



enable link

individualized services for children & adults with disabilities

summer 2009
newsletter

2009 Enable Golf Classic Raises Funds for Children's Services

Over 80 golfers enjoyed perfect weather on Monday, June 22, as they participated in the 2009 Enable Golf Classic. The tournament, which was held on the private East Course of Drumlins Country Club, raised over \$34,000 for children's services at Enable. These services include Exploring Your World, our inclusive preschool program, Project Adapt, our assistive technology lending library, and Family Empowerment, a service for families with a child diagnosed on the autism spectrum.

Thank you to our sponsors, golfers, and volunteers for helping to make the event a success!



*First Place Men's Team –
Greg Gilroy, Zach Zuckerman,
Mike Degre, Don Burns*



*Enable volunteer
Todd Freeman
tees off*



*First Place Mixed Team –
Ken Hines, Wendy Harrison,
Scott Warren, Doug Harrison*

Thank you to our major sponsors:

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EYW Celebrates Graduation

Exploring Your World preschool was full of proud family members and excited children on Friday, June 19 as students who were moving up and graduating were recognized. Thirty-three students will return to EYW in September, advancing to the next class level. Thirty-nine children graduated from the program and will be attending kindergarten in the fall. The children performed songs and received diplomas and prizes for their many accomplishments over the past months. Congratulations to all of our students!



Harrison received a diploma and a backpack he can use next year in kindergarten.



The students and their teachers performed songs for their families and guests.

Individualized Living Services Help Develop Life Skills

Independence is an important aspect of life for Charles Argento. The Individualized Living Services program at Enable offers supports so that he can live on his own in the community.

When the ILS program began in 1990, it provided support to individuals five to seven days per week. Over the past decade, the program has evolved to serve individuals with developmental disabilities for two to four days each week, providing instruction in daily skills necessary for independence.

“We now serve people who truly want to live independently,” said Mary DiBiase, Assistant Director of Community Services. “We act as a safety net to maintain important skills.”

Each ILS participant has an individualized plan that outlines the skills they would like to develop further. For Charles, these skills include cooking, shopping, and budgeting for his needs. His residential counselors visit him at home several hours each week to offer support. He said he is glad he has enough help to live by himself.



Charles does all of his own chores, including washing the dishes.



Matt and his roommate Jenny enjoy taking care of their new goldfish.

“I like having my own nice private place,” he said. “It’s good to be in the community.”

About five years ago, staff at Enable noticed a new trend in requests for at-home residential services – the participants were getting younger. As teenagers with disabilities transitioned into adulthood, they often didn’t know where to turn for support. Enable then created the Young Adult program, a one-year course designed to teach these individuals the skills they would need to live on their own. Four young adults participate in the program each year. Matt Bushnell, who recently graduated from the Young Adult program, says he learned important concepts from his counselors, ranging from personal safety to socializing with his neighbors.

Enable currently has 60 individuals enrolled in ILS. ILS is funded through the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

Inclusion Shines at Camp

There’s nothing better than jumping into cool water on a hot summer day. Riding on the pontoon “party boat” and jumping into the middle of Skaneateles Lake was clearly a highlight for the ten children who attended Enable’s inclusive summer camp through our collaboration with Lourdes Camp. The children learned archery and tennis, canoed on the lake and hiked through the woods along with all the other campers. Enable staff and volunteers provided any supports that the children needed to participate in the activities and have a successful camp experience.

The program is designed to provide a one week inclusive camp experience for children with disabilities while also providing a respite opportunity for their families. This was the third year that Alex Abbott headed off to camp. “He absolutely loves camping and everything that goes with it,” said his mother, Beth. “You want your child to experience real life as it happens.” One of Alex’s favorite moments was getting “pranked” by cabin mates who hid under his bed. Why was that so special? “It was the ultimate inclusion...everybody got pranked at camp!”



