

Winter 2019

## 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

## Mike's Story



My first experience with AI Sigl was attending CP Rochester's preschool program. My involvement came full circle when I turned 16 and I was looking to get my driver's license. My high school counselor suggested Rochester Rehabilitation's DriveOn program. They helped me learn to drive and determine which adaptations my car needed. That experience in

particular changed my entire view of what was possible. The sense of independence I felt getting my license helped me focus on a future where disability didn't matter.

I have a twin brother who does not have Arthrogyriposis, or a stiffness in the joints. You would never notice the difference between us.

AI Sigl helped me find the opportunities I needed to grow and pursue my goals, including having a successful career. My mom was an accountant and I've always liked numbers. I considered teaching but it was accounting where I found my calling. Now as an adult, I think it's important to give back because of the help I received.

I want kids of all abilities to see adults with disabilities who are making their own choices in life and say, 'I can do that too. I don't have to fit a mold. I can be independent. I can have a career. I can volunteer and contribute.' **I credit AI Sigl and especially my family for teaching me early on in life that a disability is not an impediment.** That lesson has stayed with me.

Every year more and more people turn to AI Sigl Member Agencies for help and support as they work to reach their goals. I hope you will join me in making a gift today to recognize their achievements and encourage us all to envision a future full of possibilities.

Mike Messenger  
Tax accountant at PriceWaterhouseCoopers, LLP,  
and AI Sigl volunteer



This issue of broadcast is generously underwritten by:



Mike welcomes the crowd at the 30th Annual WalkAbout.



# Howdy Neighbors

Nearly four years ago, Mary Walsh Boatfield invited me to join her to tour an existing autism program in a neighboring state. On the ride home started a plan for an unprecedented

new partnership. The idea was to transform existing service models, to expand the scope of what was considered possible. The goal was offering families a comprehensive lifetime span of services by providers working collaboratively under one roof.

With an overwhelming jumpstart from Tom Golisano and the Golisano Foundation and terrific community support, founders AI Sigl Community, AutismUp and CP Rochester opened the doors to this amazing new resource for area families in September.

There was a small but dedicated army involved in planning how the Center's multi-purpose spaces would accommodate such a large number of programs. Guiding the design teams were conversations about sensitivity to colors and sounds, and planning transitional pathways to make navigation easy—all while creating a safe, welcoming environment. From January's frozen tundra through the hazy days of summer, there were 193 working days with over 30 subcontractors and an average of 55 daily workers dedicated to making the space ready.

During construction, it was interesting to learn how many workers talked about how pleased they were to be part of creating a new space serving people on the spectrum and their families. Over rolls of carpet and cans of paint, they shared their own connection to someone receiving services or in need of support.

In November, friends gathered once again at the Golisano Autism Center to celebrate our shared mission. Surrounded by Member Agency leaders, board volunteers, and good friends representing each of our Member Agencies on our six campuses, I was reminded of our collaboration's earliest days.

Our Founding Board Chair, Justin Vigdor, and others devoted years to creating a new model of how independent agencies could work together. Over 55 years that vision has been affirmed, strengthened and grown.

Last year, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of our first campus on Elmwood Avenue. This year continues the journey of our newest campus, a model that will be a beacon of hope and positively impact lives for generations.

Thank you for being part of our story. Thank you for joining us in celebration of our shared history, ever changing needs and innovative ways to achieve more together.

Wishing you and your loved ones safe and healthy holidays,

Thomas O'Connor  
President

## Golisano Autism Center Opens

Following two years of planning and construction, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Thursday, September 12th to open the new Golisano Autism Center. The innovative, collaborative model offers a multitude of educational, social, recreational, and therapeutic supports and services for children and adults. The Center is a community of more than fourteen autism service providers, led by founding partners AI Sigl Community of Agencies, AutismUp, and CP Rochester.

The new 33,000 sq. ft. facility is named for Tom Golisano, philanthropist and Founder of Paychex. Mr. Golisano and the Golisano Foundation donated \$3 million toward a goal of \$9 million, providing instrumental support to make the vision for a one-stop autism hub a reality.

Tom Golisano addressed the large crowd at the ceremony, as did Ann Costello, Director of the Golisano Foundation. Sarah Milko, Executive Director of AutismUp; Mary Walsh Boatfield, President and CEO of CP Rochester; and Tom O'Connor, President of AI Sigl Community of Agencies thanked Mr. Golisano and the many generous donors, providers, and families in attendance.

To help us reach the \$1.1 million remaining goal or to learn more about the Center, please visit [golisanoautismcenter.org](http://golisanoautismcenter.org) or call **585.685.8300**.



