For 55 years, Al Sigl’s collaborative model has been recognized as a ground-breaking example of accessibility and innovation. Our shared spaces allow us to work together with our Member Agencies, Affiliates, and nonprofit tenants as they grow and change to meet the needs of the people they serve so well.

As part of our ongoing commitment to achieving more together, we are pleased to announce a new partnership with CP Rochester, AutismUp and Al Sigl Community of Agencies. The new Golisano Autism Center Rochester will expand and enhance autism services to serve the more than 10,000 people diagnosed with autism in the Greater Rochester and surrounding areas. The Center will be named for philanthropist and Paychex and Golisano Foundation Chairman, Tom Golisano, who will make a matching challenge grant of $2.5 million to help begin construction.

The total estimated cost of construction for the 25,000 square foot building is $5 million. The South Avenue location, close to related medical services, will create greater access for thousands of families seeking autism services. The Golisano Foundation has already made the first major gift toward the anticipated two-year challenge in the amount of $500,000, bringing the total raised to over $3 million.

Of the project, Golisano said the Center will “represent a significant improvement in how people with autism and their families can get the services they need over the course of their lifetimes.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control, one in 68 children has been identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The prevalence has grown at such a rate that there is a significant gap in coordinated services for individuals and families.

The establishment of the Golisano Autism Center Rochester will transform the delivery of autism services by bringing programs and services offered by multiple providers together in one location. This innovative model emphasizes collaboration and allows each provider to focus on specialized areas of expertise.

The Center will offer a full array of coordinated program options for all ages. Programs will include behavioral and primary care supports; respite; social and therapeutic services; a housing and employment liaison and more. Evidence-based instruction, developed specifically for school-age individuals with autism, will be provided by Mary Cariola Children’s Center. Lead partners Al Sigl, CP Rochester, and AutismUp will coordinate the addition of other affiliate autism service agencies at the Center.

“Our heartfelt thanks to Tom Golisano, Ann Costello and the Golisano Foundation Board of Trustees for believing in our vision to support the enhancement and expansion of autism services in our community,” says Mary Walsh Boatfield, President and CEO of CP Rochester, Rochester Rehabilitation, and Happiness House.

“As a parent of a child with autism, I know how exhausting and confusing it can be to go from place to place for services,” explains Sarah Milko, Executive Director of AutismUp. “The opportunity to coordinate and customize autism-specific services, and prepare for the next stage of life together under one roof, will be a dream come true for families.”

For project updates, please visit alsigl.org.
Howdy Neighbors

This Autumn has been full of sunshine and warm breezes, yet the colorful leaves gathering beneath the trees remind us that change is in the air as we move into a new season with momentum and gratitude.

Here at Al Sigl, we have enjoyed an extremely productive summer with many exciting updates to share with you, starting with our cover story on the new Golisano Autism Center. This is an innovative idea brought forward by Mary Walsh Boatfield at CP Rochester that has been developing over a number of years. It is now becoming a reality, thanks to Tom Golisano and the Golisano Foundation. The Center will model collaboration among many respected organizations with leaders committed to comprehensive autism services in response to a growing community need.

We have continued to modernize and update our shared spaces at our Golisano Campus on Elmwood Avenue with a number of important projects, including significant renovation on the mid-level of the building in response to changing needs for the agencies we serve. Amidst these busy days, we were also able to take important time to celebrate with the Al Sigl Community during a summer picnic that gave us a chance to gather together.

Stay tuned for even more exciting news about developing projects and collaborations made possible by the support of friends like you who strengthen our work together.

Sincerely,

Tom O’Connor

Welcome New Board Members

Al Sigl’s Board of Trustees welcomed new members Daniel Norselli, President and Publisher, Democrat & Chronicle and D&C Digital and Howard Ward, Ph.D., Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services at Rochester Institute of Technology.

New members of the Board of Governors include Joseph Morelle, Jr., VP of Student Housing at Wilmorite, Inc. and Matthew Weins, Commercial Sales Consultant at Lawley Insurance.

New Governors representing Al Sigl Member Agencies include James Ahearn, retired former NMSS Upstate NY Chapter President, representing NMSS.

November Screening

Each year, our partnership with WXXI and the Golisano Foundation, Move To Include, offers programming and special events showcasing abilities and inclusion.

You are invited to join us at the Little Theatre on Tuesday, November 14th for a screening of Dina, a touching film that follows a couple, both on the autism spectrum, as their wedding day approaches. To learn more about Move To Include programming, please visit WXXI.org/include.

Facilities News

A commitment to inclusion requires advancing every aspect of our work together. With the help of many generous donors, we’ve made great progress on our continuing work to ensure our shared spaces are meeting the growing and changing needs of the people served by our Member Agencies.

