

Summer 2018

Achieving More Together

CP Rochester
Epilepsy-Pralid, Inc.
Medical Motor Service
National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Upstate New York Chapter
Rochester Hearing and Speech Center
Rochester Rehabilitation

Driving Independence

Helping People of All Ages and Abilities Take the Wheel

Russell, below, is in his first year at Monroe Community College. He wants to become an aeronautic engineer someday, but first, driving lessons. For Russell, who is 18 and uses a wheelchair, driving brings greater independence.

For over 45 years, Rochester Rehabilitation's DriveOn program has been helping people of all ages and abilities learn to drive, return to driving, or remain driving safely and confidently. DriveOn is the only driving school of its kind in Upstate New York. Bryan Rogers, DriveOn Supervisor and one of the program's certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialists, travels across the state to help people with special needs and their families. Over one year, Russell participated in weekly driving lessons at DriveOn. He learned how to use hand controls for accelerating and braking, as well as steering. "I don't take no for an answer on a lot of things. I just like to be motivated," Russell said, of his decision to get his license, which he earned in 2017.

Russell's story is typical of how the staff at DriveOn creates plans to help people meet their unique goals. The staff provide driver evaluations, driver training, and vehicle modification recommendations to help both drivers and those seeking to ride safely as a passenger. Staff can also help drivers determine whether they are eligible for support from New York State programs like ACCES-VR, which promotes employment and independent living.

Travis, a program participant at CP Rochester, learned about the program through ACCES-VR. Like Russell,

Travis is a college student. "When I found out about DriveOn," Travis said, "My goal was doing anything possible to get a license. Being able to drive makes it easier for me to take part in a variety of activities, such as going to school, to therapies, power soccer, shopping and so many other things." Travis worked with instructor Pam Gabryel, first becoming comfortable driving in a parking lot setting before driving on roadways. "I had the best experience that a new driver could have," he said. "If you believe you can do something, you can. I first thought that I would not be able to drive myself, but after reaching out that thought was gone because the people at DriveOn are there for you."

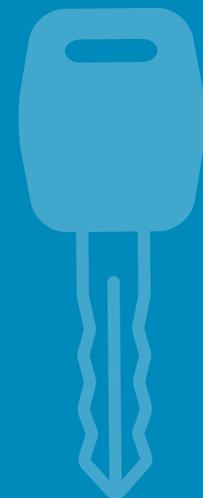
For seniors and their families, DriveOn offers evaluations for individuals who have experienced vision issues, reduced strength or mobility, or other challenges. Sandra Wehner first learned about DriveOn when her mother passed away suddenly and her father, who had stopped driving after an injury many years before, turned to her for help. After DriveOn helped her father get re-certified as a driver, she remembered how profoundly the experience affected his sense of independence. "Sandy," she recalled him saying at the time, "I've got a whole new lease on life!"



A division of Rochester Rehabilitation

To learn more about DriveOn, call **585.271.1894** or visit RochesterRehab.org.

This issue of broadcast is sponsored by **Friends of AI Sigi** with additional support provided by





Howdy Neighbors



AI Sigl would begin his daily noontime broadcast with a nod to the weather, transition to a preview of community news and share a story or two of need, recognition or celebration. Most times many came together to respond. It seems a perfect format to follow.

The warming weather has given our team of employees, volunteers and leaders renewed energy as we pursue an array of important projects. These include continuing to modernize the Golisano Building, our original “dream home” on Elmwood Avenue, which celebrates 50 years of shared service spaces this summer. Updates are also underway at the Hale Building on our Winton Campus as well as exciting changes at the Schwartz Family Campus which will become home to innovative autism services coupled with a new partnership with URMIC that will provide pediatric behavioral health services. Teams are in planning stages for construction, fundraising and coordinating services for the two new buildings that will bear extraordinary philanthropist Tom Golisano’s name for his generosity and leadership, providing instrumental funding for new collaborations to provide desperately needed supports for individuals and families in our community. We will be sharing our progress along the way.

We are thrilled to celebrate our 49 year anniversary of the Sports Classic and the amazing dedication of our many friends through the years who

have championed AI Sigl’s efforts. There may be no better champion than Justin Vigdor who, more than 55 years ago, led a spirited group of individuals and families to create what would become AI Sigl Community. Justin continues to set a standard of leadership as honorary chair of the Sports Classic this year. Over time, our volunteers and committees have evolved to introduce new events, technologies and engage generous support from across the region. They all continue in a tradition that Justin helped create right from the start.

