



Celebrating Our Past: The Indispensable Role of Volunteers on Our Journey



As we look toward the future, it's crucial to honor the journey that brought us here, shaped significantly by the dedication of countless volunteers. These selfless individuals have been the backbone of our community, driving our initiatives and helping us overcome challenges.

From our earliest days, volunteers filled crucial gaps, bringing creativity, innovation, and a spirit of camaraderie. They organized events, managed fundraising campaigns, offered professional expertise, and provided hands-on assistance, laying the groundwork for our success.

Our volunteers have worn many hats, evolving with our needs. They became mentors, guided new members, and responded first in times of crisis. Their resilience and adaptability often made the difference between overcoming obstacles and succumbing to them.

The stories of our volunteers are as varied as they are inspiring. Each brought unique skills and perspectives, enriching our community and broadening our impact. Their legacy is a testament to what can be achieved when individuals unite with a shared purpose.

As we celebrate our past, we honor these contributions and look forward to a future inspired by their spirit of volunteerism. To all our volunteers, past and present, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your unwavering support has been the cornerstone of our journey, proving that together, we can achieve extraordinary things.

Lifting people up. Building brighter futures.

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



Andy Gilpin

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Friends and Supporters,

At CAPTAIN Community Human Services, we believe in the inherent abundance and strengths within our community to meet the needs of every individual. We hold a steadfast conviction that our community is rich in resources, talent, and goodwill. This abundance, when harnessed through collaboration and mutual support, has the power to address and fulfill the diverse needs of all community members.

Our belief is rooted in the understanding that every person has something valuable to contribute. By fostering a culture of inclusivity and empowerment, we can unlock the potential within each individual and create a resilient network of support. We see the strengths in our neighbors, friends, and local organizations as the foundation upon which we build our collective well-being.

We are committed to tapping into this reservoir of community strengths, recognizing that together we are stronger and more capable of overcoming challenges. Whether through volunteer efforts, shared resources, or collaborative initiatives, we trust in the collective power of our community to rise to the occasion and support one another.

At CAPTAIN CHS, we don't just see needs; we see opportunities for connection and growth. We believe that by nurturing and leveraging the strengths within our community, we can create a thriving environment where everyone has the opportunity to succeed and flourish. Our dedication to this belief drives our actions and inspires our mission to serve, support, and uplift every member of our community.

I hope you'll join me in being a part of this brighter future ahead and continue sharing your time, talents, and treasures to build a brighter future right for all.

With my thanks for your kindness,

Andy Gilpin, Executive Director

Save-the-Date: Our Annual Gala

AN
Unbridled
AFFAIR 

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2024 | 6:00PM - 10:00PM

PRIME AT SARATOGA NATIONAL GOLF CLUB
458 UNION AVENUE, SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY
GET YOUR TICKETS AT UNBRIDLEDAFFAIR.ORG

*Online
Auction*

Bid on high-quality items, unique experiences, and once-in-a-lifetime moments on this year's online auction!

Online Preview Begins July 4th | Auction Runs July 11-25, 2024

CHECK OUT THE AUCTION AND GET YOUR TICKETS AT UNBRIDLEDAFFAIR.ORG

Celebrating 15 Years of the Annual Route 50 Mile



Drag out the cliché: time flies when you are having fun! It is difficult to believe that CAPTAIN Community Human Services will be hosting the 15th edition of the “premier mile road race in the Capital Region” on June 13th.

Envisioned as a fundraiser and a linkage to the community, the first race was contested in 2010 on the “straight as an arrow” stretch of New York State Route 50 beginning just north Gil’s Garage to what was then the Stewart’s store just south of Designer Interiors of Ballston. Except for a couple of minor tweaks due to certification of the distance of the mile by United States of America Track and Field, it has remained the same.

As the race has evolved through the years, the number of runners has grown steadily and the quality of performances has improved dramatically. The current women’s record of 4:55.0 was established in 2017 by Diane Ryan, and, on the men’s side, Ross Wightman stopped the clock at 4:11.1 in 2018. In all, there are nine age-groups, meaning that we have sixteen additional records for people to shoot at.

The event has not been without challenges, as one year saw the cancellation of the Flag Day Parade due to a torrential downpour. No parade, no closure of the road equals no race. The COVID-19 Pandemic saw the race morphing, as was the case with so many activities, into a virtual affair.

For the second time, the R50M will be part of the USATF-Adirondack Grand Prix of road races, ensuring a registrant pool that will spike upwards over 250.

With a strong historical base and an optimistic outlook for a vibrant future, we hope that the race will provide an opportunity for families and individuals to have a fast and fun race. And, don’t forget the bowl of ice cream and a fantastic parade afterwards as we move into the next fifteen years!

To learn more about the Route 50 Mile, its history and this year’s results, visit captaincares.org/route50.

Thanks to Pete Sheridan, Race Director, for providing this story!



Celebrating Our Volunteers: Kathy Chapman



We're so excited to share that Kathy Chapman of Rexford, one of our fine volunteers, was recently highlighted as one of 20 Outstanding Women presented by Hannaford Supermarkets and B95.5! The campaign aimed to find local women who go above and beyond to make their communities a better place to live. Those unsung heroes in our neighborhoods – the ones who are already busy, yet find the time to give back in big ways to help others.

