



From left to right - President of the AccessCNY Board of Directors Michael Wirtheim, President of the CNY Community Foundation Peter Dunn and President of the Spaulding Board of Directors Julie Frawley.

## PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE: ACCESSCNY AND SPAULDING TO FORMALLY MERGE

We are proud to announce the exciting news that AccessCNY and Spaulding Support Services will join forces. The combined agency will serve over 3,200 people with disabilities and operate under the name AccessCNY.

As one agency our programs will be broader, our staff more experienced and our resources richer.

As of January 1 Spaulding became a subsidiary of AccessCNY. In the coming months the agencies will begin to share staff, space and administrative tasks. The two agencies will fully merge in the summer of 2018.

AccessCNY and Spaulding both have strong programs and stable finances and come together proactively. The combined agency will employ over 1,700 Central New Yorkers and have a shared budget of over \$42 million. Together the agencies have provided support to individuals with disabilities for more than 145 combined years.

While we'll be a larger organization, our focus today and always will be on providing the best person-centered

services possible to individuals with disabilities. By growing as one agency we are better prepared to continue this legacy of support as the funding of services for individuals with disabilities changes.

This collaboration was made possible thanks to the hard work and dedication by both organizations' staff and Board of Directors over the last several months. We are also grateful for the Central New York Community Foundation's financial support of this process through their Strategic Partnership Fund.

We look forward to the new possibilities this partnership can offer our community. ♡

Michael Wirtheim, President  
AccessCNY Board of Directors

Julie Frawley, President  
Spaulding Board of Directors

# OUR STORIES



Heather hard at work at Immaculate Conception Church!

## EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS FOR HEATHER

The Immaculate Conception Church in Fayetteville has a new star employee, Heather Galko. Heather works with an AccessCNY employment consultant, who has helped her find and maintain employment in the community.

Since Heather is blind, she needs certain accommodations at work, and AccessCNY employment consultants like Lynn Root have experience in matching each person's abilities to the right employer.

At the church, Heather runs the listening ministry, which reaches out to parishioners who have trouble making it to services, are recovering from an illness or live on their own and aren't able to get out much. This way, they can maintain contact with the church without having to travel.

In the beginning, Heather struggled to build relationships with those she called. As Root describes it, "At first, she wasn't connecting to those she called. Conversations were short. After we began to work together and practice the calls, Heather learned to better find common ground with those she was talking to. Now, some calls last 20 minutes!"

Late last summer, Heather also started doing home visits with her supervisor at the church. One of her first visits was to an elderly woman who was beginning to lose her eyesight. She had so many questions for Heather. How do you choose your clothes? How do you cook and get groceries? Heather was able to answer all of her questions, and put her at ease. Now, in addition to her calls, Heather does two home visits a month, with more to come!

Simply put, Heather has succeeded. As her supervisor, Elaine LaFollette, Parish Minister at the church puts it, "The recipients of the calls are so appreciative of this ministry and look forward to Heather's weekly call. Heather does a great job; she is a very good listener, detailed-oriented and very conscientious. We at Immaculate Conception Church are very blessed to have her on staff."

Way to go Heather. 🙌

For more stories visit: [www.accesscny.org/stories](http://www.accesscny.org/stories)

## HELP SUPPORT MORE STORIES OF SUCCESS

Your Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### GIFT AMOUNT

Type of card:

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

\$30  \$50  \$75  \$100 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a monthly credit card gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please cut out and return donation form to:

**AccessCNY**  
1603 Court Street  
Syracuse, NY 13208

Give securely online at  
[www.accesscny.org/donate/](http://www.accesscny.org/donate/)  
or call us at 315.455.7591



## ANNA GIVES BACK IN CLINIC

Anna shreds confidential documents to protect participant privacy at AccessCNY's clinic.

Nine years ago, Anna started volunteering at AccessCNY. She has a developmental disability and receives physical therapy at AccessCNY. After one of her therapy sessions, she was asked if she would like to volunteer around the office. Anna said yes because, in her words, "I like to come here and have fun and talk to people!"

Since then, Anna has worked hard. She has expanded her volunteering tasks from shredding to include document scanning – a big help to the clinic staff. When she has time, she even volunteers for other departments at AccessCNY's Court Street offices.

According to Sue Meacham, Operations Coordinator for AccessCNY's Clinic, it has been a joy to welcome Anna to the Clinic program and watch her grow as a volunteer. "Anna has become more and more independent and outgoing as she has volunteered. She has opened up to the whole Clinic team and become part of our family," Meacham said. 🙌

Thank you Anna, from all of us at AccessCNY!

## ACCESSTODAY AWARDS DINNER

This Fall AccessCNY honored community members who inspire change in Central New York at the AccessToday awards dinner.

