

News&Notes Spring 2021

OLUNTEER

Celebrating you.

Every year, hundreds of volunteers give their time, talents, and treasures to support our community's many kids, families, and seniors in need.

Volunteers are the heart of CAPTAIN Community Human Services. From homework help to assisting guests in the food pantry, to visiting community seniors in need, volunteers play a pivotal role in lifting people up and building a brighter future.

Every year, individuals, families, groups, and businesses dedicate thousands of hours of selfless service including this past year.

In fact, because of our volunteers, CAPTAIN CHS was able to continue vital programs and services throughout the pandemic. When volunteers could not participate in-person, they volunteered virtually, organized food drives, and shared our clients stories with the community.

With over thirty programs and services, the need for volunteers is never-ending and, no matter how many hours you can give, there's an opportunity that will fit your interest and schedule.

Please give us a call at 518-399-4624 or visit our website for more information: captaincares.org/volunteer

Lifting people up, Building brighter futures,

HUNGER | HOMELESSNESS | ECONOMIC CRISIS | COMMUNITY SUPPORT | EMPOWERMENT www.captaincares.org

From the desk of Executive Director Andy Gilpin



Andy Gilpin Executive Director

To our cherished volunteers,

Let me start with a tremendous and heartfelt "Thank You" to all of our volunteers for everything that you do and have done to support CAPTAIN Community Human Services. You are the heart of this agency and part of the CCHS family. Our organization is able to positively impact the community because of your philanthropic service.

We appreciate your dedication all year long and now we celebrate you! We want the whole world to know how honored and proud we are of everything that you do.

Because of you, we were able to make it through the worst of the pandemic and be there for our clients and the community. So many of you contributed to the organization through donations, gifts, and in-kind donations. Many of you

continued volunteer service where possible, but with many new protocols and safety guidelines to follow.

Again, I don't know what else to say but, THANK YOU! I could call out all the ways that you were there for us, but I wouldn't be able to fit it onto the page. It would be a novel! You were there for us, so that we could be there for the community. I know I can speak for all of our staff and Board of Directors; we miss all of you and can't wait to return to a level of normalcy that makes the CAPTAIN CHS family so special.

In closing, I want to thank you again for all that you do to support CAPTAIN CHS and leave you with a quote that helps keep me grounded.

"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give." - Winston Churchill

All of you have made a life by what you have given over the years to CAPTAIN CHS, our community, and your neighbors in need. Together we have found and made a special place with CAPTAIN CHS and have positively impacted so many.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart and I look forward to continuing our service together.

Andy Gilpin Executive Director

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Celebrating Communities of Strength

In tough times, communities find strength in people—and people find strength in their communities. In the past year, we've seen this time and again as friends, neighbors, and businesses have found new ways to support each other.



In our community, older adults are a key source of this strength. Through **COMMUNITIES OF STR** their experiences, successes, and difficulties, they have built resilience that helps them to face new challenges. When communities tap into this, they become stronger too.

Each May, we celebrate Older Americans Month. This year's national theme is Communities of Strength, recognizing the important role older adults play in fostering the connection and engagement that build strong, resilient communities.

This year, celebrating our seniors is more important than ever. The pandemic has been disproportionately hard on our elderly community. Many seniors have suffered physically, lost friends and family members, and experienced extreme social isolation. Yet, in spite of these hardships, many seniors have stepped up - volunteering, giving, and helping to safely reconnect with those in need. They've shown us the definition of resilience.

During Older Americans Month, we work to support our seniors through the programs we offer at CAPTAIN CHS: Wellness Express, which provides medical transportation to homebound seniors, and Care Links, which links seniors in need with dedicated and trained volunteers to provide friendly visiting, transportation, errands, and other supports. Both programs work to ensure older community members can live and age with dignity.

We're excited to announce the 25th anniversary of Care Links is kicking off soon. Stay tuned to our email newsletter, social media, and website for more information!

Thank You to the many individuals, families, organizations, and businesses whose generosity provided so much support for our local community!



Top left to bottom right: Verrillo Motor Car Co. and Mohawk Valley Pontiac Club presents a generous donation for CAPTAIN CHS; Equitable Advisors Empire gives back with a hygiene product drive; Habitat for Humanity of Northern Saratoga, Warren & Washington Counties and Globalfoundries install new floors at the Youth Shelter; the Clifton Park Elk's Lodge 2466 present a generous donation to Karol's Kupboard Food Pantry; Ellie from Birthday Bundles of Love drops off birthday bags for local kids whose families use our Food Pantry; Twin Bridges Council of the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce drops off goods from their recent food and hygiene drive.



Together, we can address the crisis of homelessness in our community.

Saratoga County has a new and innovative approach to address to homelessness in light of COVID-19 that ushers in unprecedented levels of community collaboration and a multi-sector approach, and CAPTAIN Community Human Services is leading the initiative.

