

# IMAGINE

2018 CP of NYS Annual Conference  
Saratoga Springs • October 15-17 • cpofnys.org

## **Keynote Speaker Rick Guidotti – CP of NYS Annual Conference, October 16 at 8:00 am at the Saratoga Hilton Hotel in Saratoga Springs**



**Rick Guidotti** worked as a photographer in NYC, Milan and Paris for high profile clients including Yves St Laurent, Revlon, L’Oreal, Elle, Harpers Bazaar and GQ. He took photographs of what were considered the world’s most beautiful people. One day he saw a girl at a bus stop. She had pale skin and white hair; a girl with albinism. Upon returning home Rick began a process of discovery – about albinism, about people with genetic differences and about himself. What he found was startling and upsetting. The images that he saw were sad and dehumanizing. In medical textbooks children with a difference were seen as having a disease, not as people.

So Rick stopped working in the fashion industry and created a not-for-profit organization that he named Positive Exposure. It became clear to him that it was essential for people to understand and see the beauty in our shared humanity. But how do you get people to see those with differences not as victims, but as people first and foremost? They need to be seen as their parents see them, as their friends see them, as valuable and positive parts of society - as beautiful.

What started with photographs, has grown into a wide variety of programs created to empower people living with difference – and to educate the world around them. Join us for breakfast and an inspiring presentation on Tuesday, October 16 at 8:00 and hear about Rick’s determination to transform perceptions of people living with genetic, physical and behavioral differences, both among the public and health care professionals.

The 2018 CP of NYS Annual Conference will take place October 15-17 at the Saratoga Hilton Hotel and City Center in downtown Saratoga Springs. The event will feature dozens of highly regarded speakers who will conduct nearly 50 sessions and meetings attended by more than 700 staff, families, volunteers and people with disabilities from across the state, accounting for more than 600 room-nights in several downtown hotels.

Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State is a broad-based, multi-service organization with 24 Affiliates and 18,000 employees across the state providing services for 100,000 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

For more information please visit our conference web page at <http://www.cpodnys.org/2018-annual-conference-2/>.