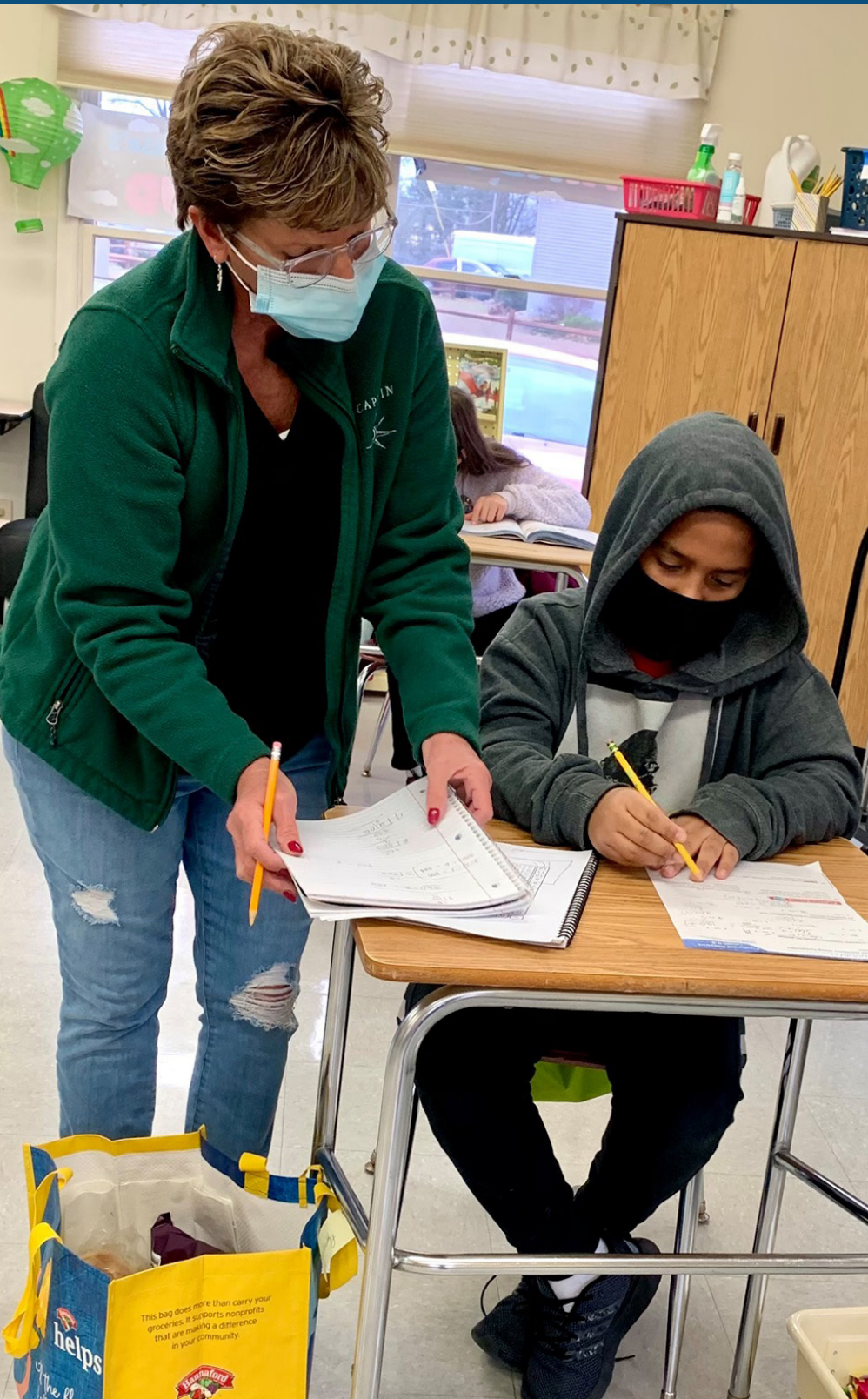




**CAPTAIN**  
Community Human Services

The stories  
**you make possible.**  
Fall 2021



“I write to you in order to let you know what a big difference your services have made in my life.

I moved to Turf in first grade and lived there until I was in fifth grade. My sister and I were very active at Cheryl’s Lodge. We attended every week for homework help where we not only received help with our homework, but also got free lunch, arts and crafts experiences, free books, school supplies, and enrichment programs.

