competing in basketball, bowling, running, badminton, and more. The event was made memorable through the support of Langan School staff and faculty, volunteers, family members, and guest speaker Kevin Brown, an athlete leader and Special Olympian. Special thanks to Albany Police Deputy Chief Melissa Morey and members of the Albany Police Department for presenting medals and awards to the athletes.



Albany Medical Center Blood Draw Lab Located at Center Health Care: OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Did you know that the Center has an Albany Med Blood Draw Lab located within Center Health Care? The Lab has little to no wait time and no appointment is needed-walk in's welcome!

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 8AM-4PM, (closed for lunch 12:30PM-1:00PM daily)

LEARN MORE

Staff Spotlight

DSPs Recognized for Going Above and Beyond



We continue to recognize and thank CFDS Residential and Adult Divisions DSPs through their monthly peer recognition program.

Each month two employees are recognized for their hard work. Peers and family members of CFDS supported people can also nominate staff for this honor in recognition of their dedication, strong work ethic, and commitment to "helping people get better at life."

We would like to congratulate five employees who were recognized in the months of September and October: **Dayari Daniels, Letice Tucker, LaVaughn Morris, Jasmine Gadsden,** and **Knight Asamoah.** Each of you has made a positive impact on the people we support as well as your colleagues. Thank you for all of your hard work!

Nominate here

Family Network



Save the Date: NYDA Rally at the State Capitol: Members of the A-Team, the CFDS self-advocacy team, will join hundreds of other disability advocates at the New York State Capitol to advocate for a 3.4% Targeted Inflationary Increase, CareForce Wage Investment, and restoration of the Healthcare Enhancement Program. You can join us, mark your calendars and make a plan to attend:
Date: November 16 at 11:30 a.m.
What to wear: Orange, to show lawmakers your support for investment in the I/DD service sector.
RSVP and information: **info@nydisabilityadvocates.org**

A Special Thank You to Our Volunteer Parent-Teacher Leaders: The Center is grateful to some very special parent volunteers who have stepped up to help

start and grow parent-teacher organizations at our schools. **Robin Taylor** and J**essica Troiano** are embarking on their second year as PTO co-Presidents at Langan Albany. This year, at the Langan School at Prospect Center, a new PTO was started by **Desiree Morgan** and **Samantha Baxter** as co-Presidents and **Kelly Trudeau** taking on the school events committee chair role.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) purpose is to build a compassionate, inclusive, and empowered community that supports the unique strengths and needs of our students. We are committed to fostering collaboration among families, educators, and staff to enrich the educational experience, advocate for accessibility and equality, and celebrate every student's growth and achievements. Through volunteerism, fundraising, and engagement, we strive to create a nurturing environment where all children can thrive, belong, and reach their fullest potential.

The perseverance, enthusiasm and volunteer spirit of these special parents will help continue to support and enriched educational experience!

Support the Traveling with Dignity Act: Send a Letter to Governor Hochul: Lend your support to the Traveling with Dignity Act. This act seeks to provide "adult changing accommodations" in public places with an occupancy of over 2,500. Examples include amusement parks, auditoriums, theatres, convention and sports centers, and exhibition halls. This bill has passed both houses and now awaits the Governor's signature. The best way to encourage the signing of this bill is to send letters of support to Governor Hochul. We have made it easy to **download this template on our website and personalize it** with your specific experience and story. The Center for Disability supports people whose lives will be personally impacted in a positive way if this bill is signed into law. Share this with your friends and family so they can support as well.

CFDS Foundation News

Help Bring the 35th Annual Festival of Trees to Life



The holiday season is right around the corner, and the 35th Annual North Country Festival of Trees is only a month away! From November 27–29, the Queensbury Hotel will be transformed into a winter wonderland and **your creativity can help make it happen**.

Artists, designers, crafters, and vendors are needed! Participate by decorating a tree, wreath, round wood disk or plaque, centerpiece, stocking, gingerbread house, or another holiday-themed item. Your talent and support will help create lasting holiday memories for our community.

Ready to participate? Sign up as a decorator or designer or **register as a vendor, artist, or crafter**.



Local Golf Events Benefit Center Programs

September brought two golf tournaments benefiting the Center and its programs. At the 7th Annual Architects vs. Engineers Golf Tournament at The Edison Club, **VMJR Companies** selected the Center and Clover Patch Camp as beneficiaries and raised an impressive $70,000. We are grateful to VMJR Companies, the golfers, and everyone who helped make the event a success.

The Prospect Center also received a portion of the proceeds from the Ken Tubbs Memorial Golf Tournament at Bend of the River Golf Course. Thank you to the tournament organizers and participants for supporting the Center's mission.

Honor a Team of Caregivers

In September you may have received the Center for Disability Services Foundation's Donor Recognition Appeal, which invites you to honor a program, service, or team that has made a difference in your life and the life of a loved one. **The most powerful way to do that, is by making a gift to the Center in an amount that is meaningful to you.** Your contribution will recognize the staff at the heart of carrying out our mission.

No matter what service or program your loved one participates in, this is your opportunity to recognize the team whose support has impacted you and your loved one. If you feel moved to do so, we would be honored to receive a gift made in recognition of the team or program that matters most to you. They will be notified that you have recognized them. Please consider making a gift today through our **Annual Donation Form**, and include your special message of recognition in the "**Anything else we should know?"** section of the donation form.

Join the conversation

Center for Disability Services Inc. | 22 Corporate Woods 5th Floor | Albany, NY 12211 US

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