



Raising the Roof: A Community Unites for the Runaway & Homeless Youth Shelter

In an inspiring show of community solidarity, the 25th Anniversary event for the CAPTAIN Community Human Services' Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter not only met but exceeded its fundraising goal. The campaign aimed to replace the roof and HVAC system, repair the foundation, and acquire a 12-passenger van for essential youth transportation to school and appointments.

Thanks to your support, significant progress has already been made. Notably, Next Generation Roofing stepped up as true community heroes, providing a complete roof replacement at a reduced cost. This achievement represents our community's commitment to its most vulnerable members.

The renovated roof stands as a powerful symbol of this dedication, reflecting a community that cares deeply. Beyond the visible improvements, the 25th Anniversary event ensures the shelter's infrastructure remains robust, securing its foundation for the next 25 years and beyond. Your involvement has turned a mere campaign into a transformative force, shaping a stronger and more compassionate community.

A tremendous thank you to our outstanding supporters of the 2023 campaign, including Dr. Bill and Anne Long, Ayco (a Goldman Sachs Company), Everyday Warriors, Sheila Flanagan, Neil Golub, the McDonnell Family Charitable Trust, Mohawk Honda, and Bob and Sylvia Phillips, along with over 200 other individuals and businesses in our community.

Check out the photos of the roof being replaced by the expert crew from Next Generation Roofing.



Lifting people up. Building brighter futures.

From the desk of Executive Director **Andy Gilpin**



Andy Gilpin

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Each new year unfurls a tapestry of awe-inspiring achievements at CAPTAIN Community Human Services, a testament to the unwavering support of individuals like you, and the tireless dedication of our remarkable staff and volunteers.

In the transformative journey of 2023, supporters like you rallied together to achieve a remarkable feat – surpassing our ambitious fundraising goal of \$115,000 for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter. This significant milestone enabled us to replace the roof and HVAC, address foundation repairs, acquire a 12-passenger van, and fulfill overdue maintenance needs. Our community's compassion not only met the goal but exceeded expectations, showcasing an unparalleled commitment to teens in crisis.

September marked the poignant celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Youth Shelter, marked by the renaming of the building in honor of Bill Casey – a dedicated volunteer and resolute advocate. Bill's indomitable spirit was a driving force in the Shelter's inception, tirelessly securing funding, a physical space, and the local support necessary to provide every homeless and runaway youth with a warm bed and a hot meal.

The milestone anniversary culminated in a heartwarming reception, where we shared the Shelter's unique story surrounded by those who generously contributed their time, talents, and treasures to lift people up and build brighter futures.

Looking ahead to 2024, a horizon of milestones beckons, along with new opportunities to address the evolving needs of our neighbors in need. Stay informed about our journey by subscribing to our email newsletter at captaincares.org/newsletter.

In closing, I extend heartfelt gratitude for your generosity and trust in this good work. Together, we make a lasting impact on the lives of kids, families, and seniors in our community.

With my thanks,

Andy Gilpin, Executive Director

Save-the-Date: Upcoming Events

Lunch Every month, join us
for a cause for our new Lunch
for a Cause series!
Enjoy a delicious lunch, mingle with friends and neighbors, and learn more about the good work happening in your community! For more information, visit our website, captaincares.org/lunch.

Jersey Mike's Day of Giving:
March 27, 2024

**Care Links Annual Dinner Show -
A Care Links Wedding:**
April 13, 2024

Route 50 Mile Race
June 13, 2024

See all events online at
captaincares.org/calendar

AN
Unbridled
AFFAIR

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2024 | 6:00PM - 10:00PM

PRIME AT SARATOGA NATIONAL GOLF CLUB
458 UNION AVENUE, SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY
VIEW MORE DETAILS AT UNBRIDLEDAFFAIR.ORG

Sponsorship Opportunities available for all events! Contact Ava at 518-399-4624 or email ava@captaincares.org.

