

CP ROCHESTER  
**THE VOICE**  
FALL/WINTER 2009



Opening Doors...Changing Lives

# A letter from Brian C. Klafehn, President of CP Rochester



On the cover page of this Voice is a picture of a new playhouse here at CP Rochester. You can clearly see it is quite unique. It is decorated with several fanciful bird houses, gingerbread trim, trees and twigs used as posts and railings and many other “special touches”. However, some of the things that make this playhouse truly “one of a kind” are even more important, but not easily seen.

First, it is a playhouse that is *fully accessible* to *all children*, including those who may use wheelchairs or have mobility challenges. Secondly, it was built entirely by volunteers, with materials donated by a host of generous members of the Rochester community. It was conceived as a playhouse where children with and without disabilities could play outdoors, side by side, safely. It is also just one more example of how CP Rochester, because of the dedicated work of our invaluable staff, volunteers, family members and community, continues to truly **“Open Doors and Change Lives”** each day.

The playhouse is an inspiring example of what remarkable things can be accomplished through the work of many people with a common cause, inspiration, great talent and commitment. As I thought about this letter and the playhouse it struck me that the same can be said for all that is done day in and day out here at CP Rochester. Everyone in the CP Rochester Family shares the cause of making sure that people with disabilities can build and live the lives they choose. Lives with real friends, work, meaningful activity, ways to get around in the community and a place that is home. It is our purpose.

Our attentions lately, unfortunately, have been focused on the devastating cuts to program revenue proposed by the Governor of New York State. It is during these incredibly challenging times that we will ask you who share our purpose, our “family”, to help us meet these challenges. We will be reaching out for your help to avoid these cuts, deal with cuts that may come and insure that we continue to meet our mission.

I urge you to visit our web site [www.cprochester.org](http://www.cprochester.org) There we will share information, for you to more fully understand the devastating impact of budget cuts faced by our programs and the people we serve. I encourage you to leave us your email address so we can keep you up-to-date on everything that affects our CP Rochester Family. With *your* help we shall not only weather this difficult time but also become stronger as a result.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian C. Klafehn". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brian

Please note that our 2008 Annual Report is posted on our web site. If you would like a paper copy mailed to you please call **Kate Proctor** at **334-6000** ext **322**.



# Augustin Children's Center Outdoor Classroom

For a variety of reasons, children today do not have the same opportunity to interact with the world around them, as did children of past generations. This has resulted in increased obesity, sensory deficits and a lack of appreciation for the natural world in today's children. Children with disabilities are even less likely to experience the outdoors with all its possibilities for stimulating children's creativity, self-discovery, and imagination.

That is why CP Rochester's Augustin Children's Center has developed a 3,500 sq ft "outdoor classroom" space in which children in the Early Intervention and Preschool Programs can interact freely with nature in a safe, yet unstructured way. The space includes a small hill for climbing and sledding, tall grasses to climb through, large tree trunks for sitting and balancing, gardens for planting, bird feeders and birdhouses, wildflowers, and a fully accessible playhouse.

This wonderful environment was the brain-child of Susan Fisher, Special Education Teacher who has been teaching in our Preschool and Early Intervention Programs for 12 years. The dream became a reality through the imagination, skill, brains, brawn and generosity of a collection of diverse individuals and groups who fell in love with the concept.

The fully accessible playhouse is the latest addition to this wonderful outdoor classroom space. This "all-season" playhouse will provide shade from the sun, shelter from the rain and hundreds of places for the imagination to wander. Dozens and dozens of volunteers have been swarming around the playhouse for the last several months seemingly adding an endless collection of nooks and delightful treasures. The playhouse will be dedicated to Will Day who brightened the day of everyone whose life he touched. Will passed away on April 6<sup>th</sup> and his life was celebrated on October 19<sup>th</sup>, when we reflected on this small boy's remarkable ability to bring so much joy and happiness into the world.