We were able to attend free community field trips and were involved in programs such as a free science summer camp, scrap-booking, apple sauce making, and newspaper club.

While some of my peers living in Turf fell victim to the challenging circumstances around us, the strong adult support at Cheryl’s Lodge taught me that it does not matter where you come from-if you work hard and take your education seriously you can be successful.

Read more of Elizabeth’s story inside...

*Lifting people up. Building brighter futures.*

HUNGER | HOMELESSNESS | ECONOMIC CRISIS | COMMUNITY SUPPORT | EMPOWERMENT

[www.captaincares.org](http://www.captaincares.org)

## Continued, from Cover Story

Upon visiting Cheryl's Lodge after my high school graduation I was later employed with Peace Camp where I worked for 5 years. After my last year there I moved to Texas and have been a teacher in a low income school district for the past seven years. I pride myself in showing my students the importance of education and that it doesn't matter where you come from- that you can reach your goals and be successful.

A couple of years ago I again went back to visit the place that has made such a huge difference in my life- Cheryl's Lodge. Many of the familiar faces have long since be gone but I was hoping you may still have contact with them and could share my successes. Some of the remarkable individuals that have left an everlasting impact in me from Cheryl's Lodge include Kathy Chank who ran Cheryl's Lodge and many faithful volunteers including Chuck and Dodie, Bernie, and Ken to name a few.

I recently was named the Teacher of the Year at my campus and was selected as a district teacher of the year for Alief ISD. I later won 2021 Elementary District Teacher of the year out of around 30 elementary schools in my district. I owe a lot of my successes to your programs. Programs that kept me off the streets, programs that surrounded me with adults who cared about my future, and programs that taught me to love learning.

Ultimately, I want to thank you for all you have done for me, Please extend my sincerest gratitude to the volunteers at Cheryl's Lodge and Kathy Chank.

Thank you again,  
Elizabeth"

*"I owe a lot of my successes to your programs. Programs that kept me off the streets, programs that surrounded me with adults who cared about my future, and programs that taught me to love learning."*

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



**Andy Gilpin**  
Executive Director

To our cherished friends,

Sometimes, it's hard to measure the impact of the work that you do day-to-day. Progress is often a slow and hard process, with many steps and snags.

Yet over the last few months, we've been humbled to receive impact stories - stories that kind and generous people like you brought within reach for so many. These are stories about the lifelong impact of CAPTAIN CHS's programs, services, staff, and volunteers.

**They're stories that you make possible.**

Because of you, tens of thousands of people over the past forty-four years have experienced a brighter future. Your gifts of time, talent, and treasures leaves a legacy in our community that will last for generations to come.

What you do, and who you are at heart, is why our community remains strong even today. It's why we're able to meet the need at our door and expand our services when the occasion calls. Your selflessness has helped homeless kids when our government funding fell short. It's aided seniors in remaining at home as they age gracefully in comfort. It's helped family after family find an affordable home, access emergency food and hygiene supplies, and learn how to make a better life for themselves.

I hope you enjoy the stories we share today, and remember the impact - the vital, real, and lasting impact you have on our community each and every single day.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for being there,

Andy Gilpin  
Executive Director

### **Volunteers Needed!**

*Current opportunities include Care Links for Seniors & weekly Child Care for Getting Ahead! Visit [captaincares.org/volunteer](https://captaincares.org/volunteer) or call 518-399-4624 to apply.*

# Celebrating 25 Years of Care Links

It began as good things often do, with neighbors concerned about neighbors.

There are always those in the community who are the helpers, the ones who people reach out to for assistance, or who keep their eyes open for others in need. In 1996, a group of such people in Clifton Park became aware of a growing need; senior citizens in the community were finding it increasingly difficult to access services that would allow them to age in their homes and the community they loved. Out of that concern and with the support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Care Links was born, originally serving Clifton Park, Halfmoon, Malta, and the City of Mechanicville. In 2013, Care Links became part of Community Human Services and expanded its reach to the towns of Ballston (including Burnt Hills) and Charlton. In 2018, Community Human Services merged with CAPTAIN to become CAPTAIN Community Human Services, and Care Links became part of CAPTAIN's Senior Services program.

