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A MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING CEO OF ACHIEVE

Happy Spring Everyone!

For those of you I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, please allow me to introduce myself as Amy Howard, Acting CEO for ACHIEVE. I am transitioning into this new role after having worked at the Agency for the past 12 ½ years, most recently as Chief Operating Officer. I am a social worker by education and training, and have spent the last 20+ years of my career working at the executive management level of non-profit organizations, primarily overseeing operations and growing programs! It is truly my pleasure to collaborate with ACHIEVE staff, program participants and families, and other community partners in this new and exciting role!



Amy G. Howard
Acting Chief Executive
Officer

This is a very busy time at ACHIEVE! We have several major initiatives and projects underway including launch of a new marketing and branding campaign for the organization; imminent ground breaking for a new multi-generational social day program at our Cutler Pond Road location; and site selection for development of our 20th IRA residence which will serve 4 individuals who are presently living with aging caregivers!

In addition, ACHIEVE's Leadership Team has made employee satisfaction and retention one of its highest priorities for 2018. ACHIEVE actively participates in the #bFair2DirectCare Campaign, which is a statewide initiative aimed at providing Direct Support Professionals (DSP's) with a living wage. We at ACHIEVE recognize that DSP's are the backbone of our agency and we will continue to advocate until all DSP's are fairly compensated for the outstanding work they do every day with and for the beloved individuals we serve.

There are so many amazing and newsworthy happenings at ACHIEVE! To stay current, I strongly encourage you to follow us on Facebook and Twitter as we will frequently share our key messages, advocacy initiatives, current events, success stories, and other notables through these social media outlets, and our website. Please feel free to share our monthly e-newsletter with your friends, family and others as well!

Again, I am blessed and thankful for the opportunity to serve at ACHIEVE in the capacity of Acting CEO. If ever I can be of assistance or support, please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly.

I hope you will enjoy the increased sunshine and peeping flowers that the month of April will surely bring.

Amy G. Howard
Acting Chief Executive Officer

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Senator Akshar Visits ACHIEVE's Cutler Pond Location

January 19



ACHIEVE was honored to host Senator Fred Akshar Friday January 19th at ACHIEVE's Cutler Pond location. Everyone at Cutler Pond had a great time showing Senator Akshar our

sensory room, Core Rooms 12 and 9 and the Production to Instruction program. Senator Akshar was able to see our sensory room in action, crafts and activities in the core rooms and participate in interview practice with our production to instruction clients.



Tioga Chicks

It is that time of year, Team Tioga is happily welcoming spring with 31 new additions. This is an exciting, but also educational experience for us all. A local farmer donated the eggs and we placed them in the incubator with the hopes of new life in 21 days. Stop by and learn about the lifecycles and stages of development – we are happy to share!



ACHIEVE Residents Attend SUNY Broome Men's Basketball Game

January 20

Submitted by: Christen Baumbach & Joshua Fredrick



On Saturday, January 20th, ACHIEVE staff and residents went to see a SUNY Broome Hornets Men's Basketball game at the Baldwin Gymnasium. Everyone who attended jubilantly supported players. They watched and cheered on the Hornets during their hard-fought, overtime loss to Davis College. After the game, the individuals got to meet and greet the Student-Athletes, who they had just witnessed leave it all on the court. Each ACHIEVE member was presented with an autographed team photo of the 2017-18 Hornets Men's Basketball team, and they also got to keep some basketballs. The players then hit the court and shot baskets with the group, who were very appreciative of the opportunity and expressed their enjoyment of the whole experience. A group picture was taken with everyone together, before mutual appreciation was expressed and all said their goodbyes. Christen Baumbach, the On-Call Resident Assistant who planned the event for ACHIEVE, said, "This was a great experience for everyone! It was awesome that the residents got to be on the court with the players after watching an incredible game. I love that a resident shared that she was on the Special Olympics team and that another accepted the challenge to try to make a half-court shot. Even though he did not make it, the support and cheering he was given by everyone in attendance put a huge smile on his face!"