## GOLISANO AUTISM CENTER



A COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY OF PROVIDERS





## Staying On the Move After a Stroke



Marc's life took an unexpected turn in 2014 when a stroke resulted in limited mobility and disuse of his left side. He received clinical services through Rochester Rehabilitation to help with these challenges. Marc, a dedicated father of three and avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, kayaking, and cycling, was referred to SportsNet, an adaptive sport and recreation program. SportsNet is a collaboration between CP Rochester, Rochester Rehabilitation, and Al Sigl Community of Agencies.

Through SportsNet, Marc has been able to try paddling and cycling using a recumbent bike with three wheels for extra stability. He has been pleased with the support he has received through SportsNet calling it, "a great program with helpful and knowledgeable staff."

To learn more about Rochester Rehabilitation's Stroke Support Group, please call **585.334.6000** ext **1394**.

To learn more about SportsNet, please visit [sportsnetny.org](http://sportsnetny.org) or call **585.334.6000** ext **1120**.



L-R: Mary Walsh Boatfield, President & CEO; Darrell Whitbeck, COO; Dawn D'Aversa, Director of Outpatient Clinical Services; Diane Kozar, VP of Clinic Services

## Accessible Family Dental Center Recognized

This year, CP Rochester's Family Dental Center (FDC) received the Henry Schein Cares Medal for "Best in Class". The award recognizes excellence in expanding access for underserved groups, including people with developmental, intellectual, and acquired disabilities®.

Mary Walsh Boatfield, president and CEO of CP Rochester, said, "Throughout our history, we have worked tirelessly to ensure that our patients have access to the care they need to live long, healthy, and happy lives, and oral healthcare is a core element of that mission."

Among the first of its kind, CP Rochester opened the FDC in 2008 in response to the high rate of periodontal and gum disease for people with special needs due to lack of accessible providers. The FDC's fully-accessible facility offers a ceiling track/lift system, specialized dental chairs, state-of-the-art equipment including a panoramic x-ray machine, and highly-skilled clinical staff. The convenient location on Al Sigl's Golisano Campus at Elmwood Avenue welcomes patients with and without special needs. To learn more, please visit [cprochester.org](http://cprochester.org) or call

**585.402.7448**.



## Celebrating 100 Years On The Move

This May, Medical Motor Service opened up the doors to its headquarters on Clinton Avenue South for a one-of-a-kind anniversary celebration and reception in the agency's fleet maintenance facility for friends and community partners. Guests had the chance to tour the agency and talk with staff. The celebration recognized the many ways the nonprofit helps thousands in our community remain active, stay connected, and live more independently.

The organization first began serving the community in 1919 during an influenza epidemic. Dozens of women drivers volunteered to transport doctors and nurses in support of local Red Cross efforts. Over the years, the effort expanded to serve area hospitals, clinics and social service agencies. In 1968, the nonprofit became a founding partner of the Al Sigl Community of Agencies.

While community needs have changed a lot in the last 100 years, Medical Motor Service has remained constant in its dedication to providing safe and accessible transportation to people of all ages with specialized needs. The spirit of the organization's early volunteers lives on today

in the more than 200 agency professional employees. To learn more, please visit [medicalmotors.org](http://medicalmotors.org) or call **585.654.7030**.





## IdeaLab Fosters Collaboration and Innovation



Susan was diagnosed with MS in 1980, but that has not stopped her from being an active volunteer for the National MS Society in Upstate NY. Susan has participated in events including Bike MS and Walk MS. She has also been a long time participant and facilitator of self-help groups for people living with MS and has represented the Society at community events. It was this connection that led her to participate as a volunteer in the Fall 2019 IdeaLab at RIT.

At IdeaLab, eight student teams met over one weekend to brainstorm solutions to access challenges suggested by AI Sigl Member Agency program participants. Susan partnered with students working to create a reusable device to serve as an alternative to disposable plastic straws for people with mobility challenges.

ThermApparel cooling vests are the result of a 2015 IdeaLab project. Heat can worsen symptoms for people with MS; existing vests were too costly and bulky for most activities. Students built various prototypes and eventually launched a company. Today their ThermApparel vests are worn in 13 countries. To learn more about NMSS programs and events, including volunteer opportunities, please visit [nationalmssociety.org/Chapters/NYR](http://nationalmssociety.org/Chapters/NYR) or call **800.344.4867**.



