



# Across Niagara

Official Newsletter of Niagara Cerebral Palsy

Winter 2014/2015

## NCP Helps Ensure Merry and Bright Holidays; New Event Date Announced

When the now infamous Snowvember closed roads around WNY and snowed in our friends and family, we decided to postpone our Merry and Bright event at the Niagara Falls Culinary Institute on November 20th.

Despite the cancellation, individuals and businesses generously donated almost \$900 towards our cause. This enabled NCP's Service Coordination staff to play Santa, purchase items for 15 families who would otherwise not have had gifts or special dinners for the holiday. On behalf of the families, our staff would like to thank the everyone who helped make this possible.

According to staff members, the families were thrilled with all of the presents they received! One family, with six children and two adults, were "so thrilled to know that people do care and would like to thank everyone from the bottom of their hearts." Rather than go without, this year, each child received a small toy, and food was purchasing to make the families' Christmas dinners special. Each child also received socks, and either shoes or sneakers, as many had outgrown the ones they were wearing.



Service Coordination staff purchased gifts for deserving families with donations the community.

Gifts for the families included certificates to TOPS Friendly Markets, Wegmans, Wal-Mart, and Target, clothing, and toys for the children, all providing extra joy during the holiday season.



A staff member plays with Opus, one of the Humboldt penguins at the Aquarium of Niagara

We're excited to announced the Merry and Bright event, now February Fundraiser, is rescheduled for February 25th at the Aquarium of Niagara, from 5:30-8:30 PM.

This event from Aspire of WNY and NCP features a night of after hours fun at the Aquarium, including local wines and cider, hors d'oeuvres and desserts from Everyday Gourmet, and shows featuring some of the aquarium's stars! Entry to the event is a donation of \$20. Proceeds from the event help the individuals and families served by both agencies.

Attendees will have access to the gift shop, and get to preview some of the new features the aquarium is implementing as part of its renovation project, including the Humboldt Penguin exhibit.

For more information about the event or to RSVP, contact Katie Cassens at (716) 297-0798 x173 or [kcassens@niagaracp.org](mailto:kcassens@niagaracp.org).

Sponsors include VSCO, Inc., Dobmeier Janitorial Supply, Buffalo Wheelchair, Dopkins & Company, Everyday Gourmet, Becker Farms, Johnson Estate Winery, Kolt Access & Lift, Main Mobility, and the Aquarium of Niagara .



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***NCP ~ leveling the road so we can all reach higher ground together...***

## NCP Honored at CP of NYS Conference

NCP was well represented at the Annual CP of NYS Conference in Albany, October 19th-21st.

Mapleton Ave. resident Julie Bissell was recognized as CP of NYS Artist of the Year, and received a plaque and framed copy of the 2014 commemorative poster (at right, with Bob DiFrancesco, Natalie Rogers, Tara Patronski, and Lisa Brown).

During Tuesday night's Employee Dinner, NCP's presentation was well-received by the audience, and staff were flowered with petals on their way to the stage to accepted their awards. The group was narrowly beat out for the Constantino Cup, the prize for agency presentation, sportsmanship, and creativity throughout the dinner.

Bottom Left: Tuesday night's award recipients Jennifer Lane (left), Nancy Mangus, and Keisha Carter, with Bob DiFrancesco (left) and Tom Caserta.

Bottom Right: Artist of the Year Julie Bissell (center) shows off her award with Eric DesSoye and Tara Patronski (front), Tom Caserta, Lisa Dutcher, Marilyn Morreale, Diane Baehre, and Bob DiFrancesco.



## Statewide Advocacy Campaign Information Session

CP of NYS would like to invite people with disabilities, family members, advocates and representatives of non-profit organizations providing supports and services for people with disabilities, to join them for the Mid-Hudson Valley Regional Training and information sharing session on its statewide advocacy campaign.

The goal of the campaign is to convince the Governor and the Legislature to end the decay in supports and services for people with developmental disabilities.

At the session, there will be a discussion on how to effectively organize families and prepare them to be accomplished advocates.

The meeting will provide information on key points that this collaborative, statewide campaign will stress in meetings with political leaders and members of the media in the next several months.

The goal is to convince political leaders in Albany and opinion makers around the state that New York must renew its commitment to fair and sensible investments in essential supports and services for New Yorkers with developmental disabilities. Your input and participation are important in this critical campaign.