This photo is from a recent gathering celebrating the arrival of a new adaptive golf cart for use by SportsNet. In the cart is Dr. Barry Culhane, one of our remarkable pioneers, who epitomizes visionary leadership and appreciation for differing abilities as he has guided our effective access technology efforts with RIT. He is surrounded by the smiling faces of just a portion of the many volunteers, friends, and leaders who are helping AI Sigl Community continue to **Achieve More Together**.

Thank you for all that you do.

Wishing you a healthy and memorable summer,

Tom O'Connor



Our annual President’s Circle of Hearts reception filled the Connectivity Café in the heart of the Golisano Campus on November 16th. Many thanks to US Ceiling Corp for their generous sponsorship of the event, a wonderful celebration of gratitude, friendship and the success of the recent Celebrating Abilities Campaign.



(L-R) Phil and Melinda Andolina, Erni Schuster, Joyce Crofton, and Randy Schuster



Justin Vigdor, Founding AI Sigl Board Chair



Jeff Sinsebox, Matt Satterwhite, and Frank Seiler



Melissa and Ed Geska of US Ceiling Corp

Boston's Story

Boston was born 7 weeks early, weighing just over 4lbs. During the screening all premature babies go through, it was determined that Boston had 90% of his brain affected by lack of oxygen. The neurologist said that Boston would never walk, talk, or smile. Boston's family set out to prove him wrong. He was formally diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy at the age of two but Boston's diagnosis has never defined who he is. He is a happy boy who happens to have CP.

Boston has received support services through CP Rochester since he was 5 weeks old. In 2015, he graduated from Augustin Children's Center preschool, where children with and without special needs learn and grow together. Each year, Boston's family attends the AI Sigl Community WalkAbout, always coming up with a fun new group theme for the costume contest. Boston also takes part in a variety of SportsNet programs, including Shared Ski Adventures. An avid hockey fan, Boston had the chance to try out sled hockey this year and loved it. He also loves to swim and play with the family's two new French Bulldog pups.

To learn more about CP Rochester or the Augustin Children's Center, please visit cprochester.org. To learn more about SportsNet's inclusive recreation programs, please visit sportsnetny.org.



Hearing Test Highlights Innovation

For Mark Shuttlesworth, the afternoon DJ on Legends 102.7, hearing is serious business. Mark recently visited Rochester Hearing & Speech Center's Dr. Mallory Sabin, AuD., for his first-ever adult hearing exam. Dr. Sabin, who serves as Director of Audiology at RHSC stated, "Every one of our audiologists takes time to speak with our patients to learn about how their hearing health fits together with the other aspects of their lives. Patients coming in for their first hearing exam, often express concerns about bulky equipment or painful feedback that many still associate with the hearing aids they remember their grandparents wearing."

Today's hearing aid technology is remarkable. Hearing aids are tailored to the individual based on the type of hearing loss they are experiencing and can be fully personalized to meet the user's needs and lifestyle. "Some models will automatically adjust to changes in the environment," Dr. Sabin shared. "Others can be adjusted via the wearer's cell phone. Patients are always surprised to discover that not all types of hearing loss require hearing aids, some hearing issues are medically treatable."

Dr. Sabin recommends a baseline hearing test at the age of 55 and annual testing after that. "For many people, hearing loss can be especially isolating," Dr. Sabin said. "We seek to help educate people to become their own advocate in regards to hearing health, and to feel comfortable asking many different questions."

"My hearing test showed no signs of hearing loss!" Mark shared. "I am so glad that I came in to see Dr. Sabin. She answered all my questions, I wasn't rushed through my exam and I walked away with a lot of knowledge." Since 1922, RHSC has been the premier non-profit organization providing services to support hearing, speech-language and developmental disabilities in the greater Rochester area. To learn more, please call 585.271.0680 or visit RHSC.org.



Dinner With The Doctor Serves Insights And Support

Earlier this year, Epilepsy-Pralid, Inc. held Dinner with the Doctor in Binghamton featuring Robert A. Gross, M.D., Ph.D., a world-renowned neurologist from the Strong Epilepsy Center at URM.

Dr. Gross began the evening with a bit about his background, including his time serving as Editor in Chief for Neurology Today, before giving a presentation on epilepsy, seizures, and treatments. He then took questions for two hours.

Part of an ongoing series offered across the region, the events are designed to help both the newly diagnosed and those who have been living with epilepsy for years. They present an opportunity to speak with respected neurologists outside of the doctor's office. The events also help individuals meet and connect with others affected by epilepsy and seizure disorders. To learn more about EPI's programs and events to help individuals and families, please visit epiny.org.



