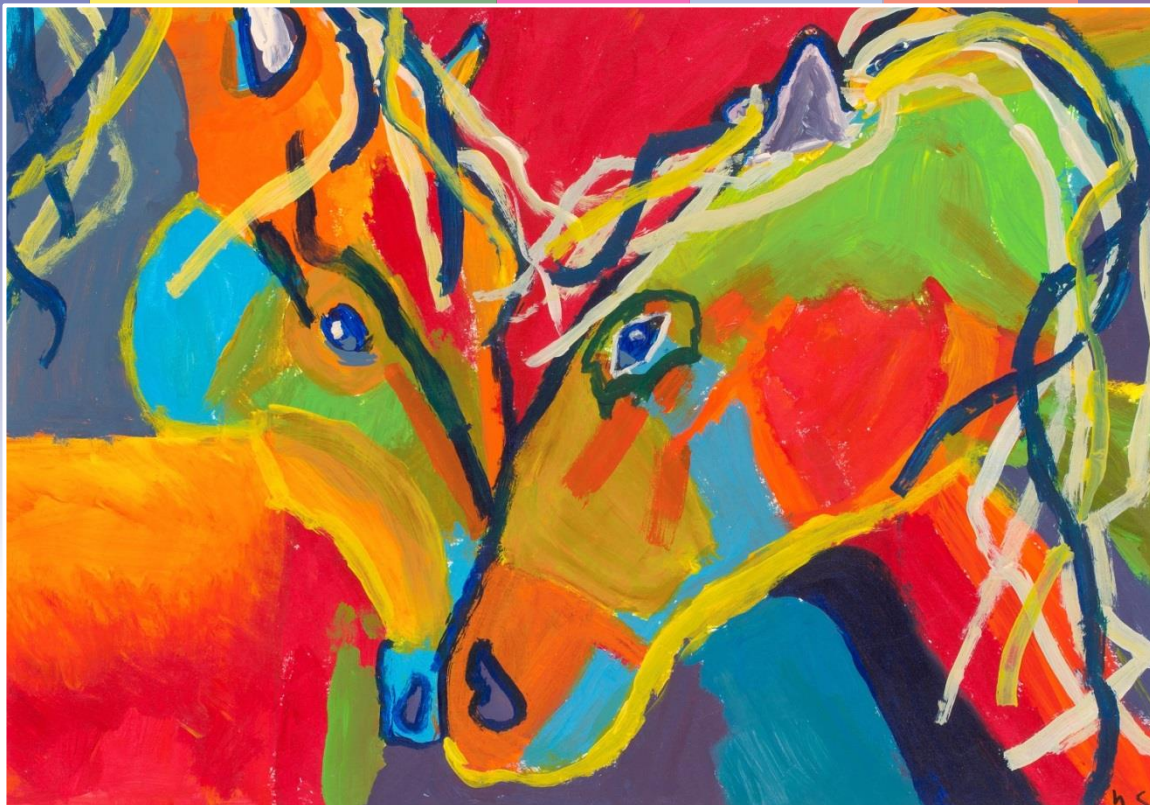


I M A G I N E



2017 CP of NYS Annual Conference
STAFF RECOGNITION AWARDS DINNER
October 31



Artwork by Mary Corkins, Able2

**"Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh,
the thinks you can think up if only you try."**

- Dr. Seuss

FRONT COVER: *Artwork by Heidi Schroder, Center for Disability Services*

HONORING OUR BEST

This evening is always about the people who bring life to our Affiliates through their work and dedication. In turn, we thank all those in our Affiliates who worked with us to bring such wonderful staff to life for us. Through the creative way Affiliates have honored their staff, we can appreciate the people recognized this evening.

Our collection of stories is exceptional and it reminds us of how fortunate we are to be surrounded by such dedicated and committed people every day.

“Your imagination is everything. It is the preview of life’s coming attractions.”

- Albert Einstein

NUMBERS DON'T LIE. . .

CP of NYS Affiliate Employees: 19,000

Honored Tonight: 67

% Total Employees Honored: 3.5%

**# Years of Service Represented
by Tonight's Honorees: 845**

Congratulations to all our award winners!

"Imagination is the only weapon in the war against reality"

- Lewis Carroll

ABLE2

Michelle Hetlan ***Residential Instructor 2016***

Michelle is always willing to be flexible with her schedule to ensure the needs of each of the individuals she works with are met. She ensures a team-based environment by quickly stepping in to assist those in need. Regardless of the circumstance or stressor of the day, Michelle consistently possesses a friendly, positive personality.

