



enable link

individualized services for children & adults with disabilities

fall 2006
newsletter

Neil and Joanne Murphy Chair Fall Campaign

Enable is honored to have Dr. Cornelius (Neil) Murphy, President of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and his wife Joanne, as the chairs of our "fall campaign" which runs September through December of 2006. The Murphy's will also host the Shining Lights Awards dinner which is Enable's opportunity to publicly celebrate and thank the individuals and community groups who have shared in our mission over the past year.

Dr. Murphy became involved with Enable due to his interest in environmentally sustainable construction practices and was an advisor to the agency during construction of our new 'green' building. Through his work he has demonstrated his concern and commitment for improving the quality of life for all people, including those with disabilities.

Please make plans to join the Murphy's as they host Enable's Shining Lights Awards Celebration on Wednesday, April 4th at the Lafayette Hills Golf and Country Club.

If you would like to nominate someone for an award, please go to www.enablecny.org/awards.



Neil and Joanne Murphy

Wendy Yost Honored

Wendy Yost, LCSW, was honored at the New York State Cerebral Palsy Association's annual conference in Albany for her outstanding work with students with Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism. Yost has coordinated the Social Training for Youth with Autism Related Syndromes (STARS) Program since 2003. Yost was also a featured speaker at the conference sharing information and case studies from her experiences working with children in the STARS program.

The STARS Program helps children learn and use socialization skills through a combination of teaching, practicing, role-playing and fun activities. Topics addressed during the group activities are selected based on the needs of the children in the group, but may include: conversation skills, anger management, self-control, decision making, introductions, listening skills, making friends, play skills, feelings, problem solving, cooperation, self esteem and manners.

The program is built on established research principles for developing social skills for youth with autism spectrum disorders. All STARS groups are led by experienced clinical staff, including a social worker, speech-language pathologist and occupational therapy practitioner. The program is designed to promote parent involvement and generalization of skills learned at STARS.



Wendy Yost

Volunteers Make a Difference

With the help of over 60 volunteers, a new fully accessible playground was installed at Exploring Your World, Enable's inclusive preschool program. Enable would like to thank all the volunteers from the GE Volunteers program, Inficon, Tylana Construction, Home Depot and Best Buy along with the many students, former Enable employees, current employees and their families who donated nearly 700 volunteer hours to complete the project. A ribbon cutting dedication ceremony was held October 26th to thank the various local businesses, organizations and individuals that shared their time and talent to make this dream become a reality.

The majority of the equipment on the former playground was old and did not provide a physically and visually stimulating environment that promoted play, physical activity and social interaction. The playground lacked accessible choices for children in the program who have physical disabilities. The new playground incorporates many activities within a single "play system" that is accessible by wheelchair ramp and low rise steps. A variety of play components promote motor skill development and physical activity. A new accessible playhouse encourages imaginative play and social interaction. Modern safety features and surface materials reduce the risk of injury.

The new playground would not have been possible without the financial support of many organizations. Major contributions to the project were received from the GE Volunteers, TRIAD Foundation, Inficon, New Process Gear – Magna Drivetrain, Bonodio & Company, Denzak Recreational Design & Supply, The Home Depot, Syracuse Rotary Foundation, Louise B. Stickley Trust, and Best Buy. Enable is grateful to the Central New York community for supporting the needs of the children served through our preschool program. You have made a difference!



New Board Member carries on family tradition

Dr. Anne Schoeck is a psychologist in private practice and wife of Richard (Dick) Schoeck. Dick's brother, Paul F. (Pauly) Schoeck, was born with cerebral palsy but with his family's support led a full life and had a highly successful career in the family business before he passed away in 2002.



Dr. Anne Schoeck

Pauly and Dick's father, Paul Schoeck made a significant contribution to Enable's Growing Beyond Limitations campaign resulting in the Paul F. Schoeck Therapy Center. Sadly, Paul Schoeck passed away last year at the age of 102. In keeping with the family tradition, Dr. Schoeck has made a commitment to serve Enable through her membership on the Board.

Assemblyman Jeff Brown Secures Grant for Project Adapt

Through the efforts of Assemblyman Jeff Brown, Enable has obtained a \$10,000 grant from the New York State Department of Health. The grant was used to purchase additional equipment for Project Adapt, Enable's assistive technology lending library. Project Adapt allows children and adults with disabilities to borrow adaptive equipment for recreational purposes, to try something for evaluation purposes, or to address a short term need, such as their own equipment being repaired. "Project Adapt is an important program because it allows people with disabilities to try technology that can help them remain active. They can take equipment right into their homes to try it out," commented Assemblyman Brown. "Many families benefit because when the equipment is returned, a different family has a chance to borrow it," he added.



Jeff Brown and Sandi Nelson

The lending library offers a wide range of adaptive equipment including: adapted toys and other recreational equipment, switches, augmentative communication devices, seating and mobility equipment, adaptive computer access equipment, specialized software, environmental control devices, and equipment for people who are visually or hearing impaired. With this grant Enable purchased a variety of new equipment for people with disabilities including augmentative communication devices, specialized computer equipment, and adapted toys. "Many times we have to place people on a waiting list for the most popular equipment. With these funds we have been able to purchase duplicate items which have substantially cut down on the waiting list," said Sandi Nelson, Project Adapt Coordinator. "We've also been able to add some new equipment with special features that we didn't have in our inventory before."

Three Women Find New Home

One of Enable's goals for 2006 was "reconfiguration" of our certified residential services. We are pleased to announce that two young women who formerly lived at our Roosevelt Avenue residence and one young woman who formerly lived at our Jamesville Avenue residence, have moved together into a new three-person home. The house is lovely, the neighborhood has been welcoming and the women are very happy. The keys to success? - a terrific group of direct service staff and 2½ bathrooms! Special thanks to Program Manager Maureen Bolon for helping to make this house a home.



Lashawn, Angela and Kristin settle into their new home

New Logo for Volunteer Services

Thanks to the "helping hands" of the preschoolers at Exploring Your World, Enable has designed a new logo for our volunteer services. The Helping Hands tree logo represents how we benefit through the involvement of our volunteers. Without the support of our volunteers, Enable would be unable to grow. With many hands helping, the work is light.



Children at the preschool program used their hand prints to paint the leaves of the tree in beautiful fall colors. It was a fun, but messy project and resulted in the perfect logo for our volunteer services.

clem nadeau
board president
sara wall-bollinger
executive director



Upcoming Events

SADA Charity Preview – Reserve your Tickets Now!

Warm up those engines! The Syracuse Auto Dealers Association Charity Preview is just around the corner. Enable is honored once again to be chosen as one of the beneficiaries of Central New York's premiere event. Spend an enjoyable evening with great food, great company and the best and the brightest new cars in the industry.

By designating Enable as the recipient of your ticket price, you'll help the many children and families who borrow adapted toys and other equipment from Project Adapt, our assistive technology lending library.



If you are interesting in attending to support Enable, please contact Christine Seubert at (315) 410-3384 or cseubert@enablecny.org. Hope to see you there!

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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