



# enable link

individualized services for children & adults with disabilities

Winter 2006  
newsletter

## Thirty Years at Court Street *By Sara Wall-Bollinger*

As I write this article, Enable (formerly known as the C.P. Center) has been based at our Court Street location for some 11,000 days.

The agency has been in existence far longer than this, but the past thirty years are important because we have had a collective dream of a building expansion for every one of those days. Eighteen Board Presidents, two Architectural firms, three Executive Directors, two Development Directors, parents, participants, staff and countless volunteers have kept this dream alive.



They did not have much help. Professional consultants repeatedly advised that the fund raising goal was too large. As the disability rights movement evolved, plans for utilization of space repeatedly changed. Government programs repeatedly refused to fund capital projects. Foundations repeatedly set their priorities elsewhere.

But the dream refused to die.

This year we celebrate three things. First, we honor those who moved to Court Street in 1975 and made the best of it. The facilities were small, required renovation and cost more than had been budgeted. The C.P. Center of that era was a small tight-knit group who pulled together to provide nationally recognized quality services in spite of the facility limitations. We invite the Board members, staff, volunteers and participants who settled into the original space 1975-1979 to celebrate with us at the **30th Anniversary Reunion** Tuesday, March 14th, 3pm to 7pm.

Secondly, we honor those who kept the dream alive through thick and thin 1980-1999. During the 1980's and 90's federal and state policies regarding education and support services for people with disabilities changed dramatically. Although the core mission of Enable has remained constant, the nature of the services provided, the budget size and the number of staff have grown. Enable became significantly more community based with inclusive education, residential services, supported employment and personal assistance services. The rationale for owning a building, let alone expanding it, came into question again and again. Meanwhile, maintenance for the existing buildings could no longer be deferred, reducing funds available for capital expansion.

Third, we celebrate **Growing Beyond Limitations** 2000-2006. All our friends, contributors, supporters, neighbors and participants are invited to a **Grand Opening Celebration July 10th**.



*Congressman Walsh visits addition while under construction*

Please join us as we inaugurate a 30,000 square foot 'green' building addition designed to provide outpatient aquatic rehabilitation, sensory integration, augmentative communication, occupational, physical and speech therapy services.

The new building includes a conference facility available for lease. The Community Networks day habilitation program, office space for human resources, self-directed personal services and a collaborative staff training project are located on the second floor. The main Court Street building is being renovated for medical treatment space and staff offices. Community Services staff currently in rented office space on Arterial Road will move back to Court Street in May.

Enable's Children's Assistive Technology Services, the TRAIID Project and the Northeast ADA and IT Center of Cornell University present Judith Sweeney of Onion Mountain Technology to speak on **"Using Technology to Modify Texts and Worksheets for Students with Special Needs"**. Admission is free and continuing education units (CEUs) are available. To register, contact Debbie Peck at 315-455-7591x316 or [dpeck@enablecny.org](mailto:dpeck@enablecny.org)

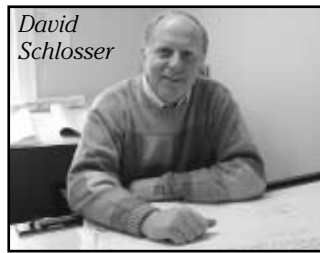
# Shining Lights Will Be Honored



Enable will recognize individuals and organizations who help fulfill our mission in this community and beyond.

**The William Fitzpatrick Community Service Award** will be presented to **The Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks of the USA**, with special recognition to local lodges in Camillus,

Cortland, Fulton, Oneida, Liverpool, and Oswego. For 40 years the Elks have been instrumental in the growth of Enable's Home Service Program, concentrating on individuals with cerebral palsy. Their financial contributions help to provide individualized services to adults and children with disabilities and their families in their home communities. Since inception, the program supported by the Elks, has grown to encompass every county of New York State.