**Thursday March 5, 2015, 1:30 to 4:30 pm**  
**Franziska Racker Centers, Ithaca, NY 14850**

Interested parties should respond to this invitation by registering at the following link: <http://www.cpoynys.org/March5AdvocacyInfoSession.aspx>

If you have questions or would like more information, please call Al Shibley or Barbara Crosier at (518) 436-0178.

## Camp Happiness

Camp Happiness will take place June 15th-19th at the YMCA Lockport's Camp Kenan.

Individuals ages 10 to 91 with developmental disabilities will get the chance to experience activities such as hiking, archery, basketball, soccer, fishing, volleyball, music, rock climbing, horticulture, swimming, boating, campfires, and arts and crafts.

According to its website, "The recreational activities available as part of this week-long experience offer people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities numerous health and social benefits, as well as a needed respite for their caregivers. For most attendees, this will be their first experience at camp."

For more information, contact Kim Kiely at [kkiely@niagaracp.org](mailto:kkiely@niagaracp.org) or (716) 285-5761, or visit [www.camphappiness.org](http://www.camphappiness.org).



## Making a Difference

In honor of World CP Day on October 1st, Lewiston-Porter Middle-Schooler Charles Dieteman collected, and donated, more than \$650 to NCP's Educational Division! Dieteman's Intermediate Education Center (IEC) classmates and the Builders Club joined forces and sold green CP awareness ribbon stickers. Dieteman, who was born with cerebral palsy, received physical therapy from the agency as a child and wanted the money to go here specifically. The Educational Division used this donation to purchase new I-Pads.

The groups' hard work and generous donation was highlighted in the "School News" section of the Niagara Gazette and Charles was featured in the Lockport Star and the Buffalo News!

In addition, Dieteman's mother, Tara McLellan, said that she is planning a walk at Charles' school for the end of March for CP awareness month with proceeds benefitting NCP again! Thank you to Charles and Lewiston-Porter's IEC and Builders Club for their ongoing support and generosity!



The Lew-port Multi-Age and Builders Club. Front row from left: Spencer Reisman, Nicole Peunic, Charles Dieteman, James Presutti, and Maggie Waechter. Back row from left: Rhonda O'Shea, Katie Danahy, Joy Khatib, and Tina Oddy.



Executive Director Jeff Paterson receives a donation check from Charles Dieteman, with Lew-Port teachers Joy Khatib, Tina Oddy, and Principal Dean Ramirez.

## Moose Lodge Chili Cook-off

On Sunday, November 9th, the Grand Island Women of the Moose hosted its Chili Cook-off. Many different recipes were entered and enjoyed. The event raised \$1,750 for NCP.

Thank you to everyone who entered a recipe, attended the event, and especially to the Moose Lodge #180, who continue to be great supporters of NCP. We look forward to next year!

Below: NCP Executive Director Jeff Paterson, center, with Steve Jones, Laura Broady, Carol Jones, Kath Lommer, Amy Garten, and Sharon and Dave Szczerbiak.



## NCP, Affiliates Receive BIP Funding

The New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) announced grant awardees of Balancing Incentive Program (BIP) Transformation Funds. These address barriers intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals encounter in the changing system of care. This includes access to non-institutional long-term services and supports such as housing, employment, self-directed care, and also, the efficiency of individual service provider's infrastructure.

A total of 133 grants adding up to \$65 million were awarded to 103 organizations.

Cerebral Palsy Association of NYS, which includes NCP and its 24 affiliates, were awarded \$730,000 to develop and improve care coordination systems to ensure data management, billing, IT, best practices, and other administrative functions, are in place to meet the needs of both those receiving services, and the requirements of a managed care environment.

NCP, along with Aspire of WNY, Suburban Adult Services, Inc., and Community Services for the Developmentally Disabled, received a grant for \$350,000 for trainings to earn certifications through the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). Staff will gain the skills to effectively identify and track Personal Outcome Measures (POMs), goals developed with and around an individual's achieving the highest quality of life possible in different life areas. It also ensures an individual an active role in his or her care.

## Vocational News

The Vocational Division received a \$25,000 donation from the Gary Hall Foundation of Greater Buffalo Funds to renovate its Day Habilitation location. Improvements included new carpeting, new office chairs, chairs and tables for the program room, two couches, eight lounge chairs, and a 60" flat screen TV!

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On November 17, 2014, ten individuals from CVRC also began an "on campus" computer/ job prep class at Niagara University. Students learned about different computer parts, computer skills such as typing and Microsoft Office, and, most importantly, internet safety and online etiquette. The Career Awareness portion of the class includes job interest surveys, application and resume building, interviewing skills, and expectations in the workplace. After completing this class, the goal for these individuals is to enter Supported Employment.