On March 27, 2020 Congress passed and President Trump signed H.R. 749, the CARES Act. Included in that legislation is an emergency allocation of \$4 billion to be used specifically to address the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, or at risk of homelessness, that have arisen as the result of COVID-19. For Saratoga County, this allocation amounted to \$2,491,437. Under the direction of, and in collaboration with, Saratoga County Department of Social Services (DSS) developed a comprehensive community-wide plan to implement the funding with 9 different non-profit organizations, and named CAPTAIN CHS as the lead agency tasked with coordinating those programs and services

The partner organizations include: Legal Aid of NENY, DSS, Prevention Council/Healing Springs, Salvation Army, Shelters of Saratoga, Transitional Services Association, Veterans and Community Housing Coalition, and Wellspring.

The funding will be directed toward increasing on-the-street presence of trained professionals for Street Outreach, strengthening and supporting Emergency Sheltering services, support for the Code Blue program for the most vulnerable, providing access to permanent housing for homeless individuals and families, and preventing evictions and homelessness through financial assistance. This funding allows for implementation of innovative strategies to increase access to housing and permanency in a collaborative and cooperative model that is client-focused, which ultimately benefits the entire community. Homelessness is a leading risk factor in the transmission and contracting COVID-19. Increasing and securing temporary and permanent housing decreasing the opportunity for community-spread of this debilitating disease and increasing the wellness of the most vulnerable.

Addressing, preventing, and ending homelessness is a core value and mission of CAPTAIN CHS. We have continued to deepen our commitment through the years and understand that homelessness is something that no one should experience and is a social determinate of health and well-being. But we know it takes a collaborative and coordinated approach to prevent and end homelessness. It is not the singular effort of one person or agency, and responsibility doesn't lie with one sector or organization, it is the collective effort with purpose that creates and sustains movement forward and progress.

CAPTAIN CHS has extremely proud to be chosen as the lead agency for the CARES Act funding and coordinating the efforts of all of partners and premier agencies. The collaborative approach and shared vision will make meaningful impact on homelessness for Saratoga County and help some of the most vulnerable within our communities.

Save-the-Date: Upcoming Events

Route 50 Mile Race

June 10, 2021

Join our eNewsletter list to keep up with the latest news and events at CAPTAIN CHS by visiting captaincares.org/newsletter



THURSDAY, JULY 22, 2021 6:00PM - 10:00PM PRIME AT SARATOGA NATIONAL GOLF CLUB 450 UNION AVENUE, SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY UNBRIDLEDAFFAIR.ORG

Honorary Chairs Tony and Joan Mitola

and

Co-Chairs Denise Desmond and Patricia Novo

are excited to announce the award recipients for this year's An Unbridled Affair gala!

CLAIRE & BOB BROWN | THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF RACING & HALL OF FAME | THOROUGHBRED RACE HORSE BRICKS & MORTAR

The gala is currently sold out due to gathering size restrictions, but we hope you'll join the wait list by visiting our website or calling 518-399-4264. Be sure to keep an eye out for this year's Online Auction!

Event information, auction details, and donation opportunities available at UnbridledAffair.org.

Thank you to this year's sponsors:

A DISTINGUISHED FRIEND OF CAPTAIN CHS | THE LAWRENCE H. POHL CHARITABLE TRUST | TONY & JOAN MITOLA THE SMILE LODGE PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY | STEWART'S SHOPS | TRI CITY RENTALS | JOSEPH & KANDA BURCH JAEGER & FLYNN ASSOCIATES, A MARSHALL & STERLING COMPANY | MARSHALL & STERLING UPSTATE | SGA TALENT FELTHOUSEN'S FLORIST & GREENHOUSE | GIL'S GARAGE/GIL'S GARAGE OF HALFMOON | JUDY & ED HINES | JDSM FAMILY FOUNDATION, INC. BILL & GLORIA LAWRENCE | LUIBRAND LAW FIRM, PLLC | MITOLA FAMILY DENTISTRY | NATHAN LITTAUER HOSPITAL ROEMER WALLENS GOLD & MINEAUX LLP | SARATOGA TODAY | TAVERNA NOVO | TURNER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY | UHY, LLP | UPPHONE.COM

Wish List

Hygiene items (shampoo, conditioner, soap, body wash, shaving cream, razors, mouthwash, toothpaste, dental floss, body lotion, deodorant)

- Gift cards for our empowerment program clients
- Gas cards from Stewart's Shops
- Juice boxes for Cheryl's Lodge
- Paper, plastic or reusable bags for the Food Pantry An envelope printer for bulk mailings
- Gift cards for activities for our Youth Shelter
- Portable clothing racks
- Shelf-stable food

If you can assist with any of these needs, please call Ava at 518-399-4624 or email ava@captaincares.org.

CAPteens Making a Difference



The CAPteens have been staffing Monday nights at Karyl's Kupboard Emergency Food and Hygiene Pantry, expanding the hours that families can access needed food and hygiene products.



Because of you, this year's Jersey Mike's Day of Giving was the most successful yet!

