



THE REHABILITATION CENTER

COMPASS

A PUBLICATION FOR OUR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

Creative expression in Day Hab

Smiling bashfully, Johnny studied a picture of his dog Deena Holcomb was showing him.

“Go show your friends the picture of your dog,” Deena, who is a Day Hab DSP, said urging Johnny to interact with his Day Hab peers.

“Who’s that right here?” Deena continued, pointing to the picture in Johnny’s hands.

“Gigi,” Johnny whispered as a blush spread across his face.

The dinner-table kind of conversation moved on to Michelle who reported she’d listened to music the night before and ate spaghetti for dinner. And, Katie said she went for a long walk on the spring-like evening the night before.

Nick reported he went to his mom’s house, watched TV and ate goulash and a salad. He added that weight control which included daily exercise was one of his goals.

“At Day Hab we work on goals and friendship,” Deena said, adding Nick’s goals include exercise, math and healthy plate portion.

The group helps each other, often getting something for another, or picking up a bag for another, or helping someone find the right



Some express themselves best in dance, others art, writing, rock music or lovingly caring for pets.



Andrew says Led Zeppelin is one of his favorite rock bands.

word to describe something.

“These are my friends,” Nick, who comes to Day Hab three times a week, said, fidgeting with a scrap of paper.

Nick volunteers for Meals on Wheels on Fridays and Mondays, a job he loves.

“It’s an awesome opportunity for the guys,” Deena said, adding they hand out

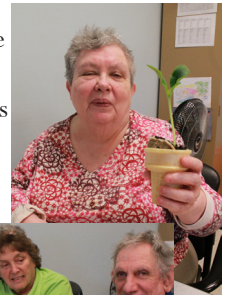
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Lifeskills plants cups for Earth Day

Life is bursting all around the Allegany building this spring. In an idyllic spot behind the Allegany building, the people in the ReHab Center’s Day Services programs planted their annual spring garden.

To their delight, the staff creatively devised ice cream cones as natural biodegradable planters in which they could begin their seedlings when it was still too cold outside to plant.

They waited patiently through the long-lingering winter, waiting and watching until their plants were ready for planting.



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Seafood Fest exceeds fundraising goals

As the Annual Seafood Fest auction sailed through the Old Library Event Center, maritime admirals and captains, trawling for the Rehabilitation Foundation, outdid themselves this year.

"It was an exceptionally successful sold-out year," Elena Bombardier, Foundation director, said, adding, "We exceeded this year's fundraising goal."

A special guest was Joanne Pearl, an Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara's Foundation board member, who pulled the winning ticket for the event's 50/50.

Dan Carter, an Allegany-based auctioneer, who has been working the Seafood Fest for many years, chanted, raising active and enthusiastic bidding from the exceptionally generous maritime donors.

The highest bidders were the Kinley Corporation, which won

a live Lobster and crab legs. Peterson Roofing also succumbed to Carter's provocative chanting and won a bid for crab legs.

Featured Treasure Chest auction contributors were PREMO Limousine, Ask Design Jewelers, EllicottVillas, and Cutco.

The event's generous Admiral Sponsors were Univera Healthcare, The Iroquois Group, Kinley Corporation, Bryans & Gramuglia, Relph Benefit Advisors. Equally magnanimous were Captain

Sponsors which included Community Bank, Good Times of Olean, Kellner, LLC, OneGroup, Peterson Roofing, Ron's Smoke Shop, the Bonadio Group, Valley Tire, Inc., Drs. Ahmad and Naheed Hilal, Kevin's Custom Creations Jewelry, and Maple Leaf Contracting.



Joanne Pearl, foundation board member of Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara, draws the winning ticket for Seafood Fest's 50/50 raffle drawing.

Creative expression in Day Hab *From front*

packages of food to the people. "They know exactly what the job is and they all have a good relationship."

"It's a lot of fun. Other people do it with me," Nick said. Angel loves reading and writing poems.

"My favorite book is *The Hunger Games*," she said.

"Angel loves to write about animals," Bill Steffen, DSP at Day Hab, added. "She wants to be a writer."

Andrew, who was celebrating a birthday, loves rock stars and rock music.

"Who's your favorite rock band?" Bill said, coaxing the tall young man to share with the group.

"Led Zeppelin," he admitted shyly as the group cheered with a "YEAH."

Stephanie, who loves art, was busy making a birthday card for Andrew.

What would their lives be like if they didn't have Day Hab to come to share their stories, make friends, create cards for each other or write poems about favorite animals?

