As a partnership of agencies joined together to benefit thousands of children, adults and their families each year, Upstate Caring Partners truly encapsulates the spirit of togetherness, change and excellence in service provision each and every day. Joined by our common thread of helping people, seeing and encouraging potential and providing hope to families, we are a local, regional and statewide force reaching more people of all abilities than ever before. Our services span from serving the youngest babies in the Upstate Cerebral Palsy Early Intervention Program, to children in the Kelberman Center summer camp, to young adults being counseled and guided in their healthcare journey in the Central New York Health Home Network (CNYHHN), to older adults receiving therapeutic horseback riding at The Root Farm.

Our vast array of services and professionals at every level provide the expertise that sets us apart as the premier service providers in all areas of therapy, health care, recreation, autism services, education, residential services…and the list goes on and on. This is only the beginning. We will continue to make an impact on people’s lives each day…we will continue to advocate and to educate, providing enriching activities and quality of life to all individuals and their families.

Our message is one of partnership, innovation, research based practices and a genuine concern for all individuals, staff, community and our inspired Board of Directors, working together to meet the mission and vision of our organization that our pioneer families began over 66 years ago. We stay true to our vision and mission today with the foundation of our first families’ perseverance and courage to fight for the rights and dignity of the seven individuals we first served to now thousands on a daily basis.

Enjoy the stories within the pages of this Annual Report that so clearly illustrate our commitment to each other and all that we are so privileged to support.
"Our 4-year-old daughter, Kenley, used to be a very withdrawn child, not socializing at all. She was extremely clingy, with limited physical abilities. We felt discouraged, wondering if she would be happy like other children her age. Now, after attending the New Discoveries Learning Center, she is a totally different child. Our daughter is a social butterfly and has friends. This program has truly been life changing for all of us, especially for our happy daughter Kenley."

Jamie and Jason Jordan have been through a challenging journey with their daughter Kenley, who came to the Upstate Cerebral Palsy New Discoveries Learning Center in Rome at the age of four. When she entered the program, Kenley was non-verbal and very withdrawn. The Jordan family needed a glimmer of hope…hope that their daughter would grow and prosper just like any other child. They found that hope after Kenley began at New Discoveries Learning Center, immersed in a curriculum that fosters growth, encouragement and ability, rather than disability.

Thanks to her physical therapy, which includes horseback riding at The Root Farm, Kenley now jumps up and down and is extremely active, a huge change from the past! Kenley has also found her own way to communicate, with the help of the speech therapy team at New Discoveries. And she is now extremely social and has many friends, a testament to her hard work and the quality of the program.

"The changes we have seen in our daughter are phenomenal," reflected Jamie. "She has the best teacher and group of staff that we have ever met. Kenley has recently developed a seizure disorder, but I have a secure feeling knowing that I am leaving my daughter in good hands, knowing that medical practices are followed during times of crisis, which is very important to us. The New Discoveries Learning Center experience is beyond what we could have imagined for our daughter and we appreciate everything that has been done for Kenley and us."
My wife, Lynne, suffered permanent brain damage from an Anoxic Brain Injury four years ago due to cardiac arrest. When discussing our therapy options, we had heard about the new Root Farm in Sauquoit, which has been truly life changing for Lynne. She always had a love for horses and used to horseback ride and compete years ago. Now, participating in therapeutic horseback riding at The Root Farm each week not only helps her physically with her balance and walking, but even more importantly it is something that reminds her of her past, which is emotionally healing for her.

When Lynne was able to return home following her brain injury, she and her husband Jonathan searched for places where she could receive therapy. With her passion for horses and the known benefits of equine therapy, they were thrilled to hear The Root Farm was being built so close to home and were excited for construction to be completed.

Equine therapy stimulates riders with brain injuries to increase strength, muscle tone, posture, balance, flexibility and hand-eye coordination. Riding also requires attention, reasoning skills and memory – areas that are critically impacted by a brain injury. Lynne looks forward to riding at The Root Farm each Monday and has formed a very special bond with the horse Kruzer. Through riding, Lynne has improved her balance and posture and is working hard to ride Kruzer independently.