David Schlosser

**David Schlosser** of Schopfer Architects will receive **The Jerridith Wilson Volunteer Recognition Award**. For many, many years Dave volunteered his time, talent and expertise to help create the plans for the new building at Enable. With over 30 years of experience and a

registered architect in seven states, Dave still found the time to assist Enable in developing our dream. Even though he literally went back to the drawing board on numerous occasions, he patiently and diligently worked to make that dream a reality.

**Contribution to Inclusion Awards** will be presented to Leader Drug at Harrison Center, Inficon – Care Council, and Syracuse University – Human Resources Department. Enable staff Karen Abbott and Amy Ostrander will receive **Direct Service Awards**. Steve and Lis Fournier, this year's Honorary Chairs, cordially invite you to attend this celebration on April 5th at Country Club of Syracuse. Invitations will be mailed in March.

## SADA Charity Preview

The Eighth Annual Syracuse Auto Dealers Association Charity Preview was held Tuesday January 31st 2006 at the OnCenter. For the fifth year in a row Enable was invited to participate as one of the thirteen charities to benefit from the ticket sales. Enable had a stellar year surpassing the goal for 2006 with ticket sales and sponsorships totaling over \$19,000. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Children's Assistive Technology Program. CATS provides equipment and training to bring assistive technology to participating schools throughout the Central New York Region.



The yellow Corvette was a favorite picture stop for many attendees. Seen here from left to right are: (backrow) Enable Board Members Michael Wirtheim, Enable Gold Sponsor Tim Brophy of Brophy Services, (front row) Enable Event Coordinator Christine Seubert, Executive Director Sara Wall-Bollinger, Enable Board Members Louis Everding, Lynn Horowitch, and Marvin Reed.



Enable Board Member Andrew Bobrek and his wife Heather enjoy a fun filled evening viewing the latest cars and SUV's.



SADA Executive Vice-President Barbara Rothschild is pictured here with Enable's Executive Director Sara Wall-Bollinger.



Larry Hart, Enable participant, is pictured here by one of his favorite cars of the evening.

# Low Vision Awareness Month

Sandi Nelson, Enable Program Coordinator, has given many presentations over the years, but this was the first time she was asked to speak at a tea party. Several months ago, Nelson was demonstrating a variety of adaptive equipment for people with vision loss at a meeting of the Eye Care Support Group in Cortland. Following the presentation, Marian Dahlheimer, couldn't wait to talk with Nelson and confesses with a smile, "I bent her ear for a while." Dahlheimer and several of her friends needed help accessing their computers and using software that would overcome their vision problems. So she invited Nelson over for tea. What's even more unique about this group of ladies? They are all senior citizens.



At 84 years old, Marian Dahlheimer is a vibrant, charming woman. Her husband Harry proudly describes her as "an outstanding human being, plainly remarkable." Macular Degeneration has caused her to lose a significant amount of her vision. "It sounds terrible, but I'm thankful for what I have." She laughs adding, "He's my eyes and I'm his short term memory. Together we make a perfect person." After 61 years of marriage, they do seem perfect together.

Through Project Adapt, Enable's assistive technology lending library, Nelson was able to loan Marian special software that enlarges the information on her computer monitor. Together they sorted out problems to make it easier for Dahlheimer to use her computer and printer. Nelson also brought along some

low-tech equipment for people with vision problems including a hand-held magnifier that has allowed Dahlheimer to see prices and labels at the grocery store. But Marian's favorite gadget is the little tube you can use with a cup or container that "squeaks" when the liquid is nearing the top, saving her finger from hot liquids.

Project Adapt is funded through a grant from the New York State Commission on Quality of Care for Person's With Disabilities. Under the grant, Nelson provides information and referral as well as trial equipment loans for a variety of assistive technology devices. The program serves people of all ages and all disabilities. The lending library is located at Enable's main offices on Court Street in Syracuse. A rural outreach component brings Nelson to Cortland, Tompkins,

Madison, Cayuga and Oswego Counties on a monthly basis. Nelson will make a follow-up visit with Dahlheimer. "Sandi was a godsend." Smiling, she adds, "I can't wait to pick her brains again. I'm armed with a whole sheet of new questions."

