Legacies of Leadership

Al Sigl was founded 55 years ago by parents, caring professionals, and community leaders working together to create greater opportunities for people of all abilities. From the beginning, volunteers have served as the heart of our collaborative, generously sharing their time and talent as our Member Agencies have grown to serve over 55,000 children and adults each year.

As our Community has grown, many of our dedicated volunteers have encouraged friends and family to become involved as well. Both of our 2017 Board Chairs are the most recent members of their families to serve. Randy Schuster, Chair of the Board of Governors, and Tom Wilmot, Jr., Chair of the Board of Trustees, embody these legacies of leadership while helping to inspire tomorrow’s volunteers.

Randy credits his parents, Marty and Jacquie, for his love of community service. Marty also served as Board Chair in 1992. “My dad first became involved with Al Sigl after being asked by Justin Vigdor, his business attorney,” Randy remembers, “I saw first-hand the joy mom and dad received by volunteering their time to help others. It was a part of almost every dinner conversation. Once my own kids were older, I followed their lead and began to volunteer myself.”

Over the years, Randy has shared his expertise on several Board committees and at various events, including serving drinks at our JustOne Night challenge in February, and returning serves over the net at Al Sigl’s annual Tennis Benefit. Yet two of his earliest volunteer experiences remain near to his heart.

“One of my favorite Al Sigl memories is looking over the blueprints for the Winton Road Building with my dad and Dan Meyers, then President. Dad had brought me along to a few planning meetings and you could see it was going to be a state-of-the-art building. Today, it’s nice to see Al Sigl’s Winton Campus continue to expand and with such a great partner—CP Rochester. I’m looking forward to seeing what the campus looks like 25 years from now.”

Another event near to Randy’s heart is “Al Sigl’s annual President’s Circle of Hearts event. The first of these gatherings of friends was held in my mom and dad’s home and it was a very small group. It’s been nice to see the event grow, now 25 years strong.”

Tom Wilmot, Jr., also cites his parents as the driving influence for his love of giving back. “I got to see firsthand the impact the organizations they volunteered for were having on people.” He continues, “I also saw how much they enjoyed volunteering. Even as a kid I admired their volunteerism. It made me feel very proud of them.”

When asked which memories stand out over the years, Tom shares, “I can remember participating in an early WalkAbout at Mt. Hope Cemetery with my entire family. We had a blast despite the cold wet weather. Bringing so many people together for a great cause and a lot of fun is something I will never forget.” He continues, “Getting to meet Pete Metzelaars, the Buffalo Bills tight end, at the event was the cherry on top for the kid that I was.”

Recalling another favorite moment, Tom goes on to say, “I can’t leave out another fond memory of listening to my mother Colleen singing Christmas carols with Dan Meyers to a piano at our Holiday party. A real treat...”

To learn more about how you and your family can get involved as a volunteer at an upcoming event, or learn more about our collaborative mission, please visit alsigl.org.
Welcome Friends

Tom O’Connor

Our Legacies of Leadership cover story conveys a different kind of power. How extraordinary that one of our Founders, Al Sigl was hosting a Walkabout Committee planning meeting March 8th when our Volk Hall building’s power was interrupted. Desk phones, computers and office lights all went dark. People started streaming into the halls not yet realizing the full force of the howling winds outside on the impact community-wide. Our enthusiastic group completed their session as reports quickly came in that the entire Volk Campus and its five buildings and our Feinblom Campus were now dark and the Hale Building on our Winton Campus was running on emergency generator power. The Golisano Building on the Elmwood Campus fortunately had full power which would provide an operations center over the next week and an emergency shelter for friends who lost power to their group homes. Thankfully no one was injured. As dedicated staff and agency leaders worked together to communicate, revise work plans and even find temporary housing for folks in need, I was reminded of the power of collaboration.

With generous support from the Golisano Foundation, Best Buddies was able to expand their impact to Western New York. Best Buddies offers several programs that enrich the lives of youth and adults with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). These programs include matching middle school to college-age students with program participants in one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development activities. Visit bestbuddies.org/find-programs/new-york for more information.

