

Spring 2021

Achieving More Together

CP Rochester

Empowering People's Independence (EPI)

Medical Motor Service

National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Upstate New York

Rochester Hearing and Speech Center

Rochester Rehabilitation

Starbridge

This issue of broadcast is generously underwritten by:



A Shared Vision

Over two dozen nonprofits share space on AI Sigi's six campuses. Our collaborative was founded in 1962 by a group of parents and providers who envisioned a new way for independent nonprofits to share space while maintaining distinct missions and programs. Today, our two Affiliates, seven Member Agencies, five community partnerships, and twelve nonprofit tenants serve over 50,000 children and adults with disabilities® and their families.

In addition to providing space at below market rates, AI Sigi's innovative model offers benefits such as flexible floorplans able to help programs adapt to evolving community needs, as well as other shared services and philanthropic supports.

Stronger Together

Starbridge, formerly The Advocacy Center and LDA Life and Learning Services, has had a unique journey with AI Sigi Community. For years, the agency leased office space on AI Sigi's Wolk Campus. In 2017, Starbridge began to take steps to become a Member Agency. In January, that plan became a reality.

"We have appreciated the benefits of being near remarkable agencies, all connected by a shared goal of supporting children and adults of diverse abilities to lead successful lives," says Colin Garwood, President/CEO of Starbridge. "Becoming a member of this collective allows us to contribute our particular strengths to the overall strength of the AI Sigi Community."

Tom O'Connor, President of AI Sigi Community, adds, "Starbridge's work helping people of all abilities achieve success in education, employment, and healthy living—especially critical at this time—complements the important programs and services offered by the agencies serving thousands across the community each year on AI Sigi's six campuses."

To learn more about AI Sigi's collaborative mission and history, please visit alsigi.org.





Howdy Neighbors

A good friend shared that this pandemic has proven that although we desire the destination and value the journey, it is the company that matters.

Throughout the last year, we've heard so many stories of profound loss, uncertainty and isolation. Yet we have also experienced how determination and hope continue to bring us together. At Al Sigl Community, we remain committed to staying socially connected even as we are physically distanced.

We have witnessed tremendous innovation as our agencies have created new ways of providing essential services while keeping their clients and staff safe and healthy. In 2020, we implemented new safety protocols and HVAC updates across 20 buildings on our six campuses. We worked together to help agencies safely remain open while responding to rapid change. We are inspired by our agencies, their leaders, and teams for their dedication and resilience.

We invested in new technologies to help us stay connected. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and sponsors, we found creative ways to hold long-standing events, our Fine Tastings and Al Sigl Sports Classic along with our first-ever WalkAbout car parade, to continue to raise needed funds for our Member Agencies. We were pleased with strong participation from good friends like you, who joined us on these new platforms and stepped up to lend your support. We are grateful for your unwavering generosity.

I am particularly proud of two milestone achievements in the last year, despite the pandemic. Al Sigl is thrilled to welcome Starbridge, our first new Member Agency in 34 years. And what a fitting year to further expand the range of services offered on our campuses for children and adults with special needs and their families. As needs grow, our collaborative will continue to adapt to meet them.

Also the opening of the brand new Golisano Pediatric Behavioral Health and Wellness Building of the University of Rochester Medical Center last June. As mental health concerns are amplified by the pandemic, this critical partnership provides desperately-needed services that complement the full range of supports provided by our Member Agencies. We are ever grateful to Tom Golisano for helping to make this new facility on Al Sigl's Schwartz Family Campus available to the community.

Again, thank you for staying connected with us. We look forward to your good company in the months ahead.

Thomas O'Connor
President



Member Agencies



Access to Mental Health Services

The number of people reporting experiencing mental health challenges has risen dramatically during the pandemic. Rochester Rehabilitation offers a variety of mental health services designed to provide help, hope, and support.

Together with a team of dedicated professionals, program participants create a personalized plan to achieve their goals, balance life roles, and find recovery.