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The vocational division kept busy throughout the month of December, participating in community outings and activities including the Niagara Falls Power Project's Annual Tree Decorating, attending Palace Theatre's Christmas classic, "Scrooge" and "Holiday Pops" at Kleinhan's Music Hall, making ornaments and other Christmas crafts, choir practice for the Christmas party, baking Christmas cookies, going to "Breakfast with the Barrys", and a New Year's Eve Party.

On December 12, CVRC's Annual Christmas Party was held at Antonio's Restaurant. 110 people came for breakfast and 130 for lunch. Everyone enjoyed the food, music from the CVRC Choir and DJ, Santa, karaoke, dancing, gifts, and the company! Thank you to Board Members Larry Morehouse and Dan Vitich who joined us for the lunch and to Executive Director Jeff Paterson who stopped by to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.



Above: Rebecca Napoleon (left) and Joyce Sabater (center) with Romany (second from left) and Santa's helpers

We would like to give a special thanks to the Salvation Army, who gave 22 of our individuals food baskets. Angela Gantt, CVRC case manager, coordinated this event.



Above: Jackie McGrath, Dan Becken, and Derrick Haynes decorate CVRC's tree at the New York Power Authority's annual Festival of Trees at the Niagara Falls Power Vista.

Below: Bonnie Santoro, James Lowery, and Darryl Cauley at CVRC's Christmas party



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A big thank you to our friends from the POLO Store at the Fashion Outlet Mall and POLO Store Manager, Romany Liove, for providing the CVRC individuals with some extra holiday cheer. Romany, and some of her helpers, brought in cupcakes and candy baskets for everyone.

Romany and POLO also adopted two of CVRC's families for Christmas, and provided the children with coats, boots, scarves, hats, mittens, pajamas, toys, arts and craft items, and hygiene supplies. We are very grateful for the continued support from both POLO and Romany!

## Clinical News

The NCP/Aspire Dental Clinic received a \$2,500 grant from the Foundation for Dental Health Education for a dental education program for the pre-school program, which began February 18th, as part of Dental Health month. The initiative includes trainings, lessons, informational materials for students and parents, and dental evaluations. The program will run again in September, with the hope of kicking off the new school year teaching students the importance of healthy teeth.

The program is headed by the clinic's dental hygienist, Linda Lewis, at left demonstrating the proper brushing technique with Ollie Mutt, and Nurse Brenda Florio.



## Residential News

Residents and staff alike got in the festive spirit this holiday season, taking part in different holiday activities. At Mapleton, residents made decorations to hang up around the house, decorated stockings, and made Christmas cards for their families. ICF Manager Karen Korn also worked with the Crusaders, the agency's advocacy group, to make cards for soldiers.

Again this year, the larger residences held Christmas Open Houses. We had a terrific turn out of family and friends in attendance, brightening the Christmas season for many of the residents! It was a great opportunity to have an informal chat with family members and advocates. Gifts were exchanged and we even had an occasional visit from Santa Claus!

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Even though it still feels like Winter outside, residents are getting ready for Spring via the Friendship Luncheon and Dance on March 15th from 12-3 PM at the Lewiston Fire Hall #2. This semi formal event will include food, music, dancing contests, and more! Last year's event was a great success with a photo area, the crowning of a King, Queen, Prince and Princess, dancing and a chance to catch up with friends.

Right: Mathew Coulter gets a formal photo taken at last year's Spring Fling.



## Educational News

Santa O'Laughlin Claus visited the children on December 18th. Each child received a new book to take home. Trinity and her family pose with Santa at right.

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The Division was also awarded a \$26,770 grant from the East Hill Foundation, \$2,000 grant from the Guillemont Memorial Fund, and given a generous donation from Univera Healthcare for \$3,200 toward its playground resurfacing project helping us reach our goal! Staff also raised more than \$750 for the project by volunteering at races through Eclipse Multi-sport!

On behalf of NCP, the children and staff in the Educational Division, thank you to everyone who made this possible! The project is slated to begin in the Spring.

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St. Peter's student Rosie takes Legend on a sled ride, part of the preschool's Snowy Day activities.

On January 27th, eight middle school students from St. Peter's School assisted in our Snowy Day activities. There was a mitten match game, snowman bowling, indoor sledding, snow play in the sensory table, and ice fishing.

