

CP ROCHESTER
THE VOICE
SPRING/SUMMER 2011



**OPENING DOORS...
CHANGING LIVES**

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



One of our most fundamental values at CP Rochester is that of **INCLUSION**. It is simply the idea that we are dedicated to building a “community where each person belongs”. **INCLUSION** and belonging are about each of us creating, building and having **RELATIONSHIPS** with others in our community. Those relationships are based on shared interests without regard to one’s physical ability or really any of the other things we too often allow to separate us. It is part of our vision for CP Rochester, our community and those we support in it.

In this issue of the Voice you will read many pieces about **RELATIONSHIPS** — new ones, enduring ones and ones yet to be built. Each one of these is based on shared interests and values. It is also true that, as with every relationship, they become histories of people giving and receiving from one another, doing important work together and enjoying shared interests together.

There are many stories of friends who have relationships with us reaching out to give to us and those we support. Our soft spoken long time “swim friend” Bess, the Elks, Wegman’s, Target, Woods Oviatt and our friends Bob Croessman and Jim McElheny, the Readel family and many others.

But there are also stories of people reaching out and giving back to our community. The story of our growing relationship with ABVI Goodwill is just one. Other very exciting examples include people in CP Rochester’s new Transition Program, pictured on the cover, who volunteer in many different community locations like libraries and nursing homes to provide service and learn about possible work opportunities and again along with groups like the Kings Highway Aktion Club building **RELATIONSHIPS**.

As we begin the celebration of our 65th Anniversary here at CP Rochester we will be reaching out to you, our current friends, to rebuild and renew old relationships as well as building relationships with new friends. It is our vision that together we will truly create a “community where each person belongs”. **INCLUSION**



Parade of Benches

CP Rochester introduced its own mini *Parade of Benches* recently. Four benches beautifully painted by Jeannie Nutting and a Mickey and Goofy bench expertly crafted by Marty Chatt, are now in place at our Winton Campus. Jeannie and Marty are both volunteer “Workshop Elves” who spend their time adapting equipment for our consumers and making our building look cheerful and charming.

Jeannie decorated benches that were donated by Jim and Georgine Stenger in memory of Jim’s mother Ingrid, who was a much loved member of staff in the Augustin Children’s Center. The bench that Marty made was built to honor Jaden who receives services through our Pediatric Therapy Services. His mother was recently married and the members of her wedding party all ran in and donated to our Run for Fun as a gift to the couple.

You can find the benches in the entrance to our Children’s Services wing and the PTS waiting room. These are truly meaningful gifts which will continue to give back to the children of CP Rochester. We are very grateful for these wonderful gifts.



Jane Geffel: Author Extraordinaire



Just a few days after celebrating her 50th Birthday, Jane Geffel found herself surrounded by hundreds of friends eager to have her sign their copy of her “hot off the press” book, *Just Like You*. Arbor Expressive Art Therapy Center in Rochester, where Jane spends time on her art work, hosted the party.

Jane was born with cerebral palsy and gets around in her wheelchair. She’s a fun-loving feisty gal with an impish sense of humor. Her cousin Kathy Blasi took over having the book published. The book is a compilation of stories, reminiscences and thoughts that Jane has written over the years by tapping with one finger, or a pencil, on a typewriter. Everything is in upper case to make it easier for her. It’s a remarkable effort and labor of love.

Suzanne Suor of White Barn Press, Inc. has been publishing books for 30 years and was so moved by the book’s, “compelling story... with aspirations and dreams and all the joyful, challenging and sad experiences that make life what it is,” that she awarded Jane’s book the *White Barn Press Book of the Year*.

You can purchase a copy of Jane’s book at www.whitebarnpress.com

Senator Tom Morahan, Champion of People With Disabilities

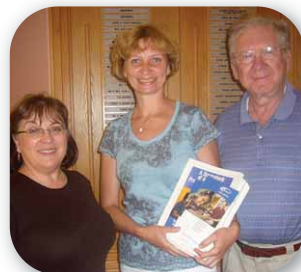
New York lost a great friend and champion of people with disabilities when Senator Tom Morahan passed away on July 12th 2010 at the age of 78, following a 6 month struggle with leukemia. Senator Morahan was a great advocate for all of the CP of NYS Affiliates as well as every New Yorker and their family member with a disability. He was one of those rare legislators who understood and had a passion for caring for people with disabilities.

