



enable link

individualized services for children & adults with disabilities

winter 2008
newsletter

LEED Certification

It's official! Enable's 'green' building is the first facility in Syracuse to receive LEED® Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. The 30,000 square foot facility was designed and constructed using green building standards established under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system developed by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Building green was the inspiration of Tracie Hall, former Development Director and coordinator of Enable's Growing Beyond Limitations capital campaign. "Through research and education it became evident that the creation of a LEED certified building was an economical and environmentally sensitive thing to do, but it also made sense to provide all the benefits of a green building to staff and participants," she said. "In designing, constructing, and maintaining a



Enable Building on Court Street

green building Enable was a true innovator, the first in the area to create a project team with the desire to learn and help to make this green building a reality." The building expansion project accomplished many agency goals including consolidating services at a primary location, constructing an energy efficient, environmentally friendly building and most importantly, creating a fully accessible, healthy facility to provide therapeutic services to children and adults with disabilities in our community. "Achieving LEED Certification is a public acknowledgement of the efforts of the design team to construct a healthy building for Enable which benefits our participants and staff, at the same time helping the agency save energy and protect the environment," stated Executive Director, Sara Wall-Bollinger.

What Makes Us Green?

- ✓ Energy Star rated roofing material
- ✓ High efficiency heating and cooling systems
- ✓ High performance windows
- ✓ Natural lighting and operable windows
- ✓ Recycling and reuse of construction waste
- ✓ Use of local/regional sources for construction materials
- ✓ Underground storm water management system
- ✓ Use of materials made of recycled content
- ✓ Low emitting paints, adhesives and carpeting
- ✓ Bike rack and preferred parking for car poolers
- ✓ Green housekeeping products
- ✓ Comprehensive recycling program
- ✓ Green building education program
- ✓ Low-flow bathroom fixtures

Shining Lights 2008

Please join Honorary Chairs, Tom and Chris Welch, for the Enable Shining Lights Awards Celebration dinner to be held on April 9th at Traditions at the Links in East Syracuse. The awards dinner is our opportunity to publicly celebrate and thank the individuals and community groups that have shared in our mission to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities.

Former Onondaga County Executive, Nicholas Pirro, will be honored with the 2008 **William F. FitzPatrick Community Service Award** which recognizes individuals in our community who have positively touched and enhanced the lives of people with disabilities. The FitzPatrick Community Service Award recipients are people who embrace the wonder of the human spirit and act on their beliefs. During his thirty year career in county government, Mr. Pirro continually learned about disability issues and took action to make our county accessible and inclusive for people with disabilities.



Janie, Benjamin, Zachary and Todd Freeman

Todd and Janie Freeman will receive the **Lionel Grossman Memorial Award**. The Freeman's have been instrumental in helping Enable create a program for children with autism in Onondaga County using the Applied Behavioral Analysis methodology. Their son, Zachary, is enrolled in the program. Two years ago, parents of children who believed that this methodology was important to the growth and development of their child could only find the program in Utica, Rochester or Binghamton which meant a very long daily bus ride for these preschoolers. Working with Enable, the Freeman's helped us establish an inclusive program that provides the intensive services that benefit children with autism. We thank Mr. and Mrs. Freeman for their courage, passion and willingness to collaborate with us.



Former Onondaga County Executive, Nicholas Pirro

SADA Charity Preview



Board member Lindsey Hazelton and her husband, David.



Board member BettyAnn Kram



Board member Bruce Penney and his son, Michael

The 10th Annual Syracuse Auto Dealers Association (SADA) Charity Preview was a resounding success with guests enjoying hot cars on a cold winter night. This year, the event raised \$15,805 for Project Adapt, Enable's assistive technology lending library. Money raised from the Charity Preview allows Enable to obtain matching dollars through our grant from the New York State Commission on

Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities. The funds will be used to purchase new toys and adaptive equipment that will be loaned out to children and adults with disabilities. We are very grateful to the many individuals and sponsors who purchased tickets and selected Enable as their beneficiary including our Board of Directors, who pooled their resources to purchase a Gold Sponsorship.

Many thanks to the following Sponsors who selected Enable:

Allied Electric
Bill Rapp Superstore
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick J. Bossong
Brown & Brown Empire State
Grimaldi & Nelkin CPA's, PLLC
Hancock & Estabrook, LLP
Inficon, Inc.

Information Technology Professional Alliance of CNY
Mass Mutual
NPG Federal Credit Union
O'Brien & Gere
Cheryl M. Roe
SUNY Upstate Medical University
Upstate Communication Resource



Allyn Foundation Supports New Equipment Purchases

Thanks to the generous support of the Allyn Foundation, Enable was able to purchase state-of-the-art augmentative communication devices and new adapted toys for our assistive technology (AT) program. Enable's assistive technology program allows people with disabilities to have a hands-on opportunity to work with augmentative communication devices during their evaluations. By having these equipment choices available, individuals with disabilities and their families can make an informed decision about which communication device best meets their needs reducing the risk of equipment abandonment. The new switch adapted toys are appropriate for young children with very limited motor skills and provide an effective means to engage a child during their augmentative communication evaluation.