Mark Speck ***Quality Assurance Specialist 2007***

Anyone working in incident management knows to expect the unexpected...what worked yesterday might not work tomorrow. Mark works through these situations, fielding questions, managing timeframes, tracking everything and he does it with a sense of humor that makes it more endurable for everyone. Mark is a team player, a resource to others, willingly sharing what he knows, giving honest feedback, helping anyone he can, all while making meaningful connections with those around him. Although most of Mark's work is "behind the scenes," his dedication to his work and Able2 is driven by those we serve, ensuring our services exceed their imaginations!

Angel Sweet ***Behavior Intervention Specialist 2011***

As a SCIP-R instructor, Angel has been able2 positively influence staff training during class and while supporting people in their homes or programs. Her trainings have brought additional insight to the development and implementation of Behavior Support Plans. Angel's relationships with psychiatric providers have been a positive bridge in assisting the people we support to receive meaningful services both during appointments and while at home. When Angel enters a room she brings a sense of fun and positivity. Her smile and laughter are contagious, and can often help to distract an individual or co-worker having an "off" day. She is a go-to person for support, ideas, and assistance.

Johanna Swift ***Residential Supervisor 2010***

Johanna treats each individual, staff and family member in a friendly, caring way each and every day, striving to make a difference. An extraordinary advocate for our individuals, Johanna considers their best interest above all else. Johanna is driven to be the best, and is always eager to learn something new. She is continually willing to be challenged.

ACCESSCNY

Jess Evans

Program Manager, Community Habilitation 2012

Jess's energy with participants and staff alike make her a positive influence on those around her. She takes a person-centered approach with those she serves to ensure their needs are always met. Jess's enthusiasm and initiative in tackling any problems that arise make her an exceptional employee.

Brittany Halligan

Associate Executive Director for Residential & Day Services 2001

Brittany is an invaluable employee to the agency. She is never afraid to tackle a problem and find the proper solution. A doer, when you give her a task, she ensures that it gets done. Brittany makes deep personal connections with those she serves.

Lettie Holliman

Program Manager, Residential Services 2015

Since starting with the agency in 2015, Lettie has become a wealth of knowledge and a valuable resource for her peers. The residents she works with have such high praise for her. Lettie takes the time to make sure services are as person-centered as possible.

Candi Ledger

Medicaid Service Coordinator 2016

Candi is an outstanding advocate for the people she serves. She has excellent follow-up and follow through skills, especially during times of crisis. Candi is professional and has commendable collaboration with various internal and external departments resulting in positive feedback from everyone she encounters.

ADAPT COMMUNITY NETWORK

Beverly Ellman

Director, Bronx Children's Program 1976

Beverly is a highly dedicated educator and administrator. She has been a positive role model for her entire staff throughout the years. Beverly works very hard to ensure that the children that come to her program receive all the quality services that they require. She builds positive relationships with each of the families. She has built and maintained positive relationships within the community as well. Beverly is a mentor to all of her peers. She is always available to the other directors to impart her knowledge and expertise to each of them. Overall, she clearly goes above and beyond in all she does.

Helen Jiang

Lead Developer, MIS 2003

Helen has an unwavering dedication to the ADAPT mission. She understands the importance of what we do and strives to ensure she is doing her part in meeting our mission. She is willing to do whatever it takes and to work as long as necessary to accomplish her work accurately and on time. Helen considers all the individuals we serve, and all other staff members outside of the IT department, as clients who we need to serve to the best of our ability. Helen has an enthusiasm for her work and our department that has a strong positive impact on her co-workers. She is a great asset to both the IT department and ADAPT Community Network.

George Schiller

Mail Clerk/Messenger, Property and Asset Management 1988

George is a hardworking, long term employee. He is incredibly sociable, respectful and polite. George is dedicated to the organization's mission. He seeks innovative solutions and role models appropriate work behavior to the individuals who we support.

Patricia Traynor

Senior Coordinator, Workforce Development 1989

Tricia is a dedicated, caring soul. She doesn't just talk about "Putting People First," she walks, eats and breathes it. She is innovative, curious and accepting. She always gives her best, and she inspires others to be their best. Her energy is contagious, and when she gets that mischievous smile – look out – her next words will be, "I know this is going to sound crazy but here is what I want to try." There is no one who embodies this year's theme – IMAGINE – more. Tricia has mentored many of our senior staff in her 28 years at ADAPT and still conveys our mantra: Work Hard, Have Fun, Make a Difference. Tricia brings enthusiasm and practical solutions to address our managers' thorny problems.

ASPIRE OF WNY

David Ruggieri

Director of Residential Opportunities 1987

David oversees the operations of 20 IRAs in Erie and Chautauqua counties. David leads quietly and without fanfare, but he is instrumental in ensuring that the staff support individuals in a respectful and person-directed manner. David chairs the Agency-wide Fire and Safety committee, keeping abreast of OPWDD and OFPC regulations and inspections, developing policy and procedures, and facilitating innovative solutions in keeping people safe at programs and in their homes. Because of David's disciplined and methodical organizational skills, he is the go-to historian of the Community Living Division based on his 30 years' experience at Aspire of WNY.