Senator Morahan was one of two Republican Senators to be asked by the Senate Majority to resume his service as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, a committee where he championed many bills including Timothy’s Law, landmark legislation that mandates mental health insurance parity in New York State.

Lawmakers recently passed several initiatives sponsored by Sen. Morahan including legislation to remove the word “retardation” from the state Office of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities and call the agency the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities.

East Meets West

A chance introduction at a Kiwanis meeting brought together two colleagues who lived half a world apart. Jane Murray a Speech-Language Pathologist Supervisor in CP Rochester’s Outpatient Clinic met Ausra Baublyte, a Speech Therapist from Lithuania, who was visiting the United States in response to a Kiwanis donation to the Vilnius Psychological—Educational Service in her country.



Left to Right: Jane Murray welcomes Ausra Baublyte and fellow Kiwanian Gedemis Reinis to CP Rochester.

The pair became fast friends while discussing their professions and marveling at the differences in speech therapies between Eastern Europe and the United States. Ausra enthusiastically accepted Jane’s invitation to visit CP Rochester and was enthralled by the variety of therapies and equipment available to the children in our programs. She had never before had the opportunity to see an electronic communication device in operation.

By another stroke of luck, the Outpatient Clinic is in the process of reconfiguring their space and had rooted out several items which had not been used in a long time. Ausra was quick to offer a home to these items which could be made good use of in Lithuania. Upon her return, Ausra made a presentation to her colleagues telling of her amazement with the new therapies and equipment that she was introduced to and the exciting developments she had witnessed in both adult and pediatric services at CP Rochester. Jane and Ausra continue to communicate, share information and learn from their special friendship.



CP Rochester Gives Back to the Community During the Holiday Season

We are fortunate at CP Rochester to have so many members of this community lending a hand in support of our work here. Their participation runs the gamut from helping kids in the Therapy Pool—to clean up and repair work inside and outside of our residences—to assisting people with disabilities realize their dream of skimming down the ski slopes.

So we consider it a privilege to give back to our community whenever we can—particularly during the Holiday Season. This year staff and program participants at CP Rochester quietly supported those in need. Staff from our Individual and Family Support Services program spent a day at St Josephs Villa helping out at the Holiday House. Other agency staff joined the young adults from the Transition Program for an afternoon at St Ann's Home making cookies and singing carols with the residents in the dementia program. Clinic Services staff collected items to send to the troops in Afghanistan and still other employees from Administration and Children's Services adopted families in need who are served by CP Rochester.

CP Rochester has also partnered with ABVI Goodwill. Our Day Habilitation participants have enjoyed being a part of this collaboration and have organized, sorted and re-priced donated items for the Jefferson Road and Webster Goodwill Stores. Since August we have helped to collect 14,000 pounds of donations or over 100 donations per month. Annually that amounts to over 33,000 pounds per year less in our landfills. On another "green" note 104 solar panels were installed on the roof of our main campus at 3399 Winton Road South in Henrietta. The project was made possible through a NYSERDA grant and produces enough electricity to light the exterior hallways of the building. A monitor mounted near our reception area keeps track of the energy collection and distribution.



Timothy Giarrusso, Senior Vice President of Operations at ABVI Goodwill & Brian Klafehn, President of CP Rochester shake hands on a collaboration of the two agencies. An ABVI Goodwill donation station has been built on CP Rochester's Winton Campus and CP Rochester's Day Habilitation Program transports consumers to Goodwill Stores so they can experience working in a retail environment.



Monarch Butterflies Leave For Mexico From CP Rochester.



Our annual monarch butterfly release always creates a great deal of excitement. Last fall Tina Crandall-Gommel, a conservation educator at Senecal Park Zoo who brought the butterflies, made it even more amazing with all the information she provided about these remarkable creatures. Her description of the chrysalis turning into green goop before it becomes a butterfly was mind-boggling.

The very special butterflies sitting on our hands will live for six months, to make their trip down to Mexico. Ordinarily a monarch's life span is just a couple of weeks. We watched them fly away with more than just a little wonderment.