New augmentative communication devices purchased through the grant from the Allyn Foundation.

Since 1979, Enable has provided assistive technology services to the Central New York Community. Members of the AT evaluation team are trained in their respective fields including speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, physical therapy and adaptive equipment. In addition, members of our evaluation team have obtained their national credentialing as Assistive Technology Practitioners (ATP) through the Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA). For more information about Enable's assistive technology services, contact Monica Cappa at (315) 410-3319 or visit our website at www.enablecny.org.



Alexandra Speller plays with an adapted toy during her communication evaluation.



Some of the adapted toys purchased with the grant.

Celebrating National Social Work Month

Social workers are often helping families behind the scenes, but in March we put them at center stage as we celebrate National Social Work Month. Social workers connect people to the services they need and help people to help themselves. Enable's staff works with people in all stages of life, from children to senior citizens. Sylvia Noll, also known as the "go to lady" by her colleagues, uses her strengths as a social worker to improve the lives of families and children she works with in Enable's preschool program. "What I love about my job is linking families to community resources and heading them in the right direction as they leave preschool," she said.

Social workers promote dignity for everyone, especially the most vulnerable among us. Kathy Haley is a social worker in Enable's

Comprehensive Clinical Services.

"The power of listening is a big part of being a good social worker," she stated.

Through individual and family counseling, advocacy, assessment and coordinating care, social workers provide a range of services to fill critical needs. Social workers are the cornerstone of Enable's Social Training for Youth with Autism and Related Syndromes (STARS) Program. The STARS program helps children learn and use social skills through small group activities that focus on conversation skills, problem solving, cooperating, self esteem, anger management, and other skill areas. Dr. Joseph Smith is the coordinator for the STARS Program and feels it provides an important resource that is focused on children with autism and family support. When community resources are limited, Smith says that he is motivated to meet those challenges and help families obtain the services they need.

Enable is proud to celebrate National Social Work Month and would like to recognize our staff for the impact they have made on the individuals and families whose lives they have touched and strengthened.



Bertha Jacobs,
Joe Smith and
Kathy Haley



Christopher
Davis and
Sylvia Noll

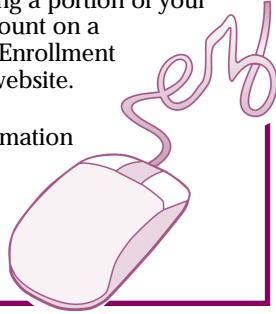
Karen
Abbott

EZGift

Would you like to reduce your carbon footprint? Sign up for our new ezgift program...save some paper, save a tree. With ezgift, you have several options. First, you can charge your gifts to Enable to your credit card through the secure online donation page on our website at www.enablecny.org.

In addition, your contributions to Enable can be automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account. These secure transactions are completed electronically through our bank. With ezgift, you can also spread your contribution throughout the year by having a portion of your gift deducted from your account on a monthly or quarterly basis. Enrollment forms are available on our website.

If you would like more information about the ezgift program, contact our Development Office at (315) 410-3384.



Community Giving

This past holiday season, employees of two local companies made certain that families in need had a very special Christmas. The employees of Destiny USA and Verizon of East Syracuse volunteered to purchase gifts for Enable's Holiday Giving Tree project which was developed by our social workers and service coordinators as a way to brighten up the holidays for those with limited resources by providing clothing, toys and games for these families.

During the holiday season, Enable staff identified families who could use a little help to put gifts under the tree for their children. Hand crafted ornaments adorned

trees at both company locations listing the child's age, gender, clothing size and toy preference. Through the generosity of these two businesses, 52 children each received several gifts that had been lovingly selected for them.

For many years, the Verizon employees have demonstrated the true spirit of the holidays by participating in the Giving Tree program. With the high number of requests this season, the Destiny USA employees were eager to come on board to assist with the project. On behalf of the children and families served by Enable, we are grateful for the commitment these companies made to make the Christmas holiday a little more special.



Destiny USA employees



Verizon employees



1603 Court Street • Syracuse, NY 13208

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SYRACUSE, N.Y.
Permit No. 417

leola rodgers
board president
sara wall-bollinger
executive director
carol tytler
communication and outreach services



Upcoming Events

April 2, 2008 Putting Sensory Integration to Use with Young Children at Home.
A workshop for parents presented by Martha Frank.

April 3, 2008 Putting Sensory Integration to Use with Young Children in Classrooms,
in Individual Treatment, and at Home - presented by Martha Frank.

April 9, 2008 Shining Lights Awards Celebration - Tom and Chris Welch, Honorary Chairs.

May 1-3, 2008 Introduction 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

June 9, 2008 Enable Golf Classic at Bellevue Country Club.
Register online at www.enablecny.org or call (315)410-3384.

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TTY: (315) 455-1794 • Web Site: www.enablecny.org

Direct Voice Lines: Education Services (315) 475-1382 • Community Services (315) 432-9154

Comprehensive Clinical Services (315) 410-3300 • Communication and Outreach Services (315) 410-3366

Human Resources (315) 410-3312 • Self-Directed Personal Services (315) 410-3391

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