"Over 200 community members, staff and program participants came to the OnCenter in downtown Syracuse to celebrate the achievements of people of all abilities this year," said Matt Seubert, Associate Executive Director of Communications and Development at AccessCNY. "It was a great event! Being able to bring together staff, community supporters and participants who are all here to celebrate each other, now that's a special night."

This year's honorees were a mix of community advocates and AccessCNY employees and participants. This year's award winners were: Laura Serway and Cindy Seymour; Jessica Patterson; Faye Greene; Darcy Smithers and Doug Paul.

After honorees like Doug, who recited the alphabet backwards to show his stroke recovery progress, and Faye,

who brought people she serves on stage to accept her award with her, there was hardly a dry eye in the room. Each winner shared how their journey moved them to become advocates for people with disabilities.

"AccessToday introduced us to five amazing people," said Paul Joslyn Executive Director of AccessCNY. "For all our winners we hope that AccessToday was not an end to their exemplary work, but a stepping stone to even greater things."

"This year we had a record number of nominees for AccessToday. To pick just five winners was a challenge. That says so much about the independence and inclusion of people with disabilities in Central New York. We are already looking forward to honoring next year's winners," Seubert said. 🙌



Bertha, an AccessCNY participant, talks with AccessCNY staff and family members at AccessToday.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Join us on October 4, 2018 when AccessToday returns to the OnCenter.



PARTNERS IN PERSON-CENTERED SERVICES

1603 Court Street | Syracuse, NY 13208

**Michael Wirtheim**

Board President

**Paul Joslyn**

Executive Director

**Matt Seubert**

Assoc. Executive Director - Development



# THANK YOU

## TO THE MILLION DOLLAR ROUNDTABLE FOUNDATION

AccessCNY was recently awarded a \$2,000 grant from The Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT) Foundation to support services for veterans with mental health issues. The grant will fund AccessCNY's House to Home program and expand housing supports to retired service men and women. Thank you!

The MDRT Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Million Dollar Round Table, the Premiere Association of Financial Professionals®. Since its inception, the Foundation has donated more than \$29 million in more than 70 countries throughout the world and in all 50 states. 🌱

Million Dollar Round Table member John Enright (left) and wife Kristin (back right), stand with AccessCNY Associate Executive Director Matt Seubert (far right) and AccessCNY participants (Helen and Dawn, front) and staff (Faye Green, center).

## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Help with AccessCNY events and make a difference for people of all abilities! Join us by:

- Volunteering for an event
- Donating auction items
- Helping us promote an event

Contact Nikki at [nbomasuto@accesscny.org](mailto:nbomasuto@accesscny.org) to get started!



1603 Court Street  
Syracuse, NY 13208  
315.455.7591

420 East Genesee Street  
Syracuse, NY 13202  
315.478.4151

6666 Manlius Center Road  
East Syracuse, NY 13057  
315.478.4151

Administrative Offices: 315.410.3343

Clinical Services: 315.410.3319

Communications & Development: 315.410.3383

Consumer Directed Homecare: 315.410.3332

DD/ABI Services: 315.410.3301

Exploring Your World Preschool: 315.362.2664

Human Resources: 315.410.3312

Mental Health Services: 315.218.0880

### Agency Services

AccessCNY offers person-centered services that empower individuals of all ages and abilities to reach their full potential as part of our shared community. Services are provided with dedication, compassion, innovation and commitment.

#### Services for those with a Developmental Disability or Acquired Brain Injury

- |                                 |                                   |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Adaptive Equipment Loan Program | Environmental Modifications       | Preschool Evaluations       |
| Advocacy                        | Family and Individual Supports    | Self-Direction              |
| Assistive Technology            | Home and Community Based Services | Sensory Integration         |
| Augmentative Communication      | Inclusive Preschool Education     | Social Work Counseling      |
| Certified Residential Settings  | Individualized Support Services   | Speech and Language Therapy |
| Community Habilitation          | Medicaid Service Coordination     | Supported Employment        |
| Consumer Directed Homecare      | Occupational Therapy              |                             |
| Day Habilitation                | Physical Therapy                  |                             |

#### Services for those with a Mental Health Issue

- |                                |                        |                           |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Certified Residential Services | Housing Supports       | Supported Education       |
| Community Supports             | Peer-Based Support     | Supported Employment      |
| Family Supports                | Social Skills Training | Vocational Rehabilitation |

#### Affiliations

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Association for Community Living                         | New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services |
| Association for Persons in Supported Employment          | Supported Housing Network of New York                       |
| Cerebral Palsy Associations of NYS                       | United Way of CNY   |
| National Association for the Education of Young Children |   |