*The Outdoor Classroom provides an ideal environment for children to explore the outdoors with all its possibilities for play, discovery and socializing.*

# Volunteer Highlight

In October of 1986, Tony Nardone was recruited by friend and fellow Kodak retiree, Bob Horn, to volunteer in the Adaptive Workshop of what was then United Cerebral Palsy. In this role, Tony would put his skills in Mechanical Engineering to work as he designed, fabricated, modified and repaired equipment to assist people with physical challenges live more independently. Tony spent 25 years at Kodak and has spent almost as many years with us, sharing his time and talents. When he started, Tony and Bob set up their shop in the rear of a stage in the auditorium of our rented space at the 12 corners school in Brighton.

Today Tony heads the team of 8 volunteers who work in our very active Adaptive Workshop located at the Winton Campus. Tony's generous gift of time and talent has significantly impacted not only the individuals and families that we serve but he is a constant model to all of us of the rewards of commitment, hard work and giving back. In addition to his workshop skills, Tony brings with him leadership qualities, a wonderful sense of humor and an immeasurable level of dedication to the people that we serve.

Tony lives a full and rewarding life. He and his wife, Grace, have been married for 62 years. They have 3 children and 2 grandchildren. Tony is an avid golfer and loves the challenge of crossword puzzles. While serving our country as navigator in a B-17 Flying Fortress, Tony was shot down over Berlin and was captured as a prisoner of war. In 1988 Tony received



UCPA's Volunteer Service Award and in 2000 he was inducted onto the CP Rochester Wall of Honor, where he joined a select group of people who have made a considerable contribution to the mission and vision of our agency.

You can find Tony in the workshop on Mondays and Tuesdays each week. Join me as we thank Tony for his countless hours of support. CP Rochester values the support of our community volunteers. Our volunteer force includes people of all walks of life who are over the age of 13 and are interested in joining our team. For more information about our volunteer opportunities, see our website [www.cprochester.org](http://www.cprochester.org) or contact Tina Bennett, Manager of Volunteer Services.



## CP Rochester's *Healthy Heroes*

On another bright volunteer note, two of our Workshop Volunteers received Community Health Foundation *Healthy Hero Awards* for their enthusiastic commitment to our Outdoor Classroom Project. Jeannie Nutting was instrumental in the whole design and construction of the Outdoor Classroom and its Playhouse. David Schafer stepped up to the role of project and marketing manager of the Playhouse.

Jeannie and David are a perfect match for the spirit of the award, which recognizes those who play a role in encouraging a lifestyle which focuses on improving physical, sensory and emotional well-being and nurtures greater respect for self, others and the environment.



## Toys Inspiring Children To Overcome Challenges (TIC-TOC)

CP Rochester is honored to be chosen as the first program partner of TIC-TOC, the Pirate Toy Fund's newest program which provides specially adapted toys for children with physical or developmental disabilities. The partners will be responsible for identifying socioeconomically disadvantaged children in need of educational toys at home. In turn the program will develop a database of adaptive toy vendors and negotiate preferred pricing for these special toys.

The goal of the program is to help children, through their play, to reach their educational or physical developmental milestones through improvements in their mobility, dexterity, spatial skills and social interaction. The family is encouraged to provide feedback to the program regarding its effectiveness.

CP Rochester's Augustin Children's Center recommended Robert as a child who would greatly benefit from the TIC-TOC program. Robert is diagnosed with cerebral palsy and will transition from our Early Intervention Program to our Preschool Program in September. He is a happy child who is motivated and determined despite his disability. He is curious and playful, loves to interact with other children and delights in new experiences and playthings.

On Friday August 15<sup>th</sup>, Robert and his family were invited to the TIC-TOC warehouse to receive their toys. Mayor Robert Duffy and Senator Joseph Robach were on hand to congratulate the family and praise and thank the TIC-TOC program for this wonderful resource. Robert and his family were thrilled with the toys and look forward to the benefits from their use.

CP Rochester is excited about this partnership and is exploring ways to give back to the program. We plan to offer training and mentoring through our Adaptive

Workshop so other volunteers can develop skills and techniques to adapt toys and equipment for children with disabilities. To learn more about the Pirate Toy Fund and the TIC-TOC Program visit their web site: [www.piratetoyfund.org](http://www.piratetoyfund.org).