Tioga Day Habilitation Visits 98.1 The HAWK

March 8

Submitted by: Sarah Dornblaser



Tioga Day Hab traveled to downtown Binghamton on Thursday March 8th to get an inside look at TownSquare Media. They were able to spend the morning with Glenn and Tracy from the HAWK morning

show. It was a great morning spent checking out the production equipment and singing Elvira!



Lobby Day In Albany

February 13



ACHIEVE Staff and Individuals with Assemblyman Cliff Crouch



ACHIEVE Staff and Individuals with Senator Fred Akshar

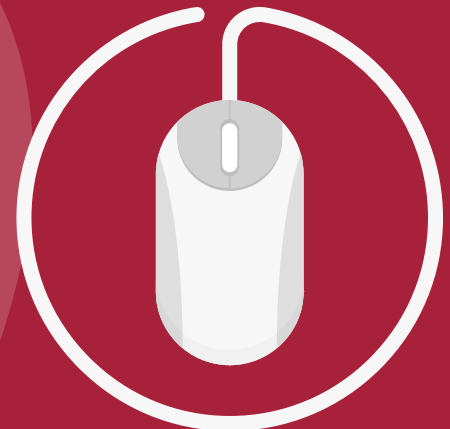


ACHIEVE Individuals at The Egg in ALBANY for #beFair2DirectCare

the Beacon

As an organization serving over 2,200 individuals with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities, staying connected with our members is very important to ACHIEVE. To save trees and to put more resources towards more programs and initiatives that will improve the lives of those we serve, our newsletter is moving towards an electronic format.

Families, Sponsors, and Community Members will now be able to enjoy the stories and information on their desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone. New issues of the BEACON will be posted on our website, Facebook page and emailed to everyone on our distribution list, so now is a good time to make sure your email address is up to date.



Recreation Respite

The Recreation Respite Program is a Family Support Service open to folks living with family members within Broome, Chenango and Tioga Counties. While the largest age group currently served is 21+, families are pleasantly surprised to discover that we also offer programs for children ages 7 and up, as well as teens!

We are the area's premier Therapeutic Recreation Program, specializing in community based inclusive experiences for individuals with specific needs. As a result of our reputation, SUNY Cortland's Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies Department formed a partnership with our Program in Fall 2016. Each semester, both Graduate and Undergraduate Therapeutic Recreation students complete service learning hours within the Recreation Respite Program.

Some exciting activities from the March calendar were focused around both St. Patrick's Day and Art themes. Some participants learned how to make an Irish Feast from scratch, constructed leprechaun traps, and attended the Parade in Downtown Binghamton, while others took to the BCC Ice Rink and painted messages of hope on the ice, which were displayed during the "Hockey 4 Hope" charity game the following night.

In April, we look forward to seeing how sugar shacks work at the Marathon Maple Festival, as well as learning about local agriculture at the Broome County Farmer's Market and at Cornell University's "AgStravaganza" in Ithaca. With spring weather in sight, we will finally get to play outside again! Participants are very excited to spend an afternoon with Binghamton's "Flying Club", which features Frisbee and Boomerang games and throwing contests.

If you would like to attend activities, contact Mel Blakeslee at 607.231.5288 to become a participant.

If you have interest in volunteering or working with us, we have great news! Our Program is ever-expanding, meaning we are looking to add exceptional staff to the Recreation Respite Team. We are on the search for a full time Recreation Team Leader for Chenango County, as well as part time Recreation Assistants in Broome, Chenango and Tioga Counties. Join us, and you'll quickly learn why we always say "Rec Days are the Best Days!"



Instrument Drive

ACHIEVE has partnered with the Binghamton Philharmonic for an instrument drive! We are collecting unwanted/used instruments that will be used to create music rooms in our Day Hab facilities.

During the Binghamton Philharmonic's presentation of Celebrating 100: Leonard Bernstein concert on Saturday, March 17th, ACHIEVE was honored to accept donations from those in attendance.

You can donate your instrument at ACHIEVE's Cutler Pond and Riverside Drive locations or at the remaining Binghamton Philharmonic concerts!