Ashley Teague, a participant in the Ventures PROS program, said the program helped her rediscover a sense of purpose. At first, she remembers, seeking help was difficult. "It was hard to reach out," she said, "I felt like I was letting people down or that people wouldn't believe me." After getting help, she says, "I realized how proud people were of me" for taking action to improve her own mental health. To learn more about Rochester Rehabilitation's programs, including Ventures PROS, visit rochesterrehab.org.



A Vital Lifeline

The organization known today as Medical Motor Service was created by volunteers during the 1919 flu epidemic to ensure access to medical care. Over the years, it has grown to become a transportation lifeline for thousands. As many providers paused operations last Spring, they continued to offer access to critically-needed services, such as rides to dialysis treatments. Through a partnership with

Lifespan, Foodlink, and Goodwill of the Finger Lakes, they have also delivered hundreds of boxes of food each week during the pandemic.

In March, they began partnering with Lifespan to provide rides for seniors and people with disabilities® for vaccination appointments. Including trips scheduled through Monroe County and other sources, the agency is transporting 25-50 people daily for visits.

"I'm very proud of our staff," says Bob Topel, Executive Director of Medical Motor Service. "They understand how important mobility is for our riders. And now I'm glad we can play a part in helping people getting back to their routines by making it easier to access these vaccines."

To learn more, visit medicalmotors.org.





RHSC Welcomes Bob Russell

Bob Russell, who began serving as President of Rochester Hearing & Speech Center in 2020, was impacted by his own hearing and speech challenges as a child. He truly understands how important it is for RHSC to help each client with their specific needs so that they are able to “Communicate for Life”.

Prior to joining RHSC, Bob served in executive roles at the Upstate NY Region of the American Diabetes Association (ADA), Gilda’s Club Rochester, and The Little Theatre Film Society. Before coming to the nonprofit sector, he served in the professional sports industry. Says Bob, “The common thread that has tied together these experiences has been the commitment to excellence that I have shared in leading these organizations for the people that they serve. My commitment to the clients, staff, partners, and friends of RHSC will be no different. I am excited to take RHSC into its next 100 years of serving the Rochester community!”

Welcome Bob! To learn more about RHSC’s programs and events, visit rhsc.org.



Staying Connected



Photo by John Boal Photography,
Source: Momentum article by James Stroud, Winter 18/19

Diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 1999, Calvin Stroud was symptom-free for the first eight or nine years of living with the disease. “No one could tell unless I told them,” he says. But in 2012, he began to have trouble with mobility and turned to a fold-up cane for help. “Then, I started to have more falls.” Today, he uses a motorized wheelchair.

Coming to terms with using assistive devices is what Stroud calls “a work in progress.” For people living with MS, assistive devices can make a big difference in staying active. But learning to accept them can also be a big challenge. That is where access to an MS Navigator can help. A virtual resource, MS Navigators help people with MS find the information, resources and support they need to live their best life. While the pandemic suspended in-person activities for many, this program continued to serve 125 people locally. To learn more about the MS Navigator Program, visit nationalmssociety.org/chapters/nyr.



New Name Highlights Independence



In January, Epilepsy-Pralid, Inc. became Empowering People’s Independence (EPI), expressing the agency’s deep commitment to providing innovative and individualized services to support the needs of people with brain injury, developmental disabilities®, and epilepsy.

“Empowering People’s Independence is the perfect name for our organization because it captures the

essence of who we are,” said Jeff Sinsebox, President and CEO of EPI.

“It expresses our core commitment to give voice to the choices of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities®, to empowering them to reach their aspirations and live their lives to the fullest.”

“The agency has seen significant growth in the last decade,” said Ryan Zitzka, EPI Board President. “We have expanded our services.

More importantly, we have invested in innovative service models that offer individuals with disabilities® and their families more flexibility and more choices to access the services they need.”

To learn more, visit epiny.org.