*Mayor Robert Duffy and Senator Joseph Robach were on hand to thank the TIC-TOC program for the wonderful resource they have provided for children with physical or developmental disabilities*

## Wheels for the World



Bill Jones, CP Rochester Custodian and Stephanie Partsch, Augustin Children's Center Physical Therapist collected a total of 11 wheelchairs from CP Rochester on May 21<sup>st</sup> for the organization Wheels for the World. The wheelchairs are refurbished in the U.S. and are then sent overseas to countries that do not have access to wheelchairs. Western New York collected a total of 612 wheelchairs. 20 of those were pediatric wheelchairs, seven of which CP Rochester provided!

Bill and Stephanie have taken the time and effort, for several years now, to provide this life-changing resource to people with disabilities, across the world, who live in desperate poverty. Their care and compassion is greatly appreciated.

## KINGS HIGHWAY

In August of last year, CP Rochester's Residence on King's Highway was initiated as a Kiwanis Aktion Club. The entire house attended the initiation dinner along with some members of the parent Kiwanis club. Kiwanis International is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. The Kiwanis Aktion Club is the only community-service club for adults, living with disabilities. The Club allows members to develop initiative and leadership skills in serving their communities while enabling their integration into society.

In September, Aktion Club held a garage sale to benefit the club and the service projects they wanted to pursue. Money raised along with additional money from a bake sale went towards purchasing over \$500 dollars worth of toys to be distributed to area children. Then in November the first Annual Pancake Breakfast was held along with a baked goods sale. Later that same month one Aktion Club member gave up part of his Thanksgiving to help the Kiwanis group put together Thanksgiving Dinner baskets for needy families living in Irondequoit.

January's project kicked off 2009 with the King's Highway Aktion Club delivering toys to the Rochester General Hospital Children's Pediatric office. In May club members attended the Soap Box Derby held on Lakeshore Boulevard. All had a great afternoon of fun! Some watched the racing and a few experienced the driving downhill. A Red Wings Game and House picnic have been arranged for families to meet and socialize. There will also be an outing in partnership with a Key Kiwanis (high school age) and the local Kiwanis Club.

Our King's Highway residents are enjoying their participation in this expansion of their family and reach into the community. There has been a great sense of accomplishment and appreciation at having the opportunity to give back to the community.



*Kings Highway Aktion Club 2010 Officers Left to right:  
Rita Dickerson—Secretary, Christian Koutek—Treasurer.  
Cathy Hendrick—Vice President, Tom Cassata—President*



# FACES OF CP ROCHESTER



**Robert C. Maddamma,  
Chairman of the  
Board of CP Rochester.**

◀ *Bob Maddamma has served on the board of CP Rochester for almost ten years now and was elected Board Chair at the Annual Meeting in June, 2009. Bob's involvement with CP Rochester was prompted by a desire to give back for the care given by the agency, to a grandchild with autism. He is driven to do whatever he can to ensure the best interests of people served and supported by CP Rochester. Bob brings a wealth of operational, leadership and management experience to the Board. He also serves on the Board of Wesley Community, a skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility and is active in his church, St. John of Rochester.*

*Bob has led a fulfilling professional life, retiring from Xerox in 2001 where he was VP of Worldwide Service Operations for XE systems Inc., a subsidiary of Xerox and subsequently retired from Transcat as VP of Laboratory Operations in 2007. He is currently employed at the University of Rochester Simon School of Business as a Lecturer and Director of Recruiting for the Executive MBA Program, where he also obtained his MBA in Business.*

*The Maddammas are originally from Pittsburgh, Pa. and moved to Rochester in 1972. Bob and his wife, Carol, have been married for 47 years and find themselves blessed with three children—Hope, Bob and Tom—and seven grandchildren. Bob enjoys spending time with his family and also takes great pleasure in travelling, golfing and wine-making.*

*Our heartfelt thanks to you, Bob, for your selfless dedication to the "CP Rochester Family."*