While Day Hab is only one of the Agency's many day programs and support services, it's a special place where young people gain support and encouragement to pursue their goals, dream a bigger dream for themselves than they would have without the guidance of Deena and Bill.

As the federal government tightens its control over Medicaid expenditures, programs such as Day Hab are at risk. If the Agency is to ensure Nick meets his exercise goals and Angel and Stephanie have the opportunity to pursue their creative dreams, it needs - more than ever - the support of the Rehabilitation Foundation.

Linwood Center ensures dignity for seniors

The wisdom of their years is only amplified by the joy they share at the Linwood Center.

After a lifetime of hard work, raising families, fighting and surviving wars, recessions and many hard northern winters, today 30 seniors enjoy their well deserved day in the sun.

As an adult day center, the Linwood Center is a deeply honoring and welcoming place for adults over age 60. While some are fully independent and just need the social interaction of others of their own generation, others may need a little extra support to remain independent in their homes.

Services include: breakfast and lunch, exercise, trivia games, armchair travel, live bands, games and cards, volunteer opportunities, day trips and fishing trips.

"There are no TVs here," Nancy Ogden, who has been with the Linwood Center for 13 years and is currently its supervisor, said, adding all the activities and events are mind, body and community stimulating.

"Maybe we view one or two movies a month, but everything is geared toward providing therapeutic activities, socialization, assistance with personal care and case management."

The center promotes an improved quality of life while providing respite and guidance to family members and caregivers.

It offers a friendly environment for veterans, retired people, and those who live alone and want the daily companionship of others.

For one, in particular, the Linwood Center has given him a new lease on life after the death of his wife.

When Chuck Tyler's wife died in 2006, he slipped into a deep, dark depression, and remained alone at home for well over a year. After he began coming to the Linwood Center, he



found his life again.

"Now, everything is better because of Linwood. This place helps a lot of people more than anyone realizes. You have to associate with other people to be mentally intact," he said, smiling as he headed back into the bright cheerful room full of friends waiting for him to play Bingo.

Others with some physical and cognitive challenges also enjoy a special bond of friendship encouraged by a caring and experienced staff.

The Linwood Center, which is operated by the ReHAbilitation Center and located in its Allegany site on Nine Mile Rd., has a long history in Olean.

It was begun 35 years ago by the Cattaraugus County Department of Aging in Christ United Methodist Church at

633 Linwood Avenue.

Later, the Linwood Center was moved into the now closed Allegany High School where it remained until it was relocated to its current location on May 1, 2015.

In addition to providing a great community for friendship and support, the Linwood Center encourages members of the community to share knowledge and resources through special events.

"We have guest speakers regularly from the Department of Aging who discuss nutrition and staying healthy along with other services they provide," Nancy said.

"These services promote an improved quality of life while providing support to family members and caregivers."

Rolling with

It was before personal computers or cell phones, a time when Olean was an active city with a busy retail district. It was the mid-1970s, also a time when teenagers flew out of school for the summer to enjoy a couple months of freedom.

But, Nancy Wonderling, a teenager with a vision that would stretch across a lifetime, chose to volunteer at the Agency's summer camp, which, like its year-round classrooms, was overflowing with preschool and school age children with special needs.

The children touched Nancy's heart then, as they still do. Rather than hang out at the ice cream stand with the other teens, she chose to volunteer at the summer day camp. It was a decision and an experience that would guide her life for the next 40 years.

"I liked working with people with disabilities and especially liked volunteering for Special Olympics," she said, adding she knew with absolute certainty then that she wanted to make a career of supporting children with disabilities.

It seems her timing was perfect. The country was in step with her ambition. In 1975, while Nancy was in college, a compassionate Congress passed the Education for all Handicapped Children Act mandating that children with cognitive or emotional disabilities, deafness, blindness or needed physical or speech therapy were required to attend public school where they would receive Special Education.

Prior to that legislation, parents had few options other than to educate their children at home or pay for private education. But, it would be a few years before the legislation would impact the Agency's overfilled classrooms.

After graduating in 1977 from the State University of New York at Geneseo and armed with a dual major and teaching certification in Special Education and Elementary Education, Nancy returned to the Agency to teach Special Education.

"At the time, Pat Carroll was CEO. He hired me to teach part-time," she said. "Another teacher and I taught together until a new classroom was available."

She taught for the next eight years until she was promoted to supervisor.

"All of our classrooms were in the Allegany Building then," she said. "There was no SubCon, no Salamanca, no Admin building."

There were four classrooms, with different age levels, ranging from preschool through grade school.

"The school age children were severely disabled," she said, but even as many of these children enrolled in the public schools, there were a large enough number of preschool age children for the Agency to move into the former St. Joe's parochial school in Olean.