Alex practiced his archery skills at camp

For Beth and her husband, the week Alex spends at camp is an “incredible respite” giving them a little break for a week. “The first year, we didn’t know what to do with ourselves. It was the first time we were alone since Alex was born.” She feels the camp is also a great opportunity for children without disabilities who learn from the experience and become more sensitive to disability issues. “It bridges those gaps,” she added.



Campers and counselors went for canoe rides on Skaneateles Lake

Disabilities Awareness Month

Agencies and individuals from across Central New York came together to celebrate Disabilities Awareness Month in July. An art exhibit of work created by people with disabilities was on display all month in the Browse-About space at the Onondaga County Public Library at the Galleries. This display, sponsored by Exceptional Artworks, featured artwork produced by more than 30 artists of all ages.

On Friday, July 17, over 235 community members celebrated the 19th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by participating in a march. The group traveled from James Street to South Salina Street. Representatives from the offices of Mayor Matt Driscoll and County Executive Joanie Mahoney were on hand to deliver a proclamation declaring July as Disabilities Awareness Month.

Passed in 1990, the ADA is a federal law that prohibits discrimination based on disability. It encompasses many topics, ranging from workplace discrimination and access to public buildings. "That gave us the right to employment, public accommodations, telecommunications, government services and so on," said Sally Johnston, Enable's advocacy coordinator and organizer of the march.

Enable Executive Director Sara Wall-Bollinger was also recognized at a disabilities awareness event. On Saturday, July 25, Wall-Bollinger was presented with the EP Maxwell J. Schleifer Distinguished Service Award from Exceptional Parent magazine. The award ceremony was part of a Disabilities Awareness Night event held at Alliance Bank Stadium during a Syracuse Chiefs game.

This award is given annually to a community member who has demonstrated courage in overcoming their own disability or has worked on behalf of those with special needs or disabilities. Wall-Bollinger was chosen for her leadership and effort to expand awareness about how people with disabilities can be productive citizens in our society. Senator John DeFrancisco, last year's recipient, was on hand to present the award. Disabilities Awareness Night, sponsored by Mass Mutual's Special Care Planning Team and Exceptional Parent, also featured a resource fair of local organizations that provide services to individuals with disabilities.



Enable staff and participants marched with Victor, a puppet created by Enable's Community Networks program.



Senator DeFrancisco and representatives from the Mass Mutual Special Care Planning Team and Exceptional Parent magazine present Executive Director Sara Wall-Bollinger with her award.

Summer Events Benefit Enable

Enable was honored to be the beneficiary of several local events this summer. In June, the Jaguar Association of Central New York hosted a Jaguar Slalom, giving drivers the chance to race against the clock on a sanctioned course. In July, Jeff Brown hosted a picnic at a Syracuse Chiefs baseball game. The night featured great food, a silent auction,

entertainment for the whole family, and field-level seats for the game. Finally, the Liverpool Elks #2348 continued their support of Enable's Home Service program through the Elks Music Fest in August. Thank you to all of these groups for their generous support!



A magician and the mascots of the Syracuse Chiefs provided entertainment during our picnic at Alliance Bank Stadium.



Elks Exalted Ruler Robert Inman, volunteer Karen Witter, and MusicFest Chairs Art VanGelder and Stephanie Jacobson



Staff member Helen Worden went for a spin at the Jaguar Slalom while staffing the Enable booth.



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Upcoming Events

October 17, 2009Macy's Shop for a Cause

Purchase a coupon for great savings and benefit Enable! Contact Ashley Anderson at 410-3383 for more information.

October 21, 2009Disability Mentoring Day

Kick-Off Breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m. at Drumlins Country Club. Contact Jeffrey Tamburo at 410-3385 for more information.

February 10, 2010SADA Charity Preview

Please designate Enable! Invitations will be mailed in December. 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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Human Resources (315) 410-3312 • Self-Directed Personal Services (315) 410-3391

Enable's Services

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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