Over the past 25 years, Care Links volunteers have given thousands of hours of their time to provide no-cost non-medical supportive services to people aged 60 or better, including transportation, respite, shopping and errands, friendly visiting, housekeeping and chores, meal preparation, support groups, telephone reassurance, and information and referral services.

These services are becoming ever more important as our community ages. Recent statistics tell us that there are now about an equal number of people in the over 60 age group as in the school age cohort. Given current trends, that proportion is likely to continue to swing toward the older group in years to come. That means increasing numbers of your neighbors who need support to stay in their homes and age as they wish.

Volunteering with Care Links obviously provides a critical service to the community, one that is greatly valued by recipients. We often get messages from recipients and their families who tell us how important Care Links is to them, and how much they appreciate the services they receive. But we also receive messages from our volunteers, many of whom develop deep friendships with seniors over years of volunteering. Volunteering with Care Links is a win-win proposition.

You may wonder what a Care Links volunteer looks like. We are quite different from one another, with our primary similarity being an interest in helping and the availability of a little time to do it.

- » One volunteer might be a person who enjoys driving and thinks nothing of braving Albany traffic to take a recipient to an appointment at Albany Med.
- » Another might be someone who is fine with driving closer to home and happy to pick up groceries or a prescription, drive a recipient to do their own shopping.
- » Some volunteers may enjoy spending a few hours of conversation and perhaps playing a game of rummy with a recipient to provide respite to a family care giver.
- » Sometimes our volunteers are teens who, with adult supervision, fulfill their community volunteer hours for Scouts or Confirmation through fall yard clean up.
- » We have volunteers who no longer drive but have time to make a phone call once a week or so to check in with a senior, greatly reducing the sense of isolation and increase the feeling of being cared about.

Can you see yourself among our wonderful group of volunteers? Contact us at 518-399-3262 or [terra@captaincares.org](mailto:terra@captaincares.org). We need you, and your neighbors need you.



*See more photos of our 25th Anniversary Celebration on our website at [captaincares.org/care-links](http://captaincares.org/care-links)*

# “CAPTAIN was the warm hug I had been searching for.”

“I first toured the CAPTAIN Youth Shelter my freshman year of high school, at the suggestion of my high school counselors. We all knew I was in a bad home situation.

It took me 8 months after to get the strength to reach out and ask to come to the shelter. I will never forget my experience. It’s a beautiful memory I hold close to my heart.

CAPTAIN was the warm hug I had been searching for. I received love, guidance, resources to complete my GED (by this time I had to drop out of high school), help getting a job at a local pizza shop and later a community center and my very first apartment. I had a support system that wanted to me succeed, but also help me heal. I received counseling through CAPTAIN resources.

But, it wasn’t all about me; soon other teens came to the shelter. We were a family. We prepared meals together, ate together, went on outings together, laughed and cried together, vented to each other and healed together.

One of the best memories and traditions I still uphold today was community service!!! Even as we were going through our own struggles, even though we were only teenagers, we volunteered to feed the homeless on Thanksgiving, we helped out at headquarters with clothing and food donations and so much more. As an adult I have continued this tradition of giving with my own children.

I received so much more than just a safe place through CAPTAIN’s youth program, I received a foundation. I received genuine love from all of the counselors that I am able to pass down to my own children. I am now 37 years old, I live in Atlanta , Georgia with an amazing husband and two beautiful boys, whom I treasure more than anything. I received my Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management and Communications. I have went on to own two successful renovation companies.

I can not sing high enough praises for this amazing organization and the community that helps it continue for so many years now. To everyone at the CAPTAIN organization and the community donors that make it possible still more than 20 years later, I extend my utmost gratitude. Thank you for helping me to overcome!

Kelly”

*Learn more about the Runaway and Homeless Youth Center, and all of our over thirty programs and services by visiting our website at [captaincares.org](http://captaincares.org).*



# 2020 by the Numbers

Twenty-twenty was a year unlike any other. As an agency, in our over forty years of service, we've never experienced the staggering need that we did beginning in March. Families and individuals who had never used our services, or even been in need of these types of support, suddenly found themselves at our doorstep.