"We took over the whole building for preschool," Nancy said, recalling there were more than 100 children in the Agency's preschool program at the time. At that time, BOCES and the public schools had begun to serve the school age children.

"We were the only agency in the county offering special education for preschool age children," she said.

"By the late 1990s, we were opening up programs in the public schools to integrate the children with special needs into classes with children without disabilities. We did this in Gowanda, Portville, Hinsdale and Salamanca. We did this in Montessori and Head Start," she said. "Everything was expanding."

It was a time of rapid growth for the Agency. SubCon and Residential were booming, and all the classrooms were integrated off site into area schools and the Agency moved out of St. Joe's School.

Then, everything changed.

New York State changed its regulations, forcing the Agency to close all its center-based classes in the schools allowing the children to be fully integrated into the public school system.

"We closed all center programs and all staff became itinerant, teachers saw kids in their natural environments (preschools, day care centers) and those children who had difficulty being successful in a natural environment had an individual teacher aide to assist them and adapt their programs to insure success," she said.

When all preschool provided by the ReHab Center were discontinued, Nancy continued to provide evaluations for the Early Intervention program through the Department of Health and the preschool program through the Cattaraugus County Youth Bureau.

However, when the Agency assessed the goal achievements of

the Times

those in the school programs against the home-based, they discovered the children in the home-based programs excelled over those in the public schools. When they explored the source of the disparity, they realized the children in the classrooms with behavior issues were detracting skilled attention from the children with developmental disabilities.

That meant as acting program director at the time, Nancy knew she would need certification equivalent to that of a superintendent or principal. She already had her master's in Special Education but went back to school for certification in School Administration.

Nancy was the only person working with all of the Agency's significant regulatory agencies which included the New York State Education Department, Department of Health, Office of Mental Health and Office for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD.)

"I was in charge of programs regulated by different agencies," she said. "But my role has evolved."

"When State Ed made the decision that if you're going to do evaluations and determine if the children needed services, it was a conflict of interest. So the Agency made the difficult decision to phase out program service," she said.

Again the Agency complied, but continued to provide evaluations for preschool age children, which Nancy does exclusively today.

"I'm the only employee still working with preschoolers," she said.

She provides early intervention evaluations for children from birth to age two, and evaluations for children from three to five.

"We have a good reputation, and nine times out of ten the families pick us again if they have life-long issues and need."

In 2005, as the "children's expert," Nancy was asked to assist in writing a grant for the youth home, and in 2007 to assist in the development of the Mental Health Waiver program.



"This was a significant change for the Agency because we'd never supported programs for children with mental health challenges" she said, adding her credentials and experience made her the logical choice to have a major role in the design and implementation of the programs.

Today, both are vitally important programs to young people in Cattaraugus, Allegany and Chautauqua counties.

Nancy continues to provide evaluations in both Cattaraugus and Allegany counties. In addition, she assists families with the eligibility process through the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and serves as the initial contact for all outside information and service inquirers while assisting parents in establishing guardianship for their adult children with disabilities.

While Nancy has rolled with all the punches of changing legislation, one she hadn't anticipated was the changing area demographics.

Social issues including poverty, drugs, and teenage pregnancy are resulting in drug-addicted newborns, and more children with behavioral issues. She has stories of trekking out to impoverished rural areas, where she once would have worried about the family dog, now she wonders what challenges she will next encounter.

"These children are so resilient. When I'm doing an evaluation in some of these places, I think 'these poor babies,' but that's all they know," she said, sadly admitting that as a mother and grandmother herself, these changing times are heart-wrenching.

"When I have to evaluate an opiate-addicted newborn, it's hard."

With additional federal and state changes in the wind, what that will mean for Nancy doesn't concern her.

"We'll figure it out," she said, unmoved by media reports of budget cuts to Medicaid or state rate reductions. "We always have."

Despite the changing times, the number of early interventions and preschool evaluations continues to climb. In 2016, Nancy did 46 early interventions as compared to 2014 when she did 18. For preschoolers, in 2016, she provided service to 63 children as compared to 43 in 2014.

Evaluations for 2017 have almost doubled in one year. With 17 preschool evaluations and 12 early intervention already completed by February, that trend is continuing for 2017.



The Agency is thankful to have an incredibly talented staff member in Nancy. Her high level of expertise and professionalism permits the ReHab Center to identify and support children and families which allows them access to services as early as possible."

- Mari Howard, CEO

Wellness Team pays it forward

Olean is abounding in caring groups and agencies, many of whom hold fundraisers or benefits to help finance their benevolence to the community.