For more than 10 years, middle school students from St. Peter's School have come to the ETC, and worked with the children on different activities, as part of a big community service field trip done during Catholic School's week. Students participate in various community service activities throughout the year, gaining a varied experience by the time they graduate from St. Peter's at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Both St. Peter's and ETC's students have a great time during these visits.

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On February 17th, the clinic's dental hygienist, Linda Lewis, began going to different classrooms teaching students about dental care. She provided students with goodie bags and demonstrated how to brush their teeth using a large tooth brush and Ollie Mutt, shown on page 4. Many of the students took their turn brushing Ollie's teeth, and listened as she read stories.

In addition, teachers participated in a training on CHOMPERS! Bringing Dental Care to Kids, through the Community Child Care Clearinghouse of Niagara. The training introduced dental education curricula for young children. In addition, teachers received classroom materials, including books such as *The Tooth Book* by Dr. Suess, timers to ensure proper time is spent brushing, craft ideas, adaptable songs, giant teeth, and toothbrushes.

## Upcoming Events

### February

25 February Fundraiser: NCP/Aspire Event, Aquarium of Niagara, \$20 5:30-8:30 PM

### March

15 Friendship Dance, Lewiston Fire Hall #2 12-3 PM

20-21 Snowflake Basket Auction, Elks Lodge #346 4-8 PM 12-5 PM

### SAVE THE DATES!

**May 28-29** DD Day 2015

**June 12** On the Tee for NCP Golf Tournament

**TBA** Fashion Show

**TBA** Gala

**TBA** NCP-Sertoma Chicken BBQ

\*Events are subject to change. Check our website or Facebook page updated events and information.

## Volunteers wanted!

***We've got a lot of great things going on and need help to keep up with it all!***

Have you heard? We're kicking off new agency-wide fundraising opportunities!

If you want to help us in 2015, please let us know and we'll provide more information and sign you up!

Keep your eye on our website and Facebook page for more information or contact Katie Cassens at 297-0798 ext. 173 or [kcassens@niagaracp.org](mailto:kcassens@niagaracp.org)

**NCP t-shirts are now available! Sizes are adult male and pricing is as follows: S-XL is \$7, XXL is \$9, XXXL is \$10.**

Shirts are dark blue with the logo on the front in white, and the programs listed on the back with the phrase: "Niagara Cerebral Palsy - Leveling the road so we can all reach higher ground together..." Check out our Facebook page for pictures, and send a message if you're interested!

***Want to get our directly in your inbox?  
Send us a message on Facebook or email  
kcassens@niagaracp.org and join our e-news list!***

**February Fundraiser**, February 25, Aquarium of Niagara, \$20 donation

This event from NCP and Aspire of WNY features a night of fun at the Aquarium of Niagara, including local wine and cider, hors d'oeuvres, and desserts, and shows featuring some of the aquarium's stars. Entry to the event is a \$20 donation. Proceeds from the event will help the individuals and families served by both agencies.

**Snowflake Basket Auction**, March 20-21, Niagara Falls Elk Lodge, Free Admission

Our 6th annual event is held in cooperation with the Niagara Falls Elks Lodge. Last year attendees tried their luck at winning more than 175 baskets, 50 gift certificates, a lottery tree, and our big ticket items from restaurants, sports teams, local businesses, and more!

This year's event features themed baskets, a silent auction, a big ticket raffle for the hottest new item, a Playstation 4, and more! Food and refreshments are available for purchase. Winners need not be present to win the raffles. Auction winners must be present.

Presale tickets for the Playstation 4 raffle are \$5/ticket and can be purchased by contacting Cheryl Seelbinder at (716) 297-07980 x160 or [cseelbinder@niagaracp.org](mailto:cseelbinder@niagaracp.org).

**Matthew J. Murphy, Jr. Memorial On the Tee Fore NCP Golf Tournament**, June 12, Seneca Hickory Stick Golf Course

Hickory Stick Golf Course in Lewiston will once again host our annual charity event. The day features longest-drive, closest-to-the-pin, hole-in-one, and double or nothing contests, along with basket and live auctions, and 50/50s. After a shot-gun start, foursomes will take to the 18-hole course. A cocktail hour, dinner, and the live auction and basket auction results will follow. Non-golfers are welcomed to attend the dinner and basket auction portion of the event. Even if you've golfed the event before, this year's event promises something new. Stay tuned as details are subject to change! We'll see you on the green!

