

# NCP HIGHER GROUND

The Official NCP Employee Newsletter

Spring 2015



NCP is about to take a huge step toward being recognized as the premier service provider that we are. Soon we'll have a new brand identity.

It's important to honor our roots. They give us strength to grow. But we have to keep moving forward to make sure we're in sync with the times. Because "cerebral palsy" is in our name, people often assume that we serve only those who are affected by CP. In that sense, our name is holding us back from reaching our full potential. The time has come to make a change so we can prepare for the future.

Led by Community Development Coordinator Katie Cassens, a team of employees and board members has given input and direction to this process. A stakeholder survey, a focus group, and a series of brainstorming sessions have provided a lot of insight into what makes NCP strong and unique. With all of this information in hand, we have chosen a new agency name. We're

now working with a graphic design firm on a new logo, marketing materials and signage, and we've hired a website development firm to design a brand-new website.

In late summer or early fall, we'll have an unveiling event to launch our new identity. Along the way, we'll drop some hints here and there to keep you engaged in this exciting process. I think the results will make you very proud!

## Winter Fundraisers

On February 22nd, NCP and Aspire of WNY held the February Fundraiser at the Aquarium of Niagara. The event was a great opportunity for staff, board members, and family and friends of both agencies to get out of the cold and enjoy some wonderful sea lion and penguin shows, get a close-up look at sea animals with the touch tank, and catch a glimpse of some of the aquarium's new exhibits and renovations. Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and desserts from Everyday Gourmet and Wegmans.



On March 20th and 21st, the agency held its annual Snowflake Basket Auction at the Niagara Falls Elk's Lodge #346. More than 500 people attended the event to try to win gift certificates, theme baskets, premium items, and entertainment packages.

Kudos to everyone who worked so hard to make these events successful, and thank you to everyone who attended, sponsored, donated to, or otherwise supported them.

## In-Service Trainings



In March, the Article 28 Clinic began Emergency Preparedness training for Ebola. At left, Jeanette Archie, Dr. Robert Jenkins, DDS, and Melissa Loor pose in the required clothing and items including gown, hat, gloves, booties, apron, and mask. At right, Brenda Florio, RN teaches staff what to do in an emergency situation. Clinic staff will be trained on a monthly basis.

## Calendar of Events\*

### May

- 4 Board Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 21 Open Interviews, 2-6 PM
- 25 Memorial Day Observed
- 28 DD Day, Niagara Falls Conference Center

### June

- 8 Board Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 12 On the Tee for NCP, Seneca Hickory Stick Golf Course, 1 PM
- 13 Eclipse Multisport - Steelman Triathlon, 7:30 AM\*\*
- 19 Last Day of School ETC

### July

- 3 Independence Day Observed
- 6 First Day of Summer Session ETC
- 18 Eclipse Multi-sport Nickel City Triathlon\*\*
- 18-19 Thunder of Niagara Air Show
- 19-20 Mercy Flight's Lakefest\*\*
- TBA Brand Unveiling Event
- TBA Gala Event

\* All events are not listed. Please check with your supervisor for more information

\*\* Paid Volunteer Opportunity

## Welcome to the Newest Members of the NCP Family!

Jodi Bevilacqua—Day Hab Specialist

Shamir Brown, Jessica Curry, Shiquan Hooks, Camisha Howard, Shaqulia Lane, Casara Lewis, Stefanie Morse, Stephanie Swanson—Direct Support Professional

Craig Francis—Driver

Candice Hart, Amanda Lao, Jillian Shearer - Health Care Aide

Henry Lostracco—Maintenance

Carol Borelli, Corinna Scozzaro, Kit Trapasso—Psychologist

Frank Rice—Registered Nurse

Deborah Stempien—Supportive Employment Counselor

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### Employees of the Month

Congratulations to the Residential Employees of the Month for December through April!

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### Literacy Month

In celebration of Literacy Month and Dr. Seuss's birthday, students marched through the administration and school halls sporting *The Cat in the Hat* inspired red and white hats, and/or red bowties, or headbands with balanced apples for *Ten Apples on Top*.

Special guests also visited to participate in different activities, including Executive Director Jeff Paterson. With a little help from students, Jeff shared some of his favorite stories.



At right, Jeff reads with Austin.

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### Friendship Dance

On March 15th, the Friendship Dance was held at Lewiston Fire Hall #2. Individuals from every residence got dressed up for the occasion, and danced, listened to music, and had fun with their friends and family! Niagara ICF's Robin Stevens and her friend Ruth Benton-Misko painted a beautiful backdrop for the photo area, which like at the Halloween party, was a big hit.

Below: Lockport ICF staff member Krystle Brown (center), Elise Hetrick (left) and Kerry Warner, take a break for a photo op.



Staff members rolled up their sleeves to do some Spring cleaning.

Katie Wanecski, Tracey Byrd, Justin Harvey, Karen Korn, among others, painted rooms and did yardwork at different residences, giving them a much needed facelift in time for the warmer weather!

Great job everyone!

## NU Graduation Luncheon

On May 11th, Niagara University is holding a graduation luncheon for participants of its job readiness and technology skills training programs.

Fifteen (15) individuals from NCP's Job Placement program completed the two-semester long Career Awareness through Technology Skills Development Program (CATS). Coursework included basic computer skills, internet safety, resume writing, and interviewing.

Graduates will now enroll in the agency's Pathway to Employment Program.

This luncheon will also include individuals from Opportunities Unlimited, who participated in NU's Niagara Transition Readiness for Employment in the Community (TREC).

Staff members from all three organizations will be on hand to congratulate, and celebrate this achievement with, the students.

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### CP of NYS Art Contest

CP of NYS is now accepting submissions for its annual art contest. It will select several entries for a commemorative poster, which will be unveiled at the CP of NYS Conference in October in Saratoga Springs. The winner of the contest will have his or her artwork featured in the center of the poster. Remember, Mapleton ICF's Julie Bissell won last year! Let's go for two years in a row!

Each Affiliate can submit one piece of original artwork, a painting, drawing or sketch, produced by someone receiving support or services from the organization. There is no minimum or maximum age. Submissions must be postmarked by June 19th.

Please see your supervisor for more information.

### Volunteers wanted!

The summer event calendars are rolling out and we've got lots of stuff planned! And we need your help to do all of it!

Now looking for volunteers for:

#### Eclipse Multi-sport races:

- **Steelman Triathlon**, June 13th, Darien Lake State Park
- **Nickel City Triathlon**, July 18th, Downtown Buffalo
- **Wilson Wet and Wild Triathlon**, August 1st, Wilson
- **Finn McCool**, August 15th, Cazenovia Park

**Niagara Falls Airshow**, July 18th-19th, parking and yard sale, for help in organizing the event, or volunteering the day of.

**Mercy Flight LAKEFEST** in Wilson, July 19th and 20th, for help during and after the event.

**Niagara County Fair**, August 4th through 10th for help setting up, working booth, or tearing down

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Do you like shooting video or editing? We're putting together a video for the CP of NYS Conference and need help making it great. Our presentation got a good reception last year, and this year we're looking to blow everyone away and steal the show!

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Do you have program news you'd like to share or story ideas for the newsletters? If so, please share!

Contact Katie Cassens at 297-0798 ext. 173 or [kcassens@niagaracp.org](mailto:kcassens@niagaracp.org) for more information on any or all of these opportunities!