



enable link

individualized services for children & adults with disabilities

fall 2007
newsletter

Tom and Chris Welch, Honorary Chairs

Enable is pleased to have Dr. Thomas Welch, and his wife, Christine as honorary chairs for the 2007 Annual Campaign and hosts of the Shining Lights Annual Awards Celebration scheduled for April 9th, 2008.

As Professor and Chair of Pediatrics at SUNY Upstate Medical University, Dr. Welch has a keen interest in helping children with chronic disorders and diseases to transition into adulthood. Mrs. Welch was a preschool teacher before they moved here from Ohio and has the same interests in helping children. "Enable's long history of respecting choice and individualization leads to greater empowerment of the young people themselves," the Welch's shared. As honorary chairs of the Annual Campaign, they have chosen to focus on teenagers and the challenges they face as they become adults. Enable services, such as Supported Employment, the Young Adult habilitation program, and Service Coordination, can make a huge difference for a family learning all the ins and outs of the adult service and health care systems.



Tom and Chris Welch

Community Networks Wins Statewide Award

Community Networks is the perfect name for Enable's Day Habilitation program for adults with developmental disabilities and reflects the philosophy of this service. Enable staff work collaboratively with participants of the program to create and conduct a wide range of community activities. Community Networks has helped to broaden the experiences of its members through individualized programs designed to meet the needs and wishes of each participant.

In recognition of their success, the Community Networks program received the Program Innovation Award from the Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State (CP of NYS) and accepted the award at the Annual Conference and Awards Banquet in Albany. The award recognizes an affiliate of CP of NYS that has provided an exemplary program to individuals with disabilities, which has enhanced the independence and self-esteem of its participants and which serves as a model to be replicated across the state. During the awards presentation, Program Coordinator, Jimmy Curtin, remarked, "Innovation is a journey...a journey that begins with tapping the talents and creativity of the Networks' staff and presenting options to our participants." Curtin and team member, Dean Cullen, also presented one of the workshops at the conference to share our positive experiences with affiliates in other parts of the state.

Over fifty people participate in the Community Networks program each year, most on a part-time basis. The focus is on individualization – program participants only sign up for the days and activities that fit their schedules and interests. Participants have written and performed original stage productions, created award winning artwork, cultivated a garden of herbs to use for cooking, produced a video and established a current events discussion group known as New Trails.



Mike McLaughlin, Kim Larkin (back) and Amy Buckley at cooking class



Jimmy Curtin, Dean Cullen, Corey Brocius and John Jordan accept the award at the CP NYS Conference. (Not pictured - Zac Moore)



Community Networks staff and participants pose after performing the Masque.

It's Time for the United Way Campaigns

This is the time of year for United Way Campaigns. Enable supports the United Way concept, and receives program funding from the United Way of Greater Oswego County. Currently, we rely on Donor Designations for people who participate in other United Way campaigns. If you do not contribute through the United Way of Greater Oswego, please consider a designation to Enable. Every dollar helps pre-school children with and without special needs to access developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. Your generous designations also fund Parenting Education and Support.



Enable United Way Campaign Coordinators, Rosanne Lewis, Cheryl Furze, Tony Martin and Dianne Settineri

Professional Excellence

Dr. Carl Crosley, Enable's Medical Director, was recently chosen one of the "Best Doctors in Central New York" by his peers in the medical community and recognized in the September issue of Central New York Magazine. A pediatric neurologist who is an active member of the SUNY Upstate Medical University faculty, Dr. Crosley has dedicated his life to the education of future generations of physicians. Dr. Crosley practices at Upstate and Enable, and also serves as Medical Director for the Muscular Dystrophy (MD) Clinic in Utica and Co-Director of the MD Clinic here in Syracuse. He has been a long standing supporter of the Syracuse Friends of Chamber Music and currently serves as their Board President.



Dr. Carl Crosley

United Way



CP of NYS Recognizes Enable Employees

Enable is honored to have three staff members recognized at the Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State conference this year.