Kathy has been an invaluable member of the CAPTAIN Community Human Services Family Development Mentoring Program since 2016, going beyond the typical mentor role. With warmth and authenticity, she empowers individuals experiencing poverty, providing guidance and support to help them move from surviving to thriving. Kathy's generosity extends to daily personalized "good morning" texts and inspirational quotes for all program participants. In crises, she dedicates herself to helping mentees facing abuse, mental health issues, addiction, and financial crises, offering love, wisdom, and strength. Many have achieved lasting change, such as starting businesses, leaving abusive relationships, and gaining stable housing or employment. Kathy co-facilitates Getting Ahead classes, contributing to the program's impact, and serves on the Family Development Steering Committee, shaping policies and programs. Despite volunteering 60-80 hours monthly, Kathy maintains a contagious sense of humor. Her dedication and positive influence have transformed numerous lives, making her an indispensable asset to CAPTAIN CHS.

Celebrating Our Volunteers: Care Links Volunteer Awards

MaryAlice O'Brien, the inaugural recipient of the Care Links Volunteer of the Year Award, has volunteered for over 20 years, providing transportation, home visits, shopping, and reassurance calls. Upon retirement, she expanded her role, supporting the office, joining the Special Event Team, and becoming an "Adopted Grandparent" at Mother Teresa Academy. Her positive attitude, dedication, and generosity make her invaluable.

Upon receiving the award, MaryAlice expressed gratitude, emphasizing the rewarding nature of volunteering and the program's clear vision and leadership. She feels honored to represent a dedicated group of volunteers who significantly impact seniors' lives.

Marilou Pries, the 2024 recipient of the Golden Inspiration Award, has a background in pediatric oncology and hematology and later founded a hospice and in-home care business. After an accident in 2021, she became involved with Care Links, contributing to gatherings, media, and volunteer training. She was the first "Adopted Grandparent" with Mother Teresa Academy and writes for the Care Connection Newsletter.

Marilou's welcoming nature, resilience, and dedication to others have made her the first Care Links Ambassador. Her compassion and commitment to well-being inspire all who know her, making her a deserving recipient of the Golden Inspiration Award.

The included photograph is of MaryAlice and Marilou being honored by Town of Clifton Park Supervisor Phil Barrett for their dedication to our local community's seniors.



The Heart of Our Community: Volunteers

CAPTAIN CHS is a beacon of hope and support for many in the community. From aiding those experiencing homelessness to empowering youth, our reach is broad and impactful. However, none of this would be possible without the tireless dedication and compassion of our volunteers. These selfless individuals are the backbone of the organization, driving our mission forward and making a profound difference in countless lives.

A Diverse Array of Services

Volunteers at CAPTAIN CHS engage in a variety of activities to ensure our programs run smoothly and effectively. Here are some key areas where they make a significant impact:

Cheryl's Lodge Homework Help: Volunteers provide academic support and mentorship to children and teenagers, helping with homework and engaging in educational activities.

Food Pantry Support: At Karyl's Kupboard, volunteers manage daily operations, stock shelves, prepare food bags, and assist clients, ensuring families have access to nutritious food.

CAPTAIN's Treasures Clerks: Volunteers organize donations, stock shelves, and run the register, helping to provide essential clothing and shoes to individuals and families.

Senior Services: Volunteers drive seniors to medical appointments and other essential locations, helping them maintain their independence.

Transportation Services: Volunteers assist with home delivery of food pantry orders, summer meals, and youth transportation at Cheryl's Lodge, ensuring program accessibility.

Fundraising: Volunteers plan and execute fundraising events and community activities, engaging with local businesses and organizations to secure resources.



The Impact of Volunteering

Volunteering at CAPTAIN CHS creates a compassionate and resilient community. Volunteers not only provide essential services but also bring hope and human connection. They find fulfillment and purpose, build relationships, and develop new skills. For many, volunteering becomes a transformative experience that deepens their connection to the community.



Join the Cause

CAPTAIN CHS welcomes new volunteers eager to contribute their time and talents. Whether you have a few hours a week or can commit to a regular schedule, your efforts provide vital support to those in need.

For more information on how to volunteer, visit our website at captaincares.org/volunteer or **contact Volunteer Manager Bill Lubin at 518-399-4624 or bill@captaincares.org**.

Together, we can build a stronger, more caring community, one act of kindness at a time.

Volunteers at CAPTAIN CHS truly embody the spirit of giving, and their dedication is a testament to the power of community support. Their invaluable contributions not only aid those in immediate need but also foster a culture of compassion and solidarity that benefits everyone.

Thank You to our Incredible Community!



We're excited to announce a significant enhancement to our services at the Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter! Thanks to the tremendous generosity of Jeff and Kara Harden from Mohawk Honda, and the steadfast support of our community throughout the past year, we have been able to acquire a brand new 2024 Honda Odyssey minivan.