Kelly Walters

Resource Facilitator 2006

Kelly is the manager of a day habilitation program which supports fifteen extremely physically frail people, yet she has worked with the staff and nurse to support those fifteen people so that each has personalized activities in the community. It is because of Kelly's support of the team and her expectation that everyone is a part of the community, that every person supported at the site does something that makes them feel important; the experiences are truly enriching the peoples' lives. And Kelly never takes the credit. She tells stories of her staff and their success without crediting her own management style.

Donna York

Service Provision Coordinator 2012

Donna was integral to the process of converting programs to billing through Therap and is proactive in bringing concerns to the Therap administrator and program administrative staff when she notices inconsistencies with policy or expectations. Donna has stepped up to fill in while another staff member was out on medical leave without complaint and without other work falling behind. She works with others in the department to develop reports that are easily understood and sends information in spreadsheets that others can work with to suit their needs. Donna embraces change and uses technology to improve existing systems which results in better efficiencies for all. She has gone out of her way to improve her Excel skills and is continually looking for ways to get work done more efficiently.

CENTER FOR DISABILITY SERVICES

Jeanina Lamanna

Physical Therapy Assistant 1992

Jeanina has an amazing attitude and willingness to adapt. She quickly makes the necessary adjustments to ensure everyone gets the services they need. She has stepped up as a leader to provide fellow staff with guidance, training, and a sense of security during these transitional and challenging times.

Tracey Miller

Resident Counselor 2006

Tracey excels at engaging the people at Velina Drive to make life decisions to the best of their ability. She develops the staff by instilling confidence in their performance. Tracey demonstrates excellence and exudes leadership, yet her strongest and most remarkable trait is the respect she gives to the people she supports.

Raymond Roque

Teaching Assistant 2011

Raymond has an amazing ability to see the students before the disability. He generously gives of himself to mentor others with honesty and integrity. His greatest strength is putting his students and co-workers' needs ahead of his own and his dedication is unparalleled.

Matt Shrader

Medicaid Service Coordinator 2004

Matt exemplifies the values and mission of the Center. Preserving and advocating for the civil and human rights of the people he supports is at the center of everything he does. His kind, person-centered approach leads to great achievements by the people he empowers.

CP OF THE NORTH COUNTRY

Melissa Moore

Registration/Reception at Gouverneur Health Center 2012

Melissa has traits you can't teach. She has a wonderful way of interacting with our patients and making them feel good when they are obviously struggling with an illness. Other members of our health center team look forward to seeing her every day; she treats everyone, regardless of title, with the respect one should receive. Melissa is always willing to take on whatever task needs to be completed to insure a positive experience for our patients. You may be sick when you come to see us, but you always leave feeling better after seeing Melissa.

Lindsay Sloane-Barkley

Human Resources-Recruiter 2015

Lindsay is at the forefront of recruiting new employees for CP of the North Country, and is very passionate about her job and the mission our agency plays in the community. In an era when recruiting has become very challenging, Lindsay has developed new processes to explain our "Oasis of Opportunity," and has generated a new excitement and sense of urgency for finding new ways to recruit. Always willing to go the extra mile to improve the Agency, Lindsay has also played an important role in our Agencywide Wellness Program, and has also played a pivotal role in redesigning our on-boarding procedures.

Lesley Thompson

Program Manager 2003

Lesley is very receptive to pretty much anything one would ask of her as long as it helps fulfill our Agency's mission. Lesley is willing to take on any challenge, and indeed thrives on them. She is patient, kind, and a true leader who is fair, yet effective. She actually speaks "with" not "at" the people using our CP Services. She has a magical way of soothing their minds while finding solutions to their needs. Many ask specifically for her if their MSC or DSP is unavailable when a need arises.

CEREBRAL PALSY OF LONG ISLAND

Steven Alvarez
Direct Support Professional 2014

Steve volunteered to become SCIP-R trained to assist a different residence with providing behavioral supports for two new admissions. He always puts the mission first. He goes above and beyond to meet the needs and wishes of each resident, and always with a smile! Steve can be counted on to assist in areas outside of his primary work location. Residents and staff throughout the residential department know and appreciate Steve for his willingness to help wherever, and whenever, needed.

Alena Bolten
Registered Nurse 2016

When a resident is ill, Alena provides support and comfort to the family members and clarifies medical questions that they have. She provides staff with extensive training and support so that they are comfortable and knowledgeable in providing medical care to the residents. Alena always ensures that the residents are provided with the best possible care. She reaches out to the treating physicians for further guidance. Alena travels to hospitals to personally check on the condition and comfort of residents.

