



enable link

individualized services for children & adults with disabilities

winter 2009
newsletter

—Shining Lights Annual Awards Celebration—

On Wednesday, April 22, 2009, honorary chairs Jeff and Gina Brown will join Enable in honoring people in our community who share our mission of enhancing the lives of people with disabilities.

Neighborhood Watch group. Ginger was born in St. Mary's Hospital, the building that now houses Enable. Ron retired from the Onondaga County Health Departments in 2000. Thank you to the Gedneys for brightening up Enable!



Dr. Robert Cady

Dr. Robert Cady will receive a **Lifetime Achievement Award**. Dr. Cady is a pediatric orthopedist who recently retired after more than 30 years of practice. He had a special interest in treating children and adults with cerebral palsy, and worked closely with Enable when it was the CP Center. Dr. Cady was born and raised in Syracuse, with

degrees from Nottingham High School, Hamilton College and SUNY Upstate Medical University. He has established several clinics in rural areas for patients with disabilities and continues to see patients monthly in Watertown and Canton. Dr. Cady's care and understanding touched many lives throughout his distinguished career.



Community Networks staff and participants during the Inner Selves project: Ryan Hanlon, Bill Farewell, Brenda Richardson, Shari Smith and Jimmy Curtin



The Gedneys pictured with their daughter, Kim

Ginger and Ron Gedney of Mulhauser's Florist will receive a **Special Recognition Award**.

Mulhauser's Florist entered its 100th year of business in 2009 before closing in January. The Gedney family worked closely with Enable,

providing flowers and balloons for many agency events over the years. They also teamed with Enable on the

The Mary Ann Shaw Center for Public and Community Service (CPCS) at Syracuse University will also receive a **Special Recognition Award**. The CPCS orchestrated collaboration between a Critical Research and Writing class and Enable's Community Networks program for a project called "Inner Selves." Networks participants worked with SU students to create a writing piece about a historical figure. The participants were then able to access the costume department at Syracuse Stage to portray their chosen character. The Mary Ann Shaw Center, founded in 1994 under the auspices of the Chancellor's Office, continues to be a "living, learning classroom and laboratory" for students. CPCS provides the foundation for the Chancellor's vision of SU as an "Engaged Campus," demonstrating Scholarship in Action by connecting the community and University through literacy and public scholarship. Now part of Academic Affairs, CPCS interacts daily with students, faculty, staff and community partners.

Check out the "Upcoming Events" section of our website at www.enablecny.org. Shining Lights registration is available online!

SADA Charity Preview

Over 1,400 people packed the Oncenter Complex on February 3 to attend the Syracuse Automobile Dealers Association Charity Preview of the Syracuse Auto Expo. Guests were treated to a night filled with eating, socializing, and checking out the newest cars on the market. Enable was one of the thirteen charities to receive proceeds from the event. The funds designated to Enable, totaling over \$17,000, will benefit children's services. Thank you to everyone who designated Enable for their ticket and sponsorship purchases!



Board Member Desiree Simone-Cullen and her husband Jason Cullen



Board Member Marvin Reed

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Enable participant Larry Hart



Executive Director Sara Wall-Bollinger

Prudence York Recognized at State Conference

Prudence York, Program Director for Community Services, was recently honored by the Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State at their annual conference in Albany. Prudence has worked for Enable since 1986 and was recognized as a pioneer for developing innovative programs for people with disabilities. In the 1980s, she helped Enable develop our supported employment program, emphasizing individualized, community-based jobs. At the time, the model was a contrast to the traditional "sheltered workshop" jobs that were available for people with disabilities. During the 1990s, Prudence was a leader in developing Enable's self-directed personal assistance program, which allows people with disabilities to have control over their personal services. Participants in the program interview, hire, train, supervise, and dismiss their personal assistants.

More recently, Prudence helped Enable launch several new programs. Young Adult Individualized Living Services provide

young adults with a one year transitional and supportive independent living experience by helping them to develop the tools and traits they need to live independently in the community. Agency with Choice is a person-centered approach that gives individuals and their families the power to use resources in ways that make sense in their lives. The program brings together the most important people in a person's life in a circle of support to help plan a better lifestyle that allows for them to contribute as citizens in their community.