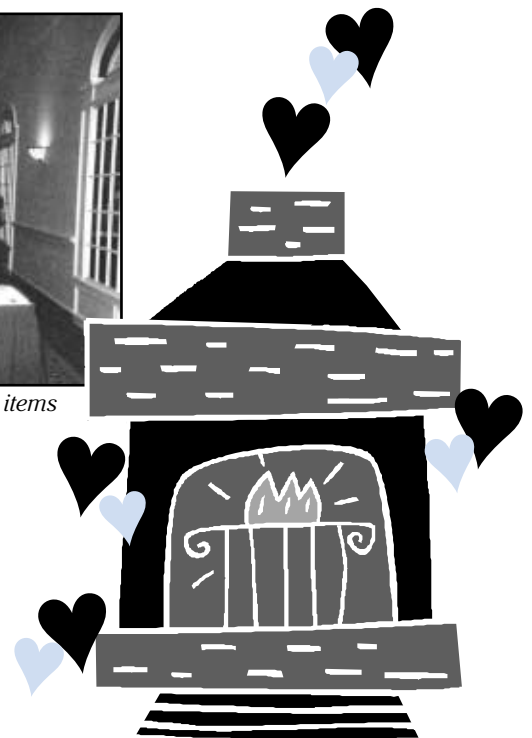
**Enrolling now for free educational series for parents of pre-schoolers in Oswego and North Syracuse featuring Dr. Laura Lee McIntyre. Includes dinner and child care. Call 443-4136 before March 1, 2006 for more information.**

# Hot Stove... Warm Hearts

The Syracuse SkyChiefs Baseball Club held their 45th Annual Hot Stove Dinner & Silent Auction at the Holiday Inn – Electronics Parkway on February 3, 2006. The SkyChiefs designated Enable as the beneficiary of the proceeds raised from the Silent Auction. The auction brought in over \$6,000 to Enable benefiting the Project Adapt program. The evening featured a long line up of guests such as former Blue Jays and Chiefs pitcher Pat Hentgen, SkyChiefs outfielders John Ford-Griffin and Justin Singleton, and Detroit Tigers pitcher and Baldwinsville native Jason Grilli. About 400 fans attended the Hot Stove event which, for the first time in the 45 year history was turned into a sit-down dinner. The SkyChiefs also honored several local high school and college players with Pre-season Player of the Year awards. The tradition of the Hot Stove 'meeting or dinner' began as a way for die hard baseball fans to gather together around a hot stove during the cold winter months to discuss baseball during the off-season. Fans were welcomed Friday night by a hot stove at the entry of the dining room and the evening was certainly filled with baseball talk and hope of the upcoming spring season.



*Hot Stove patrons view Silent Auction items*





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clem nadeau  
*board president*  
sara wall-bollinger  
*executive director*



## Upcoming Events

- March 14th** ..... 30th Anniversary Reunion
- March 29th** ..... AT and IT Conference
- April 5th** ..... Shining Lights Awards Celebration
- April 23rd** ..... Autism Awareness Walk
- June 12th** ..... Clare L. Smith Golf Classic
- July 10th** ..... Growing Beyond Limitations Open House
- August 1st-4th** ..... CP of NYS Statewide Open House
- August 15th** ..... Spirit of St. Mary's Dedication Ceremony

*For information regarding special events and volunteer opportunities contact  
Christine Seubert at 315.455.7591x284 or [cseubert@enablecny.org](mailto:cseubert@enablecny.org)*

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**Direct Voice Lines: Education Services (315) 475-1382 • Community Services (315) 432-9154 • Business Office (315) 701-1534**

### 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