Making the Transition



In 2020, CP Rochester opened new Transitional Apartments for individuals with special needs who are transitioning from their family homes to independent living. Rather than construct a new building, with support from Al Sigl Community of Agencies, CP Rochester was able

to partner with New York State Homes and Community Renewal, the Golisano Foundation, and others to renovate an existing residence to serve an unmet need.

The project includes seven one-bedroom apartments with common living areas. Residents work on skills needed to live independently, including money management, home maintenance, and self-care. Residents will naturally shift to more autonomous community living within two years. Residents also have the opportunity to bond with others sharing similar experiences.

To learn more about CP Rochester’s many residential and other programs, visit cprochester.org.



Our Partners

Access Technology Partnership Goes Global



Photo by Gabrielle Plucknette-DeVito

on AI Sigl's Wolk Campus offers space for students to refine design ideas and begin to create prototypes.

2019-2020 LiveAbility Lab interns, Zoey Zang and Emily Wang shared how a visit to a Rochester Hearing & Speech Center pre-K classroom sparked an idea for sensory toys. Sara Calus from RHSC shared how her team met with Zoey and Emily to provide feedback on designs, and discuss how different features would help meet the needs of the children they serve. During the event, Zoey and Emily announced their plans to continue to develop these projects when they return to China at the completion of their studies at RIT. We couldn't be prouder that this



partnership has expanded not only across the region but also around the globe!



On Wednesday, December 9th, we welcomed friends for a virtual President's Circle of Hearts event celebrating AI Sigl's Effective Access Technology partnership with RIT. Students collaborate with agency clients and staff about access challenges. The LiveAbility Lab



Inclusive Programming Partnership Goes National

In 2003, AI Sigl partnered with WXXI and the Emerson Foundation to transform a small annual lecture into a one-week programming initiative in January called *Dialogue on Disability: The Herman & Margaret Schwartz Community Series*. That year, 30,000 people tuned in for TV and radio shows highlighting the stories of people with special needs. In 2014, with generous support from the Golisano Foundation, the week became part of a year-round initiative called *Move to Include*, reaching more than one million locally.

In 2020, the partnership expanded once again to include five public media stations across the nation. Over 50 video segments, many created here in Rochester with the help of people served by AI Sigl Member Agencies, are available as on-demand programming. These videos are available to classrooms nationwide through a digital resource for educators via PBS.

In January, Ann Kurz, an AI Sigl Foundation Board Member who attended early Schwartz lectures in the 1990s, appeared in a piece for WXXI about the history of the partnership, along with Tom O'Connor, Dan Meyers, and Norm Silverstein.

"It takes a long time to change attitudes," says Ann "I think it's so important to keep chipping away at the negative perceptions and replace them with positive ideas."



The Reason I Jump On Tuesday, January 26th, AI Sigl teamed up with WXXI, the Golisano Foundation, and the Golisano Autism Center for a virtual discussion about the documentary *The Reason I Jump*. The film examines the stories of five non-speaking young people on the autism spectrum.

AI Sigl's Tom O'Connor joined Beth Ciardi, Director of the Golisano Autism Center, and moderator Evan Dawson of WXXI. Panelists included Jerry Rothwell, documentary filmmaker and director of the film, Clara Washington, the parent of a non-speaking young person, Teddy Milko, a non-speaking autistic young adult, and Sarah Milko, Executive Director of AutismUp. Our thanks to everyone who took part! Over 200 people viewed the film, and hundreds more tuned in for the virtual discussion.



2020 Annual Report

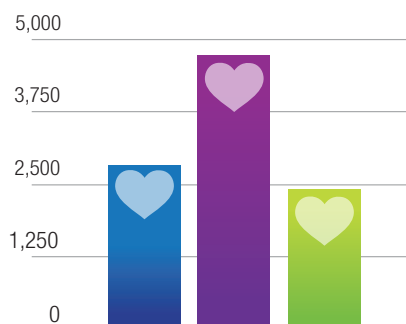


With gratitude to the caring friends, volunteers, donors, and staff who made it possible for AI Sigi Community to keep our six campuses and 20 buildings open during the past year as our Member Agencies, Affiliates and neighbors provided essential services during unprecedented times.