Mary DiBiase is Program Coordinator responsible for Service Coordination, At-Home Residential Habilitation and the new Young Adult Program. She is a tremendous advocate for people with developmental disabilities and has been instrumental in the development of creative services that are responsive to individual needs. Doreen Nelipowitz is Director of Human Resources. She is honored for her patience, professionalism and leadership. Tracy Tamburo Nevil is Operations Coordinator for Self-Directed Personal Services. She is commended for always putting the people we serve first and ensuring that they receive the highest degree of respect.



Tracy Tamburo Nevil, Doreen Nelipowitz and Mary DiBiase

Faith Grossman – A Pioneer for Independence

Faith Grossman, 64, passed away in October. Her parents, Lionel and Anita Grossman, were the founders of the Cerebral Palsy Center, now known as Enable.

When Faith was born with cerebral palsy, her parents discovered that there were no facilities in Syracuse that could provide her with an appropriate education and therapy. When Faith was a little girl she had to go all the way to Maryland for appropriate services. Through their determination and fortitude, her parents worked with other families to create an agency in Syracuse that allowed Faith and other children with cerebral palsy to thrive.

Faith is a success story for herself, her family and her loyal caregivers.



Faith Grossman at Enable's 50th Anniversary Celebration

For the past several years she lived in her own apartment in Boca Raton, Florida. Previously, she lived in her own house here in Syracuse. She was an enthusiastic fan of Syracuse University sports.

Faith was highly creative and ran her own pottery business. For Enable's 50th anniversary celebration in 1998, Faith made commemorative "thank you" vases for the event. She was one of the first people to sell her products, ceramics and other arts, over the Internet; she liked using the computer. Faith was feisty – every day was more challenging than most of us can imagine, but she persevered. She will be sorely missed.

Employment and Mentoring

National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) celebrations merged with the Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) kick-off this year with 280 people attending the event at Drumlins on October 17th. The key note speaker was Dr. Nienke Dosa, from SUNY Upstate Medical University. She indicated that 95% of children with developmental disabilities graduate from high school in good health but emphasized that there is "room for improvement in the social outcomes." Dr. Dosa emphasized how important these opportunities are to allow people with disabilities to "solidify career goals and learn from practical experience what life is like with a job."



*Theresa Minette-Olive Garden Host,
Julie Spadaro-Olive Garden Mentor,
Mike McGrail-Mentee*

Jeffrey Tamburo organized the event with a hard-working multi-agency committee that has been meeting and planning since January to insure a successful mentoring experience for both the companies and the people with disabilities who participated in Mentoring Day.

There were 70 mentees who participated in this year's event along with 70 mentors from a wide variety of businesses in the Central New York community.

Corporate sponsors for the DMD kick-off breakfast included Verizon as the Title Sponsor, SUNY Upstate Medical University as Presenting Sponsor, as well as WSTM, the Central New York Business Journal and WCNY.

The employment rate for people ages 16 to 64 with disabilities is only about 30% according to the U.S. Census, and this figure has unfortunately remained consistent for many years. There is a huge opportunity for local employers to access the skills and talent of people with disabilities who want to work.

Disability Mentoring Day provides an opportunity for businesses to learn more about this valuable pool of potential employees and meet individuals who are interested in their company and the type of positions they have available.

25th Anniversary of Residential Services

The Clinton Plaza intermediate care facility (ICF) opened 25 years ago with eight residents in two apartments. It was an innovation at the time to serve people with significant physical disabilities in the community.



*Terry Maier and Elsie Pagan,
former Residence Manager*

It was also innovative to have four-person homes. At that time, most homes for people leaving institutions were developed for eight to twelve people.

To honor the 25th anniversary of this innovative residential

concept, former residents of the apartments and Enable staff attended a special event to celebrate and reminisce about their years at Clinton Plaza. Terry Maier, one of the original residents, served as the event organizer. Maier has now lived in his own apartment for years and is independent in the community.

