

STRIDES

PRALID *Providing hope and independence for people with disabilities*



WINTER 2013
Volume 8, Issue 1

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Participant Spotlight (pg 1)
- > Opening Doors (pg 3)
- > Celebrating Staff (pg 5)
- > Thank You!! (pg 6)

*PRALID's Administrative Office
2 Townline Circle
Rochester, NY 14623*

*PRALID's Program Office
1650 South Ave., Suite 300
Rochester, NY 14620*

News & Events

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(585) 442-6420
Or visit our web site at
www.pralid.org*

Participant Spotlight



Ann Kurz and her Mom

Respect. Choice. Independence.

These were the things that Ann K. was looking for when she switched to PRALID for services. Ann wanted to be able to do more and do more on her own – to be able to go shopping, attend neighborhood meetings and church. Ann describes herself as an extremely independent woman who happens to have cerebral palsy.

“When I interviewed PRALID as a potential service provider, what attracted me was their willingness to tailor services to me, to meet my needs” states Ann.

Ann receives Financial Management Services and a Consolidated Supports and Services Plan (CSS plan) from PRALID.

Financial Management Services and CSS plans are a unique set of services offered by PRALID and are funded by the New York State Office of People with Developmental Disabilities. A CSS plan empowers an individual and their circle of support to design a program around them and their needs instead of fitting into an already existing program. Financial Management Services provide support with the administration of the individually designed program.

As part of the Financial Management Services, Annie Wells, director of community services at PRALID and her team, provide training on related fiscal procedures and required documentation; provide hiring and human resource support; and process payroll and Medicaid billing documents. Annie works closely with each participant and their circle of support to ensure both that the program designed is what the individual needs and wants and that it is meeting all funding requirements.

“Creating a supportive partnership with people who desire self-directed and individualized services is my most important goal,” explains Annie Wells. “When I see the success and satisfaction that comes as a result of a

Continued on Page 5



Jeff Sinsebox, President

Administrative Updates

Our Summer 2013 Issue will have a new look and will be a combined newsletter featuring participants, programs and staff from both PRALID and the Epilepsy Foundation.

PRALID has reorganized office space and consolidated operations with our partner the Epilepsy Foundation. We now have two Rochester offices. All administrative staff including the President's office, Finance, Human Resources, Development and other administrative functions are located at:

2 Townline Circle
Rochester, NY 14623
(585) 442-6420

All program staff including Admissions, Quality Improvement, Service Coordination, Community Habilitation and TBI services are located at:

1650 South Ave, Suite 300
Rochester, NY 14620
(585) 442-4430

If you are not sure where the staff person you are trying to reach is located, the reception desk at both offices will be happy to help. Just give us a call.

President's Message

Recently I went to see a basketball game. While watching the competition between the Lightning and the Sharks, I don't know if I could have told you the score or really even what happened. I was focused on what this basketball game meant.

This game was about work but it was also about much more than that. Four members of the Lightning currently live in the Monroe Developmental Center. When that building closes later this year, they will be moving into our new home, receiving employment assistance from us, and attending our day program.

I came to get to know the players better, support them, and introduce them to a handful of staff that would be working with them in the near future. Fourteen of our agency staff arrived. Several of them giving up their lunch break during a training just to meet these guys. Everyone was smiling and the mood was light but everyone there knew the importance of what we were doing. This game had a much greater meaning for me than I had anticipated.

I got to sit in the stands and watch the staff that just a year ago had worked at two separate agencies sitting side by side as if they had always worked together. I saw

positive attitudes and enthusiasm towards the first major initiative undertaken by the combined agency. I saw people who care about what they do and have immediately invested in these new participants.

I take great pride in the work we do as an agency. I take great pride in having compassionate, creative, and involved staff dedicated to all they do. I am so impressed by the way in which our staff, supporters, our board, and our community have embraced the changes we have made over the past year and help build a stronger, more vibrant agency prepared for the future.