Through many unknowns, you made it possible to ensure the doors did not shutter and we did not turn away those in need. In fact, services were ramped up and, thanks to the ingenuity of our then Executive Director Sue Catroppa, staff were reorganized into teams rotating time between the office and home. The Youth Shelter remained open and we continued to serve our clients in any way that we could. Without complaint, staff and volunteers quickly transitioned into what would be the new normal for a long time to come.

With your kindness, we'll continue to hold our community whole as we walk together through these challenging times, lifting people up and building brighter futures.

Below are a few highlights from 2020, but you can read our entire 2020 Annual Report by visiting our website at [captaincares.org/annualreport](http://captaincares.org/annualreport)

<i>more than</i> <b>7,600</b> hours of service provided by volunteers	<i>more than</i> <b>2,000</b> community members and businesses supported kids, families, and seniors	<i>more than</i> <b>\$700,000</b> in monetary donations to keep our community and neighborhoods strong	<i>more than</i> <b>\$200,000</b> in goods and services donated to keep our families whole
<b>5,911</b> individuals served by the Food Pantry	<b>53,199</b> meals were provided by the Food Pantry	<b>17,237</b> free summer meals served at 20 sites	<b>97%</b> of people receiving rental assistance remained stably housed 6 months after assistance ended
<b>19,321</b> units of service provided to youth at Cheryl's Lodge	<b>868</b> hours of support provided by volunteers at Cheryl's Lodge to help students gain academic success	<b>14</b> confirmed cases of commercially sexually exploited youth	<b>100%</b> of youth confirmed as trafficking victims safely exited trafficking at the time of confirmation
<b>30</b> homeless youth safely exited the streets	<b>73</b> homeless youth housed at the Youth Shelter	<b>1,037</b> bed nights provided to youth in crisis	<b>10</b> youth receiving case management and living in our Saratoga supportive housing apartments
<b>2,899</b> hours of service for homebound seniors were completed by Care Links volunteers	<b>21,307</b> miles were driven by Care Links volunteers transporting seniors or running errands	<b>720</b> community members had a Thanksgiving meal thanks to the donation of 206 Thanksgiving baskets	<b>7,682</b> hours were donated by hundreds of committed community volunteers

## CAPTAIN Community Human Services Board of Directors & Advisory Council

**Board Officers** | Mike Holley, President | Kate Gurley, 1st VP & VP-Programs | Belinda Kucharski, VP-Philanthropy | Scott DeMarco, VP-Finance  
John Kuznia, VP-Personnel | Rob Picotte, VP-Development/Marketing | Claire Brown, Immediate Past President | Patti Ellis, Secretary

**Directors** | Dan Bazile | Kishani Choudhury | Denise Desmond | Richard Ferguson | Terry Mango | Bob O'Connell | Jim Pugliese | Ashlynn Savarese Tom Savino  
Student Board Members | Nithya Chockalingam | Riane Richard

**Advisory Council** | Phil Barrett | Dennis Brobston | Bill Casey | Belinda Kucharski | Gary Dake | C.J. DeCrescente | David DeMarco | James Doern | Tom Flynn  
Dale Gleason | Mike Holley | Bill Long | Kevin Luibrand | Anthony Mashuta | Tom Savino | Todd Shimkus | Marcy Steiner | Kevin Tollison | Virginia Touhey



The Grace Fellowship team installed a professional basketball hoop at the Youth Shelter; Capital Church completed Spring Cleanup at the Shelter; Saratoga County Sheriff's Department visited Peace Camp; DeCrescente Distributing Company helped a homeless client move into housing; Baptiste Power Yoga Capital District hosted a donation class; Virtual Route 50 Mile runners Sarah and Emmett Holt; Spectrum News Anchor Dan Bazile entertained at this year's Gala; CAPteen/former Cheryl's Lodge Homework Help student/Peace Camp attendee and Senior Counsellor CJ Iler graduated this year; the Town of Clifton Park held a successful school supply drive; Girl Scout Troop 2058 hosted a successful hygiene product drive; Starpoint Church hosted a farmers market activity at Cheryl's Lodge.

CAPTAIN Community Human Services  
 543 Saratoga Road  
 Glenville, NY 12302



NAME  
 COMPANY  
 ADDRESS 1  
 ADDRESS 2  
 CITY, STATE ZIP