

Spring 2019

## Achieving More Together

- CP Rochester
- Epilepsy-Pralid, Inc.
- Medical Motor Service
- National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Upstate New York Chapter
- Rochester Hearing and Speech Center
- Rochester Rehabilitation

## “What can I do to help?”



In 1969, that question led a group of friends to organize a day of golf to benefit the 3,400 children and adults then served on our flagship campus at Elmwood Avenue. Fifty years later, the Al Sigl Sports Committee has raised over \$2 million to help the more than 55,000 children and adults with disabilities® and special needs our Member Agencies now serve across our six campuses.

You can help us reach our goal of raising \$150,000 in celebration of this milestone!

There are many ways to join the fun and help us recognize the many wonderful volunteers, sponsors, and friends who have made this tournament possible. To learn more, please call Christine Lemcke at **585.442.4102** ext. **8944** or visit [alsigl.org/golf](http://alsigl.org/golf).

“**Sam Gaglio was the founder of the tournament. The idea came from him. I became involved because one of my good friends, Dr. Joe Guzzetta, was the first Director of the tournament. It was just a terrific thing to do. We could have a good time playing golf and raise money for Al Sigl. And we built on that. Now here we are so many years later, still going, still raising money. The idea of surpassing one million dollars when you think of the early days, the seminal days of the tournament when we were proud to raise \$600, that would be the thing that I’m most proud of.**”

—Dr. Dan Caccamise



Seated L to R—Don Ciaglia, Sam Gaglio  
 Standing L to R—Dr. Dan Caccamise, Joe Deane, Jim Moloney, Sam Lipari, Paul Borreggine  
 Founders not pictured: John Antonelli, Dr. Joe Guzzetta, John Regan

Thank you  
**cmi**AV  
 AUDIO.VISUAL.PEOPLE  
 for your support!



# Howdy Neighbors

Al Sigl would follow his noontime broadcast introduction with a comment on the weather, civic news updates and then typically a need that required attention. In our own forecast, we have been glad to witness the warming

temperatures filling each day with bright new signs of growth. Recently we celebrated with many community leaders, spirited volunteers and hopeful families our groundbreaking on the Al Sigl Schwartz Family Campus for the Golisano Autism Center and the URMIC's Golisano Pediatric Behavioral Health & Wellness Building. The energy and excitement for these innovative projects and unique partnerships was palpable as the crowd cheered the progress that Tom Golisano, along with the Golisano Foundation, made possible with their early support. With added momentum from many good friends, our fundraising efforts continue to help these beautiful modern facilities create new inclusive homes for vital, desperately needed services. There is still considerable work to accomplish and we know we will need a committed community effort to propel us... harnessing the dynamic power of the groundbreaking will help make it happen.

Speaking of dynamic community response, fifty years ago this June led by tournament founder Sam Gaglio and volunteers Dr. Dan Caccamise, John Antonelli, Paul Borreggine, Don Ciaglia, Joe Deane, Dr. Joe Guzzetta, Sam Lipari, and John Regan, friends gathered to create a fundraiser for Al Sigl. At the time, Al Sigl's dream house had recently opened on Elmwood Avenue. This dedicated group of golf enthusiasts would grow and evolve to form the Al Sigl Sports Committee. Over five decades they would host an array of sporting and entertainment events—golf, bowling and tennis anyone? that welcomed friends old and new to come together to play, laugh and share crucial efforts that collectively have raised more than two million dollars for Al Sigl and our Member Agencies. I hope you can join us as we celebrate 50 Years of the Al Sigl Sports Classic at Midvale Country Club on June 10th.

My gratitude for your support through our 50-plus years is rivaled only by the excitement I have for our upcoming shared work. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Thomas O'Connor



## Groundbreaking for Golisano Autism Center

On March 29th, Tom O'Connor, President of Al Sigl Community of Agencies, welcomed the large crowd attending the groundbreaking ceremony for the Golisano Autism Center Rochester and URMIC's Golisano Pediatric Behavioral Health & Wellness Building. Located at Al Sigl's Schwartz Family Campus, the new centers will be home to a combined 72,000 square footage of program, clinical, school and gathering space. Symbolic of the collaborations the new spaces will foster, the buildings will be connected to help raise awareness of the range of much-needed supports available for individuals and their families.

