70 Years of Being Strength-Based

70 Years of Inclusion

70 Years of Belonging

Celebrating 70 years
Jet·a·cy—something immaterial, as a style or philosophy, that is passed from one generation to another:

On October 2nd, Racker held a dinner honoring all past and present employees who have worked with the agency for 25 years or more. Back when the newest members of this group signed on in 1993, Racker was known as the Special Children’s Center and Dr. Racker herself was the medical director.

I took up a place in the corner of the room and watched guest after guest arrive and be greeted by shouts and hugs. It was a little intimidating when I realized that if I added up all the experience in the room, it would total centuries of work towards a common goal. This was a group of people who, little by little, through their commitment and hard work, had made the world a better place together.

As a new employee, this was a powerful night. In my short time here, I’ve already been inspired countless times by the work done on a daily basis. That legacy of inspiration, starting with the founding families seventy years ago and continuing with Dr. Racker and with the people gathered in the room that night, is one of the things that makes Racker such an incredible organization. I’m proud to be even a small part of it.

My hat goes off to each and every person in the 25 Year Club. You are an inspiration to me and hundreds of other Racker employees that make a difference in the communities we serve. Congratulations to all of you! You have made a difference in thousands of lives.

- Bob Brazill, Director of Community Relations and Development

70th Anniversary and Community Celebrations

2018 was a tremendous year for the agency! We held celebrations in Tioga, Cortland, and Tompkins county in recognition of 70 years of service, and to honor just a few of the amazing people at the core of our mission! Thank you to everyone in attendance – your support shows that our community is a team, and together we can Kick ‘Dis’ Out of Disability!

Cortland County

THE INSPIRATION AWARD
Gayle A. Pado - Director of Family Resources
Angela Ferguson - Community Support Advisor
Ronna Barnhart - Administrative Assistant, Tioga County

THE SPECIAL FRIEND AWARD
Jami Fabrizio - Committee on Special Education Chair, Newark Valley Central Schools

THE COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD
Sue Michaels - The Kitchen Store

Tompkins County

THE FRANZISKA RACKER AWARD
Cecilia Campbell - Director of Finance

THE INSPIRATION AWARD
Amy Rasmussen - Shift Supervisor, Residential
Mary Barhite - Senior Direct Support Professional

THE SPECIAL FRIEND AWARD
Paul Fairbanks - Retired Director of Case Management, Elmira Psychiatric Center

THE COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD
Tompkins County Public Library, Youth Services Department

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD
Honorable Barbara Lifton - New York State Assemblywoman

Introducing our new website...

Racker.org

A new website for a new era! Mobile usage, whether for entertainment, leisure, or even education, has taken the lead among most users in 2018! The new website at www.racker.org is sleek, easy on the eye, and works great on mobile! Newly redesigned menus are easy to navigate and find information relevant to those looking for services, or to those just curious about Racker history. The new site is home to everything Racker: service info, directions, employment opportunities, social media, stories of belonging, and so much more!

Stay up to date and register for upcoming events at www.racker.org

Racker presented awards to:

Tioga County

70TH CELEBRATION AND AWARD PARTIES WERE HELD IN EACH COUNTY!

TIOGA

CORTLAND

TOMPKINS
Congratulations to Dan for this prestigious honor!

The Dan Wieder Leadership Award recognizes and individual whose high level of leadership has set a standard for others to follow and whose dedication has improved the quality of life for people with disabilities. The award honors those whose leadership embodies the values endorsed by all CP of NYS Affiliates and reflects innovative accomplishments which have garnered the respect of others working in their agency.

Congratulations to Dan for this prestigious honor!

**Tracy Abbott and Jean Libbey recognized with Staff Award**

Two Racker staff members, Tracy Abbott and Jean Libbey, were honored at the Cerebral Palsy Association Conference on October 16th in Saratoga Springs. Tracy Abbott has an amazing ability to be able to relate to the people she supports, and is able to connect with both the family and person in ways that cannot be taught. Tracy’s patience, compassion and passion for the people she supports shines through every day. She is always working to find ways to better support the people she works with and ensures they always feel that they belong. As with everyone in this field, Tracy has been through some trying situations and she always remains positive and seeks understanding and guidance if she feels stuck. Tracy has a huge heart that drives her to continue to grow in her role as a Senior Community Support Professional.

Jean Libbey is always willing to help, go that little extra and has a positive attitude. She exemplifies what a Direct Support Professional should be, and puts her heart and soul into everything she does. She is also the kindest, sweetest person people will ever meet. She is a compassionate, caring and thoughtful individual. Jean works hard and is an amazing coworker. She is always supportive of not only the residents but the other staff also. She often helps fill the gaps and stays late whenever there’s a need. She helps keep everyone’s appointments and activities in order and shares the household shopping responsibility. She is always encouraging both staff and residents to do their best. Jean offers staff friendly reminders about things that need doing and thanks staff often for what they do. We are glad we have her as part of the team here at Racker.

Congratulations to Tracy and Jean!
Making it Happen
Let’s Hear It For Our Super Heroes!

When Kailey first came to the Racker Preschool she could barely hold herself upright, no less stand. By the time she graduated our preschool, she was flying down the hallway! She is one of our Super Heroes.

Racker has been providing services to people with disabilities and their families since 1948. Throughout the years, we have relied on our friends to help us do this important work. Your annual support and friendship has truly made a difference for so many. You are a Super Hero too.