Adapted Recreation Services (ARS) is a not-for-profit organization whose goal is to promote community integration for people with special needs through support services, fitness, recreation, and social opportunities. For over 15 years, ARS founder Michael Tuller has built partnerships with community organizations, local businesses, and providers to offer classes to meet each individual’s needs. Visit adaptedrecreation.org for more information.

Helping Hands, Caring Hearts

Each year, we receive notes from JustOne® donors expressing appreciation for being asked to give an amount that lets everyone get involved or remembering the help a friend or family member received. Days after JustOne® envelopes arrived in homes across the region, Maran wrote to share how his 4-year-old daughter asked if she also could make a donation. Since she cannot write yet, he helped her draw an outline of her hand to “sign” their note. That “helping hand” truly captures the collaborative nature of JustOne. Over 14,000 true-blue friends and neighbors have already responded, with envelopes still pouring in. This generosity has kept several other helping hands—those of our volunteers—very busy as well. Heartfelt thanks once again to Don Aihart and Joe Lominozzo of WMAM1180, who helped spread the word about the project, and to our kind friends and neighbors.

Thanks to our JustOne Sponsors

JustOne Great Night

This year’s JustOne® Night was a record success as the Al Sigl Council, Governors, and Trustees thrilled City Grill’s elegant but welcoming East Avenue on Thursday, February 9th. The celebrity bartending event raised over $25,000, more than the first two years combined! The Trustees claimed the trophy for the team collecting the most tips to help create opportunities for everyone to be included in community life. Thank you to each of our volunteer bartenders for an unforgettable night!

Art on Wheels

Driving on abilities with antique and classic vehicles

Adapted Recreation Services, Inc.

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities or to register your car for the event, please visit alsigl.org/artonwheels.

Al Sigl Council member Victoria Richardson (Al Sigl celebrity bartender for the evening)

John McNamara and Tom Wilmot, Jr. (Al Sigl celebrity bartenders for the evening)

Maureen Sinsebox, Randy Schuster, Joe Abbott, Jeff Sinsebox
Welcome Friends

Al Sigl has welcomed three new tenants at our Golisano Campus at Elmwood. Two are newly established local offices of national programs helping thousands across the region. The third has served our community for several years.

The National Parkinson Foundation Greater Rochester, formerly known as the Parkinson Support Group of Upstate NY, supports people with Parkinson’s disease and their families. Programs include support groups, wellness activities and respite care for caregivers. Visit npfgreaterrochester.org for more information.

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Art on Wheels

Driving on abilities with antique and classic vehicles

Al Sigl is proud to announce the First Annual “Art on Wheels” Exhibition and Car Show, which will be held on August 4th and 5th at ARTISANWorks. A VIP reception with an exclusive car viewing will be held on Friday night, followed by the car show on Saturday featuring high quality antique and classic vehicles. A $100 registration fee is required to enter a car in the show, while a $250 Patron Level registration includes admission to the VIP reception and exclusive viewing on Friday night. Judging categories include Prewar Domestic, Prewar Foreign, Postwar Domestic, Postwar Foreign, Muscle Cars, and Trucks. Cash prizes will be awarded for Best in Show and Best in Class for each category. All cars entered must have been manufactured prior to 1974, with the exception of any DeLorean entrants.

To learn more about sponsorship opportunities or to register your car for the event, please visit alsigl.org/artonwheels.

Adapted Recreation Services, Inc.

Howdy Neighbors

Recently an important question began popping up... “Do you have power?” Webster’s Dictionary (yes, I have to admit, I love having a dictionary within reach) defines power as: the capacity or ability to do or accomplish something... also, electrical energy... electricity.