Mary Walsh Boatfield, Board Chair of the Golisano Autism Center, and President and CEO of CP Rochester spoke about the growing need for autism services in the region. Mary's vision for a new center where multiple agencies could provide comprehensive and coordinated services helped make the new project a reality. Mary was joined by Sarah Milko, Executive Director of AutismUp, and Melissa Parrish, Family Autism Navigator for the Golisano Autism Center.

Tom Golisano and the Golisano Foundation provided the lead gift of \$3 million for the Golisano Autism Center toward our goal of \$9 million. Ann Costello, Director of the Golisano Foundation, addressed those attending the groundbreaking. "We are thrilled to be able to support this much-needed effort that addresses the profound need to expand and enhance autism and pediatric mental health services in our region. The innovative and collaborative approach along with co-locating the centers will generate many synergies and have a long-lasting impact on our region." To learn more please visit [golisanoautismcenter.org](http://golisanoautismcenter.org).

## GOLISANO AUTISM CENTER



A COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY OF PROVIDERS



Ann Costello, Director of the Golisano Foundation



Melissa Parrish, Family Navigator for the Golisano Autism Center

# Meeting the Need for **Accessible, Affordable Housing**

Throughout Monroe County, there is a lack of residential properties that meet the needs of individuals with disabilities®. Currently, there are over 2,000 individuals in our region needing help finding safe and accessible housing. People can spend years on the waiting list for appropriate placement.

In 2016, Al Sigi Community of Agencies, CP Rochester, and Epilepsy-Pralid, Inc. partnered to create the Monroe Housing Collaborative (MHC) to help address these issues. Last year, over 17,000 visitors viewed resources on the MHC website. MHC provided information and assistance to 190 individuals, and helped 37 obtain new housing.

One young couple, Witold and Marianna, learned of MHC while living in Poland; they were planning to move to Rochester so Witold could

complete his PhD. Marianna uses a wheelchair and they required an accessible apartment.

MHC would like to thank Center Properties, the Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation, the Developmental Disabilities Giving Circle, the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund in partnership with Epilepsy-Pralid, and the Finger Lakes Gaming and Racetrack for their grant support in 2018. To learn more about MHC, please visit [monroehousingcollaborative.org](http://monroehousingcollaborative.org).



## Welcome Christine

This year, Al Sigi welcomed Christine Lemcke as Event Director. Christine, who is the Founder of a nonprofit that collects toys and other items for children in need in the community, joined the Foundation staff from Lake Shore Country Club. Christine's smile and energy have already made an impact and we invite you to say hello at our upcoming events.



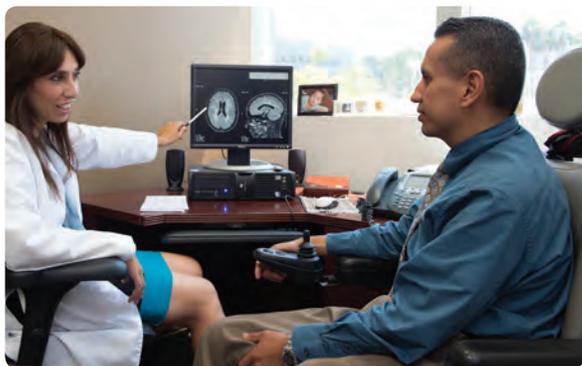
## Friends Recognized

Congratulations to our friend and board member Ann Kurz on being honored with the Christine Wagner Welch Inspiration Award at the 2019 Rochester Press-Radio Club Day of Champions Dinner. Receiving the award, Ann, shared her game plan for success: dream big, believe in yourself, go for it even when others say "no", laugh when things don't go quite as expected, never give up, and find others who will cheer you on. Congratulations as well to Patrick Staley, a member of our Facilities team, who served as Honorary Chair for the event, and to Don Alhart, who received the ESL Community Volunteer Award.