Linda Heiniger
Controller 1997

Linda is the go to person in the Finance Department. She is always willing and able to help others. Linda is the historian for the department. She has held various positions, always excelling in her role. Linda is an asset to the Finance Department, and integral to the effectiveness of the day to day processes. Financial information is completed timely and accurately in large part due to Linda's skills.

Marianne Vignola
Computer Teacher 2009

Marianne gives her time freely researching new models, interventions, and computer programs that benefit the students and teachers in our Agency. She initiates new programs that promote students' voicing their ideas and facilitating their independence in the school and society. Marianne donates her time freely to assist students in extracurricular activities such as ballet, basketball, and driving vans that are beyond her job description.

CEREBRAL PALSY OF NYS METRO SERVICES

Ina Burton
Receptionist 1997

Ina is always dependable and professional. She is the “face” of the office that everyone is pleased to encounter. She greets all guests and applicants in a positive and welcoming manner. Ina is kind and encouraging to her coworkers and is an asset to the organization.

Willie Lou Lyons
Direct Care Counselor 1986

Willie is a dependable and compassionate team leader and is always willing to go the extra mile for our individuals. During last winter’s blizzard, Ms. Lyons came to work, worked a double shift and stayed at the residence in order to be present for her next shift. During the same storm, one of our individuals needed emergency care, but the ambulette could not reach the residence. Ms. Lyons volunteered to transport the individual to the hospital in the house van.

Reshma (Judy) Saisnarayan-Ramdass
Incident Management Coordinator 2015

Judy handles a great deal of responsibility overseeing all new incidents and ensuring necessary notifications and protections are completed. She has an excellent understanding of regulations and provides hands-on training to management personnel to help them understand the complex process of incident reporting. Judy has made a difference improving processes within her department.

Joseph Sapienza
Maintenance Supervisor 2007

Joe goes above and beyond the requirements of his position. He does whatever it takes to help the Engineering Department run smoothly. Joe has increased the collaboration and morale of the mechanics he leads resulting in additional efficiencies in his department.

CEREBRAL PALSY OF ULSTER COUNTY

Harry McRae

Direct Support Professional 1996

Harry is known for his dedication to provide person centered services. He is well known throughout the agency as a person that is dedicated to taking the time to ensure that the individual that he is working with has a voice and choice. Harry is a dedicated staff member that has repeatedly assisted new employees throughout the agency learn how to provide person centered care. Harry is a dedicated team member. He consistently will volunteer to fill shifts to ensure that people participating in CP Ulster services have the quality supports they need to live a rich, full life.

Dina Scaglione

Direct Support Professional 2015

Dina is a dedicated DSP. She is a positive role model for members of her team as she is committed to providing person centered care in a warm, supportive manner. Dina has made a difference in the lives of the individuals participating in our CRP Program. Her consistency, reliability and positive attitude are the keys to her capacity to effectively intervene in emerging challenging situations. Motivating and engaging with adolescents can prove difficult. Through her positive interactive style she has successfully worked with people participating in the CRP services to achieve goals and enhance their independent living skills.

CEREBRAL PALSY OF WESTCHESTER

Annmarie Clarke ***Habilitation Assistant 2013***

Annmarie is our transportation liaison. She is a team player who works tirelessly with staff, participants, and the transportation providers. Annmarie works as a trainer for new staff, directing and redirecting their day to day responsibilities. Annmarie documents and reports all issues regarding her participants, personal items, issues with wheelchairs and anything that warrants their safety.

Sheila Hemingway ***Teacher's Assistant 2006***

Sheila is an excellent role model for incoming aides. She has taken it upon herself to improve herself by taking the Level One Teaching Assistant certification. She not only earned the Level One but has now reached the Level 3 certification level. She sets a positive example with her patience with the students and her interactions with them. She will prompt and reinforce a student until they achieve their goals. Sheila is conscientious about her data collection making sure it is accurate. She will assist new staff to learn the ropes and make sure they are trained correctly. If she is going past a changing room, she will stop to ask if they need help. Sheila comes in ready to work and looks forward to the day ahead. She enjoys her interactions with her students and is very animated when she is working with them.

Paula McKenney ***Assistant Director of Quality Assurance 1994***

Paula goes above and beyond her required duties. She works overtime to ensure tasks are completed properly to support our consumers. Paula works well with all of the other departments and staff. She makes herself available and provides sound advice regarding support of our programs. Paula maintains a positive attitude and always does what is in the best interest of our consumers. She is a pleasure to work with.

CP ROCHESTER

Justine Fludd

Residential Habilitator 2007

Justine is always respectful in her interactions with peers and the individuals we serve. Justine has great integrity, provides quality service to our individuals and is a role model for other employees. She treats people the way she wants to be treated – with respect and professionalism – and contributes to maintaining a friendly, clean and welcoming environment.