The Enable apartments at Clinton Plaza were closed in 2000 and the agency now provides residential living in neighborhood settings throughout the community. Original resident Pat K. still resides with Enable, as does Sally D. - although she took a few years off living in her own apartment. Both enjoyed the reunion.

Some of the first residents were able to attend the celebration including Michael Kennedy, from the Self-Advocacy Grassroots Regional Organizing Program and Brenda B. who now lives with a family in the community. Dr. Stewart Thau, Board President at the time, was in attendance along with former Executive Director, Dick Pratt. Former OMRDD community service specialist, Bob Goodfellow, also attended. Those present enjoyed sharing photographs and stories from the early years.

Carole Hayes Collier, former Director of Residential Services, was recognized with a certificate and a collage. Bernice Schultz and Margaret Evans, both of whom were instrumental in developing the program, received certificates of appreciation. Former Clinton Plaza staff Monica Cappa, Sally Johnston, Karen (Schreyack) Fekete and Wendy (Soukup) Monroe, Debbie Merchant, and Elsie Pagan shared their fond memories.

EYW Preschool Celebrates Fire Prevention Week

Children in Enable's inclusive preschool program, Exploring Your World, were treated to a visit from the Syracuse City Fire Department to help them celebrate Fire Prevention Week. Captain Mark Hatch and fellow fire fighters Sara Errington, Bob Silfer, and Tom Fabian from the Section 6 Station helped the children learn about fire prevention and safety. The children were excited to see the big red fire truck pull into the preschool parking lot giving them a chance to meet real fire fighters. The ladder on the truck was elevated and one of the fire fighters climbed up and waved to the children from the top. All of the children were thrilled when they had an opportunity to sit behind the steering wheel of the truck and ring the bell.



Terrell got a chance to sit behind the wheel!



Firefighters from Station 6 pose with EYW Preschoolers.



Lance enjoyed using the fire hose.

However, the highlight was when they had a chance to spray the fire hose! Each child received a badge shaped sticker that read "Junior Fire Chief" and a coloring book to bring home. It was a truly wonderful event- the fire fighters were so friendly and it was apparent that they enjoyed visiting and providing our children with these great opportunities.

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Upcoming Events

- Fall 2007Enable Fall Annual Campaign
Please respond as generously as you can.
- February 5, 2008SADA Charity Preview
Designate your tickets to benefit Enable.
- April 2, 2008 Putting Sensory Integration to Use with Young Children at Home.
A workshop for parents presented by Martha Frank.
- April 3, 2008Putting Sensory Integration to Use with Young Children in Classrooms,
in Individual Treatment, and at Home - presented by Martha Frank.
- April 9, 2008Shining Lights Awards Celebration - Tom and Chris Welch, Honorary Chairs.
- May 1-3, 2008Introduction to Verbal Behavior for children with autism
and other developmental disabilities - presented by Vincent Carbone.

Contact seminars@enablecny.org for registration information on the above workshops or visit our website at www.enablecny.org

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Enable's Services

- Adaptive Equipment Loan Program
- Advocacy
- Aquatic Therapy
- Assistive Technology
- Augmentative Communication
- Certified Residential Settings
- Day Habilitation
- Diagnostic Assessment
- Early Intervention Evaluation
- Environmental Modifications

- Family & Individual Support
- Home & Community Based Services
- Inclusive Pre-School Special Education
- Individualized Support Services
- Itinerant Special Education
- Neurology Services
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Pre-School Evaluation
- Residential Habilitation
- Self Directed Personal Assistance

- Sensory Integration
- Service Coordination
- Speech & Language Therapy
- Supported Employment

Affiliations:

- Cerebral Palsy Associations of NYS
- United Way of Greater Oswego County
- Association for Persons in Supported Employment
- National Association for the Education of Young Children
- US Green Building Council