Autoharp donated by: Grant Best



Trumpets donated by: The Schwartz Family



Keyboard donated by: Sandy Henson

2018 ACHIEVE MEMBERSHIP

March is a busy month for ACHIEVE as we launch our 2018 Membership Campaign, celebrate National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and plan for a busy year of fundraising events.

National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, celebrated across the country in March, is a valuable reminder that people with disabilities are valuable, contributing members of our community who have much to offer and a desire to participate.

People with developmental disabilities have proven to be reliable workers and excellent volunteers, capable of meeting or exceeding expectations and standards. Thanks to organizations like ACHIEVE, people with disabilities are leading richer, more fulfilling lives. But there are still challenges: as many as 60 percent of individuals with disabilities—7 million nationwide—remain unemployed.

We are fortunate to have so many opportunities in our community through the programs we offer and the partnerships we have created. But there is always more we can do. We ask you to encourage local businesses to hire a person with a disability, invite people with disabilities to participate in your civic organization or community activity, or to give time or money to an organization supporting people with disabilities. Our membership campaign is an important part of our year and support helps us to continue our mission to advocate for an enhanced quality of life through skill advancement, inclusion, integration, and independence of persons with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities through services provided in Broome, Chenango and Tioga Counties.

What is ACHIEVE'S Annual Membership Campaign?

- Each year ACHIEVE runs a membership campaign in which we ask our staff, families, people we support and the community to become a member of the agency.
- It is only \$5.00, per person, to become a member!
- Membership lasts one full calendar year.

Why is ACHIEVE'S Annual Membership Campaign So Important?

- Your support and inclusion in the agency helps people with disabilities become more independent, productive and integrated in our local community. Without your help there is less opportunity for personal growth and achievement.
- Membership provides our agency the ability to advocate legislatively at the state and national levels. As we move forward, our agency continues to face enormous challenges given the current economic climate of our state and nation. It would be helpful for our advocacy with legislative and government officials to have the largest membership ever.

We hope you'll join ACHIEVE. Together, we will keep the vision alive of creating opportunities for individual successes.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Signature _____

Please make checks payable to: ACHIEVE

If paying by Credit Card, please fill in the information below:

Visa MasterCard Discover

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ / _____

CVC _____ (found on back of card)

Name _____
(name as it appears on card)

Signature _____

Please Check One:

- Lifetime Membership: Minimum \$500
- Basic Membership: Minimum \$5
- Additional Donation Enclosed: \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

**Mail completed Registration form
along with dues to:**

ACHIEVE
Attn: Membership
125 Cutler Pond Road
Binghamton, New York 13905

Thank you for your Support!

Summer Program



Nicholas McMillen

Gearing up for ACHIEVE Summer Program 2018! As one of the first programs established by the founding families, Summer Program has been a place for children with developmental disability to learn and grow for over 60 years. This unique summer program provides students with a variety of activities and experiences that help them maintain the skills they learned in a fun and challenging way. (At program we call it sneakily educational) Student applications have been mailed out, and are also available on our website.

Our goal for 2018 is to have 110 students from three counties, with a target of at least 50 of those students being OPWDD. If you know a student who would like to attend or want more information about Summer Program, please contact: Shari Caudell: scaudell@achieveny.org or by phone at 607-352-3355.

We are also seeking compassionate and creative individuals for Summer Program Counselors. This six week program is a perfect summer job for educators and students alike. Giving students pursuing a career in education or human services in particular valuable experience!