Laura Hill

Clinical Supervisor – Occupational Therapist 1998

As a supervisor for therapists, Laura has always given the utmost to the children we serve – going above and beyond to support their families. Laura knows every child in the center by name and is determined to provide every child with the best services. She helps us to see the “big picture” and through her quiet support and guidance, we are able to provide the strong level of therapeutic services for all children.

Donna Poccia

Vice President of Individual and Family Support Services 1998

Donna's leadership is grounded in the vision, mission and guiding principles of the Agency. Not only does she use these concepts as the basis for her day to day decisions, she helps the employees she supports do the same. Donna is passionate about the services provided through IFSS and ensures services are in full compliance and of the highest quality.

EMPOWER

Marguerite Briglio ***Payroll Supervisor 1996***

On a few occasions during the past couple of years, our finance department ranks have been depleted because of medical leaves of absence and simultaneous vacations. Margie picks up the pieces, always with a smile and always without complaining. Every employee who visits or calls Margie is made to feel welcome. She treats employees at every level of the organization with a respectful and pleasant demeanor. We wanted to select Margie last year because of her quiet dedication, but she insisted that another, more senior employee receive it instead. She does not seek recognition. She just wants to do a good job for the organization and its employees.

Danelle Hillman ***Activities Coordinator, Job Training & Day Programs Division 2013***

Danelle has an excellent rapport with the people she provides services to. She provides a terrific array of community activities as options for people to choose from. Danelle is a team player – always willing to help all staff to meet the needs of the program and the people it supports.

Margret Nawrocki ***Physical Therapist 1993***

Margret demonstrates strong leadership skills. She often takes the lead in various activities (such as a recent volunteer for cleanup of the preschool garden area) and is viewed as a valuable team member by her peers. Margret sets high standards for herself so that she can provide the best services to children, adults and families. She is a devoted advocate for all the programs at Empower. Margret is proactive in providing ideas and solutions to challenges that arise. She is always looking for ways to ensure that children and adults are able to live their best lives.

Cheryl Seelbinder ***Administrative Assistant, Community Housing Division 1995***

Cheryl is a pleasant, upbeat and helpful person. She provides outstanding support to the Community Housing Division and to all of the residential managers and staff. Whenever Empower has been in transition with administrative assistants in other departments, Cheryl has always happily filled in to handle extra responsibilities and helped to train new hires. Cheryl helps to organize and volunteers for Empower's fundraisers, above and beyond her normal responsibilities.

HAPPINESS HOUSE

Mindy Gilbert

Accounting Specialist 2003

Mindy is always willing to go the extra mile to help her coworkers and is a great source of support and knowledge for the Finance team. Mindy's commitment and dedication is unwavering. She is always willing to take on new tasks and responsibilities as the Agency grows and is always willing to adapt to get the job done.

Katie Principio

Service Coordination Supervisor 2010

Katie values the people we serve, their families and her employees and wants everyone to feel heard, supported and confident to have her involvement. She displays unwavering commitment and quality leadership. Katie encourages independence and self-initiation in her employees and is available to brain storm, praise, and recognize their hard work.

Kristina Whitbeck

Occupational Therapist 2007

Kristina has demonstrated a greater leadership role as a senior member and has been integral with supporting new staff – offering guidance, insight and direction. She has worked on Foundation Grants to enable access to new equipment or enhance current equipment. Kristina has vast knowledge and has helped guide treatment sessions and classroom discussions with valuable input.

HCA OF SOUTHERN NY

Melinda Andrus ***Sr. Billing Representative 2013***

Melinda tackles billing with efficiency and accuracy, with a “get it done attitude” and a smile. She is persistent and will work on any billing problems until there is a resolution. Melinda has been able to bring organization to billing processes and provide improvements to the process.

Timothy Burgh ***Investigator 2016***

Tim has put in long hours to complete investigations on time. He conducts himself with a high level of integrity in all aspects of his job. Tim treats the people we serve and his co-workers with respect, always placing their needs first.

Sarah Hogan ***Habilitation Specialist 2014***

Sarah is always looking for clever ways to ensure the best quality of life by knowing the individuals' personal goals and educating staff on how to make strides toward accomplishing them. She has a positive attitude regardless of the surrounding circumstances. Sarah finds creative ways to make individuals feel special when they reach milestones, such as accomplishing goals.

Jessica Parsons ***General Education Teacher 2014***

Jessica goes above and beyond to provide an enriched learning environment for her students. She is a highly dependable and dedicated employee. Jessica demonstrates a willingness and ability to develop positive relationships with parents, children and staff members.