Guiding Transitions

Earlier this year, Morgan and two friends from the Transition Program at CP Rochester visited Medical Motor Service to learn more about jobs in transportation services.

CP Rochester's Transitional Program is for young adults between the ages of 21-25 who are interested in building skills through new experiences. The program offers a variety of activities at CP Rochester and in the community. Visits, like the trip to Medical Motor Service, can help support job readiness activities.

The group toured Medical Motors' dispatch and call center, finance office, and the maintenance facility. Operations Supervisor, Carolyn Beich, shared how Medical Motors keeps track of all its transportation requests and how dispatch helps Medical Motors coordinate so many vehicles serving different clients across the region. As clients of Medical Motor Service, the young men enjoyed seeing the routes that their drivers take on the map. Carolyn notes that they had come prepared with thoughtful questions, inquiring about how many rides are provided daily and what skills the organization looks for in a driver.

Of the visit, she said, "Working in the office we don't usually get to meet our riders, although they are very much a part of our day. It was so nice to see the group meet the call takers and other staff who work so hard to ensure that things run smoothly behind the scenes."

To learn about Medical Motor Service, please visit medicalmotors.org.



Employment Conference Raises Awareness

On May 15th, Rochester Rehabilitation hosted their third annual Employment Conference highlighting the importance of employment opportunities for people with special needs, veterans, refugees, and individuals living in poverty.

In addition to providing employment services for individuals in the community, Rochester Rehabilitation also serves as an important resource for local businesses seeking to develop successful partnerships with nonprofit vocational and other programs. Through its Employment Connection, Rochester Rehabilitation's experienced staff work with hiring managers in a broad range of businesses to fill vital roles and maximize employer and employee success.

Recognizing Rochester Rehabilitation's work in the community, the agency was recently awarded a \$4 million grant from the Federal Department of Labor as part of the Strengthening Working Families Initiative. The grant, one of only 14 in the nation, was the only one awarded in New York State. As part of the initiative, Rochester Rehabilitation partners with the Child Care Council, Action for A Better Community, the United Way of Rochester, and the Workforce Development Institute to provide job training, placement and additional supports.



To learn more about Employment Connection, please visit RochesterRehab.org.

"MS Does Not Define Me"

Erika, who is expecting her second child, recently wrote a letter sharing what she wanted her new baby to know about her life as a mom living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Two years ago, when she was first diagnosed, Erika's desire to have a second child was met with serious concerns by her doctor at the time. "The life I thought we would have became instantly out of reach," Erika recalls. "I've since done my research and redefined my impression of what it means to have MS."

She writes, "MS does not define me and I am doing everything I can to ensure that it does not define your life either." She continues, "I know that some things might be hard... We need more awareness, more advocacy and more funding." Her dedication to all three is why Erika encourages friends and family to join her at the National MS Society's Monster Scramble.

An elementary school teacher, Erika was the top fundraiser in the state for the last two years. She is looking forward to this year's event, which funds support services and educational programs for people living with MS across the region. NMSS is also the largest private funder of MS research in the world; each dollar Erika and her team raises can help lead to discoveries that transform treatment and care. Erika is hopeful about the future. She writes, "I can't wait to see all of the ways that you and your brother become advocates to fight against this disease. We need another champion just like you in our corner."

To learn more about how you can get involved and help support local programs and events, please visit nationalmssociety.org/Chapters/NYR.



National Multiple Sclerosis Society

JUST ONE

A JustOne-Derful Year For Abilities

Heartfelt thanks to the more than 16,000 friends from across the region who donated online or returned their blue Just One® envelope in the mail. This year's

campaign kicked-off on Thursday, February 1st at City Grill with the 4th Annual Just One Night Celebrity Bartending event. Teams of AI Sigl volunteers representing the Trustees, Governors, AI Sigl Foundation, and AI Sigl Council competed to raise the most donated tips. After an incredible evening of fun and philanthropy, the Foundation came out on top. Many thanks to event sponsors City Grill, Key Bank, LaBella, Whitney & Company, and designer Gregor Schuler.

Kate McCurdy, who volunteered at the event, shares another connection to Just One. When she was ten years old, Kate sang the now well-known refrain, "Just One Dollar, Just One Dollar, Please Just One," heard on local stations each Fe-blue-ary. Kate remembers receiving her own envelope and the excitement she felt being able to put a few dollars inside. "I've seen how my grandparents and parents have supported organizations that were especially meaningful to them," Kate says. "As I'm starting my career, I've reached out to AI Sigl and a few other agencies to see how I can contribute and help make a difference."