I recently attended my first Syracuse University basketball game. The size of the crowd, the unbelievable talent of the players, the TV crews, and the energy in that dome can't hold a candle to the game in a little gymnasium I just saw. For myself and our staff, the game was fun and the opportunity to meet and interact with the guys was great. After the game, the guys were excited about meeting our staff and sharing their individual stats with us. I'm not sure what the final score of the game was. I think the Lightning got beat pretty badly. But no one cared. I heard one of our staff say, "Everybody wins."



Opening Doors to Opportunities

The partnership of the Epilepsy Foundation of Rochester-Syracuse-Binghamton and PRALID has provided an unexpected opportunity. PRALID was looking to enrich their offerings in an already successful structured day program for individuals with traumatic brain injuries. The Epilepsy Foundation wanted to help individuals with traumatic brain injuries who want to work but need additional support to be ready for competitive employment.

Adding a pre-vocational track to PRALID's structure day program meets the needs of both programs and creates a great opportunity for individuals with traumatic brain injuries.

"It's a unique service that is not offered anywhere else in Rochester," states Brigitte Kuter, supervisor of PRALID's structured day program. "We've been exploring ways to meet more of our participants' needs and it has been wonderful working with the Epilepsy Foundation to create a custom pre-vocational track."

"We are excited to be involved. We are able to use our collective experience with providing employment services to design a curriculum that will take individuals from a desire to work to being ready for success in competitive employment," states Stephanie Bourne, director of employment services.

The pre-vocational track has four phases designed to support individuals with traumatic brain injuries who have the desire to work or volunteer learn the necessary skills at their own pace. This program will cover everything from basic job readiness and soft skill training such as appropriate attire, writing cover letters and resumes to supporting individuals in finding and applying for volunteer opportunities. The final step is completing an ACCES-VR application and transitioning into competitive employment.

PRALID's Structured Day Program provides an adult learning setting where individuals with traumatic brain injuries are able to participate in meaningful activities and learn life-enhancing skills. This community-based program provides a fun, individualized, and structured therapeutic environment in which individuals work in small groups towards the outcomes of their choosing. Social and recreational opportunities are incorporated into all activities and are the main focus of the evening program which is held three nights a week. Monthly activity schedules can be found on PRALID's website at www.pralid.org.

The pre-vocation track will officially begin April 1st and we are enrolling now! Call Brigitte at (585) 359-2112 to schedule your tour of our program today!

Agency Board of Directors

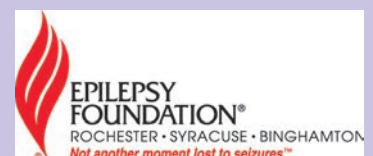
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2nd Annual Wine & Microbrew Tasting Cruise

On Saturday, August 25, 2012, PRALID hosted its 2nd Annual Wine & Microbrew Tasting Cruise in celebration of 20 years of service. 100 people came out for three beautiful cruises on Canandaigua Lake and raised approximately \$25,000 for PRALID and the Lions Camp Badger. Mark your calendars now for this year's cruise on August 24, 2013!



Celebrating Outstanding Staff

PRALID and the Epilepsy Foundation held a joint staff holiday party this year on December 7 to celebrate the work of both agencies and to highlight the accomplishments of a number of outstanding employees. Two employees were selected by their peers as exceptional. Stephanie Bourne, director of employment services at the Epilepsy Foundation and Anne Fantigrossi, IRA supervisor at PRALID's Woodruff IRA.



Anne Fantigrossi and Stephanie Bourne, our 2012 Employees of the Year

A number of other employees from both agencies were honored for their years of service and dedication to the individuals that we serve.

15 Year Awards

Maria Burgos, Nicole Cilento, Alicia DiSalvo, Andy Yankanick

10 Year Awards

Shermond Johnson, Joe Netti, Kathleen Smith.