HUDSON VALLEY CEREBRAL PALSY ASSOCIATION

Joe Dellevigne *Facilities Coordinator 1997*

Joe's commitment to Hudson Valley today is as evident as the day he started over 20 years ago. His initiative and compassion for the individuals we serve have helped the Agency grow, and he is always available day and night to meet the demands of our unique service delivery system. He is a skilled Carpenter and has earned the respect of everyone that works with him. Through the years, Joe has assumed more responsibility and is a most trusted member of our HVCPA family. The past two years have placed great construction demands on the staff and have taken Joe away from time with his family and we also want to say a thank you to them. Unfortunately, his previous colleagues are not here to share in his success and this recognition, but we congratulate and celebrate Joe tonight!

Tom Reo *Maintenance Mechanic 2016*

As the newest member of the HVCPA Physical Plant team, Tom has gone above and beyond to help ensure that we are able to fulfill our mission. Educated as a Horticulturist, he joined the team with a vast expanse of skill and knowledge. He consistently makes himself available, and does so with an understanding of the importance of the work the Agency does. Tom also has been an integral part of the work that has been done over the past couple of years to meet construction demands, and he too has been taken away from his family and we wish to acknowledge them tonight. We are very fortunate to work along Tom and are pleased to celebrate him tonight!

Peter Robinson *Facilities Coordinator 1991*

Pete has been a trusted member of our staff for over 25 years. His skill and administrative ability are demonstrated through every one of his actions. His broad knowledge of construction and his depth of compassion for all individuals is a rare blend that has resulted in him becoming an extraordinary member of the HVCPA family. Pete has never said no to any request from his colleagues, and most often when he sees or anticipates a need, he will be there without ever being asked. To note again, these past years have placed a great construction demand on the staff, and it has taken Pete away from time with his family and we want to also say thank you to them. Sadly, again, Tino and Leo are not here to share in his success and recognition, but we celebrate and congratulate Pete tonight!

INSPIRE

Shaina DeSapio

Direct Support Professional Coordinator 2014

Shaina encourages the individuals served by Inspire's programs to participate in events and activities. She goes above and beyond to guide the DSPs with a person-centered approach. Shaina works diligently to ensure that the people we serve receive the best quality of service afforded to them. She is always ready to lend a hand.

Kim Frometa

Human Resources Coordinator 2013

Kim has shown that she is a real team player doing an excellent job in the short absence of the Human Resources Director. Kim maintains a friendly atmosphere. She is always patient and willing to solve any problems. She is consistent and gives more than 100%. Kim is always professional and courteous.

Karla Leon

Community Relations/Administrative Assistant 2016

Karla is very knowledgeable and responds quickly and efficiently to any questions or concerns. She demonstrates consistent quality effort towards all tasks even when asked for assistance at the last minute! She does an outstanding job with Inspire's social media platforms and her creativity adds so much value to the Community Relations Department. Karla is always professional and extremely pleasant with all people she interacts with.

Karen Mills

Physical Therapist 2014

Karen goes above and beyond to make sure each patient receives the highest quality of care. She takes time to mentor new therapists and instruct classroom staff in appropriate handling and positioning as well as equipment management. Karen volunteers on various committees and gives 100% to program participants, family and co-workers.

JAWONIO

Marc Francois

Manager, O'Neil IRA 2005

Marc Francois started as a Direct Support Professional in 2005, and was promoted to coordinator in January 2008. He created an atmosphere of caring and respect in the complex. The individuals living in the apartments still ask him to come back and work with them. In 2015, he was promoted to manager of an IRA experiencing staffing and clinical challenges. Marc mentored and developed the talents of each staff person. He helped create an atmosphere that valued communication with all parties providing services to the individuals living in the IRA and their families. Marc lives Jawonio's core values of Honesty, Integrity, Inclusion, Compassion, Respect and Positive Attitude. He is an exemplary staff member and a truly good person.

Isabel Newmeyer

Coordinator of Job Development 1991

Issy Newmeyer maintains that her favorite part of her job is working with individuals directly, and is very person-centered in her approach to services. She can often be found coming in on her day off or staying late, and displays a high level of compassion for the people in our program. A poignant example was when she sat at an individual's hospital bedside on Thanksgiving Day. Issy is a coordinator, but she jumps in wherever she is needed, to job coach, to develop job sites, or to mentor staff. "Issy come! Issy go!" is a common phrase uttered around the office, as she is always on the run. She's the mother hen of the office, always remembering birthdays, always there as a shoulder, pulling the staff together like a family. Issy cultivates, develops and nurtures long lasting positive partnerships with businesses, enabling us to assist so many individuals to find meaningful, long lasting employment in our community. Some of these relationships have lasted more than 28 years. Issy does all of this on a compressed work scheduled, and we all wonder where she keeps the magic wand!