Brad Gillies, a member of the Rochester Knighthawks, volunteered at the event on behalf of the AI Sigl Council Young Professional's Group. He was joined by several other members of the team, who also helped raise funds at a Knighthawks game on Saturday, February 10th.



On Thursday, May 3rd, AI Sigl Community celebrated the arrival of a new adaptive golf cart for use by SportsNet, made possible through the generous donors as part of last year's Sports Classic golf

tournament. At the event, Dr. Barry Culhane shared how adapted equipment has not only helped him to stay active, but how creating greater access for various activities creates more inclusive communities as a whole.

The celebration, which was attended by cart donors, Sports Committee Volunteers, and our friends at Midvale Country Club, also served as a kickoff for the 49th Annual Sports Classic golf tournament on Monday, June 11th. Justin Vigdor, Founding Board Chair of AI Sigl Community, served as Honorary Chair.

More Than A Cart

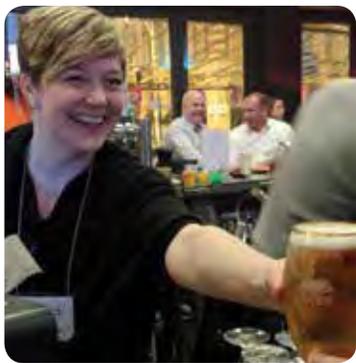
Susan, a Member of Rochester Spinal Association (RSA), has taken part in SportsNet programs for many years, including golf. After a recent SportsNet clinic, she echoed Barry's comments about the need for inclusion.

"Golf was an activity that my husband and I could share," she recalled. "Those kinds of opportunities are important. It has a positive emotional impact when you can participate in activities with people," she said.

Susan recalled an experience at a golf event years prior where she played alongside three young men she met that day. During the event, she was asked by course staff to not drive on the greens with the adapted cart she used. They did not realize that the cart was less damaging to the green than a person standing or walking, but Susan honored the request. The rest of her foursome asked her why she was playing from further back. Susan remembers being impressed how, in such a short time, they had already recognized her strengths as a player. She shared, "I am paralyzed from the waist down so I use my shoulders to power my movement. Driving isn't my forte but grace on the green is—I can angle the cart and eyeball where the ball should go." They had already noticed that skill, she remembered, and expressed their dismay that she was being kept from playing her best game. She noted how empowering it was that her new friends already saw the benefit of having people with and without disabilities® play and have fun together.

"Acquiring a disability is isolating; you struggle to find your identity. You have your family, your friends, and maybe your job, but everybody has hobbies," Susan said. "So when you can get those activities back, it is powerful. You don't necessarily realize it unless you've lived it."

SportsNet is a collaboration between Rochester Rehabilitation, CP Rochester, and AI Sigl Community of Agencies. To learn more about inclusive sports and recreation programs offered by SportsNet, please call **Michael** at **585.334.6000** ext. **1120** or visit **sportsnetny.org**.



Kate McCurdy volunteers at JustOne Night



Randy Schuster and Brad Gillies

Thank You
Just One Sponsors



Just One Night Sponsors





Members of the Greece Athena Middle School Student Council and their Advisors

Just One Day School Challenge

Hats off to Greece Athena Middle School student council and staff members for leading the “Just One Day” School Challenge. Students who donated \$1 were able to wear a hat or backpack during the school day.

The students, who volunteered as part of the Al Sigl Community WalkAbout last fall, wanted to stay involved and help raise funds throughout the year. They challenged other schools to find ways to join in through hat or dress-down days, classroom challenges, and spirit rallies. Those taking part include Churchville High School, Greece Arcadia High School, Greece Odyssey Academy, Greece Olympia Middle/High School and Twelve Corners Middle School in Brighton. Many thanks to the students and faculty at these schools for celebrating abilities and inclusion!

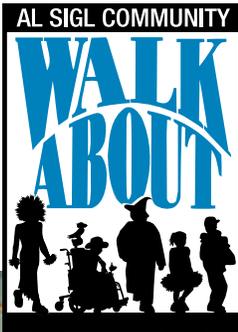
Golisano Autism Center Update

In April, Board members of the Golisano Foundation and the Golisano Autism Center Rochester founding agencies—Al Sigl Community, AutismUp and CP Rochester—gathered for an update on the Center’s progress. The new center is expected to open in 2019 and will transform the lives of thousands of children and young adults and their families who live with Autism by providing comprehensive coordinated services. To learn more please visit golisanoautismcenter.org.