Volunteer Highlight

Kings Highway Aktion Club "Cut a Rug"

Earlier this year the folks from the Aktion Club at our Kings Highway Residence, joined the Jr./Sr. High Youth Group from neighboring Christ The King Church for a fun filled night of dancing. The soiree was the idea of the Aktion Club Vice President, Cathy Hendrix. After meeting the Youth Group a joint effort between the Aktion Club and the Youth Group came to fruition.

The dance was a great hit. Aspiring dancers who were a little "rusty" received personal dance instruction from Father Morgan, who really knows all the interactive dances. He also has some great music on his ipod! Special thanks goes out to Jeff Bailey and our wonderful new friends from the Youth Group.

The Aktion Club is an active part of the East Irondequoit Kiwanis Club. This dance is one of many ways that members get involved in their community. Watch for more club fundraising or just FUN raising activities.



Kiwanis
Aktion
Club Service
in Action

People volunteer for many reasons, to meet friends, to gain skills, to give back and for some it is just second nature, like blinking or breathing. Something we just do.

In 2007 during her junior and senior years at Pittsford Sutherland, Jenny Lewis used her early dismissal days to do some volunteer work. We were fortunate that Jenny joined the ranks of high school students who share their time and talents with CP Rochester. Because she was a competitive swimmer, helping out in the pool was a natural fit for Jenny. In our integrated preschool program, high school volunteers are plentiful.

What was unique about Jenny's volunteer placement was the fact that she brought her mother, Bess, along with her. Jenny and Bess came in to help out every Monday. It was an opportunity for Bess to spend quality time with her teen aged daughter and she used that time as a teaching opportunity. Jenny learned not to take what she had for granted, she learned the

value of civic engagement and most important she learned to pay it forward. To give to others when there was an opportunity. The experience was positive for both mother and daughter, Bess recalls days when she would pick Jenny up from school only to find her teen in a bad mood. Once Jenny was in the pool with the kids, that mood changed. She always left a lot happier than she came. Upon graduation, Jenny went off to the University of Virginia where she continues to volunteer as a mentor for the Big Brother Big Sister Program and helps out with Special Olympics. The best part of this mother daughter story is that mom stayed on. Bess Lewis continues to come in and support our swim program. She says that she loves the atmosphere at CP Rochester and notes that Jenny still asks her how swimming was. Bess is still able to share the experience with her daughter.

We are fortunate that Bess Lewis used our volunteer opportunity to build a life experience with her daughter. Lessons learned in these life moments stay with us forever. Bess should know, for her own mother, Pinny Cooke, taught her the value of helping others. Pinny, a long time supporter of people with disabilities started her career as Director of Social Work right here at CP Rochester. She went on to go into politics where she used her voice to advocate for people with special needs. CP Rochester inducted Pinny onto our Wall of honor in 1996. We have always had high regard for Pinny for her support. Support that lives on now through her daughter and granddaughter.

CP Rochester would be unable to offer our unique programs without the support of community volunteers. For more information on how you can get involved, contact Tina Bennett **334.6000** ext **1321**.



Bess Lewis helps out Ben Hawkins, Adaptive PE Teacher, with swim time.

Daisy Visit

In December Lisa Michalek of Daisy Troop #60264 brought three little Daisies to the Augustin Children's Center for a visit. Elizabeth Michalek, Grace Van Bortel and Abigail Culbert brought with them 20 boxes of donated cookies. The girls visited two classrooms and had snack time with the children. The Children at CP Rochester made cards to thank our newest and youngest donors for their very special gifts.



Make a Difference Day



The theme of our Make a Difference Day in October was *Bringing in the Harvest!* Once again our friends from Calkins and Hylan Wegmans Stores helped to make it a very special harvest for our kids in the Augustin Children's Center. They brought apples, pumpkins and materials for craft projects. They supervised painting and pumpkin decorating projects. Jumping in the leaf pile, with the accompanying shrieks and giggles, was a particular favorite of the kids. The wheelbarrow and relay races made for a good workout for all.

There was more than fun and games happening too. Playing their own part in Making a Difference were the friends, families and staff at CP Rochester who collected non-perishable food items which were dropped off at the local Henrietta Food Cupboard.