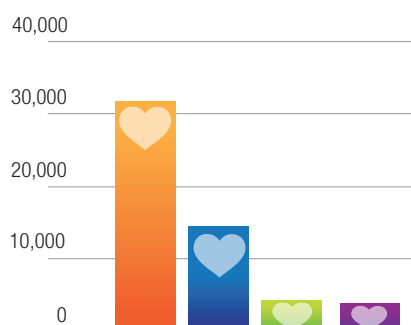
You've been a steady part of our journey as we explored new ways to connect. Technology allowed our agencies to adapt and innovate. We celebrated annual events with familiar faces, sharing virtual updates on how our agencies were serving the community, all while raising critically-needed funds.

With determination and support, we truly honored our collaborative vision.

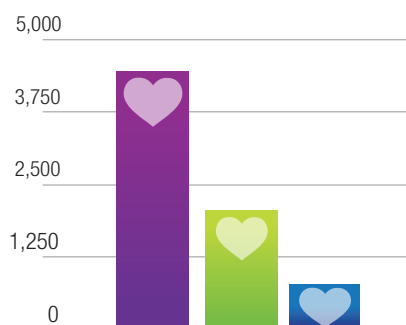
Thank you for helping us **Achieve More Together**.



Consolidated Support and Revenue		In Millions
Contributions & Bequests		\$2,824
Revenues		\$4,736
Investment Earnings		\$2,405
Total		\$9,965
Expenses		\$6,758
Total Change in N/A		\$3,207



Assets		
Cash And Investments		\$31,651
Net Fixed Assets		\$14,453
Pledges & Crt		\$4,288
Other Assets		\$3,853
Total Assets		\$54,245



Liability		
Long-Term Debt		\$4,458
Accounts Payable & Accrued		\$2,087
Amounts Held/Designated		\$753
Total		\$7,298
Net Assets		\$46,947
Total Liability and Net Assets		\$54,245



Visit aisigl.org for full list of Donors, Honor & Memorial gifts

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Bright Lights



51st Annual Al Sigl Sports Classic Golf Tournament

More than one hundred golfers enjoyed staggered flights of tee times under clear blue skies on Thursday, September 3rd at Midvale Country Club, followed by a delicious take-home meal. Many thanks for the support of our Chair, John Brady, and the dedication of the Sports Committee for proudly continuing the tradition of one of Rochester's oldest and most successful philanthropic tournaments. Thanks to our wonderful sponsors, golfers, and volunteers, who together raised more than \$70,000 to support Al Sigl Member Agencies.



Thank you to our 2020 Golf Sponsors

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Al Sigl Tennis Benefit

Over 50 players joined us at the Tennis Club of Rochester on Saturday, August 8th, raising more than \$23,000 to benefit Al Sigl Member Agencies. Joe Eduardo first shared his vision for a tennis event in 2009. In honor of Joe's dedication over the years growing the tournament, he was presented with a plaque that will be displayed at the Tennis Club of Rochester recognizing winners in each division. We are grateful for the unwavering support of Joe Eduardo, Bill Martin, Tennis Club of Rochester, our volunteer committee and loyal tennis community!



Upcoming Events



52nd Annual
**Golf
Tournament**
Midvale
Country Club

MONDAY
**JUNE
14**

2021
**Tennis
Benefit**
Tennis Club
of Rochester

SATURDAY
**AUGUST
14**



Fine Tastings
for Al Sigi Community

**Fine
Tastings**
Al Sigi
Community

WEDNESDAY
**SEPTEMBER
22**

Locust Hill
Country Club



Al Sigi
Community
WalkAbout

SUNDAY
**OCTOBER
24**

Eastview Mall



Fine Tastings a Success

Wednesday, September 23rd marked our first-ever hybrid Fine Tastings event. Guests learned culinary tips as they cooked a delicious meal along with Locust Hill's Chef George Gremminger. Many shared photos of their creations, including Ann Kurz. The more than 100 guests viewing from home, joined by a small in-person group at Locust Hill, also enjoyed sips of unique local wines with renowned sommelier Lorraine Hems. The event raised more than \$39,000 to benefit Al Sigi Member Agencies. Heartfelt thanks to the Fine Tastings committee for their hard work and creativity and our sponsors, guests, and volunteers for their generous support. We are grateful for the opportunity to keep our friends connected while apart!