Recent updates at the Golisano Building on our Elmwood Campus include new exterior LED lighting and work on an inviting new entrance—the Dan Meyers Way—which along with recognizing Dan’s career contributions also features beautiful glasswork by local artist Nancy Gong. On the mid-level, our team has been busy creating reconfigured new Headquarter space for our friends at Rochester Rehabilitation featuring a more efficient layout to better serve clients. We are also completing new spaces for relocated National MS Society offices and new spaces for Girl Scouts of Western New York and Mary Cariola Children’s Center. Thank you to our generous friends for helping to support this great progress.
Growing Independence

Chad is a 21-year-old college student attending SUNY Brockport where he majors in Social Work. Chad, who has Cerebral Palsy, finds that he can be a bit shy when interacting with new people. For this reason, Chad’s first few semesters of college were difficult as he began to feel socially isolated. To become more involved with the campus community, he joined a fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi, which helped him meet new friends and opened many new social opportunities.

As a full-time college student living in his own apartment, Chad continues to work on his goals of living independently and pursuing a career. He is a strong believer that he will determine his own future and attributes his success to his family. In addition to helping him get where he is today, his parents and siblings have always pushed him to achieve the goals that he has set for himself.

Chad says, “Don’t let obstacles knock you down in life; knock them down with creativity, ingenuity, and friendship!” To learn more about CP Rochester’s programs to help people of all ages and abilities pursue their goals, please visit cprochester.org.

Scholarship Winners Announced

Christina will always remember “the day that epilepsy latched on to her brain”. She was in her algebra class when she fell out of her seat, unconscious and convulsing. That day, when she experienced her first seizure almost 6 years ago, her classmates were shocked. As time went on, Christina educated her friends about epilepsy and what to do during a seizure. Today, Christina describes her friends as having developed “super hero complexes”, leaping across rooms and desks to help prevent her head from hitting the floor. It is this crucial support system that has given her the courage to achieve her goals, like attending college.

This year, Christina was awarded one of two Epilepsy-Pralid, Inc., (EPI) Scholarships, along with David Watrous, who was accepted to St. John Fisher. Christina plans to attend SUNY Geneseo and hopes to pursue a degree in neurology to help others who have epilepsy. She wants those affected by this condition to understand that “accepting having epilepsy makes it easier to deal with, each seizure is just a new adventure”. Christina says she doesn’t consider herself as living with epilepsy, rather she says that “epilepsy lives within me”. To learn more about Epilepsy-Pralid, Inc. and the tailored services and supports offered to individuals and families facing the challenges of epilepsy, developmental disabilities, or brain injuries, please visit epiny.org.

Generous Friends Help Kids Ride

Medical Motor Service is the exclusive transportation provider for Monroe County’s Foster Care division. They serve youth ranging from newborns to 18 years old in need of rides to and from visits with parents. Each year, Medical Motors provides over 36,000 trips as part of this partnership.

Of the program, MMS Executive Director Damon Mustaca said, “We currently have nearly 300 kids taking part, which means at any given time we have 100 booster seats in service.” He continued, “Keeping up with the demand for this equipment is a daunting, expensive task.”

Medical Motors’ need for new car seats was just one of the items in this year’s Sports Classic “Wish List”. In lieu of a live auction, Al Sigl shared needs brought forth by our Member Agencies. In response to Medical Motors’ call for help with the purchase of car seats for this program, generous friends gave $1,250. These kind donations will help fund the purchase of 50 car seats!

To learn more about Medical Motor Service and their programs for children and adults, please visit medicalmotors.org.
Creating Connections

For Linda, the National MS Society is a great resource. Over the last ten years, she has taken part in a variety of support and wellness programs offered by NMSS, including the Wayne County monthly support group luncheon. Of the program, Linda says, “You can meet people with similar symptoms, similar experiences. I never walk away from an activity without learning something new. That’s why I keep coming back.” Linda also recently attended a SportsNet activity in Fairport where she was able to learn more about adaptive cycling and kayaking. “I didn’t get in the boat but I did try riding the bike,” she said, chuckling at the memory. “It was fun. I haven’t ridden a two-wheeler in years. With a three-wheeled bicycle, you don’t have to worry about falls.” For those newly diagnosed, Linda encourages reaching out. “Call the National MS Society, they offer all sorts of ways to meet people and ways to deal with MS.” To learn more about how NMSS helps people affected by MS live their best lives, please visit nationalmssociety.org/Chapters/NYR.