*Board Members, families, donors and staff representing founding agency partners CP Rochester, AutismUp and Al Sigi Community of Agencies commemorate the groundbreaking*



## Prevalence of MS More Than Doubles Estimate



A study funded by the National MS Society has confirmed that nearly one million people are living with multiple sclerosis in the US, more than twice the number previously estimated. Launched in 2014, the first goal of the study was to develop a scientifically sound way to estimate the prevalence of the disease, as the number of people

diagnosed with MS had not been officially collected or tracked in the US. The study brought together experts in neurology, epidemiology and statistics and utilized data from sources including Medicare, Medicaid, the Veteran's Health Administration, and private insurers.

"This study tells us many things, but one thing in particular—twice as many people need a cure," said Cyndi Zagieboylo, National CEO of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The results of the study affect all areas of the Society's work, she said. "We must raise more money to fund more research; we need to fund the programs and services that help people with MS live their best lives; and we need to make sure the voices of people living with MS are heard and their rights to have quality, affordable health care are protected."

To learn more about local programs and events, please visit [nationalmssociety.org/Chapters/NYR](http://nationalmssociety.org/Chapters/NYR).



**National  
Multiple Sclerosis  
Society**

## SELF ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



On April 2, 2019, in front of friends, family and many supportive EPI staff, Joshua, Amy, Desiree, Kirk, Yahaira, and Jeannette celebrated the completion of a leadership course presented by the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State (SANYS). The course was facilitated by trained self-advocates and focused on the history of self-advocacy, rights and responsibilities of all individuals, and the development of grassroots leaders.

The graduation ceremony began with the six self-advocates presenting their final projects. Amy, Desiree, and Jeannette presented a clever acrostic poem where they turned each letter of the word self-advocacy into a statement about how to be the best advocate for oneself and others. Kirk and Josh presented a poem about friendship alongside a photo of themselves. Yahaira shared, "I learned about standing up for myself. Thank you, EPI, for having this for us."

Each graduate was awarded a certificate of completion. EPI also received recognition for their support of the program. EPI is looking to support another group through this amazing leadership program. To learn about the next session, please contact [info@epiny.org](mailto:info@epiny.org).



## RHSC Begins Centennial Journey



RHSC is committed to helping children and adults develop the skills and abilities necessary to Communicate for Life. Their goal is to help individuals and those they love to share life's most precious moments by assisting individuals in developing the best possible hearing and speech abilities at every stage of their lives. RHSC is the longest standing, most experienced provider of speech, language, and hearing services in Monroe County. They serve pediatric, adult, and senior populations.

In their 97th year, RHSC is celebrating a program milestone and coordinating special events as they begin their #centennialjourney.

- 50th Anniversary celebration of the RHSC Child Care Speech and Language Program kicked off in April, which coincides with the Month of the Young Child.
- Ears & Beers, a hearing conversation event on May 19th brought awareness of potential hearing loss for those exposed to loud and noisy environments.
- Childhood Apraxia of Speech Workshop on June 8th, a hands-on practical, therapy-rich presentation featuring Dr. David Hammer, VP of Programs for Apraxia Kids.
- Exhibiting at the Hearing Loss Association of America Convention in Rochester, NY, June 20-23. Visit at booth #416.

To learn more, please visit [rhsc.org](http://rhsc.org) or call **585.271.0680**.





## MMS Welcomes **New Executive Director**

In January, Medical Motor Service welcomed Robert Topel as Executive Director. A Rochester native and graduate of St John Fisher College, Bob joined Medical Motor Service from UPS in Richmond, VA. At UPS, he started as a package sorter while in college and worked his way up to serving as a Vice President. Over the last two decades with UPS, he worked in New York, Atlanta, New Orleans and Chicago. Recently, Bob and his wife relocated their family back to the Greater Rochester area to help provide support for their aging parents. This experience helped deepen Bob's appreciation for the agency's mission.

