

Dialogue on Disability reaches over 1 million WXXI listeners and viewers

WXXI and Al Sigl host a weeklong programming initiative each January to stimulate community dialogue about the perspectives of people with disabilities®. Plans are underway for the 8th year of *Dialogue on Disability: The Herman & Margaret Schwartz Community Series* which features special programming on WXXI-TV and AM 1370. Last January, more than 1 million listeners and viewers tuned in and participated. The centerpiece of the week was a national documentary film, "Including Samuel", which focused on inclusion along with a host of locally produced news and talk shows and a full week devoted to children's programming. Dialogue on Disability is made possible by a grant from the Fred L. Emerson Foundation. ♥



WXXI—in studio. Rochester Rehab President Cynthia Huether, Bob Smith, WXXI radio show host, CP Rochester President Brian Klafehn and Rochester Hearing and Speech Center Director of Audiology, Larry Medwetski take part in Dialogue on Disability.

CP Rochester's Outpatient Clinic Services

CP Rochester's *Dental Clinic* celebrated its first anniversary in February 2009. The Dental Clinic has clearly filled a gaping need for services that cater exclusively to a grossly under-served population of adults with disabilities® or medical needs. Patients are delighted to visit a dental facility where their special needs are attended to and patients' families and caregivers have rated the services a resounding success. All are impressed by the space, atmosphere and ease with which staff is able to care for patients.

In other developments, the *Outpatient Clinic* has received Article 16 licensure through the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to operate concurrently with its Article 28 licensure from the Department of Health. This dual certification allows the clinic to have more flexibility in serving patients who need on-going Physical, Occupational, and Speech-Language Therapy as well as Social Work and Psychological Services. OMRDD understands the clinical needs of people with disabilities to ensure their functionality is maintained.

This year's *Run for Fun* 5K Run/Walk event was expanded to include a separate 1 Mile Course and Finish Line, for people with physical disabilities and the less athletic among us. It was a truly joyful celebration of perseverance and grit. Working together with *Wilson Farms*, the lead sponsor, we raised over \$37,000 for our Fitness and Wellness Center. This dedicated site, with state-of-the-art equipment, will provide full accessibility and affordable memberships for people with physical or aging-related disabilities or medical needs. The center's staff includes therapists and instructors, with tailored programs focusing on increasing strength and stamina and establishing life-long wellness goals and healthy lifestyles. ♥



Opening Doors...Changing Lives

Lelia Zelazny, Dental Hygienist; Leslie Schiff, DDS; Mary Forquell, Patient Care Coordinator; Lora Winghart, Director Outpatient Clinic Services; Laura DeWitt, Dental Assistant (seated)

2008-2009 Brings New Community Partnerships to RHSC

2008-2009 brought many new partnerships with health-related organizations and community leaders to Rochester Hearing and Speech Center. RHSC was happy to participate. Partnerships were formed with Southside Medical Supply, Legacy Senior Living Centers, The Gables at Brighton, Cloverwood Senior Living, Senator Joseph Robach's Women's Wellness Health Fair, and the Senator James Alesi Health Fair.

The purpose of these partnerships was to promote better hearing health for all in our community and to provide hearing assessments to all in need. Over 700 free hearing screenings were provided through these partnerships and individual counseling was offered by RHSC's skilled professional audiologists. Group presentations covered a myriad of hearing health topics, followed by question and answer sessions for all in attendance. RHSC looks forward to future partnerships to better serve the Greater Rochester community, thus ensuring "Communication for Life" for all. ♥