Photo by Jolana Babacek Photography



(L-R) Mary Walsh Boatfield, Golisano Autism Center Chair; Dan Meyers, Capital Campaign Chair; Ann Costello of the Golisano Foundation; Tom O’Connor, Vice Chair; and Sarah Milko, Secretary and Treasurer



Save The Date for WalkAbout

Last year over 600 people of all ages and abilities served by Al Sigl Member Agencies gathered to celebrate abilities and inclusion together along with plenty of Halloween-themed fun. Heartfelt thanks to our event sponsors, volunteers, and everyone who helped make the event a success.

You are invited to join the fun once again on Sunday, October 28th inside Eastview Mall for the 29th Annual WalkAbout. Visit alsigl.org/walkabout to learn more.



Thank you
to our 2017
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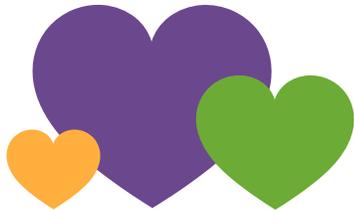
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Photo by Jolana Babacek Photography



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. To learn more, visit alsigl.org.



Gifts from the Heart

A tribute gift can be a thoughtful way to honor or remember a beloved family member, good friend or colleague. Give a gift in honor or in memory to AI Sigl Community of Agencies and we will mail a card acknowledging your thoughtful gesture to the person you designate. Past Board Chair, Walter B.D. Hickey, Jr., notes, "I feel that making tributes via Honors or Memorials is a wonderful way to celebrate individuals who have been active in our community and the betterment of the greater Rochester area. This contribution perpetuates their support of our community... through our Sigl Community of Agencies." Please contact **Jodi Salatti** at **585.442.4102** ext. **8943** if you have questions about this type of gift.



Remembering AI Sigl Community of Agencies with a gift from your estate will help sustain and strengthen our mission now and in the future. All planned giving donors to AI Sigl become members of the AI Sigl Society, which honors generous friends who have provided for the future of AI Sigl Community of Agencies. If you have already included AI Sigl in your estate plans, please let us know so we can include you in Society communications and events. For more information, please contact **Debra Salmon** at **585.442.4102** ext. **2718**.

Consolidated For Annual Report

In Millions

Support and Revenue

Contributions & Bequests	\$1,899
Revenues	\$5,020
Investment Earnings	\$3,397

Total	\$10,316
Expenses	\$(7,358)
Total Change in N/A	\$2,958

Assets

Cash And Investments	\$27,521
Net Fixed Assets	\$17,224
Pledges & Crt	\$3,070
Other Assets	\$765

Total Assets	\$48,580
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Liability

Long-Term Debt	\$4,605
Accounts Payable & Accrued	\$1,300
Amounts Held/Designated	\$687

Total	\$6,592
Net Assets	\$41,988

Total Liability and Net Assets	\$48,580
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Visit alsigl.org for full list of **Donors, Honor & Memorial gifts**

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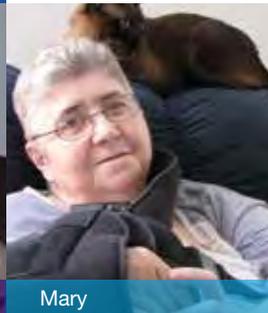
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Happy Independence Every Day

Achieving More Together



Daija

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Celebrating Independence Day, Every Day

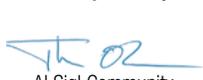
Many milestones can define independence. Learning to drive, like Russell and Travis, whose stories appear on the cover, is just one of the ways AI Sigl Member Agencies help thousands of children and adults in our community lead more independent lives.

Throughout the pages of each of our newsletters, we are proud to share many stories of individuals who are pursuing their goals, advocating for greater opportunities for inclusion, and sharing their unique voices. Highlighting their stories is just one of the ways we remain inspired by—and committed to—celebrating Independence Day each and every day.

Visit us online at alsigl.org/independence to read the stories of six exceptional people who have participated in the collaborative programs of AI Sigl Member Agencies.

We all hope you will consider making a gift today to celebrate their accomplishments, and to encourage thousands more.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating Independence Day every day.


AI Sigl Community of Agencies


CP Rochester


Epilepsy-Pralid, Inc.


Medical Motor Service


National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Upstate New York Chapter


Rochester Hearing and Speech Center


Rochester Rehabilitation

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