The Upstate Caring Partners family is growing! This parent organization, comprised of affiliate agencies including Upstate Cerebral Palsy, the Kelberman Center, The Root Farm, the E. John Gavras Center among others, has expanded to now include Advocates Incorporated, a nonprofit organization located in Syracuse, New York. Advocates’ mission is similar to that of Upstate Cerebral Palsy and all affiliates: to be a pioneer in developing community-based, self-directed services supporting people in living fully inclusive lives.

Advocates was founded over 20 years ago by a group of parents seeking community-based supports and services for their children with complex medical, intellectual and developmental disabilities. Led by Executive Director Nicholas Cappoletti, Advocates has grown over the years to provide person-centered supports and services for over 900 people spanning all phases of life from birth through adulthood, promoting choice and making full community participation possible.

“By joining forces, our two organizations will be strongly positioned to meet the changing needs of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Together, we will advance the development of high quality, person-centered services and continue our advocacy efforts for the over 17,000 people we serve throughout Upstate New York,” said Cappoletti.

This affiliation benefits people of all abilities and their families through a new and even more powerful and unified voice to help influence public policy; through providing specialized services and supports that adapt to a diverse and complex population; and through ultimately helping people achieve the lives that they want to lead. In a period of uncertain government and private funding, this partnership will further enhance the fiscal stability of the combined organizations by expanding their geography, diversifying their services and by creating efficiencies in operations.

Louis Tehan, Upstate Caring Partners President and CEO states, “As the world around us continues to dramatically change in the way services are offered to people and families, an appropriate level of funding becomes more and more the exception rather than the rule. It is the optimal time for our organizations to join together to harness our combined efforts of advocacy, outcome measured results and fiscal accountability, all based on the foundation and promise of the highest quality of person-centered opportunities in service delivery.”
Message from Louis B. Tehan
President and CEO

Even more than usual, we are experiencing exciting times for our Parent Corporation and affiliate agencies with Advocates Inc. joining our family of agencies. In addition to the numerous synergies of our two corporations, Advocates offers countless possibilities of developing, expanding and enhancing the scope and quality levels of non-traditional services to an entirely new catchment area, while extending our reach of services offered in non-certified areas of integrated housing, self-direction, community habilitations, social enterprises and Day Habilitation Without Walls.

Additionally, we foresee opportunities to continue to expand our menu of shared administrative services to all affiliates, as government dollars become more scarce, thereby maximizing our reimbursement to individuals and families.

Most importantly, we look to Advocates Inc., under the very capable leadership of Executive Director, Nick Cappoletti, to realign our affiliate partners to the highest level of culture and competency in person-centered delivery of services. As we continue to grow, we need to ensure that we remain the leader amongst the emerging transformation of services we find ourselves in, while remaining true to our mission. It is our clear responsibility to be the leader in both the non-profit and government sector of providers.

As our Parent Corporation continues to grow and develop, I am particularly excited as the opportunities for further development are limitless. I will be pleased to share more examples of our aggressive innovation and expansion in the months to come.

Louis B. Tehan

Happy New Year!

Our family of agencies would like to wish everyone a very happy New Year and healthy 2018. Residents and staff at our Schoonmaker DAY Habilitation site in Boonville welcomed the New Year in style, dancing to the music of local DJ Noah Simanowski of NSS Productions. Noah, an Adirondack Middle School student, donated his services to Schoonmaker and was able to showcase his talents for the many people in attendance! Families were also invited to dance the night away with our residents and agency friends. We value our partnerships in the community and thank Noah and our staff for coordinating this wonderful celebration.
Visit our new website at rootfarm.org!

The Root Farm website has been updated and refreshed to include everything we offer in Agricultural, Equine and Recreation programs. Visit the site to book horseback riding lessons, learn about volunteer opportunities or schedule a team-building outing or tour with your colleagues. Stay up to date on all of our exciting Root Farm news here and on social media!

Horseback Riding this winter and spring...
daytime, evening & weekend lessons available.
Whether you are new to riding or have been a lifelong rider - call 315.520.7046 to schedule your session.