For the ReHab Center's Welllness Team participating in fundraisers such as Hospice & HomeCare's recent run/walk is a win-win. By supporting Olean's agencies in their fitness benefits, the team is reaping great health rewards while reminding the community of its own caring mission.

For more than 50 years, the ReHab Center has been on the front lines of care, standing alongside other agencies which fulfill a significant need in this city of 14,00 people, many of whom are aging or challenged by illness.

As one of the largest employers in Olean and Cattaraugus County and supporting more than 1000 people with developmental disabilities and behavioral health issues, the ReHab Center often relies on support from the community in fundraising for its important work.

By participating in fundraising events, the Agency is paying forward the support it has also received through the year from a generous community.



Several departments ran or walked together as The ReHab Center's Wellness Team to support Hospice & HomeCare's annual walk / run. They shared with the Olean community we are an Agency of active, hard working, caring and compassionate professionals dedicated to supporting people with disabilities. The staff participants included Carrie Higley, Tammy Speta, Emmanuel Peterson, Mike and Rhonda MacWilliams, Elena Bombardier, Andrea Brenneman, Tanya Windsor, Lori Quigley, Brenda Childs, Kathy Miller, Allen Frank, Amanda Granditis, Jessica Paterniti, Tina Pierce, Robyn Straub, Glenn Howden, and Jessica Martin.

Remote tele-conferencing capability upgraded

The Agency stepped up its web-based remote conferencing capability with a new enhanced audio video system which includes three new projector screens in all Admin conference rooms.

"This new system is a major upgrade to all existing systems," Larry Pavlock said, adding the new system includes a new sound system, microphones, projectors, control panels, screens with overall enhanced capabilities.

Larry facilitated researching a vendor for the project and coordinating installations. "We went with Capstream Technologies in Salamanca," he said.

The new system includes a web-based platform for live video-conferencing for joint trainings, meetings or



Lori Hathaway demonstrates the new audio-video system.

presentations anywhere - even globally.

"The remote conferencing capabilities would help us reduce on our travel to Niagara, communicate with other agencies and collaborate better with our stakeholders," Brian Eddy, director of marketing and business development, said.

The system was partially funded through a \$10,000 grant from the F. T. and Anna C. Manley Memorial Trust, which has funded significant Agency projects in past years.

The project which was a team effort including, in addition to Larry, the Grants Subcommittee of the Managed Care Committee comprised of Russ Hahn, Steve Morgan, Allen Frank, Brad South, Dan Gayton, Jenelle Page, Kristen Jedrosko, Linda Manross, Margel Titus, Mike MacWilliams, Robert McClure, and Tracy Crisafulli.



LAWN

BOCCE BALL TOURNAMENT

to benefit The ReHab Center

sign up

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Corporate Sponsorships Available

tournament details

**07
23** SUNDAY
JULY 23RD
2017

11am Tournament Start

War Vets Park • Olean, NY

Registration:

\$50 Per Team of Two

(\$40 early registration - before July 9th)

Includes \$12 in Taste Tickets

(Good for food or beverages at event)

Cash Prize to winning team

Tournament proceeds benefit The ReHAbilitation Center and people with disabilities in the community.



OLEAN OUTDOOR FEST THREE DAY FESTIVAL!

**AUGUST
25th, 26th, 27th**

BRADNER STADIUM • OLEAN

Proceeds benefit The ReHAbilitation Center and other local charities!

FOOD, DRINKS & OUTDOOR FUN

Live Music • Comedy Night
Fireworks • Kayak Regatta with Dice Run • Wine Tasting • Bonfire
Archery Competition • Live Music
Best Chicken Wing Contest • 5K Color Run, Bike, Rollerblade, Walk
Chicken Wing Eating Contest
Food Vendors • Beer Tent • Craft Vendors • Outdoor Sports Vendors
Bounce Houses • Cars • Campers
Boats • ATVs • Much More!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

YOU can help the Rehab Center when you volunteer! Donations will be made to volunteer's charity of choice. Please Choose The ReHAbilitation Center! Volunteers also receive a t-shirt, free entry to festival & volunteer party.

event details or sign up to volunteer:
OLEANOUTDOORFEST.COM



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WWW.REHABCENTER.ORG

THE REHABILITATION CENTER

The ReHABilitation Center is a non-profit agency supporting people with developmental disabilities, behavioral health issues and Autism Spectrum Disorders. The Agency provides comprehensive services to more than 1100 people. Since 1958, the ReHab Center has been improving the quality of life and maximizing independence for people in our community.

OUR MISSION

Enhancing the lives of people with disabilities through supports and services.

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