"What initially attracted me to Medical Motor Service was the nonprofit's strategic placement in the community, and the wide array of critical services the organization provides," Bob says. It was the agency's commitment to helping some of our community's most vulnerable—the elderly, people with significant challenges, children taking part in the foster care program—that influenced his decision to serve as Executive Director. To learn more about the more than 1,000 trips for clients the agency provides each day, please visit [medicalmotors.org](http://medicalmotors.org).



## A **Bright** Beginning

Zackary "Zack" Mbuyee is a four-year-old boy with a sweet personality and a bright smile that lights up the room. Zack goes to CP Rochester's Augustin Children's Center, where children with and without special needs learn and grow together. His mother, Stephanie, is very pleased with the support that Zack is receiving and feels that his entire team, including the Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Speech Pathologist and Music Therapist have been great. "They all know Zackary and how to work with him," says Stephanie. "Thank you, CP Rochester, for doing everything you can to help my son succeed!"

Zack has developed a special bond with his teacher, Erin Davis. He is focusing on increasing his use of language and feeling comfortable in different settings. Zack and Miss Erin recently celebrated a milestone when Zack said Miss Erin's name for the first time! To learn more about CP Rochester or the Augustin Children's Center, please visit [cprochester.org](http://cprochester.org).



## Back Into The **Workforce**

Michelle Steele has had her ups and downs in life but she has worked hard to get to where she is today and she credits a lot of her success to her time at Rochester Rehabilitation's Ventures PROS program. Michelle learned of the Ventures PROS program when fighting addiction and depression. The team at Rochester Rehabilitation became Michelle's biggest supporters. They helped her to understand how to "let go of things that did not matter" and how to be mindful of what was happening in each moment.

Rochester Rehabilitation provided Michelle with opportunities that helped her to get back into the workforce and helped her become independent again. She began volunteering at the Rochester Museum and Science Center and was soon hired on as staff. She took classes at MCC to support her career goals. With over eight years of sobriety and a stronger sense of self, Michelle has started to explore her creative side. She is now making hats and hopes to start a small business. Michelle is confident that she will continue on this path of success toward a bright future, one that she attributes to her time with Rochester Rehabilitation and the staff that supported her through her toughest times. To learn more about the Ventures PROS program, please visit [rochesterrehab.org](http://rochesterrehab.org).





Students at Greece Athena, Odyssey, and Olympia Middle Schools, along with Twelve Corners Middle School in Brighton raised nearly \$900 as part of the 2nd Annual Just One Day School Challenge.



L-R: AI Sigl's great-great granddaughter Jessica, great-grandson Rob Opett, granddaughter Julie Opett, and great-great granddaughters Alicia and Emily

## Increasing Joy

Our namesake, newsman AI Sigl, was known for rallying the community to join together to help those in need. This year, three generations of AI's family visited the Golisano Campus at Elmwood to help us celebrate the 29th year of JustOne. After the visit, Julie Opett sent a thank you card to volunteers and staff for honoring her grandfather's legacy. The card read, "The amount of joy in the world increases one thoughtful gesture at a time."

Already 16,000 friends from across the region have donated this year, with gifts arriving in the mail each day. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has taken part, and to our generous JustOne sponsors and volunteers, for your support. Thank you for increasing the amount of joy in our community, one dollar at a time!



### Thank you to sponsors:

Rowe  
Tompkins Bank of Castile  
Valley Propane & Fuels  
The Bonadio Group  
Harter Secrest & Emery LLP  
Compu-Mail  
Tipping Point Communications

## More Fe-blue-ary Fun

The 5th Annual Just One Night Celebrity Bartending event took place at City Grill on Thursday, February 7th. Volunteers from the AI Sigl Council, Foundation, Board of Governors, and Trustees took turns behind the bar, each trying to earn their team



the most tips. Together, they raised over \$18,000, with the AI Sigl Council taking the top spot. Many thanks to City Grill and to the Spoleta family for making this event possible.