“We are on a roller coaster every day,” said Jonathan. “My wife has to keep moving and be active and I could not think of a more fitting activity than horseback riding for her, since this has been her lifelong passion. We are grateful to The Root Farm for being there for us at a time when we truly needed hope and somewhere to turn for support. Each week, I know that the horses at The Root Farm have been the best medicine of all for Lynne.”
Richard

Richard is quite a history buff, which made him an excellent choice for Springport town historian, despite the fact that he is only 19-years-old! While his great-grandfather inspired him with his love for history, the E. John Gavras Center has played a significant role in helping Richard achieve the success that he enjoys today, providing speech, occupational and physical therapy services early on after receiving his autism diagnosis. The E. John Gavras Center has since helped Richard to gain social skills and to feel comfortable out in the community – both of which play a vital role in living his dream as an historian.

Richard has had a passion for history from a very early age. He is an extremely unique young man whose excitement for all history, and especially the town history of Springport, NY, has fueled his drive and enthusiasm. That enthusiasm is contagious and he was recently elected to the town historian position for another year. As a child, Richard attended the E. John Gavras Center preschool program, which helped provide skills and a solid foundation. The staff at the E. John Gavras Center have had a tremendous impact in Richard’s life, providing multiple therapies to help with his speech and physical needs as well as Day Habilitation services as he grew older. Richard felt important at the E. John Gavras Center, receiving the undivided attention he needed with supportive staff encouraging him along the way.

Currently, Richard’s success at the E. John Gavras Center has blossomed into many successes within his life. He is involved in a job-training program and is learning new skills to obtain employment in the future. He is also in the local community college history club and he hopes to soon enroll in history classes. "Richard has a positive attitude and knows that he can accomplish his goals, while not being defined by a label or diagnosis. Richard’s confidence is tremendous, thanks to having the staff of the E. John Gavras Center in his life.“
Honestly, if it weren’t for my CNYHHN Care Manager, Mary, I would have drowned. She helped me to pick up the pieces after I left my crisis marriage. She advocated for me. She stood up for me. She helped me navigate all the resources that were out there for me that I didn’t even know existed. This is the first time ever that my daughter has slept the night in her own crib without being upset. We are out of the shelter and in our own home. I think she senses that her mama is calm now…and this is all thanks to Mary. It is refreshing to have someone who actually cares about me and my daughter!

JoAnna needed help. Having just left her husband and a crisis situation, she had no idea where to turn for the support she and her daughter needed. Her therapist from the Upstate Cerebral Palsy Community Health and Behavioral Services clinic connected JoAnna with Mary, a CNYHHN care manager. Mary helped JoAnna pick up the pieces and coordinate care and services. She became JoAnna’s greatest supporter and advocate helping her to navigate the challenges of being a single mother in need of life’s basic necessities – food and shelter. With Mary’s help, JoAnna moved to a domestic violence shelter with her four month old daughter sleeping in a tiny crib at her side and eventually connected them with a permanent home.

Mary took charge of the often complex services and was able to put everything in place for JoAnna and her daughter when they had no one else to turn to and no place to stay. “Overall I could not be more pleased with my Care Manager Mary and with CNYHHN. I feel like Mary is one hundred percent focused on me and my daughter. She coordinated all of these separate pieces for me – navigating agencies and services I never even knew about and I am so thankful for her trust, guidance and support.”
The Kelberman Center and E. John Gavras Center held Walks for Autism, raising awareness for local autism services available.

Students enjoyed a night of dinner and dancing at the annual Tradewinds Education Center Prom, thanks to donations from the community.

The 2015 Holiday Miracles Project helped more than 200 children to have a happier holiday season thanks to generous community donors.

Growing Together

Upstate Cerebral Palsy and Utica College now collaborate to create a model of best practice for early intervention through research and educational experiences.

The Tradewinds Education Center Residential Program was designated one of three NYS Centers of Excellence in the care and treatment of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other complex disabilities, recognized for best practice in the field.
The Make a Difference campaign raised over $35,000 from staff member contributions and funded, among other items, a new basketball pole and hoop for the Kelberman Center residence in Chittenango, NY.

The Root Farm Grand Opening marked the beginning of equine therapy services for hundreds of children and adults of all abilities.

Upstate Cerebral Palsy Community Health and Behavioral Services Clinic collaborated with the Veteran’s Outreach Center in Utica to provide mental health services for Veterans and individuals in need within the community, as well as linkages to a variety of other programs.