Are you interested in savoring healthy, farm fresh produce each week this summer? The Root Farm is now in its second year of offering its Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) opportunity, enabling participants to enjoy 15 weeks of locally grown vegetables and flowers beginning on June 28th. Full shares cost $450 each and can be picked up at the Root Farm every Thursday from 3:00pm to 6:30pm. Half shares are also available for $300. This is a wonderful way to support The Root Farm and the services it provides to so many children and adults from our community, while also enjoying a wide variety of fresh, local produce. There are limited shares available which will go quickly! For more information or to sign up, please email info@rootfarm.org or call 315 520.7046.
Legacy of Caring Event Furthers Expansion

The E. John Gavras Center recently held its Dr. Henry Romano Legacy of Caring Dinner, celebrating over six decades of caring for children and adults with differing abilities. This year the event recognized and honored the life-changing work done at the Gavras Center each day, with the help of pro football hall of famer and former Buffalo Bills quarterback Jim Kelly! Kelly is pictured above and to the right with Mrs. Joanne Romano and her grandson John Moore. Mrs. Romano is the widow of Dr. Henry Romano, the Gavras Center’s only Medical Director for 37 years, and the inspiration for this event each year. All proceeds from this event benefitted the expansion of the Gavras Center, which is embarking on a $1.5 million capital campaign. The proceeds will allow the Gavras Center to expand and renovate its classrooms and therapy space and create a “wrap around” daycare service for preschool children. This expansion will also enable the Center to accommodate a full-day preschool, including four additional classrooms for special needs children integrated into a typical class setting. The plan includes the creation of a state-of-the-art motor skills center and the replacement of its 30-year-old playground. “The Legacy of Caring Dinner is the catalyst to raising the visibility of the Gavras Center and allows us to talk about our programs and services. This community is amazing and extremely generous,” said Danielle Ambrose, Gavras Center Executive Director.

OPWDD Commissioner Tours Tradewinds

The Tradewinds Education Center is proud of its reputation as a leader throughout New York State in providing unique and state-of-the-art residential and educational programs for students with developmental disabilities. Tradewinds recently had an opportunity to showcase its program on a tour with Kerry Delaney, Acting Commissioner of the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), when she, along with her team, recently visited the Armory Drive campus in Utica. Staff were honored to have this visit and to share all the exciting research, evidence based practices, transition innovations and training happening in the program. Last year the school was designated a Center of Excellence by the State, and this was an opportunity to highlight its achievements and what lies ahead for the staff, students and families of Upstate Cerebral Palsy.

This Center of Excellence distinction recognizes the Upstate Cerebral Palsy Education Division, in partnership with The Center for Discovery (TCFD) and the Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI), as a state leader for providing comprehensive residential and educational services for students with some of the most complex developmental disabilities. As part of this project, Upstate Cerebral Palsy staff, led by Dr. Erik Jacobson, Chief Psychologist, will contribute to a better understanding of students with developmental disabilities who also have co-occurring conditions like psychiatric, medical, physical, behavioral and sleep disorders. Their research and individualized approach has already proven to have benefits for students and greater success in the classroom and at home. For more information on the Centers of Excellence, please contact Nancy Seller, Senior Vice President of School Age Services, at 315.798.4006, ext. 225 or nancy.seller@upstatecp.org.
College LiFE, a unique collaborative program of Upstate Cerebral Palsy and SUNY Polytechnic Institute, recently celebrated its one-year anniversary of providing people with developmental disabilities a learning experience on a college campus. Families, Upstate Cerebral Palsy and SUNY Polytechnic Institute staff, including Dr. Veronica Tischener, were in attendance to celebrate and congratulate the first class of students enrolled in College LiFE. The program was created to help students develop life, work and self-advocacy skills to achieve the next level of independence and lead fully inclusive lives. The first 12 students are shining examples of what College LiFE can provide. Three of the students have advanced to the next level of vocational training and they all have progressed since their first day on campus.