## Gallery Exhibit Challenges Perceptions

Elroy Blue, a person taking part in programs offered by Epilepsy-Pralid, Inc., was one of two local artists featured in conjunction with the "Positive Exposure: Change How You See, See How You Change" exhibition this Fall. Held at the Patricia O'Keefe Ross Art Gallery at St. John Fisher College, the exhibition

showcased works by award-winning photographer Rick Guidotti created in partnership with The Golisano Foundation. A former fashion photographer, Guidotti is the founder and director of Positive Exposure, a nonprofit arts and advocacy organization that explores the experiences of people living with genetic, physical, cognitive, and behavioral differences.

In addition to Guidotti's photographs, the gallery exhibition featured paintings by Elroy Blue and Taylor Hale, a painter who was born with cerebral palsy and congenital sensory neuropathy.

To learn more about how EPI's programs help thousands of individuals in our community with developmental or acquired brain conditions receive the support to live the life of their choosing, please visit [epiny.org](http://epiny.org) or call **585.442.4430**.

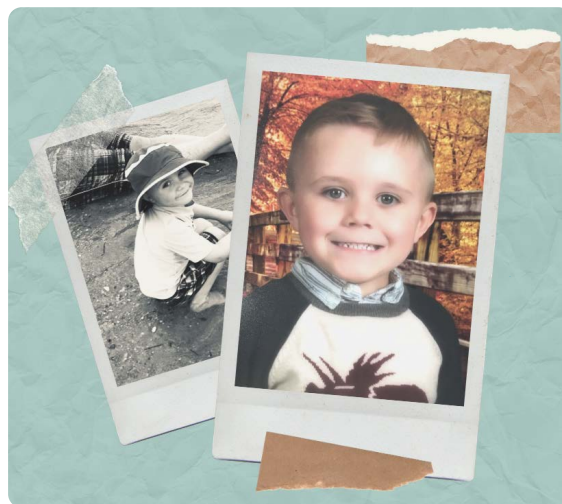


## Cooper's Story

What makes Cooper inspirational is his tenacity and determination while learning to cope with Dyspraxia, Apraxia, and Sensory Processing Disorder. Imagine being a small child trying to take in and process the world with all of its stimuli and not being equipped to communicate back. All of this was both frightening and exhausting leaving his mother, Meghan asking, "So, what do you do as a parent?" She needed to find the very best team, not only to help Cooper grow and learn new skills, but also to teach him how to cope within his world and provide him with the tools to deal with his unique challenges.

Rochester Hearing and Speech Center assessed Cooper's speech-language development, and cognitive and adaptive skills; which resulted in a need for speech services and physical therapy. Cooper's enrollment in both the Early Intervention and Preschool programs has allowed him to make great leaps and bounds over the past two and a half years.

Cooper is now well prepared for the next chapter of his life. This is especially due to the collaboration of all his therapists. Says Meghan, "What his therapists provided was nothing short of magic!" To learn more about RHSC's programs for people of all ages, please visit [RHSC.org](http://RHSC.org) or call **585.271.0680**.







organize the first Sports Classic golf tournament, spoke at the celebration dinner. The event raised over \$140,000 to benefit AI Sigl Member Agencies. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors, golfers, and volunteers for continuing this tradition of caring and celebrating abilities.

“What can I do to help?” This was the question posed by the Founders of the **AI Sigl Golf Classic**. On Monday, June 10th, nearly 400 friends gathered at Midvale Country Club for the 50th Annual Democrat and Chronicle AI Sigl Sports Classic. Dr. Dan Caccamise, Honorary Co-Chair and one of the volunteers who helped



Dr. Dan Caccamise, one of the founding Sports Committee volunteers



Barbara Purvis, Howard Ward, and Barry Culhane



James Mickles, Jennifer Graney, Erin Enright, Barney Walsh

Photos by John Schlia



Sports Committee volunteers spanning the tournament's 50 years

**AI Sigl's Annual Tennis** Benefit took place on August 17th-18th. The event, which raised over \$27,000, kicked off with a Draw Party and Pro/Am Exhibition at the **Tennis Club of Rochester**. The next day, 72 players gathered at **Midtown Athletic Club** for the sold out tournament. The growth of the event is due to many dedicated volunteers, motivated by a love for the game, seeking ways to introduce friends to AI Sigl Community of Agencies' collaborative mission.

Photo by Len Crellin: Imagemaker

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## Fine Tastings

Wednesday, September 18th was a perfect late summer evening for friends to gather and savor signature dishes, fine wines and spirits, and more at the 15th Annual Fine Tastings for AI Sigl Community. The close to 400 in attendance raised over \$78,000 to benefit AI Sigl Member Agencies. We raise our glass to our amazing event sponsors, dedicated volunteers, and friends for joining us to celebrate.

Photos by Jolana Babacek



Sandra Wehner and Teresa Robinson

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## Facility Update

Several pathways on our Golisano Campus have been updated this year to enhance accessibility for people of all abilities.

