ADVENTURE AWAITS AT
The Root Farm
The Root Farm is proud to announce the official opening of Root Farm Adventures, a state-of-the-art recreation experience including an innovative challenge course with an accessible zip line, a low and high ropes course, as well as a 40-foot rock climbing tower and other climbing walls. In conjunction with the Greater Utica Chamber of Commerce, Root Farm Adventures officially opened following a ribbon cutting event.

Do you feel like a challenge and a day of fun with family, friends or co-workers? The Root Farm challenge course is inclusive and customized to accommodate people of all abilities. Visit us at The Root Farm on our upcoming Open Adventure Days, October 8, 13 and 19, or visit us online at rootfarm.org for information on our challenge course, pricing and to book your adventure today!

Please join us at a NEW EXHIBIT
Gallery of Expression
art sale & cocktail reception
October 19/6-9:00pm • free & open to the public
4 Elements Studio ~ 730 Broadway ~ Utica
Call 315.765.6923 or visit upstatecp.org for more information

Upstate Cerebral Palsy promotes and supports our Pieces of Heart Art programs, which foster creative expression among the multitalented people who receive our services. Representing a varying age range with differing creative abilities, the people we support create their art with a goal of self-expression, working in a variety of media including watercolor, acrylics, silk and clay. Upstate Cerebral Palsy has recently collaborated with 4 Elements Studio in Utica to further enhance the creativity of our artists through an art membership program, designed to empower and motivate each member artist using art as a form of expression. To learn more, please visit upstatecp.org.

Please call 315.927.3461 to learn more about Gallery of Expression sponsorship opportunities!
The long-standing Board of Directors of the past Upstate Caring Partners affiliate Mohawk Valley Handicapped Services, Inc. (MVHS) has made a tremendous impact on the people we support for more than three decades. The mission of MVHS was to facilitate the purchase of buildings and properties and to help manage related details of agency expansion, which has helped Upstate Cerebral Palsy grow exponentially to serve the thousands of children and adults we support today.

Although changes to regulations make it no longer necessary to have a real estate holding company, MVHS’s contributions to our success have been extraordinary. Thank you to Board President Anthony Spiridigliozzi and to the following committed group of Board Members who helped build the agency, literally, from the foundation upward: Louis Critelli, Linda Dillon, William Holicky, Phil Sbarra, David Trevisani, James Turnbull IV, Executive Director Geno DeCondo and finally Louis B. Tehan, Upstate Caring Partners President and CEO, who initially formed and helped shape the MVHS Corporation.
Upstate Cerebral Palsy Recognizes Outstanding Staff

Announcing the Upstate Cerebral Palsy Senior Leadership Team

Geno DeCondo officially assumed the role of Upstate Cerebral Palsy Executive Director this past Spring, and has assembled a talented leadership team to help him manage the programs and services that support the thousands of children and adults served each year. Pictured from left to right is Kathy Klosner, Chief Program Officer; Geno DeCondo, Executive Director; Lucy Rizzo, Chief Administrative Officer; Patri Hays, Chief Quality Officer and Curt Pearsall, Jr., Chief Financial Officer. According to DeCondo, “This talented team will help lead our agency into the future, and represents all of the compassionate and caring staff we are so fortunate to have working here at Upstate Cerebral Palsy.”

Staff Graduate From MVCC Supervisor’s Institute

Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) recently collaborated with Upstate Cerebral Palsy to tailor the college’s community-wide Supervisor’s Institute training specifically for Upstate employees. The Institute provides businesses with hands-on training to supervisors in a variety of topics as a key program in the Center for Leadership Excellence (CLE) in partnership with Leadership Mohawk Valley (LMV).

During this recent collaboration between MVCC, LMV and Upstate Cerebral Palsy, MVCC specifically adapted its Supervisor’s Institute for 19 Upstate Cerebral Palsy Residential Managers, who were enrolled in this four-month leadership series where they have gained supervisory, effective communication, and team-building skills to take back to their programs. The Institute recently culminated with presentation of final projects.

Costello Participates in Leadership Program

Upstate Cerebral Palsy Vice President of Behavioral Services, Tara Costello, was selected to participate in the Health Foundation for Western & Central New York Health-Leadership Fellows Program. The 18-month program produces a network of diverse, highly skilled leaders that will lead collaboratively and become advocates for improved health-care delivery, covering topics including personal leadership, leading change, communicating as a leader and results based leadership.