Al Sigl was hosting a Walkabout Committee planning meeting March 5th when our Volk Hall building’s power was interrupted. Desk phones, computers and office lights all went dark. People started streaming into the halls not yet realizing the full force of the howling winds outside on the impact community-wide. Our enthusiastic group completed their session as reports quickly came in that the entire Volk Campus and its five buildings and our Feinblom Campus were now dark and the Hale Building on our Winton Campus was running on emergency generated power. The Golisano Building on the Elmwood Campus fortunately had full power which would provide an operations center over the next week and an emergency shelter for friends who lost power to their group homes. Thankfully no one was injured. As dedicated staff and agency leaders worked together to communicate, revise work plans and even find temporary housing for folks in need, I was reminded of the power of collaboration.

Our Legacies of Leadership cover story conveys a different kind of power. How extraordinary that one of our Founders, Justin Vogler, along with so many caring families, professionals and community leaders were able to realize greater opportunities for people of all abilities by creating what remains an innovative model of collaboration nearly 55 years later. That energy has grown to include generations of talented volunteers and friends like Randy Schuster and Tom Wilmar Jr.—leaders who bring the capacity and power to their group home. Thankfully no one was injured. As dedicated staff and agency leaders worked together to communicate, revise work plans and even find temporary housing for folks in need, I was reminded of the power of collaboration.

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Power takes many forms and Al Sigl Member Agencies are providing vital programs and services to tens of thousands of people with disabilities, their families and neighbors.

Sincerely,
Tom O’Connor
Access Technology Projects Help Children Learn On the Move

In just three years, Al Sigl’s Effective Access Technology co-op internship program with Rochester Institute of Technology has sparked over 70 access and inclusion projects. Lilly Pald, a series of interactive mats designed to help children with activities such as moving from one classroom to the next, was inspired by a 2015 co-op visit to Rochester Hearing and Speech Center’s Early Intervention Developmental Group. This spring, Marianna Pinheiro and a team of RIT engineers and designers returned to Elmwood to give RHSC staff a project update. Of the visit, Rita Myers, Special Education Teacher and Developmental Group Coordinator, shared “The project team was really impressive. You could see they were excited to share ideas and explain the prototype, which has begun testing in a typically-developing kindergarten classroom and will continue testing at RHSC.” In addition to programmable lights and sounds that help guide children from one mat to the next, therapists are able to track movements. “The project team was really impressive. You could see they were excited to share ideas and explain the prototype, which has begun testing in a typically-developing kindergarten classroom and will continue testing at RHSC.”

Member Agencies

Transportation Key to Maintaining Connections

Helping older adults to stay healthy and engaged in the community is a big part of Medical Motor’s services. Michele Lefibo, Program Coordinator at the Caroline “Lily” Lobozzo Aging Resource Center, also known as the Lily Café, knows that seniors often experience high rates of social isolation. At the Lily Café, many members depend on Medical Motor Service to stay active. “The value of transportation for older adults is so important. Some of our members can drive, and some can take public transportation, but many can’t. Without Medical Motors, there would be no way they could get to us,” Lefibo said. “But it is more than the great transportation service for members during the week. For example, there was a man who attended the Lily Café who had memory challenges. Medical Motors transported him to the café, allowing him to maintain his connection with friends and participate in physical activities that improved his quality of life. When he became ill and went into hospice, Medical Motors helped us bring his friends from the Lily Café to visit him at hospice, and to say goodbye, Lefibo remembered. “Without Medical Motors we could not have offered this meaningful experience to the people who knew him. We’re so lucky to have them.”

WalkMS: Stronger Together

Each year, 300,000 people participate in Walk MS events, making it one of the largest fundraising walks in the US. Walk MS events raise nearly $50 million dollars to fund programs that help people with MS live their best life with more connections to information, resources, and others with shared experiences. The event also supports accelerated research breakthroughs to help change lives and end MS forever. Local walks took place on Sunday May 7th at Genesee Valley Park in Rochester, Olympia High School in Greece, and Lakeshore Park in Canandaigua; to learn more please visit walkms.org.