This new vehicle, which had just twelve miles on it when our Executive Director, Andy Gilpin, picked it up, will be an invaluable asset in our daily operations. The minivan will enable us to provide safe and reliable transportation for the youth in our care, helping them get to and from school, attend crucial appointments, participate in enriching activities, and travel to other important events.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Jennifer Burke, the dedicated salesperson at Mohawk Honda, for her exceptional assistance in making this purchase possible. Your support has been invaluable.

The addition of this new van marks a significant milestone for our shelter, ensuring we can continue to support and uplift the youth in our community with the resources they need to thrive. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this cause. Your generosity is making a tangible difference in the lives of many young people.

Transforming Lives: Supportive Housing

Witness the transformation of hope into reality! Check out some photos of the first apartment for a young adult in our Supportive Housing for Homeless Youth program, lovingly furnished through the boundless kindness and generosity of the Saratoga Wilton Elks Lodge. With their support, we've created a cozy sanctuary where dreams can flourish and new beginnings take flight. Together, we're making a lasting impact on the lives of our youth, empowering them to thrive and succeed.

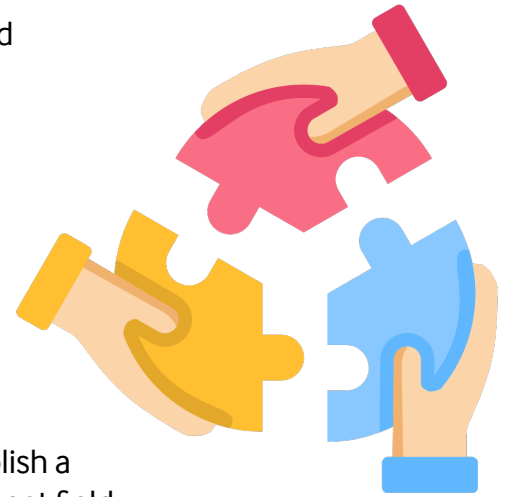
The Supportive Housing Program is for young adults ages 18-25 who are leaving foster care without a permanent place to live, struggling with chronic homelessness, or confirmed victims of human trafficking with no permanent housing options available. The program maintains ten 1-bedroom apartments in Saratoga Springs, supported by case management. For more information, please visit captaincares.org/SHHY.



Want to make a difference too? Call Ava at 518-399-4624 or visit our wish list at captaincares.org/wishlist

Unleashing the Power of Collaboration

CAPTAIN CHS is excited to announce the launch of a new service designed to create a collaborative innovation accelerator for Saratoga County. This platform will unite community experts and key stakeholders to tackle persistent social issues affecting our community members. By fostering collaboration, we aim to develop shared solutions, form action-focused coalitions, and initiate impactful programs for lasting, systemic change. This unique approach will promote meaningful cooperation among funders, changemakers, and valued stakeholders, helping us build a brighter future for Saratoga County.



As part of this effort, we're introducing a new program to provide direct support to organizations in the social impact sector. This initiative will establish a mentoring program connecting current and future leaders in the social impact field with local experts who can offer guidance and mentorship. By applying practical solutions to pressing community issues, this program will help participants achieve better outcomes. The mentoring and consulting will be delivered through structured, purposeful, and professional relationships with subject matter experts and volunteers. The collaborative mentoring process will empower our partners in the impact sector to lead with confidence and effect positive change in the communities we serve together.

Our mentoring program transcends the traditional goal of preparing individuals for leadership roles. It aims to support and develop leadership skills through the sharing of practical work applications, maximizing efficiencies, and providing a platform for creative solutions to social challenges.

Our new service will be implemented through a three-staged approach:

1. **Create a Mentoring Program** for social impact sector leaders and key staff and match them with expert consultants to meet their goals and skill development to become transformative leaders within the impact sector. Connecting the best and brightest to advance the collective missions of excellent agencies.
2. **Create a Collaborative Innovation Accelerator** that brings together experts and key stakeholders to address difficult and persistent social issues impacting Saratoga County to develop shared solutions, coalitions, and impactful initiatives for systemic change.
3. **Create a Grant Development Collaborative** for social impact sector partners to collaborate with a team of grant writing experts and receive proactive guidance for impactful grant application development.

For more information, contact us at 518-399-4624 or email Chief Innovation Officer Kathy McNiece at kathy@captaincares.org.



CAPTAIN'S TREASURES Thrift Shop

At the area's best next-to-new shop, you'll find everything you need from gently-used, quality clothing and home goods at great savings for families - all while supporting local kids, families, and seniors through our over 30 programs!

Located at the Shops of Halfmoon, 1705 Route 9, Clifton Park, NY 12065
Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm | Sat 10am-3pm | Sun 12pm-3pm



Clothing



Home Goods



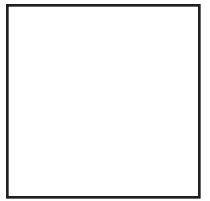
Jewelry & Purses



And so much more!



...all at amazing prices!



Because of you, this year's Jersey Mike's Day of Giving raised a record-breaking \$138,947!



THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CAME OUT TO MAKE THIS YEAR'S JERSEY MIKE'S DAY OF GIVING THE BEST YEAR YET! AND THANKS TO THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF AT JERSEY MIKE'S FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