Professional Development Institute Leadership Training

Congratulations to the 2018 Professional Development Institute (PDI) Foundations for Leadership Program graduates at Upstate Cerebral Palsy. This leadership program focused on the qualities, characteristics and core skills needed to create a strong foundation to become an effective leader. The Upstate Cerebral Palsy PDI Foundations for Leadership Program was created over ten years ago to empower staff at all levels and in all positions of the agency. The premise of the program was, and still is, rooted in the belief that every person has the capability to be a leader in his or her role. Instruction is based on developing each employee’s potential and in creating a sense of ownership and responsibility that guides employees each day. The program focuses on qualities, characteristics and core skills needed to create a strong foundation for leadership.
Central New York Health Home Network (CNYHHN) was recently awarded a Phase II Funds Flow Innovation Award from Central New York Care Collaborative, totaling $248,887. The Family Navigator Project is a partnership between CNYHHN, United Way of the Valley and Greater Utica Area, SUNY Polytechnic Institute, Oneida Herkimer Madison BOCES, several area school districts and the Oneida County Department of Mental Health. The Model builds upon the Ready for Kindergarten Initiative of the United Way and Health Homes Serving Children Program of CNYHHN. Through this grant, both Family Support Navigators and Health Homes Serving Children Care Managers will team together to offer services to youth from birth through the end of their elementary school years.

In addition, more exciting news from CNYHHN is that beginning in September 2018, CNYHHN will employ two full time Site Coordinator/Intake Worker Positions using blended funding between CNYHHN and Rome Alliance for Education. The new positions will work within the Rome City School District to address the needs of elementary school students who are at risk due to medical, behavioral or academic challenges. This collaborative will combine two emerging best practices; Health Home Care Management and the Community Schools Model. The role of the Site Coordinators will be to work closely with identified school district staff to assess the overall needs of the school building as well as the needs of individual students and their families.

CNYHHN Executive Director, Jane Vail, is pleased with this partnership and comments, “CNYHHN is fortunate to partner with Rome Alliance for Education, the school district and its array of community providers to help create a system of care coordination within the district. This system of care will fulfill the mission of a community schools model, which is to blend community resources and school district resources to improve student learning and to create healthier communities.” For more information on CNYHHN and the services it provides, please contact Jane Vail, Executive Director at 315.624.9670, ext. 5231.

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Congratulations to three College LiFE students for earning certificates at SUNY Polytechnic Institute’s 22nd Annual Academic Awards Ceremony. Jonathon Smith (left with plaque), Evan Bruchis (right with plaque), and Christina VonBargen (not pictured) completed the program that explored career options while learning life skills to help them achieve their highest level of independence. College LiFE is a collaboration with Upstate Cerebral Palsy and SUNY Polytechnic Institute and is for students with developmental disabilities who would like to explore career options and gain life skills to map their future goals. College LiFE gives students the opportunity to learn skills based on their abilities and interests while learning in an inclusive environment, giving both SUNY Poly and College LiFE students a diverse college experience. For more information on the College LiFE Program, please contact Dawn Gentile, Director II of Vocational Services, at 315.725.2181.

Upstate Cerebral Palsy recently welcomed two new homes into its family of over 40 residences for the people we support. Earlier in the year a residence in Vernon, New York became home to six people from across New York State and more recently in July, a residence in Westmoreland, New York became home to six people who had previously lived at Upstate Cerebral Palsy. The Vernon home has enabled people who were living in residences farther away from their families to move closer to home, thus making it easier for family members to visit more regularly. The warm and family-centered atmospheres of both of the new residences have had a tremendous impact on the people living within. According to a staff person at the Westmoreland home, “The people we support enjoy the sunlight from the sliding doors with a morning cup of coffee, preparing a warm homemade family style meal in the beautiful kitchen, or just relaxing in one of the many common areas within the home. The peaceful setting in the country provides a warm and loving place to call their own that supports all of their needs.”

Vernon Residence

Congratulations College LiFE Program Graduates

Trip to Alexandria Bay
Accepting quality health care and other crucial services and supports within the community for yourself or for a loved one is important to living a fulfilling and healthy life. Coordination of these services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities has recently changed. People formerly having services coordinated through Medicaid Service Coordinators now will receive these services through Care Managers at LIFEPlan CCO NY, which will provide Health Home Care Management to people with disabilities across a 38-county region in Central and Northern New York, as well as the Capital Region, Southern Tier and Hudson Valley.