Prudence is well-respected and actively involved in the Central New York community. She is a true asset to Enable.



Susan Constantino, President and CEO of CP of NYS, Prudence York and Sara Wall-Bollinger, Executive Director of Enable

Services Expand for Children with Autism

For the parents of a child with autism, finding the appropriate services to help their child succeed can be the biggest challenge. They often do not know where to start. Several programs at Enable are available to help parents.

Service coordination has recently been expanded to include children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. Enable's service coordinators help to overcome obstacles families might encounter while trying to find services for their children with autism, such as waiting lists and a lack of research-based practices in Central New York. Angela Saturno, program manager of service coordination, said that the need for supports seems to have been amplified by the state of the economy.

"Parents need supports in terms of getting effective services, financial help to access services Medicaid does not fund, and getting a much needed break from the 24/7 supports many of their children require," Angela said.



Volunteer Amanda Keesler plays Go Fish with Steven at a recent Family Night.



Medicaid service coordinator Jen Palian works with families to find the services they need.

Children with autism and their families may be eligible for Enable's new Family Empowerment program. Family Empowerment is designed to provide individualized supports for children with an autism spectrum disorder who have behavioral problems. Through collaborative efforts by parents and staff members, children learn to better cope with daily challenges and frustrations, resulting in fewer problem behaviors.

After enrollment in the program, a board-certified behavior analyst or psychologist meets with the family to create an individualized behavioral plan. This plan addresses the specific needs of the child and the family. Residential counselors then visit the family several times each week to implement the plan and work on identified skills. Parents play a key role in reinforcing positive behavior in between sessions.

Family Empowerment is funded through the United Way of Central New York. For more information, please contact Spring Bielec at (315) 410-3345.

Several staff members will be recognized at Enable's employee luncheon for their roles in creating activities for families with children with autism or other disabilities. Family Night is a monthly event at which parents listen to educational speakers or discuss issues they are facing. Meanwhile their children play games and do other fun activities with supervision. Respite Night is held twice per year. Parents can drop off their children for activities while they go out for the evening or simply run errands.

Staff that will be recognized for these events include Suzanne Ackley-Perot, service coordinator; Mary DiBiase, assistant director of Community Services; Joe Gross, director of Comprehensive Clinical Services; Bertha Jacobs, social worker; Amy Miles, service coordination program manager; Jen Palian, service coordinator; Angela Saturno, service coordination program manager; along with volunteers Bruce Ackley, Camerynn Bleskoski, Amanda Keesler, and Erin Noble.

For more information about Family Night or Respite Night, please contact Angela Saturno at (315) 410-3309.



Children work on arts and crafts projects at Family Night

Going Green?

If you are interested in saving paper and would prefer to receive our newsletter via email as a PDF document, please contact Deb Oonk at (315) 410-3384 or doonk@enablecnny.org



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Upcoming Events

March 13 – 14, 2009.....Enable Seminar Series

“Handling the Adult Neurological Patient” presented by Boehme Workshops.
Contact Deb Oonk at 410-3384 for more information.

April 22, 2009Shining Lights Annual Awards Celebration

Join honorary chairs Jeff and Gina Brown at our annual awards celebration.
Contact Deb Oonk at 410-3384 for more information.

June 20 – 21, 2009Euro Car Show

Proceeds from the Jaguar Club Slalom will benefit Enable.
Call 448-0687 for more information.

June 22, 2009Enable Golf Classic

Join us for golf, food and fun at the Drumlins Country Club East Course.
Contact Ashley Anderson at 410-3383 for more information.

Visit our website at www.enablecny.org for more details on these events.

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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
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Family & Individual Support
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Individualized Support Services
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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 Central New York
United Way of Greater Oswego County
Association for Persons in Supported Employment
National Association for the Education of Young Children
US Green Building Council