

Spring 2025

Achieving More Together

CP Rochester

Empowering People's
Independence (EPI)

Medical Motor Service

National MS Society
Upstate New York

Rochester Hearing
and Speech Center

Rochester Rehabilitation
Center

Starbridge



Remembering Justin

This special issue of broadcast is dedicated in memory of our friend and Founding Board Chair, Justin Vigdor.

A true visionary, Justin encouraged others in the community to explore new ways of thinking about collaboration, accessibility, and providing opportunities for people with special needs and their families.

In 1962, Justin led a group of parents and providers who challenged common assumptions of the era about the abilities of people with disabilities and special needs and the lack of community inclusion. Their goal: to bring together many different nonprofits scattered across the community under one roof, featuring a fully-accessible floor plan, the first of its kind, with spaces adaptable to the unique needs of each agency, as well as shared spaces open to all.

While each agency would remain independent, their collaboration would help build capacity, create operational efficiency, steward community resources, and help raise awareness. In 1968, the doors opened to our flagship location on Elmwood Avenue, known today as our Golisano Campus.

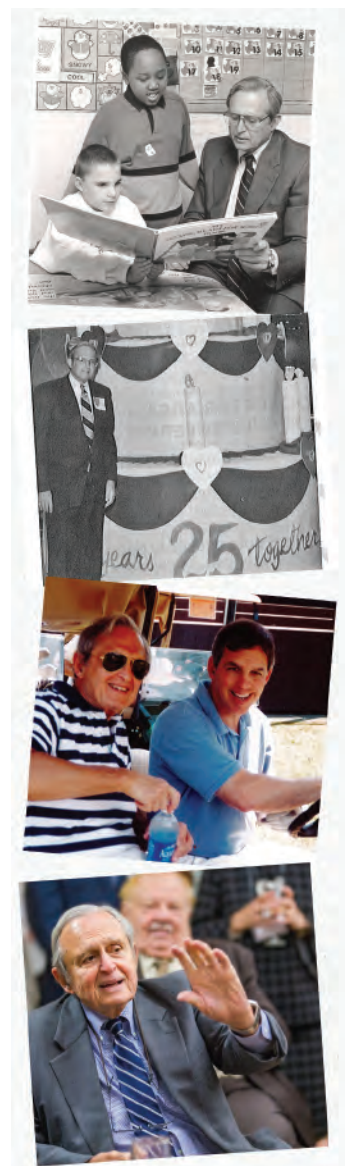
With his tremendous legal understanding and tireless energy, Justin created a framework resilient enough to accommodate as our collaborative grew from serving 3,000 people each year to serving over 55,000 children and adults and their families on six campuses annually during his lifetime.

Justin's deep empathy helped ensure our innovative model would not only grow over time, but also provide the flexibility for our agencies to be able to adapt and respond to meet the most urgent community needs.

A pioneer, a self-proclaimed renegade, an advocate, counsel, donor, and volunteer like no other -- Justin will be greatly missed, yet his legacy will continue to inspire us. ♥

*To me it was manifestly clear
that such a center would be a great
value to the community...it was clear
that it was just worth doing.*

- Justin Vigdor





Howdy Neighbors

Our newsletter is dedicated in honor of Justin Vigdor, the Founder of AI Sigl. His impact on our community is immeasurable. For over 60 years, he remained deeply committed, attending monthly meetings and fundraising events, always ensuring that AI Sigl's mission thrived.

In 2021, I had the honor of joining Justin and another early volunteer, John Horvath, for a StoryCorps recording—now archived at the Library of Congress—about AI Sigl's history and the power of partnership. During that conversation, I reflected on how our collaborative has always been about more than just a building. It is about relationships—friendships forged over decades of working together to make our community stronger and more inclusive.

As Justin would attest, making this dream a reality took years of dedication. Collaboration is hard. Even under the best circumstances, moving forward requires flexibility, grit, and grace. Yet Justin made it look easy. Because of the example he set every day, people wanted to be part of AI Sigl's success.

As a nonprofit leader and in my own life, I have been blessed to learn from Justin's example. He always did the right thing, no matter how difficult or unrecognized. His selflessness was unparalleled, reflected in the company he kept and the values he lived by.

Justin's legacy continues to inspire us, reminding us that true impact is not measured in structures but in the lives we touch and the partnerships we build.

As this is a special issue of broadcast, we did not include an envelope – if you would like to make a donation in memory of Justin, please scan the QR code below or visit alsigl.org/donate. Like Justin, we appreciate your support of our work together.

Thank you for being part of our story.

Warm wishes,

Thomas O'Connor
President



Sigl News

Growing Dialogue

On January 25th, AI Sigl hosted a free family event open to the community at our Golisano Campus at Elmwood. The event served as a special follow-up to our annual *Dialogue on Disability* programming week, January 13th-19th, celebrating the stories and perspectives of people with disabilities and special needs.