This program is unlike any other in this area, in that it allows students to learn skills at a 4-year university and achieve goals based on their unique abilities and interests. This program allows people to be a part of the SUNY Poly campus community while working on their goals set forth by the program and by the students themselves, with the guidance of College LiFE teachers and staff.

“In this one year time frame I have seen our students flourish, many of whom had never even been on a college campus before,” reflected Kathy Kloeser, Senior Vice President of Community Services at Upstate Cerebral Palsy. Now they are loving the college environment, interacting with the SUNY Poly students and staff, completing their coursework and learning new skills to gain independence and advance their goals and outcomes for the program and possible future employment. We cannot thank the SUNY Poly community enough for allowing us to collaborate with them on this wonderful program, especially to college administration and Dr. Tischener, who allowed the program to get off the ground during the initial planning stages.”

For more information on the College LiFE Program, please contact Dawn Gentile, Director II of Vocational Services, at (315) 725-2181.

Agency Artists Decorate Downtown

Congratulations to three agency artists, Dan Turco, Amanda Chamberlain and Rachel Lewis, whose artwork is on display along the streets of downtown Utica. They were selected as part of the “One World Utica – Reimagining the Arts” initiative. The banners, featuring the works of 70 local artists who live, work, attend art school or maintain a studio in Utica, are part of a Cornell Rust to Green (R2G) project designed to strengthen the identity of the City’s cultural assets. R2G, a program of Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County, assisted the City in securing New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) funding to showcase how Utica is “reimagining” the arts. “We are honored to have so many talented artists within our agency and this is a wonderful opportunity to really showcase and celebrate that talent on a public stage within our busy downtown area,” stated Louis Tahan, Upstate Cerebral Palsy President and CEO.

Art Membership Program with 4-Elements Studio

In partnership with 4 Elements Studio, there is a new and unique opportunity for agency artists to take their skills to the next level. Through a joint collaboration, Upstate Cerebral Palsy artists have the opportunity to become a member of 4 Elements Studio, located at 730 Broadway in Utica. Artists will be able to work within the art community and be inspired by resident artists, while sharing their inspiration with others. According to Susan Macrina, Recreation Specialist at Upstate Cerebral Palsy, “our artists will learn life skills through their art process, experiencing a natural way to express themselves through the venue of their art. This collaboration will be a wonderful next step in the evolution of our art program and tremendous resource to our artists.” For more detailed information about classes, contact Sue Macrina at susan.macrina@upstatecp.org or 315-941-4783 or Vartan Poghosian at Vartan@4elementsouline.com or 315-763-6923.
We Walk for One...We Walk for All

Registration begins at 9:00am, Walks Start at 10:30am

Join the more than 3,000 people who come together throughout Walk season to generate awareness and raise funds which all stay right here in our local communities! Fundraising efforts allow the Center to provide a number of critical programs and services at no-cost or low-cost, including family support consultations and events, policy advocacy, trainings and conferences, social groups, recreation activities, scholarships and community-based programs for all ages, along with increased awareness.

April 14th
Boonville – Boonville V.F.W.
Hamilton College – Sadove Terrace
Mohawk Valley – SUNY Poly
Oneida – Oneida High School

April 28th
Cooperstown – Glimmerglass Park

Visit kelbermancenter.org and Join Us!

WIN for Kelberman Center & Utica College

Real life work experience is invaluable and the best training that future members of the workforce can have when seeking employment. The launch of the Kelberman Center WIN program at Utica College took place in November, during National Disability Employment Awareness Month. WIN stands for Work Internship Network and the program provides just that – it is a unique vocational experience in a professional work environment. Supported by Kelberman Center behavior specialists with expertise in autism, WIN provides real-life work experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills to help youth with autism and other disabilities make successful transitions from school to productive adult life. The WIN program provides on-going support for 10 months in order to transform lives through meaningful work. According to Dr. Robert Myers, Kelberman Center Executive Director, “The ultimate goal for each WIN participant is to develop work readiness skills to attain paid employment. At the completion of the internship program, students with autism and related intellectual disabilities are positioned to enjoy rewarding jobs in our community.”