Karen Taffuri

Social Worker – Agency Home Service Director 2012

Karen Taffuri is the Social Worker for our preschool and the Agency Home Service Director which means she is always busy. Karen is an inspiring professional, conducting preschool intakes, providing child and family counseling, and bilingual parent to parent support groups and assists with our respite program. She is exceptional at creating a warm and nurturing environment in which our families come into our program and seek support throughout their time with us. She is extremely creative and does a wonderful job coordinating our many family focused events such as our book fair, class photos and Family Fun Day which builds a strong sense of community among our families. Karen is a dedicated advocate for our children, families and staff, always going the extra mile to advocate for needed services and supports that help them to reach their goals. Karen is full of fun and spirit and brings that warmth and enthusiasm to all she does!

QUEENS CENTERS FOR PROGRESS

Janelle Ali

Human Service Professional – Bellerose Day Services 2008

Janelle works closely with our individuals at the Bellerose Day Habilitation Program and understands the needs of our individuals and is able to develop individualized programs for them. She provides opportunities for individuals to express their unique preferences and enhance their strengths. Janelle has a strong work ethic and takes on extra responsibilities. She has a positive attitude, is a team player, works well with others, and embraces change in a positive manner.

Julian Brower, Ed.D., LMHC

Coordinator of Psychology Services – Article 16 Clinic 1976

Dr. Brower began with Queens Centers for Progress in the Article 16 Clinic as the first Clinician and then as the Coordinator for Psychology Services. He is a certified psychologist and a licensed mental health professional who has served thousands of individuals with developmental disabilities. He is a consummate clinician, a man of great intelligence, compassion, and insight, and has a wonderful sense of humor. He performs his duties with a sense of responsibility, creativity and sincerity. Dr. Brower has assisted hundreds of individuals and families in qualifying for NYS/OPWDD programs and many other education and government benefits. Dr. Brower's clinical reports are a standard followed by many in the field of psychology. Improving the quality of life of individuals with disabilities motivates Dr. Brower each day.

Mayibe Gallegos

Classroom Assistant 1999

Mayibe is dedicated to our students and wants to see them thrive from the attention and care they get at our school. She is a one-to-one para and the students assigned to her have always made much improvement. Mayibe goes above and beyond in taking an interest in the children's lives, keeping in contact with families after their children have left us and offering her assistance to those in need. Mayibe always helps her colleagues before they can even ask for assistance. If she sees something that has to be done, she does it!

Kimberly Newman

Day Services Assistant 2014

Kim comes to work with a welcoming and bright smile, full of enthusiasm and vigor; ready to work and conquer the day. She is passionate about everything she does and puts 100% effort and energy into the activities, group projects, and seasonal events she facilitates. Kim goes above and beyond to ensure the needs, wants, safety, and medical requirements of program individuals are met. She plans creative and interactive habilitation groups relating to the personal interests, service goals, and career aspirations of the people we serve. Kim conducts travel training in the community and teaches career development to program individuals who are interested in obtaining community employment. She teaches "DJ Lessons" twice a month to a class of about 30 participants who learn how to operate a turntable set and play good music for all to enjoy.

THE CENTER FOR DISCOVERY

Eugene P. Burton (Paul)

DayHab Associate 2007

Paul personifies true compassion for the individuals that he supports. He consistently goes above and beyond, demonstrating kindness and the utmost respect for the program and our Agency as a whole. Paul joins the individuals in working to develop personalized vocational plans and then supports them to achieve their goals. He is the face of The Center for Discovery along Main Street in Hurleyville. He embodies our philosophy, and enables successful community integration for the residents. Co-workers and supervisors alike have stated that it is an honor and a pleasure to work with and learn from Paul each and every day.

Clyde R. Higa

Residential Associate 1994

Clyde is always someone we can count on. We can count on her to be here in bad weather, we can count on her to be a good mentor for younger or newer staff, but most importantly, we can count on the fact that she will always do the right thing for the students that she works with. She is a hard worker that brings a positive and cheerful attitude to work every day (you can almost always hear her singing or joking with the students). Clyde works hard to try to help the individuals she works with become the most independent that they can, she encourages and supports them to help them reach their goals. The Center for Discovery is lucky to have an employee as dedicated and talented as Clyde.

UPSTATE CEREBRAL PALSY

Sean Evans

Art Teacher 2014

Sean develops wonderfully creative art projects that are accessible to all students, while teaching artistic concepts and art history in a way students can grasp. He has a unique way of incorporating famous artists' work with student work, teaching students new techniques as they create their art. Sean has a perpetually positive attitude and it shows in his interactions with students and staff. He is always upbeat, excited to see the students and to create artwork with each and every one of them each day. He takes the time to talk to students about what is going on in their lives as well. Sean is always willing to help the classrooms, whether it is through sharing his talents or assisting students who are struggling. Sean truly believes in his students and continually goes above and beyond for them, knowing the potential that they all have to develop their voice through creativity.