Faith & Piper Tyson with Counselor Marisa Fiorentino

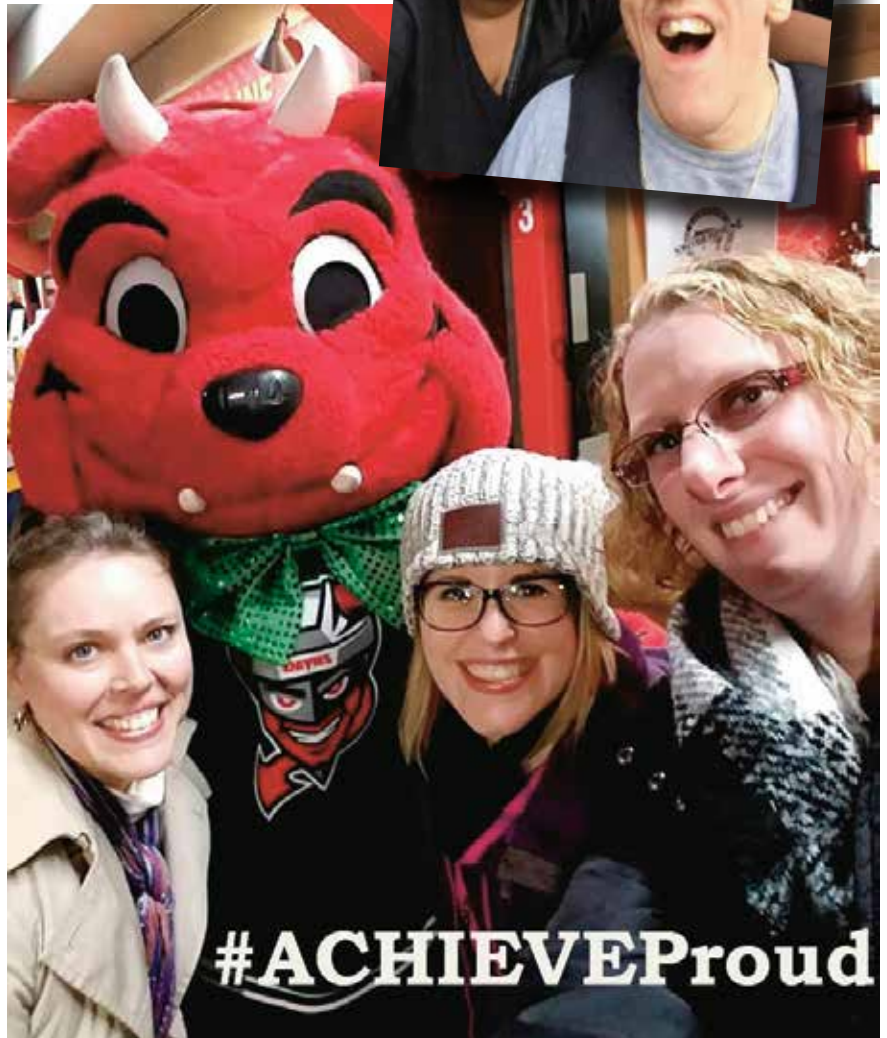
Increasing Options for Decision Making

I wanted to share information on a new pilot project from Supported Decision Making New York (SDMNY). This is a partnership between ARC of Westchester, Hunter College, NYSACRA and DRNY. The goal of the project is to give individuals with disabilities more control over making decisions in their own lives. The framework outlines who supporters are, what kind of decisions are being made and how that support is given, while the individual with a disability remains their own guardian and the final decision maker. Supported Decision Making (SDM) offers an alternative to guardianship and allows individuals with disabilities to retain their legal decision making rights. SDM works alongside person centered planning where the individual receiving services drives the process and decision making. More information can be found at www.sdmny.org

As a member of the SDMNY Advisory Council I have attended training to become a facilitator of the SDM process. In the coming year this project will expand to the upstate area and I will have the opportunity to be part of the team leading trainings for new facilitators in this process. If you are an individual that is interested in attending a training to become a facilitator or if you are in individual with a disability that would like to complete the supported decision making process please reach out to me at the contact information below.

As always, feel free to reach out if you have any questions on guardianship or supported decision making. 797-8160 x303 eyetter@achieveny.org

Eric Yetter LMSW, Guardianship Coordinator



Claudia Brown's Success Story



In 1965 you could mail a letter for 5 cents, gas was 31 cents a gallon, and a loaf of bread would set you back 21 cents. In 1965, Ford introduced the first Ford LTD, the Beatles Release the Movie and Album "Help", and the St. Louis Arch was completed. New York State minimum wage was \$1.25 an hour. In 1965, Claudia Brown started her new job at Elizabeth Church Manor, United Methodist Homes.

I believe in the importance of celebrating successes. When I think about Claudia's success, I asked if I could tell her story. Claudia Brown is an individual with a disability who has been successfully employed for 53 years. That is a success story worth sharing. Claudia agreed to be interviewed.