Ability Partners, Inc. Named Finalist in 2017 Collaboration Prize

Ability Partners, Inc. was named a Finalist for the 2017 Collaboration Prize and will be awarded $10,000. This is a national award designed to highlight exceptional permanent models of collaboration among nonprofit organizations. Ability Partners, Inc. was initially chosen to be one of 18 semifinalists from more than 350 submissions and was selected as one of eight finalists for the Prize by a selection panel comprising major supporters of nonprofit collaboration. Judges sought collaborations that exemplified the impact of working together on a permanent basis.

“Without Medical Motors we could not have offered this meaningful experience to the people who knew him. We’re so lucky to have them.”

For a full list of Finalists and to learn more about the award and grand prize winner, please visit thecollaborationprize.org.

Focus on Person—Centered Care

Desiree (Des) Hanks has been an advocate for herself and others with developmental disabilities for as long as she can remember. Recently, Des helped Epilepsy-Pralid, Inc. secure a $50,000 grant from the Golisano Foundation to cover expenses associated with pursuing the Council on Quality and Leadership’s Person-Centered Excellence Accreditation. This transformative process is a rigorous examination through a person-centered lens. Less than 10% of disability service agencies in NYS have achieved this accreditation.

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Mary Walsh Boathfield, President and CEO of Rochester Rehabilitation, echoed the Judge’s comments. "The pride these individuals demonstrate in their work is inspiring. With such dedication and commitment, these employees have formed a tight-knit family, and are truly appreciated by the high profile offices they serve.” To learn more, please visit rochesterrehub.org.

WalkMS: "The walk inspired me to continue to walk with MS each year with the feeling of achievement and empowerment. I’m thankful to all that support my family and me as we continue to walk side-by-side with other families with MS each year.”

—Jacqueline, diagnosed 2007

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In addition to programmable lights and sounds that help guide children from one mat to the next, therapists are able to track a child’s interactions over time. “It is a fun tool to use.” Myers said. Of the experience, Mariana said, “It is amazing to have the opportunity to design so close to our end users. We have so much fun in the process too!”

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Judges sought collaborations that exemplified the impact of working together on a permanent basis.

“We were very excited to learn we were one of eight worthy of being selected as Finalists for the Collaboration Prize,” said Mary Walsh Boatfield, President and Chief Executive Officer of Ability Partners, Inc., CP Rochester, Happiness House, and Rochester Rehabilitation. “It is an honor to be selected from a national pool of nonprofit companies for this award. The affiliation we have among our three agencies allows us to provide and coordinate a greater range of services for adults and children with disabilities” in the Greater Rochester and Finger Lakes regions.

For a full list of Finalists and to learn more about the award and grand prize winner, please visit thecollaborationprize.org.

Focus on Person—Centered Care

Desiree (Desi) Hanks has been an advocate for herself and others with developmental disabilities for as long as she can remember. Recently, Desi helped Epilepsy-Pralid, Inc. secure a $50,000 grant from the Golisano Foundation to cover expenses associated with pursuing the Council on Quality and Leadership’s Person-Centered Excellence Accreditation. This transformative process is a rigorous examination through a person-centered lens. Less than 10% of disability service agencies in NYS have achieved this accreditation.

Serving as an advocate in the process to secure funding for the project was meaningful to Desi. “It gave me an opportunity to have a different role [at EPI] and enabled me to help our agency to be more person-centered,” she explained. Desi has also served as a trainer for the agency’s new hire orientation, explaining the rights of the individuals EPI serves, to hundreds of new staff over the years. She encourages staff to ask questions rather than make assumptions about how individuals want to be treated. “I remind staff that it’s about us and not them,” she says. To learn more about EPI’s programs, please visit epiny.org.

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Honors and Memorials

11/15/16 to 02/28/17
Heartfelt thanks for your generous support. To view a full list of our generous supporters, please visit alsigl.org.

In Memory of:

Tuesday, September 13
Wednesday, September 13
July 25
July 25
Wednesday, September 13
July 25

Golf Tournament
Midvale Country Club
Monday, June 12

Tennis Benefit
Draw Party
Tennis Club of Rochester
Friday, August 11

Tennis Benefit
Midtown Athletic Center
Saturday, August 12

Save the dates

Please visit alsigl.org/2017savethedates for more information.