Helping Others Succeed

Nancy first became involved with Rochester Rehabilitation’s Ventures PROS in 2012 for a very short period of time after a series of circumstances with chronic pain, depression and anxiety resulted in life-altering drug addiction which almost ended her life. After leaving the workforce for medical reasons, physical pain and mental health issues led to many bouts of difficult treatments, all of which were unsuccessful. Her addiction left her without transportation, isolated and feeling empty. A need for routine and structure brought her back to Rochester Rehabilitation in 2015. She received mental health support through Ventures PROS while simultaneously attending outpatient rehabilitation. This time Nancy was ready; she completed the outpatient treatment with perfect attendance and continued to attend Ventures PROS. Through a lot of hard work, tenacity and support, she has been clean since January 2015. Nancy attributes her success to the services at Ventures PROS and the support that she received that helped her to become “unstuck.” Today, Nancy is “living her dream” after she was hired as a peer specialist through Ventures PROS last fall. Now she is using her experiences to help others. To learn more about Ventures PROS, please visit rochesterrehab.org.

Rochester Hearing & Speech Center, celebrating its 95th anniversary this year, is well-known for offering exceptional, personalized audiology services. Not as well-known is that in addition to audiology services, RHSC offers five other program areas, including speech therapy, physical rehabilitation, occupational therapy, and special education resources. Dr. Molly Krygowski, Au.D., a Clinical Audiologist at RHSC, shared that she chose to begin her career at RHSC because of their mission of serving everyone with the highest quality of care is what really sets the organization apart. “To RHSC, you are family,” Krygowski says. “Being a not-for-profit organization, it’s not about how many people we can squeeze in each day but rather the feeling that each patient has when they leave.” To learn more about how RHSC provides health care and support, from early intervention programs for children, to skilled audiologists to offer the most effective healthy hearing solutions to all ages, please visit rhsc.org.
Sports Classic Drives Abilities

Nearly 150 golfers and volunteers enjoyed bright skies and sunny smiles at Midvale Country Club on June 12th for the 48th Annual Democrat and Chronicle Al Sigl Sports Classic. Over $115,000 was raised, including $20,000 in “wish list” funds for our Member Agencies. During a lively cash-call, the room was buzzing as generous friends helped provide Camp EAGR scholarships, supplies for Early Intervention Pre-K speech and education programs at RHSC, lightweight cooling vests for people living with MS, and more. Also donated were funds for a brand new adaptive golf cart for SportsNet. During dinner, Dr. Barry Culhane shared how much he had enjoyed taking part in the tournament earlier that day with the help of a SportsNet adaptive golf cart. "For almost four years I have not had access to playing the game," he said. "It’s a tremendous feeling to have the chance to get out there again with friends."

Heartfelt thanks to Chair Matt Weins and the many volunteers of the Al Sigl Sports Committee for their dedication to bringing greater abilities to life. Special thanks to Titanium sponsor D&C Digital and to each of our sponsors for your generous support.

Tennis Benefit All Aces

The Democrat and Chronicle Al Sigl Sports Classic continued August 11-12th as the 9th Annual Tennis Benefit saw the highest number of players ever! The excitement began at the Draw Party, a new addition this year, at Tennis Club of Rochester on the 11th. The next day, 72 players took part in the sold-out tournament at Midtown Athletic Club, raising over $25,000 and giving new friends the chance to learn about our collaborative mission and Member Agency programs. Many thanks to TCR and Midtown and our event volunteers Joe Eduardo, Bill Martin, and Randy Schuster— you’re aces!
A Fine Success
Over 400 tickets sold made it a packed house for this year’s Fine Tastings at Locust Hill Country Club on Wednesday, September 13th. The evening raised over $75,000 to benefit Al Sigl Community. We raise our glasses in salute to our sponsors, Tasting Captains, wonderful Sports Committee volunteers and generous donors for making this event such a savory celebration of amazing friends, abilities, and inclusion.

Pumpkins on Parade
Many thanks to our friends at Gro-Moore Farms for choosing Al Sigl Community as the beneficiary of this year’s Pumpkins on Parade charity event. Al Sigl Member Agency program participants, local artists, and volunteers decorated one-of-a-kind pumpkins auctioned at the event. Generous Bale Sponsors also helped raise funds for Al Sigl and our Member Agencies. The event served as a kick-off for this year’s Al Sigl Community WalkAbout. Heartfelt thanks to our friends at Gro-Moore Farms for helping WalkAbout grow strong!

Braid Bar Thanks
Earlier this year, our friends at Mint Salon in Brighton helped raise over $1,700 for Al Sigl Community through their Pop-Up Braid Bars. Over a dozen various retail locations in Rochester played host to this creative fundraiser. Mint Stylist Rachel Robach came up with the inventive way of giving back with the help of Mint Owner Jordan Betts. The final amount raised was presented to Al Sigl at the donation reveal party at Record Archive on June 22.

Photos by: John Schlia Photography

Special Thanks to the Del Monte Hotel Group, the Founding Sponsor of Fine Tastings
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3/11/17 to 9/27/17
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