## President's Circle of Hearts

On Wednesday, November 6th, we welcomed friends to our annual President's Circle of Hearts reception in the Golisano Autism Center which officially opened in September. Donors toured the state-of-the-art 33,000-square-foot facility where over a dozen different agencies offer a comprehensive array of programs for people with autism and their families. Many thanks to US Ceiling Corp for their continued support of this event.



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Kathleen Whelehan and Laura West



Jo Ann Armstrong, Dr. Ryne Raffaele



Justin and Natalie Grigg, Kelly Ross Brown



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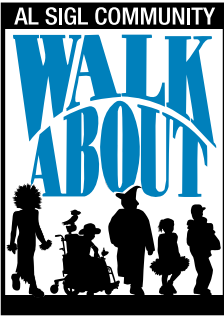


Mike Soto of Honeoye Falls Distillery shakes a sample for Gregor Schuler to taste



Robert Bergin, Walter B.D. "Duffy" Hickey, Karen Gallina, Brigid Noonan





This October, nearly 1,000 individuals, families, and teams filled Eastview Mall in celebration of the 30th Annual AI Sigl Community WalkAbout. People of all ages and abilities enjoyed treats and more throughout the mall together. Creativity took center stage during the costume contest with pirate crews, racing teams and favorite storybook characters. The milestone event raised over \$92,000 to benefit AI Sigl Member Agencies. Heartfelt thanks to each of our sponsors, generous friends, and many wonderful volunteers for walking and rolling with us!

Photos by Jolana Babacek



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## Why We Give

# One Family's Connection

People often tell us how they give to AI Sigl Community because of the care and support a friend or relative received on our campuses or how our namesake, newsman AI Sigl, always helped others in need. Recently, Jack and Betty Gaffney, longtime donors, shared their story.

Jack recalls, "I remember when AI Sigl was on the radio. He had the squeakiest voice you ever heard. After we had gotten married and had kids, we heard about the JustOne campaign and donated each year." In 2005, when their daughter Karen began serving as Vice President of the AI Sigl Foundation, Jack and Betty learned more about the many ways gifts like theirs made a difference in the lives of thousands of children and adults in our community taking part in AI Sigl Member Agency programs.

Karen was a tireless advocate for collaboration and inclusion who brought out the best in her colleagues and friends. She led by example through her own philanthropy. When Karen lost her battle with cancer in 2013, more than 150 people made gifts to AI Sigl in her memory.

Touched by the number of people who chose to recognize Karen's life, Jack and Betty began to recognize others. "Not especially large gifts," Jack says, "It became our way of honoring and remembering friends who had passed." He adds, "We think of it as one small way to share comfort during a difficult time."

Betty says, "There are probably people that think I can't give a large amount so it won't make a difference, but we know EVERY gift is appreciated." She adds, "We often hear from family members who received the card noting our gift in memory of their loved one that they are glad we chose AI Sigl."

Jack and Betty also know their donation will be invested well, and they both appreciate that the funds will stay in the community. All of us at AI Sigl are deeply honored that Jack and Betty Gaffney hold our work together close to their wonderful hearts.

Contact **Jodi Salatti** ext **8943**  
or **jsalatti@alsigl.org**

Visit **alsigl.org** for  
full list of Donors, Honor  
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**AI 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 **Jodi** by phone at **585.442.4102** ext. **8943** or by email at **jsalatti@alsigl.org**

GO GREEN

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## Celebrate Abilities!

With your year-end support there will be even more stories of success at AI Sigl. Here are some helpful reminders to assist you with your year-end giving.

**Checks**—If mailed, your envelope must be postmarked by December 31st.

**Credit Card Donations**—Make your secure gift at **alsigl.org/donate**

### Gifts of Appreciated Stock

This is a convenient way to realize a much more favorable income tax result and make an impact by making a timely donation of appreciated stock directly to AI Sigl Community of Agencies.

By contributing appreciated stock held for more than one year directly to AI Sigl, you can potentially eliminate capital gains on the sale and deduct the fair market value (FMV) of the donation, if you itemize.

Tax situations vary. We encourage you to consult your tax or financial advisor regarding your situation. For more information contact **Debra Salmon** at **585.442.4102** ext. **2718**.



## 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 AI Sigl Community of Agencies today...and tomorrow.

If you are looking to make a legacy gift, please consider naming AI 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 AI Sigl in your will through a simple bequest.

If you have already included AI Sigl in your plans, please let us know so that we can welcome you as a member of the AI 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 AI Sigl can also be a tax advantage to you or contact **Debra Salmon** at **585.442.4102** ext. **2718**.