Thank you to our 2020 Sponsors

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Thank you to our 2020 Sponsors



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RBC Wealth Management

Special Thanks

Jolana Babacek Photography



Al Sigi Community WalkAbout Car Parade

We took our WalkAbout outdoors this year and shared a car parade with friends and community members. Cars arrived decked out in Halloween decor filled with smiling faces and

costume characters. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteer committee for providing an opportunity for people to join together safely for family-friendly fun while celebrating inclusion and abilities. \$53,000 was raised to support Al Sigi Member Agencies.



Tax-Advantaged Qualified Charitable Distributions

Roberta Langie Van Winkle,
Vice President, Private Banking
at Canandaigua National Bank
& Trust, and Al Sigi Foundation
Board Member, shared a way
that friends can support



Al Sigi through Tax-Advantaged Qualified
Charitable Distributions (QCDs).

A taxpayer age 70-1/2 and older can transfer up
to \$100K annually directly to Al Sigi Community
from a traditional pre-tax IRA and not have the
distribution included in taxable income. Required
minimum distributions (RMDs) may be used
to fund these transfers, which can help meet
both RMD obligations and charitable interests
simultaneously.

Another benefit, now that most taxpayers no longer
itemize deductions, is that this method yields a tax
benefit for charitable dollars that otherwise might
be lost. Note that since QCDs are non-taxable
distributions, they cannot also be deducted.

QCDs can be distributed from inherited IRAs which,
for non-spouses, must be emptied within 10 years
following the year of passing. They are exempt
from the rule that limits charitable deductions
based on AGI.

- ♥ QCDs are not allowed for gifts to donor-advised funds.
- ♥ QCDs are not allowed from employer retirement plans such as 401(k)s.
- ♥ QCDs can only include distributions that otherwise would be 100% taxable.
- ♥ QCDs can only include distributions that would otherwise be 100% tax-deductible.
- ♥ Roth IRAs are not suitable QCD sources.

Please consult with your financial planning or tax
professional to make the best use of this attractive
charitable-giving option. For more about how your
charitable gift made via tax or planned giving tools
can benefit Al Sigi Community, please contact
Debra J. Salmon, Vice President, at 585.442.4102
x2718 or by e-mail at dsalmon@alsigl.org.

Al Sigi 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.

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“It was just a
terrific thing to
do. We could have
a good time playing
golf and raise money
for Al Sigi. And we
built on that.”

— Dr. Dan Caccamise



Remembering Over 50 Years of Service

Last year, we were greatly saddened by the loss of Dr. Dan Caccamise, one of the original
founding members of the Al Sigi Sports Classic Golf Tournament. In 1969, “Dr. Dan” joined
a small group of friends organizing a charity tournament for the newly-opened Al Sigi Center.
Over 50 years later, the event has raised over two million dollars to benefit the children and
adults served by Al Sigi Member Agencies.

Dan, his wife Shelly, and their family have been steadfast volunteers for years. Dan was named
Honorary Chairman of the tournament in 1993 and again at the 50th tournament where he
was recognized, celebrating his exemplary years of service. A good friend and true renaissance
man, “Dr. Dan” will be remembered for his easy laugh, roguish sense of humor, and gentle soul.
Memorial gifts in honor of Dan may be made at alsigl.org/golf and will be recognized at our
52nd Annual Al Sigi Sports Classic Golf Tournament on Monday, June 14th.