5 Year Awards

Rita Binion, Chad Boehnke, Cleola Brown, Alison Cresov, Latasha Decarlis, Ronald DeMun, Mary Farrow, Barbara Hart, Mark Leader, Alana Rucker, Mildred Santos, Shamiya Snowden, Patrice Taylor, William VanDeMortel.

Congratulations to all our employees who work hard all year round providing excellent service to individuals

with epilepsy, traumatic brain injuries, developmental disabilities and other neurological conditions.



Joe Netti, Nicole Cilento, Maria Burgos, and Andy Yankanick are recognized at our staff holiday party for their years of service and dedication to PRALID and the Epilepsy Foundation.

Participant Spotlight

Continued from Page 1

personalized approach, I feel proud to know that PRALID has helped to make that happen.”

For Ann that meant being able to hire her own staff and set their schedule. Previously, she only had two hours of service in the evening, which wasn't what Ann needed. Now, Ann's staff helps her maintain her independence and live a fully integrated life in the community. Ann works at Wegmans, is an active member in her church community, and lives in her own home (with her three beloved cats).

Ann explains, “I am much more independent now – which is most important to me. I used to rely on Mom & Dad a lot, but there will come a time when they won't be able to help me. I used to worry about that a lot, and now I don't have to worry.”

“CSS works for me. I am able to determine what I need, to design my own service, and receive the support I need to implement it.”



Thank You!

PRALID thanks Johnathan Sacks, Mark Armbruster, and Christopher Cebula for their years of service on our Board of Directors.

PRALID thanks Jonathan Sacks, Mark Armbruster, and Christopher Cebula for their years of service on our Board of Directors.

Jonathan Sacks joined the PRALID Board of Directors in 2002. Jonathan is the immediate past Board President, served for many years on our Finance committee and was a member of the PRALID-Epilepsy Foundation Task Force. Jonathan provided strong leadership during a time of significant growth for our agency.

PRALID thanks Jonathan for his ten years of dedicated service and wish him all the best!

Mark Armbruster joined the PRALID Board of Directors in 2002 as well. Mark has served as Board President and was a member of our Finance, Investment, and Governance committees. Mark was also a member of the PRALID-Epilepsy Foundation Task Force.

Christopher Cebula joined the PRALID Board of Directors in 2010. Chris served as immediate past Treasurer and was a member of the Finance and Compliance committees. Chris served as the third member from PRALID on the PRALID-Epilepsy Foundation Task Force.

Both Mark and Chris will remain involved with PRALID in 2013 by participating in committee work.

The following individuals made donations to PRALID in 2012

\$5000 or more ...

Mr. Jonathan Sacks

\$1000 - \$4999 ...

Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Nole

\$500 - \$999 ...

Mr. Mark Armbruster
Robert & Norma Snyder

\$100 - \$499 ...

Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Cebula
Cornell Construction Design

Mr. Robert Danesh
Frances & David Hall
Ms. Anita Olsson
Mr. Kenneth R Kraus
Mr. R. Judson Sloman
Mr. Benjamin Smith

Other Donors ...

Ms. Nancy Cunningham
Mr. Thomas Doupe
Downey-Goodlein Elevator
El Rayess Architects
Ms. Anne Guenther
Mike Holihan
Holley Pharmacy

Nicholas & Sarah Korba
Ms. Susan M. Passineau
Mr. & Mrs. Brad Pearson
Mr. & Mrs. Carol & John Rest
Kate Shand
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Vangalio

In Honor of Karen and Joe Pietrocarlo...

Erin O'Gorman

In Memory of Kevin Hooper...

Ms. Mary Zecher Patton



In Memory of Marvin Sacks...

