



enable link

individualized services for children & adults with disabilities

summer 2003
newsletter

Lourdes Camp, F U N-in-the-S U N

“Humm...what to do this summer?
Maybe some swimming, fishing, canoeing, boating, arts & crafts, lacrosse, soccer, or...”

This July, Enable staff and volunteers made it possible for ten children with disabilities ranging from autism to chromosomal abnormalities to muscular dystrophy to go to camp and make some of these choices for themselves. Lourdes Camp was home for two weeks of fun on Skaneateles Lake! Special recognition goes out to all the volunteers from Fortis who shared their time and talents to make the camp experience possible for the children.

"Mike Preston and all the counselors at Lourdes did a great job of including our kids in their activities," says Physical Therapist Julie Yacovone, Enable's Camp Program Director. "They were especially integral in helping three of our participants stay overnight." This overnight camp experience was made possible by donations from New Venture Gear Employees.

Here's just a peek at some of the F U N:



Aidan hugs Fortis volunteer, Heather Parzych.



Smiling artist, Thomas



Skylar casts for a big catch!



Aaron with Enable volunteer, Nicholas Haanschoten



Kelly and Fortis volunteer, Robin Ptaszek depart the Party Boat to go swimming!

Camp staff, participants, and volunteers work together. Julie Yacovone leads the way!



Enable Welcomes New Board Members

Virginia Felleman, President of Enable's Board of Directors welcomes new board members:

- 1. Andrew Bobrek:** Congressional Aide, Congressman James T. Walsh. In addition to his duties on the board he will also be involved with the Community Relations and Development Committee at Enable. Mr. Bobrek resides in Liverpool.
- 2. Daniel J. O'Donnell:** Senior Vice President for CNY for First Niagara Financial Group, has over 30 years of experience in banking, as well as experience serving on boards for other organizations including Association for Retarded Citizens and United Way. He resides in Syracuse.
- 3. Douglas Pinckney:** President, Siano, Pinkney & Hugo Advertising, brings a strong business strength to the Board with creativity and management experience. Over the

years he has been involved with Special Olympics and other youth programs. He resides in Skaneateles.

4. Linda Webb: Past President of the Junior League of Syracuse, has first-hand experience as a parent of a child with special needs. In addition to her Board standing, she is an active volunteer for other organizations including Leadership Greater Syracuse. She resides in Fayetteville.

5. Michael Wirtheim: Financial Adviser for Morgan Stanley, is looking forward to being a Board member. Michael will also serve as a member of the Quality Assurance and Service Review Committee. He hopes to gain experience and first hand knowledge about the work the board members perform and the services Enable provides. He resides in Baldwinsville.

The 2003 Clare L. Smith Golf Classic was a Hole-in-One!



A full field of golfers enjoyed a beautiful day at Bellevue Country Club on June 30th raising nearly \$39,000 in proceeds for the Children's Services of Enable. Thanks again to all the tournament's players, sponsors and especially the major sponsors - E. Carlyle Smith and children, UAW/New Venture Gear, St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation, and BSB Bank & Trust - for their support. Matching funds by New York State through a contract with Onondaga County, makes this tournament Enable's largest fundraiser.

Pictured from left to right: UAW President - Scott Stanton, Mayor Matt Driscoll, Executive Director - Sara Wall-Bollinger, and Enable Board President - Virginia Felleman

**Mark your calendars as we tee-off
the 4th Annual Clare L. Smith Golf Classic
on Monday June 28th, 2004 again at Bellevue!**

Creative Adaptations

Written with Lindsey Nelson

When we reflect on our lives, often it is the struggles that we have experienced or seen that are most vivid in our memories. Consequently it is the normalness, the every day getting by aspects of life that we forget or simply do not acknowledge. Don Meixner's objectives are fulfilled when participants' daily activities are seen as routine, habit and regular.

As a former boat builder, he brought his unique talents to Enable to design and build special equipment for people with disabilities. Many modifications help to adapt the work environment by improving access to computers, telephones, books or desks. Others improve an entire home through easier kitchen and bathroom use.

A recent invention, a rotational platform built to facilitate vestibular stimulation and eye-gaze access, earned him recognition at the Maddak Awards in Washington, D.C.

Not every design works, but the many success stories make the risk seem trivial. When Don's job is done, his customer feels the joy of doing the routine, everyday, ordinary things we tend to take for granted.



The "Indickator" was presented at the national American Occupational Therapy Association conference.



Linda Squires enjoys the independence of her adapted kitchen.



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invites you to support a CNY Premiere Event
**The Syracuse Auto Dealers Association
~CHARITY PREVIEW~
Tuesday February 3rd, 2004**

Convention Center at OnCenter
In Historic Downtown Syracuse

* * *

Last year 100% of your \$100 ticket supported the charity you designated!
Flowing Champagne, Fiery Cars,
Festive Conversation and Fabulous Charities . . .

"It is first class, darling!"

Please contact Enable's Special Events Coordinator for information
and a personal invitation

Susan Johnson 455-7591 ext. 220 * sjohnson@enablecny.org

In Memoriam

Tom Rigney (1938-2003)

Isabelle Fyvie (1928-2003)

*I'd like the memory of me to
be a happy one. I'd like the
tears of those who grieve, to
dry before the sun, of happy
memories that I leave when
my life is done...*

Are they Elfuns or Angels?