Just two months into their internships, two participants have been offered paid positions – a success rate far exceeding the typical employment rate of people with developmental disabilities, which is historically less than 20%. The Kelberman Center is extremely grateful to the Utica College community of staff and students who have welcomed our interns and embraced the program to ensure continued success. Utica College President Dr. Laura Casamento commented, “We are proud to be a part of this initiative – to help young people with special needs discover their abilities and realize their greatest potential as individuals and contributing members of their community. We are grateful for their willingness to share their time and talents with us.” For more information on the WIN program, please contact Crystal Hilts at the Kelberman Center at 315.797.6241 ext. 330.
A joint ribbon cutting was recently held for Upstate Family Health Center, Inc., a primary care medical office located on West Dominick Street in Rome and for the Upstate Cerebral Palsy Community Health and Behavioral Services (CHBS) new behavioral health clinic, located right next door. The shared missions of the organizations position them to work together to provide primary care and behavioral health care services to the children and adults of the Rome community. Mayor Jackie Izzo was pleased to welcome these clinics to the City of Rome and Dr. Minhaj Siddiqui was also introduced at the event as Medical Director of CHBS.

Terence Phillips, Upstate Family Health Center (UFHC) Executive Director, remarks, “Our relationship with CHBS is one that is built on the needs of our patients and acknowledges the shortage of both primary care and behavioral health care services in Central New York. Through our collaboration, we are better positioned to care for our patients who suffer from both medical and behavioral health issues. We look forward to continuing our relationship with CHBS and working with the Rome community to better serve our patients.” Upstate Family Health Center recently received its much anticipated designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) by the Health Resources and Services Administration. This status will help to provide high-quality, culturally sensitive primary and behavioral health services to the region’s underserved population through enhanced funding and grant opportunities.

For more information or to schedule an appointment at either clinic, please call the Upstate Family Health Center at 315.624.9470 or Community Health and Behavioral Services at 315.337.0773.

CHBS Named CNYBJ Specialty Center of the Year

Community Health & Behavioral Services was named “Specialty Center of the Year” and was recognized at the CNY Business Journal Biz Eventi Excellence in Healthcare 2017 awards dinner. Tara Costello, Vice President of Behavioral Health Services, accepted the award on behalf of the many doctors and clinicians who work everyday to provide comprehensive medical health services. Congratulations to the outstanding clinical team at CHBS who provide exceptional care to the thousands of children and adults who come through the doors each year.

Health Home Care Management

The goal of Central New York Health Home Network (CNYHHN) and its partners is to improve health outcomes, quality of care and reduce avoidable ER visits and hospitalizations by providing community based care management services. Eligible adults and children are those who receive Medicaid or Medicaid Managed Care and have chronic medical and/or mental health conditions. CNYHHN can provide assistance in coordinating all of their services. It currently partners with 36 agencies that specialize in different areas of expertise throughout the ten county region served. The Health Home also partners with over 50 network providers in area communities including local hospitals, substance abuse and rehabilitation clinics, county mental health, public health and community services providers to enhance access to the many other needed services for enrolled members. Many children and adults who have traditionally not been eligible for assistance in managing their complete care are now able to receive help through this innovative model. For more information on Health Home services or questions on how to enroll, please visit cnyhealthhomennetwork.net or call 1.800.784.1262.
Congratulations to Colleen Wallace, MSC Program Manager, who recently was inducted into the Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) Foundation Hall of Fame for being the most accomplished and decorated student athlete in MVCC history! Wallace was a member of the cross country and indoor and outdoor track and field teams and was a 13 time individual National Champion as well as a 16 time All-American. Pictured from left to right is Gary Broadhurst, Associate Dean of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation, Colleen Wallace and Dr. Randy Van Wagoner, MVCC President.