Celebrating 25 Years of Helping Teens in Crisis



Staying Ahead Money Matters

Staying
Ahead



Exciting News! The Family Development Program just celebrated the graduation of 7 trailblazers from our transformative Money Matters course!

Imagine a 12-week journey where empowerment meets finance – that's Money Matters! Guided by community experts, this course is more than just numbers; it's a life-changing experience. Let us walk you through the highlights:

- ◇ Led by the incredible Belinda Kucharski, a financial planner and Board of Directors member, participants dive into the world of banking and credit with gusto!
- ◇ Ken Clements, a long-time volunteer and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) tax preparer, illuminates the path to financial success by imparting essential budgeting skills.
- ◇ Ben Forucci from Freedom One Mortgage shares wisdom on buying or renting a home, turning dreams of home ownership into reality.
- ◇ Mike Brewster from Gil's Garage fuels the participants' knowledge on buying, maintaining cars, ensuring they cruise towards their goals smoothly.
- ◇ Chris Newell from Newell Family Insurance fortifies their financial fortress with insights on insurance essentials.

The dynamic duo of Bonnie Nelson, Family Development and Getting Ahead Program Manager, and Belinda Kucharski, co-facilitate the course, ensuring a holistic and engaging learning experience.

Money Matters isn't just a program; it's a catalyst for financial independence and stability. Participants not only learn from community business experts but also chart their own path to success.

At the core of CAPTAIN CHS's mission is empowering individuals to build a brighter future. Realistic budgets, savings strategies, and essential life skills pave the way for financial freedom. Developing a realistic, practical budget, learning how to save money to achieve goals like buying or leasing a car, having good affordable health, life, and property insurance are essential to building a brighter future. Please join us in celebrating our graduates!

A heartfelt thank you to our community partners and leaders who played a pivotal role in this transformative journey. Your support is invaluable.

One graduate passionately exclaimed, *"Everyone should take this class. Nothing like it is taught in high school or college, and everyone needs these skills."*

Join Us in Making a Difference! If you know someone ready to embark on their journey to financial literacy, connect them with Bonnie at bonnie@captaincares.org or 518-371-1185. Let's make financial empowerment a shared reality!



Volunteer Mentors: Supporting the Dream

Embarking on a journey towards success is an incredible gift, and at CAPTAIN CHS, we believe in the transformative power of caring, skilled volunteer Mentors. They are the unsung heroes, the guiding lights, forming an integral part of our Empowerment Programs.

Mentors are not just guides; they are crucial members of the mentee's Dream Team. Picture this – a dedicated mentor helping navigate the path, setting personalized goals, and walking side by side through every step towards success.

Together, Mentors and mentees conquer barriers, whether they reside within the mentee (procrastination, fear) or out in the community (job applications, finding affordable child care). It's a collaboration that goes beyond the surface, delving into the core of personal and community challenges.

Mentors are a beacon of non-judgmental support, providing encouragement, valuable information, and unwavering support to help mentees achieve specific goals. It's a relationship built on trust, understanding, and mutual respect.



A mentee's letter during the holiday season beautifully captures the impact: "I love you. No words can explain how deeply I value and appreciate our time together and your style of teaching. Knowing you has made me believe that maturing, changing, healing, and growing is possible (and probable!) for me."

Beyond goal achievement, mentoring often leads to the blossoming of close personal relationships. It's affirming for the Mentor and can be truly life-altering for the mentee, changing the trajectory of their life, attitude, and belief in the goodness of the human spirit.

Mentoring isn't just an opportunity; it's a challenging and immensely rewarding volunteer experience with CAPTAIN CHS. If you are passionate about lifting people up and contributing to building brighter futures, we invite you to join us on this fulfilling mission.

Interested in making a lifelong difference? Connect with Bill Lubin at 518-399-4624 or bill@captaincares.org to explore how you can become a vital part of CAPTAIN CHS's mission. Together, let's create a community where everyone has the support they need to thrive!



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Daily, weekly, and as-needed opportunities for you to make a difference!