Suzanne Roy

Clinical Supervisor of Nursing 2000

Sue has a can do attitude that is matched by no one else at the Agency. Any time anyone has asked Sue for anything, her immediate response is YES! Sue is genuinely happy when the teams, staff and people we support succeed. Sue is a cheerleader for the Agency and for the children and adults we serve. Sue makes time to communicate with families on a regular basis, sending weekly emails and communication to keep everyone informed on the care of their loved one. She is always thinking about the families and incorporates them in the care of the person we support. Sue provides excellent medical care to the people we support who may be sick or in the hospital. She takes the time to advocate for and to visit or even stay with the people in the hospital, ensuring that they receive the best quality care and that this care continues upon arrival back to their residence.

***We are pleased to recognize the staff celebrated
at last night's Annual Awards Reception:***

Al Felmet Achievement Award

Jane Gefell

(CP Rochester)

Daniel Wieder Leadership Award

Jim Moran

(CP of NYS)

Natalie Rogers Employee of the Year Award

Kim Kiely

(Empower)

**Robert Schonhorn Direct Support Professional
of the Year Award**

Phillipa Hartwell

(Queens Centers for Progress)



**Cerebral Palsy Associations
of New York State**

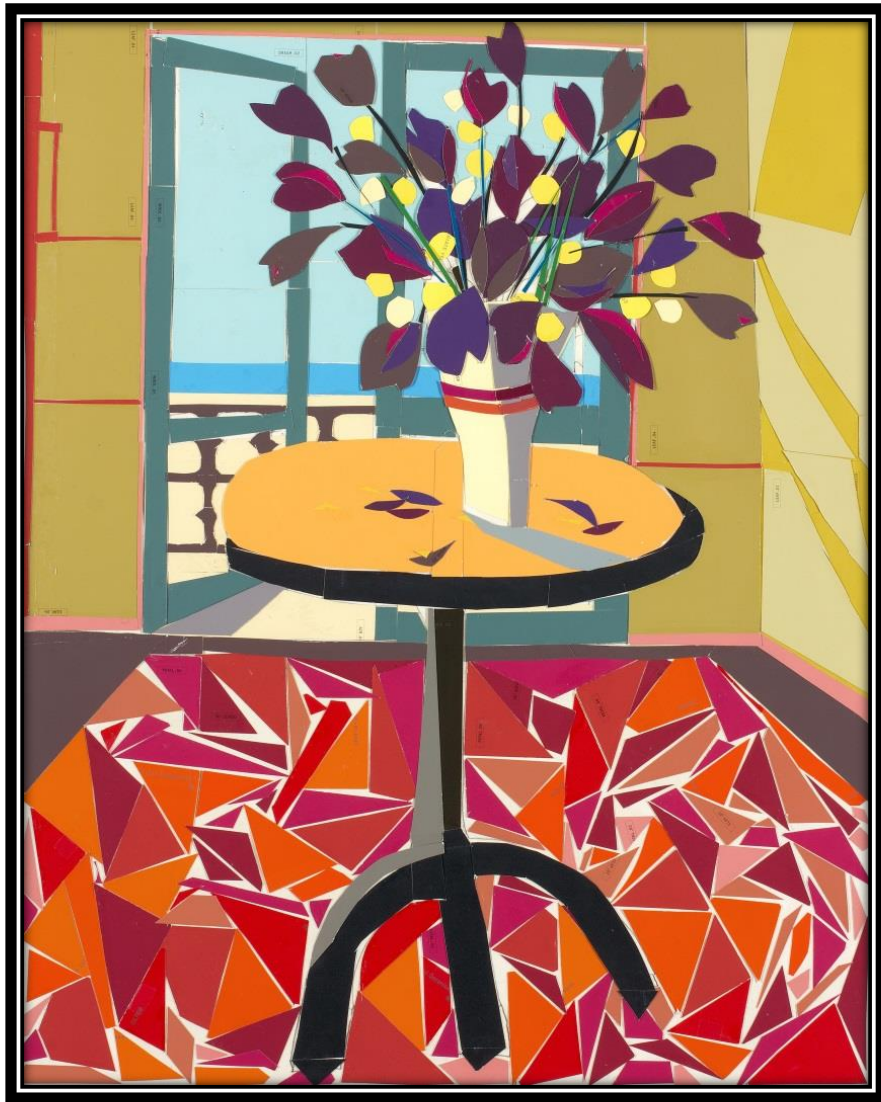
Real people. Realizing potential.

**We're here to support our Affiliate staff in
many ways:**

- **Advocacy**
- **Committees**
- **Information**
- **Agency-Specific Regulatory & Rate Issues**

We're always a call or email away!

**Learn more about your Association at:
www.cpofnys.org**



Artwork by Art History/Color Theory Class, Hudson Valley CP Association

**"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams, and live
the life you have imagined."**

- Henry David Thoreau



Artwork by Aaron Canode, Upstate CP

“Of course it is happening inside your head, but why on earth should that mean it is not real?”

- Albus Dumbledore