Congratulations to Jake Fink, Upstate Cerebral Palsy Network Specialist, for being honored with the Utica Rotary Pride of Workmanship Award. On his own time, Jake recently helped affiliate agency The Kelberman Center re-build and launch its website so that it would function more efficiently to communicate information to families and community members. Pictured from left to right is Harold Coleman, Director of Network and Telecom, Jake Fink and Eryn Balch, Managing Director of Business Operations at the Kelberman Center and the nominator for this award.

The Genesis Group, an organization uniting business and community leaders to advance regional economic, social and cultural interest, recognized over 30 people and organizations who are making a difference in education. The Upstate Cerebral Palsy Tradewinds Education Center was recognized at their Celebration of Education event last Fall with two honorees, Pauline Platt, School Aide from our Rome Campus and Tara Hyatt, Special Education Teacher from our Armory Campus. Thank you Pauline and Tara for being wonderful examples to our students and staff each day!

**MONICA STOWELL**
**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT**

Monica Stowell has been promoted to Senior Vice President of Human Resources at Upstate Cerebral Palsy. Along with her oversight of the Human Resources Department, she and her team are responsible for recruitment, employee relations and health insurance, retirement, worker’s compensation, disability and leave management. She has spent more than half of her career in the non-profit industry. Stowell has a BS in Business with a concentration in Human Resources and is currently the President-Elect of the Mohawk Valley chapter for the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), the largest society of HR professionals worldwide.

**CONSTANTINE GLEBOFF**
**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT**

Constantine (Stan) Gleboff, Sr. Vice President of Compliance & HIPAA Officer, has joined the Upstate Cerebral Palsy executive team. Gleboff has been appointed to enhance compliance with all service regulations and operational policies, procedures and billing requirements. He earned his Juris Doctorate, cum laude, from Touro Law School and following this became a Certified Professional in Healthcare Compliance (CHC). He is also a member of the Health Care Compliance Association.
Since its grand opening in October 2016, Snacks at the Tracks has provided job and training opportunities to five people with barriers to employment. These staff have achieved personal growth and learned new skills that will allow them to expand their career goals. Snacks at the Tracks has also evolved and frequently updates menu options with seasonal choices. Partnerships with Bagel Grove and Wicked Sweets by Alyssa support small businesses in the area, while also providing customers with their local favorites. Snacks at the Tracks offers a variety of breakfast, lunch and snack items. Cafe hours are 7:00am to 3:00pm, Monday through Friday and customers can visit this winter during the Oneida County Indoor Public Market, every other Saturday during market hours.

Stop by for a bite, or let Snacks come to you! Snacks at the Tracks will cater breakfast or lunch meetings with delivery available. Please call 48 hours in advance to place your order at 315.765.6842. Stay informed by visiting snacksatthetracks.wordpress.com or social media.

A mom who cannot afford diapers for her baby, a teenager without a winter coat, a local licensed not for profit child-care center in need of supplies... For more than a year, the Miracle Works Warehouse has been providing goods to those in need in our community. It has donated over $250,000 in household supplies, furnishings, and building materials to families served by Upstate Caring Partners affiliates and other not for profit agencies. In order to continue this important service in the community, the Warehouse has enlisted the help of generous donors. It is easy for stores with out-of-season or overstock goods to donate to the Warehouse - the staff pick up at the donor's location, sort and inventory the items, and complete any necessary paperwork. All of these activities also serve as great skill-building opportunities for the many people who come to the Warehouse for employment training.

The Miracle Works Warehouse is currently looking for retailers to donate the most high-need items such as paper products, toiletries, housewares, furniture, building materials and home repair supplies. Those items will go to those most in need in the community. Program partners’ logos are displayed in the Warehouse, on the website’s list of local donors, and on Facebook to promote the mutual partnership. For more information about how to donate to Miracle Works Warehouse or how to work with one’s care manager to obtain goods, please call 315.570.7115 or email miracleworkswarehouse@upstatecp.org. Be sure to visit upstatemiracleworkswarehouse.org and follow on social media.
Winter Wonders

The Upstate Cerebral Palsy Winter Ball, held in December, was an opportunity for people to don dresses and suits for a night of friendship, dancing and fun! A grand march kicked off the evening and participants and their families enjoyed refreshments, dancing, photo booth and spending time with friends. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for being our gracious host again this year and for everyone who worked, volunteered and helped in some way to make a memorable evening for all who attended.