Drivers and Homework Help volunteers urgently needed!

Apply online at captaincares.org/volunteer and call 518-399-4624 to schedule your interview today!

Because of You

Collaborative Efforts Secure Home for Senior Overcoming Decades of Homelessness

Recently, Family Assistance received a call from a dedicated care manager working persistently with a client for years. Despite 11 years of living in the woods of Saratoga County, the client resisted permanent housing, impacting his health.

Undeterred, the care manager convinced him to stay in Saratoga County homeless shelters, later assisting in applying for senior subsidized housing. Hospitalization provided an opportunity to discuss permanent housing, and luck prevailed with an available unit.

However, a last-minute challenge arose – a needed security deposit of \$296.

The care manager, determined to help, reached out to CAPTAIN CHS. Swift collaboration with Catholic Charities secured the deposit, ensuring the client's successful move.

A Thanksgiving Tale: Compassion Prevails in Time of Need

Just two days before Thanksgiving, a woman contacted the Clifton Park office seeking help from the food pantry. Despite being past donors to CAPTAIN CHS, escalating medical bills had left them in need. The caller, reliant on a wheelchair, and her husband, facing health issues, found their shelves bare.

Though the pantry was closed, we provided information and assured immediate assistance upon completing the application. The husband, a veteran, arrived later, filled out paperwork, and received a Thanksgiving basket and extra food to tide them over the weekend. Grateful and almost in tears, he left, expressing disbelief at seeking help after years of working for a local grocery store.

The next day we received a call expressing gratitude and a hopeful desire to be donors again one day. This Thanksgiving tale showcases the profound impact of community support in times of need.

This collective effort by CAPTAIN CHS, Family Assistance, Catholic Charities, and the hospital social worker underscores the transformative power of collaboration and compassion, providing a home for someone overcoming a decade of homelessness.

Resilience and Triumph: A Youth's Path to Stability

Last summer, a counselor at one of our local schools sought assistance for a youth facing homelessness and abuse. The Safe Harbour Anti-Trafficking Case Manager quickly arranged a meeting with Street Outreach to address immediate needs and plan a pathway to stability.

Despite living in his car due to an abusive household, the youth, working part-time and pursuing a regent's diploma, demonstrated remarkable determination. Collaborating with Becca from the SHHY program, Street Outreach supported the youth through interviews, culminating in his acceptance into the program in July.

During the waiting period, Street Outreach provided essential items, including gas gift cards and hygiene products. Post-approval, the youth moved into the program, receiving additional assistance for his new apartment. Since then, he secured a second job, actively engaged in case management, and thrived in his newfound stability.

This inspiring journey underscores the impact of individuals like you in empowering resilient youth to overcome adversity and achieve success.



Lifting people up. Building brighter futures.

Thank You to our Incredible Community!

In 2023, more than 1,700 individuals and businesses generously gave over \$293,000 in goods and over \$876,000 in monetary donations to support our neighbors in need!



Top Row: Atlantic Testing Laboratories, Ballston Spa National Bank (BSNB), Herzog Law Firm, On the Move Health & Fitness, Greenlight Networks; Second Row: Pioneer Bank, County Waste, the Mill on Round Lake, Clifton Park Hannaford; Third Row: Toys for Toga (DeCrescente Distributing Company, Discover Saratoga, Druthers Brewing Company, Death Wish Coffee, Quick Response Restoration), Next Generation Roofing, Starpoint Church; Fourth Row: Times Union, Broadview Federal Credit Union, TCT Federal Credit Union, John W. Danforth Co.; Fifth Row: New York National Guard, Hope Church, Pepsi Co., Fenimore Asset Management and Siena College

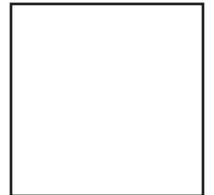


We have the most **Amazing Volunteers!**

Make a difference in 2024 and become a volunteer!

Learn more online at captaincares.org/volunteer or call 518-399-4624!

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Glenville, NY 12302



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