When did you start working at Elizabeth Church Manor?

I think it was in November of 1965.

What was your age when you first started your job?

I was 18 years old.

What was your job like when you began working in 1965?

The dish room was very small. There was not a lot of space. The

dish machine was small and we had trouble with it. There was only one dining room. We had to transfer the meals from the kitchen to the dining room on carts, it was more work. Elizabeth Church Manor was not built yet. Meals were cooked on a stove top and small oven.

Describe the job you did for the nursing home when you started.

I worked part time. I did some housekeeping in the patients' rooms for a short time. Most of the time I worked in Food Service, cleaning, washing dishes, and I cleared dishes from the dining room tables.

Can you describe the changes at work since you started working?

They built another building, Elizabeth Church Manor. It was a bigger building with a new kitchen and dish room. There was a dining room on each floor. There was more work because we had more patients. I worked at night for a while but then went back to days.

What improvements have you seen through the years?

They built a new kitchen and larger dish room. They hired more people so there was more help in the kitchen and dish room.

What new equipment did you learn to use?

The new dish machine was bigger and better. They added more carts and racks. It made our work easier.

How did earning a pay check change your life?

I was able to go shopping for groceries and clothes at Boscov's. Boscov's used to have a luncheonette. I liked to eat there but it's not there anymore.

What are the benefits of working?

I liked everything about work. I like my coworkers. I've made good friends like Sheila and Wendy. I was able to move into my own apartment. My family would come over to visit and sometimes we would go shopping together. I bought some furniture; chairs, tables, a bed, and dressers.

What is the best part of working?

The best part is having a job to go to. Making money to buy what I want. I learned a lot about food service.

What do you like best about your coworkers?

They're all nice, good people to work with.

Working for 53 years with the same employer is a great accomplishment. What advice would you give young people who are just starting their working years?

Help out new employees. Give advice on how to do the job. Go to work when you are scheduled. Don't call off work just for a day off. Ask good questions and talk with your boss.

What else do you believe is important to share about your accomplishment?

Patients count on us for their meals. I don't mind working on holidays. If you work on a holiday one year, you get that holiday off the next year. You get holiday pay, extra money.



Claudia Brown, Bobby Yacuzzo, and Chris Panella

Chris Panella, Direct of Food Services at Elizabeth Church Manor, reflected on Claudia's success; "Claudia is a hardworking, caring employee who is a familiar face to residents and family members who visit our campus. Her job duties have continuously changed over the years to accommodate the ever changing needs of our residents, but she always does it with a smile. I hope her attitude and work ethic provides a positive example for younger generations entering the workforce."

Claudia's parents were part of the 10 founding families that helped established a local ARC chapter in Broome County in 1952. Claudia's brother, Gordon Brown, spoke at the 2012 Memorial Gardens dedication at Cutler Pond. "I am really proud of what my parents and their peers did for all of us. By being able to say we're an inclusive society, that serves all of us, not just the beneficiaries of a program like Achieve. These ten families set a new tone in society. They helped establish the practice of inclusion for individuals with disabilities. These individuals have the right to live in the open air, ride the bus, go shopping, take a job, go to school, and have the life that they want and deserve to achieve."

I've had the privilege of being Claudia's job coach for the past two years. I admire her hard work, positive attitude, and persistence. I also admire Elizabeth Church Manor for being an employer who, in 1965, decided to give Claudia the opportunity to work and prove she could be successful. Claudia, congratulations! We're all proud of you!

When asked about retirement, Claudia said, "I don't have any plans on retiring. I want to work as long as I can."



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SAVE THE DATES

64th Annual Dinner Dance

Featuring the 2018 Membership Meeting and Awards Banquet
 Friday June 1, 2018
 The McKinley at Huron Campus
 29 McKinley Avenue, Endicott NY 13760

9th Annual Savor the Summer

Thursday August 23, 2018
 ACHIEVE
 125 Cutler Pond Road,
 Binghamton NY 13905



2nd Annual Binghamton Devils Charity Golf Tournament

Presented by: ACHIEVE
 October 2018



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