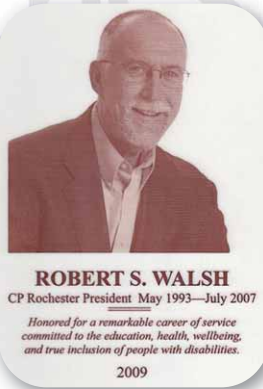
◀ *It's no surprise to all of us at CP Rochester that Sean Ossont was selected by the Rochester Business Journal to receive their Forty Under 40 Award in recognition of his outstanding professional and civic contributions. Sean has volunteered in our Shared Ski Adventures*

*program for many years, helping to share the joy of skiing with people with disabilities. This program is driven by wonderful volunteers who make this experience possible for people who never dreamed they would be able to ski.*

*Sean Ossont is pictured on the right goofing around with fellow volunteer Zach Nelson.*



▲ *Lynn Keller, VP of Operations at CP Rochester accepts a check from Karen and the Readell family—Dave, Petra and Kevin—from the Karen Readell Golf Tournament. The Readell family has held this fundraiser for 14 years now. This year's tournament was the most successful yet, raising \$4,000 for the CP Rochester Fitness and Wellness Center. We are indeed fortunate to have the Readells in our CP Rochester family.*



◀ *On Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 former President of CP Rochester, Bob Walsh, was inducted to the CP Rochester Wall of Honor. It was a hilarious affair with speakers Brian Klafehn, President of CP Rochester, Dan Myers, President of AI Sigl Community of Agencies, and Jeff Baker, outgoing Chairman of the Board of CP Rochester delivering blistering roasts as well as generous helpings of praise. Bob and the rest of the Walsh family were great sports, enjoying the camaraderie and feeling very proud.*



*The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has been supportive of Cerebral Palsy Associations for decades. The New York State Elks Major Project program has supported the Home Services work of Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State by providing vehicles for staff to travel to the homes of people with disabilities to evaluate and tend to their needs.*

*CP Rochester has been doubly blessed by the Elks because of fund raising done at the local level by our local Elks Lodges. This year the Webster Fairport Elks held a wonderful car show and chicken dinner which raised \$400 to support CP Rochester and the Henrietta Lodge Annual Music Fest brought in \$2,600 for a remarkable contribution to CP Rochester. Our heartfelt thanks go out to these generous people who truly earn their "Benevolent and Protective" title.*



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## IN MEMORY OF...

CP Rochester honors and celebrates the lives of two extraordinary individuals who dedicated themselves to the fundamental principle that, "people should be measured by what they can do, not what they can't do."

### Eunice Kennedy Shriver—1932–2009

Special Olympics was the brain child of Eunice Kennedy Shriver and her passion from its modest beginnings in her back yard in 1960 to the international celebration of the abilities of people with disabilities on the field of competition.

Those of us who have had the privilege to watch, participate or attend a Special Olympics Games have seen the joy and excitement that Mrs. Shriver engendered in the lives of hundreds of thousands of very special people.

### Senator Edward Moore Kennedy—1921–2009

Of the over 300 bills that Senator Edward Kennedy wrote that became law, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 had the most impact on the people we serve. The Americans with Disabilities Act began a new era of opportunity for millions of citizens with disabilities who had been denied full and fair participation in society. Senator Kennedy's remarks at the Act's 17th Anniversary showed the passion that he held for the rights of the special needs population noting the act's crowning achievement of, "...its promise of a new and better life for every disabled citizen, in which their disabilities would no longer put an end to their dreams."

## Our Mission

*CP Rochester exists to support people with physical and developmental disabilities in choosing and accomplishing successive individualized life goals. We do this by providing a wide range of services to people of all ages in the greater Rochester area. These include: Outpatient Clinical, Residential, Educational & Personal Support Services. Our purpose is to ensure that those we serve safely determine their own pathways in life and live as full members of their communities.*

## Administrative Offices

Children's Services, Adult Services,  
Clinical Services and Residential Services:

3399 Winton Road South  
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585.334.6000

[www.cprochester.org](http://www.cprochester.org)

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**THE VOICE** is published quarterly for the families, friends, consumers and staff of CP Rochester.

Comments are welcome and should be directed to the Communications Department at **334.6000** ext. **322** or [kproctor@cprochester.org](mailto:kproctor@cprochester.org)

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