Thank You for Holiday Miracles

On behalf of Upstate Cerebral Palsy and Kelberman Center staff, and the children and families we support, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the 2017 Holiday Miracles Project. Your generosity helped to put smiles on over 300 children’s faces this holiday season - which is the greatest gift of all! A special thank you to Eric DeCarlis, owner of Fierce Foundations in the New Hartford Shopping Center. Eric and his friends and clients shopped for over 80 of our children - a wonderful and life-changing act of kindness that allowed those children to open presents this holiday season, a genuine gift for those children that will last beyond the holiday season. We are grateful for everyone who supported our children during the holidays!

Sensory Santa Smiles

Everyone should be able to experience the magic of the holidays, especially children. Children with autism spectrum disorders, many of whom may not have been able to sit with Santa for a photo due to the overwhelming noises, crowds, lines and other barriers, had the chance for photos with Santa at Sangertown Square Mall in New Hartford. This special opportunity, in a quieter and more sensory-friendly environment, took place before the mall opened and allowed children with autism to see Santa up close and personal without any distractions. Children, parents and grandparents were all able to experience this wonderful part of the holidays thanks to this annual tradition.
“Upstate Cerebral Palsy Tea Time was a real treasure!” according to a grandmother who attended the show with her grandchildren. The Agency’s first Tea Time family event and luncheon held in November with over 450 people in attendance, was a unique celebration of strong and courageous women throughout history, filled with stories, dancing and audience participation. Young girls and their friends and family shared a memorable day together and left knowing that they too are strong and powerful, having made a difference for children with special needs. The day featured girl and doll hair salons, photos taken at Allie’s Cellie Central photo booth, and many opportunities for prizes throughout! Thank you to all our volunteers, attendees and to Event Sponsor Adirondack Bank for your generous support of Tea Time, helping to raise over $30,000 for therapeutic horseback riding services at The Root Farm.

2018 brings a new realm of tax laws, and with that, many questions about their impact. One thing that will remain consistent is the rule for Qualified Charitable Distributions from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). People older than 70½ can transfer up to $100,000 from their IRA to a charity, and this amount will not be added to their adjusted gross income. It also will count as the annual required minimum deduction from their IRA. This is good news for those that have relied on this tax benefit, while giving them the ability to support causes that they value.

We are grateful to those who support us in so many ways each year and look forward to continuing partnerships and sharing tremendous stories of opportunities, growth and success in 2018. Everyday Miracles are possible because of our friends in the communities we serve. There are many ways to get involved, whether through charitable gifts, supporting specific programs or events, or volunteering. For more information or to get involved, please contact Kathy Hartnett, Executive Director of Cerebral Palsy Association at 315.927.2303 and together we can create Everyday Miracles.

Enclosed is my gift of ______$100.00 ______$75.00 ______$50.00 ______$25.00 ______Other
Name (pleaseprint) ___________________________________________________________
Street, Address _____________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip ________________________________
Signature ________________________________
Telephone ________________________________
E-mail __________________________________________________
Method of Payment (check one) □ Check □ Visa □ Master Card □ American Express □ Discover
Credit Card # ________________________________
Billing Zip Code __________ Exp. Date: __________
Please make check payable to Cerebral Palsy Association
3899 Oneida Street, Suite C, New Hartford, NY 13413

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

I would like to be a part of Everyday Miracles for...
□ Early Childhood Services □ Education Programs
□ Adult Programs □ Autism Services
□ Art and Recreation Programs □ Please send information about creating
Lasting Legacies through my will

This gift is...
In Honor of ________________________________
In Memory of ________________________________
Please notify the following of my gift
__________________________