### Thank you to sponsors:

Whitney & Company  
Rochester's Cornerstone Group  
KeyBank  
Gregor Schuler  
Jolana Babacek Photography



Tom O'Connor joins Joe Morelle, Jr. for a smile at this year's Just One Night

## Perfectly Normal for Me

January's *Dialogue on Disability*: The Herman & Margaret Schwartz Community Series kicked off with a free community event at our Golisano Campus at Elmwood including audio excerpts from the EXITED podcast series created by WXXI's Inclusion Desk. The event explored the importance of college-based programs for students with intellectual disabilities®. The week also featured a well-attended screening of the documentary *Perfectly Normal For Me*. The film follows four young people changing the conversation about inclusion as they take center stage in a unique after-school dance program.

## on Dialogue Disability

THE HERMAN & MARGARET SCHWARTZ COMMUNITY SERIES



Mike Radell of Epilepsy-Praid joins a parent served by the agency for the post-screening discussion via Skype with the film's director, Catherine Tambini



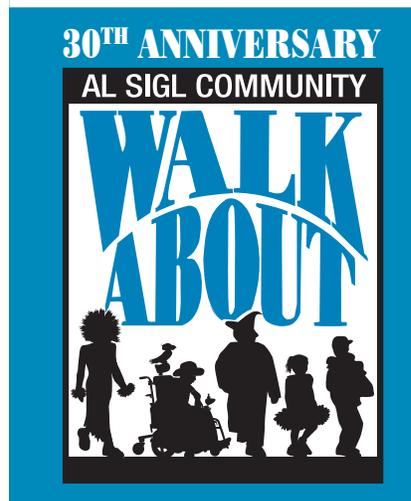
## 2nd Annual Paddle Tournament

Thank you to everyone who took part in the 2nd Annual Al Sigl Council Holiday Paddle Tournament at Tennis Club of Rochester on November 17th, raising over \$4,000.



*Fine Tastings*  
for Al Sigl Community

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th  
Locust Hill Country Club



SUNDAY, OCTOBER  
**27th**  
EASTVIEW MALL

**NEW!**  
Help us raise more funds by donating gently used shoes.





# AL SIGL Society

Remembering AI Sigl Community of Agencies with a gift from your estate will help sustain and strengthen our mission now and in the future. All planned giving donors to AI Sigl become members of the AI Sigl Society, which honors generous friends who have provided for the future of AI Sigl Community of Agencies. If you have already included AI Sigl in your estate plans, please let us know so we can include you in Society communications and events. For more information, please contact Debra Salmon at **585.442.4102 ext. 2718**.

**AI Sigl Community of Agencies** is a collaborative community network that provides high-quality, cost-effective real estate and business services, while fostering community awareness and philanthropic support to a growing array of organizations that serve children and adults with **disabilities®** and special needs.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact **Jessica** by phone at **585.442.4102 ext. 8948** or by email at **jpritchard@alsigl.org**



Give us a call to request an electronic copy of future newsletters. **585.442.4102 ext. 8948**



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## Reasons to Give

A tribute gift can be a thoughtful way to honor or remember a beloved family member, good friend or colleague. For AI Sigl volunteer and WalkAbout Committee Member, John Kraus, honor and memorial gifts have many benefits. He likes supporting AI Sigl's collaborative mission and knowing that his gift is helping to support programs that serve so many in our community.

"I appreciate the personal connection that memorial gifts have," John says, "The family receives a card acknowledging the gift and I know my individual contribution will make a difference."

If you would like to make a gift in honor or in memory to AI Sigl Community of Agencies, please include the name of honoree, and if applicable, the occasion the gift is honoring. If you wish us to notify someone of your gift, please also include the address of the specified recipient. You can also add a message. Make your gift by mail, online, or by phone at **585.442.4102 ext. 8943**.

**"I like knowing that my donation is able to support a variety of different needs. I'm confident my gift is being used the way I intend it without having to designate a specific purpose. I know that it's being used for the common good."**

—John Kraus

Visit **alsigl.org** for full list of Donors, Honor & Memorial gifts. A copy of our latest Annual Report may be obtained, upon request, by contacting us.

Phone  
**585.442.4102 ext. 8943**

Write  
**1000 Elmwood Avenue  
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