Ray Forastiero & Marvin Haun work on the entrance step renovation

“After taking photographs of the Thomas Drive Home project and getting to meet these volunteers, I was told they are ‘Elfuns’ but they sure act like angels” said Enable’s Special Event & Volunteer Coordinator, Susan Johnson.

What is an “Elfun” you ask? Short for “Electric Fund,” the volunteers are primarily retired General Electric employees. This group has been watching over Enable and meeting many of the agency’s renovation and repair needs for years.



William McGrath repairs the handrail



Robert Killius & Peter Capponi reinforce the braces for new flower boxes

“Angels protect you from harm, bring beauty to life, and encourage you to keep on going,” says Susan, “and that’s what I saw the Elfuns doing right here in Liverpool this summer.” This particular project included expanding the front steps for a sure-footed entrance, adding a gutter to redirect the rainfall from coming down directly over the deck’s sliding glass doors, repairing a handrail for stronger support, smoothing out the rough surfaces, and adding well-braced flowerboxes to the deck.

Thank you, Elfuns, for your continued support of Enable!

Joseph Dreher lends his supports as Fredric Wenthen installs a new rain gutter



Disability Awareness Day

Assemblyman Kevin Cahill, Chair of the New York State Assembly Task Force on People with Disabilities welcomed a large number of disability advocates in the well of the Legislative Office Building in Albany on June 11th. Speaker Sheldon Silver and Assemblyman Peter Rivera also addressed the crowd.

Enable was well-represented at the event. Mr. Cahill recognized his Assembly colleague and Enable Board member, Jeff Brown, for speaking out on behalf of people with disabilities. Sally Johnston was there on behalf of the Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Association of NYS. Enable Executive Director Sara Wall-Bollinger represented the NYS Rehabilitation Council, of which she is Chair. Julie Burhart, speech pathologist and Cooper Gilbert, adaptive technician, were very busy at the Enable booth, which featured augmentative communication devices.

Mark Your Calendar!

Please join Enable staff and participants for the Individualized Living Tenth Anniversary Open House scheduled for Monday, September 29th in the module at Enable. Participants will share their personal success stories through poster boards, journals and video. Visitors will have an opportunity to register for home tours. Details will be on our website at www.enablecny.org or call Mary DiBiase at 432-9154x101 for more information.



New Opportunity for Workers with Disabilities

New York’s “Medicaid Buy-In” program became effective July 1st. This program allows people with disabilities who work to take better jobs and work more hours without fear of losing essential health and personal care supports. This is important because Medicaid is the only health insurance program that fully covers expensive medications (such as those used to treat HIV, MS or cancer), durable medical equipment (such as wheelchairs and augmentative communication devices) as well as home health and personal assistance services so essential to adults with significant physical disabilities.

Individuals may earn up to 250% of the federal poverty level (over \$46,000) and still qualify for Medicaid. Those who earn between 150% and 250% will pay a monthly premium. The new program compliments existing work incentives such as PASS and 1619(b) plans. For more information or to apply, please contact Michelle Aguirre of the Onondaga County Department of Social Services at 435-2928x141 or 31B994@dfa.state.ny.us.

Disability Mentoring Day:


“Just a few hours can change a life” (DMD) is a partnership between the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). DMD will be officially held on **Wednesday, October 15, 2003** at the Holiday Inn at Carrier Circle. Thanks to SUNY Upstate Medical University for underwriting this year’s celebration. David Duerr of the Chamber of Commerce will speak at the breakfast.

DMD is designed to enhance internship and employment opportunities for people with disabilities by bringing them together with employers from the public, private, non-profit, and educational sectors for a day of job shadowing and other hands-on career exploration activities. We can help break down employers’ fears about hiring people with disabilities and increase the latter’s confidence in securing gainful employment.

For more information, and to offer your place of employment as a Mentor Site, please contact Jeffrey Tamburo at 455-7591 x285 or jtamburo@enablecny.org.

susan johnson
contributing writer
sara wall-bollinger
executive director



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Upcoming Events

September 29th **Open House at Enable**

Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Individualized Living Services.
For more information call 315/432-9154, x 101.

October 15th **Disability Mentoring Day**

The American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and the U.S. Department of Labor are proud to present Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) promoting the employment of students and job seekers with disabilities through job shadowing and personal mentoring. Enable is serving as Local Coordinator for DMD for the Central New York Region. For more information contact Jeffrey Tamburo 315/455-7591, x 285.

February 3rd, 2004 **Syracuse Auto Dealers Charity Preview**

Please designate Enable on your ticket request.

For additional information on any event please call Susan 315-455-7591 x 220

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Direct Voice Lines: Children & Family Services (315) 475-1382 • Community Services (315) 432-9154

Enable's Services

Advocacy
Aquatic Therapy
Assistive Technology
Augmentative Communication
Certified Residential Settings
Computer Access & Training
Day Habilitation
Diagnostic Assessment
Early Intervention Evaluation
Family & Individual Support
Home & Community Based Services

Inclusive Pre-School
Special Education
Individual & Group Counseling
Itinerant Special Education
Neurology Services
Occupational Therapy
Personal Assistance
Physical Therapy
Pre-School Evaluation
Rehabilitation Counseling
Residential Habilitation

Service Coordination
Speech & Language Therapy
Supported Employment
Support Groups

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