Wegmans

Elks Music Fest Donation

Elk Lodge # 24 Exalted Ruler Shirley Schuharth presents a \$3,150 check to CP Rochester President Brian Klafehn. The check represented the money the lodge's Annual Music Fest raised for the Fitness & Wellness Center at CP Rochester. The amount of work and heart these folks put into making this event an enormous success is astounding. Thank you for all you do to support us!



Karen Readel Golf Tournament

The Readel Family has fervently supported CP Rochester for many years by organizing the Karen Readel Golf Tournament and donating the proceeds to one of our programs. This year Karen decided to have their donation of \$2,500 designated to our Speech/Language Department. Our thanks can't begin to express how much we appreciate all the hard work that goes into the golf tournament and how much everyone thoroughly enjoys participating.



Left to Right: Need names

Target gives their Heart

Jamie Coher of the Chili Avenue Target Store was just one employee who lost her heart to the children in our Augustin Children's Center. Target supplied all sorts of materials for making Valentine Cards so the children had something special to take home to their families.



Year-end Gift

Law Firm Woods Oviatt Gilman, LLP representatives, Robert Croessmann and James McElheny present a handsome check of \$2,500 from Woods Oviatt Gilman to CP Rochester President Brian Klafehn. What a wonderful year-end gift!



Left to Right: *Robert Croessmann, Brian Klafehn and James McElheny*

The Most Thoughtful Gift of All...



Have you ever considered leaving a legacy gift? The goal of the CP Rochester Legacy Society is to plan for our organization's future and set the course for a strategic vision that will carry the agency forward. This lofty goal is made possible

through the generosity of current and realized wills and bequests.

Every member of the CP Rochester family has the power to make future change possible. Together we continue to ensure the long-term viability of our future programming needs.

- Yes, I would like more information about joining the CP Rochester Legacy Society; please contact me.
- Yes, I have already made a legacy provision in my will for CP Rochester.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Email

Phone

Mail to:



3399 Winton Road South
Rochester, NY 14623

For more information on gift planning, please contact, Peter L. Gabak, Director of Development for CP Rochester at **585.442.4102**, ext. **2718**, or via email at pgabak@alsigl.org.



3399 Winton Road South
Rochester, NY 14623

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #515
Rochester, NY

Early Intervention Assistive Technology Fair at CP Rochester



Augustin Children's Center hosted an Early Intervention Fair, in the gym of our Winton Campus, on September 24th. This initiative was sponsored by a publicly funded Monroe County Early Intervention Program. Attendance was high, with parents, teachers and therapists poring over the very latest in Assistive Technology devices and equipment for young children with developmental or physical disabilities. Vendors

of these tools, which have an enormous impact on the ability of young kids to get around, communicate and learn new skills, were on hand to educate our guests.

Little wheelchairs, tiny orthotics and child-sized braces were handled and evaluated. Brightly colored, versatile and adjustable small wheelchairs were sized up. Some children were able to stand up for the first time, in a comfortable and secure stander, which adjusted just right for their needs. One table was full of speech-language devices which were great fun and very engaging.

The number of people who voiced their gratitude proved that the Fair provided a much-needed service to all who attended.



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
Rochester, NY 14623
585.334.6000
www.cprochester.org

CP Rochester Board of Directors

Robert C. Maddamma,
Board Chairman
Joyce W. Weir,
Vice Chairwoman
Judith L. Marsh,
Chairwoman, Audit & Finance Committee
John P. Meade,
Assistant Chairman, Audit & Finance Committee
John R. Horvath,
Secretary
Sean R. Ossont,
Assistant Secretary
Robert W. Croessmann, Esq.,
AI Sigl Center Delegate
Jeffrey W. Baker, Esq.
Jay Quinn
Brian M. DiGiacco
Brendan P. O'Riordan
Ann E. Kurz
Martha E. Mock
Lawrence M. Samkoff, M.D.
Craig S. Wittlin, Esq.
Brian C. Klafehn,
President
Judith A. Zoltoski,
Executive Assistant

Member of:



Partner:



THE VOICE is published biannually 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. **1322** or kproctor@cprochester.org

Editor: Kate Proctor