Mr. Jonathan Sacks

2nd Annual Wine & Microbrew Tasting Cruise

Mr. Edward Abbott
 Erin Austin
 Mr. Ronald Baker
 Biringer Press
 Ms. Valerie Blackmer
 Ms. Lauren Buckpitt
 Ms. Ann Nicosia Burk
 Ms. Karen Burnett
 Ms. Deidra Crane
 Davids Design & Remodeling
 Ms. Patricia Donohue
 Mr. Thomas Doupe
 Ms. Rose Dreher
 Ms. Rose Dreher
 Ms. Denise Eshenaur
 Fleetwood Accessibility Services
 Arindam Ghosh
 Ms. Rita Goodman
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 HR Works
 Mr. Robert Jauch
 Ms. Kimberli Johnston
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 Ms. Jo Anne Kelly
 Ms. Deborah Kesel
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 Mr. Jeff Sinsebox
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Norma Snyder
 Mr. Lance Thomas
 Ms. Julia Vaccarelli
 Ms. Connie Waldby
 Ms. Ann Wells
 Ms. Tammy Wemett
 W. Wise

Gifts In Kind

Adirondack Museum
 Adventure Park USA
 Applebee's
 Mr. & Mrs. Marvin & Irene Barkin
 Bed Bath & Beyond
 Blue Man Group, Charles Playhouse
 Boldt Castle & Boldt Yacht House
 Boloco Restaurant
 Buffalo Bills
 Buffalo Sabres
 Captain John Whale Watching & Fishing Tours
 Mr. Art Carey
 Ms. Marlene Caroselli
 Clayton Island Tours
 Clix Portrait Studios of Rochester
 ComedySportz Chicago
 Community Wishbook
 Corning Museum of Glass
 Crime Museum
 Curtiss Museum
 Dance Place
 Dandy Restaurant Cruise Ships
 Darien Lake Theme Park Resort
 Del Frisco's Restaurant Group
 Delmonico's Italian Steak House
 Ellis Memorial
 Enchanted Forest/Water Safari

Entertainment Cruises
 Esperanza Mansion
 Mr. Bruce Frank
 Friendly's
 Mr. & Mrs. Jason & Debra Garlock
 Genesee Country Village & Museum
 George Eastman House
 Geva Theatre Center
 Herko Computers
 Hess Corporation
 Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens
 Hunt Country Vineyards
 Lovin Cup
 Luray Caverns
 Marina Inn & Suites
 Massachusetts Bay Lines
 Michael Ringer's St. Lawrence Galleries
 MooseHaven
 National Aquarium
 New York Giants
 Newseum
 Olive Garden
 Outback Steakhouse
 Pleasant Night Inn
 Pollywogg Holler
 Renaissance Washington DC Hotel
 Rochester Museum & Science Center
 Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra
 Romano's Macaroni Grill
 Ms. Mary Schmitt
 Scott Miller
 Singer Castle, Dark Island Tours, Inc.
 Six Flags Friends
 Skydeck Chicago
 Sterling Golf Management, Inc.
 Susan B. Anthony House
 The Antique Boat Museum
 The Freedom Trail Foundation
 The Little Theater Film Society
 The Osprey's Golf Club at Belmont Bay
 The Phillips Collection
 The Wild Center
 USS Constitution Museum
 Washington International Horse Show

We have made every effort to list names correctly. If there is an omission or error, please accept our apology and let us know by calling Sarah Korba at (585) 442-6420 x250 or skorba@epilepsy-uny.org.



Know someone who's struggling to keep a loved one out of a nursing home?



You may have more options than you think.

Call our Admissions Department
(585) 442-4420 x 2708
info@pralid.org
www.pralid.org

Save the Date!

3rd Annual Wine & Microbrew Tasting Cruise

Join us on August 24, 2013 aboard the Canandaigua Lady for a taste of the Finger Lakes, live music, raffles and more as we cruise around beautiful Canandaigua Lake. Proceeds will benefit PRALID and Lions Camp Badger. Stay tuned for more details!

Other Events

Salt City Walk

July 13, 2013
Long Branch Park in Liverpool, NY

WalkAbout

October 27, 2013
Eastview Mall in Victor, NY

www.pralid.org

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