Golf Tournament

Al SIGL Community
Locust Hill Country Club
Wednesday, September 13

Tennis Benefit

Eastview Mall
Sunday, October 29

For more information about these great events, visit us at alsigl.org/2017communityevents.

Achieving More Together
Save the dates

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Monday, June 12

Tennis Benefit
Draw Party
Tennis Club of Rochester
Friday, August 11

Tennis Benefit
Midtown Athletic Center
Saturday, August 12

Tennis Classic
Sports Classic
Midtown Athletic Club
Saturday, August 12

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11/16/16 to 03/22/17
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In Honor of:

Taylor Reinkensmeyer
Shane Rutenburg
Andy and Karen Gallina
Kathryn Chervin
Irene Gundlach
Daniel M. Meyers
Sharon Insero
Debra J. Salmon
Dr. Richard Kurz
Thomas M. Connor
Judy and Steve Meyer
Debra J. Salmon
E. W. Huppert
Debra J. Salmon
Art and Mrs. Robert J. McGrath
Chad Terraese
Judy J. Sataelli and David Feldgehn

In Memory of:

George M. Nagler
Daniel M. Meyers
Dr. Donald L. Bailey
Mr. and Mrs. Gary R. Trubie
Lawrence Bauer
Mr. Ellen Bauer
Donald G. Becker
Judy and Steve Meyer
David M. Meyers
Catherine D. Brown
Al Sigl Foundation
Peter Buda
Ms. and Mrs. Jack O. MacMillen
John Costello
Judy J. Sataelli and David Feldgehn
Thomas J. Collins
Daniel M. Meyers
Donald E. Danzendorf
Mr. and Mrs. William D. Danzendorf
Lazarus Fain
Barbara Collins
Annelise M. Harras
Scott A. Handler
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Mckean
Karen Cogli
Thomas R. Frey
Daniel M. Meyers

Peter H. Gladis
Daniel M. Meyers
Jessica P. Pischke
Debra J. Salmon and Mr. and Mrs. Harry R. Huppert
Ms. and Mrs. Gary R. Trubie
Richard L. Kohrsen
Walter B. D. McKey, Jr.
Debra J. Salmon
Crafts, K. Geranina
Walter B. D. McKey, Jr.
Dr. Donald R. Sireva
Walter B. D. McKey, Jr.
Richard H. McGinley, Jr.
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Judy and Steve Meyer
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Richard M. Joos
Anne and Mrs. John C. Cusick
Francois D. Joyde
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Thomas M. O’Connor
Marguerite Toke LeBlanc
Daniel M. Meyers
Rhonda F. Loomis, Sr.
Ms. Carol S. Lefton
Paul D. MacAulay
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Daniel M. Meyers
Thomas M. O’Connor
Debra J. Salmon
Nelson MacCallum
Daniel M. Meyers
Margaret Larico
McBride
Daniel M. Meyers

Stuart Andre.

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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brouay
Louise F. Copley
Nancy J. McQuade
Lore Dipla/Corrigan
William M. Noglic
Mr. and Mrs. Harry R. Huppert
Debra J. Salmon
Stanley H. Sayer
Debra J. Salmon
Robert A. Piaton
Debra J. Salmon
Orlando D. Panico
Debra J. Salmon

J. Monroe Porter

Aseel M. Cuthbert
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Walter B. D. McKey, Jr.
Dr. Donald R. Sireva
Walter B. D. McKey, Jr.
Richard H. McGinley, Jr.
Debra J. Salmon
Judy and Steve Meyer
Daniel M. Meyers
Debra J. Salmon
Mr. and Mrs. Gary R. Trubie
Richard M. Joos
Anne and Mrs. John C. Cusick
Francois D. Joyde
Judy J. Sataelli and David Feldgehn
Norman P. LeRocque
Daniel M. Meyers
Debra J. Salmon
Thomas M. O’Connor
Marguerite Toke LeBlanc
Daniel M. Meyers
Rhonda F. Loomis, Sr.
Ms. Carol S. Lefton
Paul D. MacAulay
Walter B. D. McKey, Jr.
Judy and Steve Meyer
Daniel M. Meyers
Thomas M. O’Connor
Debra J. Salmon
Nelson MacCallum
Daniel M. Meyers
Margaret Larico
McBride
Daniel M. Meyers

Stuart Andre.