Upstate Cerebral Palsy artists had their paintings, silk and clay pieces on display for the public at SUNY Poly and were honored at a reception showcasing their talent and abilities.

The popular Saturday morning Kelberman Clubhouse at Hamilton College pairs college students and children with autism in playing games, making crafts and having fun.
The Kelberman Center Promise Program has given us tremendous hope. Gia’s teachers are absolutely amazing and I cannot thank them enough for all they have done and continue to do for her. When I noticed that my one-year-old was not making eye contact with me and seemed distant, I had her evaluated and she began receiving early intervention services. She started the Promise Preschool Program when she was three and honestly, it has changed all of our lives. Gia now speaks some words, knows her letters and loves going to school. It has been truly life-changing.

Like all parents, Kelli Montague only wanted what was best for her daughter, Gia. She noticed very early on that Gia was not progressing like other children her age. Gia received her official autism diagnosis at the age of two and enrolled in the Promise Program a year later. The program has a high staff to student ratio, allowing staff to focus on the individual needs of every child, giving them personal attention in an environment that is comfortable for them, which is so important at this very young age.

Each day Gia is taught through the use of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) curriculum, the only research-based proven effective treatment for children with autism. While she entered the program with limited skills, staff have encouraged Gia to speak her first words, to learn her letters and to successfully toilet train — huge accomplishments for any child! Gia is even able to communicate through a system of pictures to express her needs. “I have seen improvements in my daughter that I did not even dream were possible,” reflected Kelli. “Everyone in the Promise Program is so invested in the kids and so dedicated to what they do. They treat the kids like their own children and it feels like a family. They have given me so much hope for the future.”
Being involved in this special day out has been such a wonderful experience for Mackenzie. I could see her eyes light up when the show began and the girls entered the stage with their dolls. She enjoyed the whole experience and it is something that she will truly always remember. This event is a wonderful way for children and their parents to support other children, including Mackenzie.

Mackenzie is a very active 11-year-old girl who enjoys playing on the computer, using her tablet, making arts and crafts projects, painting and especially playing with dolls! She lives in the Children’s Residential Program at Upstate Cerebral Palsy, a part of the Tradewinds Education Center, and her love for dolls has always been well-known by her family members and agency staff alike. Last year, Mackenzie was given the very special opportunity of attending the American Girl Fashion Show, a fundraising event through the Cerebral Palsy Association, to benefit children’s programs at Upstate Cerebral Palsy. The American Girl Fashion Show is a magical experience for children – a day to be immersed in everything dolls – Mackenzie’s dream! From the fashion show featuring girls with both contemporary and historic dolls, to a photo booth and hair salon, Mackenzie was overjoyed by seeing dolls everywhere. The best part of all was when she was given her very own American Girl doll at the show! Mackenzie’s aide Alycia, who accompanied her to the show, said, “I cannot express the gratitude I have for being able to attend and witness Mackenzie having such a wonderful time at this event. Mackenzie was in awe over seeing all of the girls with their dolls, and what made it that much more special was that she was right in the middle of it!”
I am so proud of what our students have accomplished. It is wonderful to see our kids so enthusiastic each day. They are learning math, engineering, science…and are excited about it! Our team is getting out in the community, collaborating with their peers, receiving and incorporating feedback from judges at our competitions and most importantly, working as a team. Robotics competitions require teamwork above anything else and our students excel at that, which is held in the highest regard at Tradewinds.

The Tradewinds Education Center robotics team, the VoBots, competes regionally in robotics competitions against area schools and robotics clubs. This is an amazing opportunity for our students, being able to combine a high level robotics program with competition and teamwork. Our students work with other teams from the area on their projects, collaborating and learning from each other to help them increase their knowledge.

The VoBots team is composed of students, each with unique talents and abilities to contribute. They recently placed 12th out of 25 teams at a regional competition – a huge accomplishment for this new team! “As important as the success we have designing, building, and driving the robot, are the experiences we gain,” reflects FJ Wadnola, VoBots coach and Tradewinds Teacher. “The social interactions we have with other team members, officials and each other are more valuable than any award.”
### 2015 Revenue by Affiliate

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
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