People requesting services from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) can be assisted through the LIFEPlan Care Connection Program. LIFEPlan’s regional Care Connection Specialists provide people with assistance in obtaining eligibility for services through the OPWDD Front Door Process, a person-centered approach to connecting people with available services, giving people as many opportunities as possible for self-direction. Care Connection Specialists pre-screen people requesting services to ensure that they have a qualifying diagnosis, and if not, will refer the person to appropriate community services to meet his or her needs. Care Connection Specialists also provide linkage and referral to services for people and families while they are awaiting eligibility; this might include a request for Family Support Services funding, or a referral to a community resource.

“This new system will revolutionize the way individuals with disabilities will receive care coordination services,” said Nick Cappoletti, CEO of LIFEPlan CCO NY. “Under CCOs, individuals will now receive one single comprehensive and holistic plan with a greater focus on outcomes, measuring the real, positive impact they have on individuals’ lives. Supports, services and even outside services will be combined for better visibility to the patient, family, caregiver and health care provider. The overall well-being of individuals with disabilities now holds significant weight in their care.” For more information on LIFEPlan CCO NY, please visit lifeplanccony.com, call 315.565.2612 or contact the Care Connection Program at CareConnection@lifeplanccony.com.

Upstate Family Health Center is a not-for-profit health care center providing accessible, comprehensive, high quality primary care to all people without discrimination and regardless of ability to pay.

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In addition to serving snacks to hungry travelers, Snacks at the Tracks Cafe, located at Union Station in Utica, provides job and training opportunities to people with barriers to employment. Staff working at Snacks achieve personal growth and learn new skills to help them accomplish their career goals. Snacks at the Tracks intern, Lauren, recently suggested that the Cafe staff wear their Upstate Cerebral Palsy t-shirts once a week. What a great way to celebrate people with barriers to employment who are now successfully working and making a difference in their jobs each day! Snacks at the Tracks offers a variety of breakfast, lunch and snack items, as well as breakfast and lunch catering, and is open from 7:00am to 3:00pm, Monday through Friday. Visit us at snacksatthetracks.wordpress.com and on social media.
Enclosed is my gift of $100.00 $75.00 $50.00 $25.00 Other

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Method of Payment (check one) ☐ Check ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

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☐ In Memory of __________________________

Please notify the following of my gift

Donate online at upstatecp.org/ways-to-give/donate

Upcoming Events...

September 30

Join us at the Buddy Walk as we celebrate those with Down syndrome!

Sunday, September 30 at 10:00am

Hanna Park, Utica

Visit upstatecp.org for more details

E. JOHN GAVRAS CENTER

RENOVATES PLAYGROUND

Thanks to the support of a major Cayuga County employer, Nucor Steel Auburn, the E. John Gavras Center is advancing the construction of its new playground as part of the agency’s $1.5 million capital campaign. Nucor Steel Auburn donated $75,000 to support the construction of the new playground, which has replaced the Center’s 30-year-old equipment that has been removed, signifying the first visible renovation. The playground build occurred thanks to volunteers from Nucor, Welch Allyn, Bouley Associates, Green Clover Solutions, Gavras staff, friends and family. Finishing touches including landscaping and new fencing will be completed soon. In addition to the playground, a children’s therapy bike trail is also being installed. Representatives from Nucor, county and city officials, Gavras Board of Directors and staff were all present for the groundbreaking ceremony. According to Gavras Principal of Educational Services, Kenn Ward, “It was amazing having so many people support our inclusive playground build and to also be sensory relevant with our landscaping as well, makes this a true ‘every child’ friendly playground.”
The Caring Partnership

A publication of Upstate Caring Partners, Inc.

Please visit upstatecp.org to find out how you can make a difference in the lives of the people we support through participating in our events, becoming a volunteer, or making a donation.

Together, we can help create everyday miracles in the lives of people with differing abilities.

Summer/Fall 2018

People receiving services from the Upstate Caring Partners affiliate, Advocates, Inc., enjoyed a summer kickball league in East Syracuse as a part of a Family Supports and Services grant, which provides people and their families with recreational activities that encourage the whole family to participate together.