Norman M. Noglic
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brouay
Louise F. Copley
Nancy J. McQuade
Lore Dipla/Corrigan
William M. Noglic
Mr. and Mrs. Harry R. Huppert
Debra J. Salmon
Stanley H. Sayer
Debra J. Salmon
Robert A. Piaton
Debra J. Salmon
Orlando D. Panico
Debra J. Salmon

J. Monroe Porter

Aseel M. Cuthbert
Judy and Steve Meyer
David M. Meyers
Thomas M. O’Connor
Mr. and Mrs. Gary R. Trubie
Martine Quinlan
David M. Meyers
Frank Salvito
Ms. and Mrs. John C. Cusick
Ann Marie Saery
Mary Jo M. Mataung

Fine Tastings
for Al Sigl Community

Locust Hill Country Club
Wednesday, September 13
Al Sigl Community of Agencies is a collaborative community network that provides high-quality, cost-effective real estate and business services, while fostering community awareness and philanthropic support to a growing array of organizations that serve children and adults with disabilities and special needs.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact Jessica by phone at 585.442.4102 x8948 or by email at jpritchard@alsigl.org today.

Expanding the Dialogue

Our partnership with WXXI continues to reach new audiences thanks to continued support from the Golisano Foundation. *Life, Animated,* screened last fall at the Little Theatre as part of the partnership, was nominated for an Oscar for Best Feature Documentary in January. The news came during Dialogue on Disability: The Herman & Margaret Schwartz Community Series, our annual week-long programming initiative now in its 14th year.

This year’s Dialogue on Disability featured over a dozen different children’s programs, documentaries, and news features, including an Arts In Focus piece on the benefits of art therapy filmed at Rochester Rehabilitation’s Venture PROS program that was shared by PBS and seen by over 40,000 viewers. Attendees also had the chance to see a special pre-screening of the film *Gabe,* slated to appear at film festivals around the country later this year.

In 2014 Dialogue on Disability was expanded to become part of a year-round programming initiative called Move To Include. This growth was made possible by the Golisano Foundation. Recently, the Foundation generously renewed their commitment to Move To Include, expanding its reach once again.

Over the next two years, numerous Move To Include video segments will be available to classrooms across the nation via PBS LearningMedia to engage students in discussions about inclusion and encourage them to embrace abilities. Also, local news stories produced by WXXI’s Inclusion Desk, will be made available nationally to encourage people of all abilities to share their stories and encourage coverage of important issues related to access. To learn more, please visit wxxi.org/include.

Leave a Legacy

Please join us as we imagine a future that includes us all and take steps to invest in creating a better life for the thousands of people and families who count on the Al Sigl Community of Agencies today...and tomorrow.

If you are looking to make a legacy gift, please consider naming Al Sigl Foundation in your will. You can make charitable gifts of cash, life income, retirement fund asset, stock or life insurance. Perhaps the easiest way to make a gift is to name Al Sigl in your will through a simple bequest.

If you have already included Al Sigl in your plans, please let us know so that we can welcome you as a member of the Al Sigl Society, created to honor generous friends who express their intention to make a lasting gift.

Check with your financial advisor to find out how helping Al Sigl can also be a tax advantage to you or contact Debra Salmon at 585.442.4102 ext. 2718.

Help preserve limited resources! Conserve paper and save postage costs by requesting electronic copies of future newsletters. Call Jessica at 585.442.4102 x8948 or email her at jpritchard@alsigl.org today.