Through activities and games, children learned more about the new PBS KIDS series, *Carl the Collector*, which centers on a character on the autism spectrum. Several AI Sigl Member Agencies and community organizations took part, answering questions about local programs. To learn more about this partnership, visit wxxi.org/dod.



MOVE TO
INCLUDE

WXXI



Bright Lights

Celebrating Collaboration



AI Sigl Council Members

Special thanks to Fairport Brewing on University Avenue for hosting our JustOne® Night Guest Bartending event this Fe-blue-ary, as volunteers from the AI Sigl Council, Foundation, Board of Governors, and Board of Trustees competed to raise funds and invite friends to learn more about AI Sigl.

The Governors' team took top honors, with Jake Conway and Roberta Van Winkle raising the most tips. Three cheers for each of our volunteer bartenders, generous sponsors, and the AI Sigl Council for coordinating the event!

Now in its 11th year, the AI Sigl Council has raised over \$100,000 to support our collaborative mission. To learn more about the group, visit alsigl.org/council.

A Lift for Abilities



Ski Committee



Thank you to Hunt Hollow and everyone who joined us for our 4th Annual Ski Benefit! Shared Ski adaptive recreation joined in as friends hit the slopes with us to have fun and learn more about AI Sigl.

Speaking at the event, Shared Ski volunteer and Ski committee member Mike Cocquyt said, "We know this event raises funds for great causes. It also creates amazing opportunities for people to go out and experience the mountain themselves. Thank you for taking part and making that possible."

Thank you
to our lead
sponsors

Title Sponsor
Rock Environmental

Black Diamond
Bob August; CP Ward;
Hunt Hollow



Teaching the next generation about community giving!
Volunteer Tina shared a photo of her first grandson in 2018 (L)
with a new photo from 2025, joined by his younger brother (R).

JUST ONE
AI Sigl

Community Challenge

This year, we hosted our first-ever JustOne® Community Challenge in honor of the campaign's 35th Anniversary. Players downloaded a bingo board filled with activities like following our social pages. Local businesses joined in, donating proceeds from blue or heart-shaped items.

Know a business, club, or school group interested in hosting a fundraiser or event? Please contact Hailey at hcole@alsigl.org or 585.442.4102 x8929.

Thank you
to our Challenge
partners

Amico Pizza; Bruster's Real Ice Cream
Irondequoit; Get Caked Bakery;
Untamed Nutrition Rochester

Pickleball and Philanthropy

In March, the AI Sigl Council held our first-ever pickleball tournament! Many thanks to our host, Dinkers Pickleball Campus, sponsors, and volunteers. Nearly 80 players took part in round-robin doubles over three flights.

All funds raised at AI Sigl events stay local and benefit more than 55,000 children and adults with disabilities and special needs and their families served each year on our six campuses.



Interested in getting involved?
Contact Hailey to learn more at hcole@alsigl.org

Many Ways to Give

You can make an impact by supporting the Al Sigl Foundation. Dedicated friends, like you, help sustain our work together.



- Honor someone special—a gift in honor or memory of a friend or loved one is a thoughtful tribute.
- Build a lasting impact through a charitable gift annuity, life insurance beneficiary, or name Al Sigl Community in your will.
- Sponsor an Al Sigl event and showcase your support.

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

Check with your financial advisor to discuss potential tax advantages or contact **Brenda Geglia** at **585.442.4102 x2718** or **bgeglia@alsigl.org**.

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 Megan at **585.442.4102 x8948** or **msassenhausen@alsigl.org**.



Give us a call to request an electronic copy of future newsletters at 585.442.4102 x8948



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Save the Date



**Al Sigl Sports Classic
Golf Tournament**
Midvale Country Club
Monday, June 9th



**Al Sigl
Tennis Benefit**
Tennis Club of Rochester
August 15th-16th



**Fine Tastings for
Al Sigl Community**
Monroe Golf Club
Thursday, September 25th



**Al Sigl Community
WalkAbout**
Inside Eastview Mall
Sunday, October 19th



Playing with Purpose

“Upstate Systems has been a proud Al Sigl sponsor for almost 20 years. Al Sigl casts such a wide net in its mission to serve the vast needs of people of all abilities. The Al Sigl team fosters a culture of caring and support for some of the most vulnerable individuals in our community -- and what could be better than that?”

Jon Beato has taken part in Al Sigl's Sports Classic Golf Tournament for decades, as a golfer and also as a sponsor. Funds raised through the event become grants to Al Sigl's seven Member Agencies to help meet needs not covered by other sources.

When asked to share why he looks forward to the tournament each year, Jon emphasized how Al Sigl's commitment to our community makes event sponsorship truly impactful. To learn more about sponsor benefits, including corporate recognition, please visit alsigl.org.