***If you would like to donate to, or sponsor, one of our 2015 events, contact Sue Drabczyk at 716) 297-07980 x 120 or [sdrabczyk@niagaracp.org](mailto:sdrabczyk@niagaracp.org)***

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## For more than 60 years, we've been a service provider of the highest quality

By supporting Niagara Cerebral Palsy programs and services, you promote independence, individuality, and community inclusion for people of all ages with developmental and intellectual disabilities, including cerebral palsy, neurological impairment, seizure disorder, and autism.

Thank You for Your Support!

***We're proud of the work we did, and all of the great things we were able to accomplish, in 2014. And we couldn't have done it without you! We're fortunate to have the support of our families, friends, and community. More than \$1,000 was generously donated to our organization at the end of 2014 and early 2015 alone!***

***We provided more than 30 different services to thousands of individuals and their families, and plan to do even more in 2015! Please take a moment to read about Dan, an individual who's been involved with NCP for more than 25 years. He's just one of many individuals and families we've been lucky to work with, and help, during our 60 year journey.***



*"I've been with NCP since I was 5. I went to the school, where I learned to read, write, and do math. I lived in an NCP house with six other people, where I learned to cook.*

*I've had job training at the workshop. I now work five days a week. I like what I do, because I'm able to buy more things for myself, or go to the movies or order out. Right now I'm working toward an even better job.*

*My biggest accomplishment was moving to a less restrictive setting and being more independent. I have the chance to do more things on my own, like laundry and shopping.*

*In 2015, I want to get myself ready for my next big step. I'm old enough to be on my own, and my goal is to get an apartment and live with a roommate to help pay expenses."*

*"My goal is to be independent"  
-Dan*

NCP has been helping Dan to accomplish his goal since he was 5 years old. From preschool to service coordination to job training to housing, NCP has given Dan the tools to succeed.

Your gift to NCP changes lives.  
Will you help us to help Dan and the hundreds of other individuals and families who look to us for help?

Help Ensure More Bright Futures

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Yes! I want to help individuals with disabilities reach his or her highest potential, by making a donation in the amount of:

\$500  \$250  \$100  \$50  \$25  \$15  \$10  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to remain anonymous. Please do not publish my name as a donor.

*\*Please make checks payable to Niagara Cerebral Palsy. All gifts are tax-deductible. Secure online donations can be made at [www.niagaracp.org](http://www.niagaracp.org)*

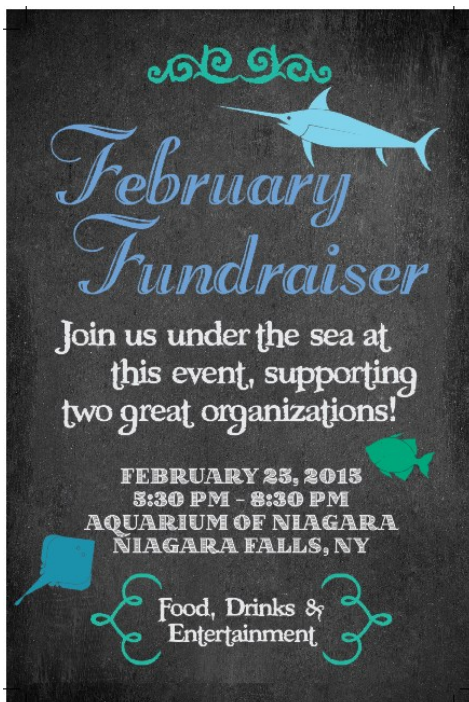
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## COMING SOON



*February Fundraiser*

Join us under the sea at this event, supporting two great organizations!

FEBRUARY 23, 2015  
 8:30 PM - 8:30 PM  
 AQUARIUM OF NIAGARA  
 NIAGARA FALLS, NY

Food, Drinks & Entertainment



**SNOWFLAKE BASKET AUCTION**  
**MARCH 20-21, 2015**

March 20th 4 PM - 8 PM • March 21st 12 PM - 5 PM

Niagara Falls Elk's Lodge #346  
 1805 Fashion Outlet Blvd.  
 Niagara Falls, NY 14304

### Contact Us

For more information about our programs, services, and upcoming events

**Niagara Cerebral Palsy**  
 9812 Lockport Road  
 Niagara Falls, NY 14304

(716) 297-0798  
 email@niagaracp.org

Visit us on the web at  
[www.niagaracp.org](http://www.niagaracp.org)