But as we look to the future, we know that there will be many people with disabilities yet to come that will need our help. We need to plan and be ready for them.

That is why we are inviting you to join our 70th Anniversary Planned Giving Drive

Throughout our history, planned gifts have allowed us to be agile, to address critical issues, and to achieve important goals that support our Vision - A world where all people know they belong - including Super Heroes!

Help us to build and sustain Racker for future generations to come.

Call Perri LoPinto at 607.272.5891 x 234 or send in the attached card to learn more. Thank you!

"Having Racker in our community makes it a better place for all of us. The Vision of a world where all people know they belong, speaks directly to me. I want to make sure this Vision can continue." —Joel Thomas

Make a planned gift and help the Super Heroes of tomorrow...

NDT/Bobath Certificate

Congratulations to Kellie Hummel and Anne Schneider, physical therapists for completing the NDT/Bobath Certificate Course in the “Management of Treatment of Children with Cerebral Palsy and other Neuromotor Disorders.” The course provides an in-depth framework for observing and analyzing movement, and developing treatment plans for children with motor concerns. Anne and Kellie had six months of on-going learning, training, and hands-on practicums. Their participation in this world-renowned training was supported in part by the Scriber/Cash fund. Kellie remarked “the coursework has added so many layers from which to draw from, both in problem solving during evaluation of a child, as well as in treatment.” They are already sharing and collaborating with our therapists using their knowledge.

We are so thankful for Scriber/Cash fund which gives us the ability of offer our therapists this type of experience.<<

Take Flight to Belong

Circle of Courage collage and students from the Turning Point program at TST BOCES

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Racker would like to welcome Teresa McNamara of Tioga County to the Board of Directors!

Teresa is a family law attorney with Legal Assistance of Western New York, who recently received the President’s Pro Bono Service Award for the 6th Judicial District form the New York State Bar Association. She lives in Tioga County with her husband, 9-year-old son, and 7-year-old daughter. Teresa volunteers with the Tioga United Way, and also serves on the board of Camp Alwaga, a non-profit camp for students of all ages with special needs. Teresa first became familiar with Racker when her son attended our preschool in Owego. We look forward to Teresa’s input and expertise this year.

Welcome to the Board of Directors, Teresa!

Employee Hire Date
Sally Lawrence 3/2/1992
Karen Legnini 4/25/1988
Cynthia Lilly 7/15/1984
Sally Manning 9/1/1986
Barbara Marmora 9/24/1993
Annemarie Mattison 3/7/1992
Patricia Meyers 9/1/1984
Patricia Montanez 1/4/1993
Cheryl Moore 3/6/1989
Barbara Murphy 7/11/1988
Mary Jean Palmeter 9/6/1988
Irene Petrovic 10/18/1990
Franziska Racker 1/2/1971
Andrew Rice 7/15/1988
Andrew Russell 9/1/1983
Susan Ruswick 7/1/1987
James Schafrik 9/20/1990
Sandra Schoenfeldt 1/9/1987
Jocelyn Sibbey 1/28/1976
Roger Sibbey 7/1/1979
Ann Single 9/5/1989
Cynthia Slattery 6/15/1988
Margaret Stoyell 9/7/1990
Pamela Talbott 10/31/1988
Steven Tanner 9/1/1982
Susan Thomas 11/22/1993
Marcia Vann 3/1/1993
Rose Wolf 6/15/1992

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25 YEAR CLUB

Dynamic Core for Kids

Goes to School - Early Childhood Services had the privilege of welcoming Shelley Mannell, PT and Julie Wiebe, PT for a three day Fall conference.

The conference addressed many issues that underlie a child’s readiness to learn including posture, attention, difficulty sitting still, impulse control, clumsiness and more. Topics of discussion for the conference included the relationship of breathing and core stability to alignment, toileting, emotional self-regulation, sensory processing, attention, pediatric theory and more! Discussion of the need for the brain and body to move and the role of the contribution of breathing creates a practical approach to supporting the whole child at school and at home.

Meg Gillard, OTR/L commented, “The new research on the Anticipatory Core Muscle system was wonderful to hear. Shelley and Julie cited research and used slides to show lasting changes in children’s function. They instructed us in rib cage and pelvic girdle alignment and a breathing technique, ‘Blow before you Go’, which utilizes the breath to activate the anticipatory core muscle system before a child moves.”

One therapist remarked, “I don’t think I have attended a conference before that was so easily applicable to such a huge range of kids and adults.”

Another therapist said, “I am grateful to Racker for giving us the time and resources for this worthwhile investment to be shared amongst teammates and colleagues.”

Dynamic Core continued on back cover...

Special Thanks

Delta Gamma Ithaca Alumnae Association

Karen Sieburgh, President of the Delta Gamma Ithaca Alumnae Association, presents Bob Brazill, Director of Community Relations and Development at Racker a check for $500 to support programs for people with disabilities. Each year, the organization donates to a local charitable organization to carry out their national sorority motto of “Do Good.” Racker is thrilled to be chosen this year! Thank you Delta Gamma!

Appreciation

Congratulations to Teresa McNamara of Tioga County to the Board of Directors!
Hands-on lab experiences gave participants a chance to try the activities themselves, as well as on others.

Sally Lawrence, a Special Education Teacher stated that, "The Dynamic Core conference was one of the best I have been privileged to attend in my 26 year tenure at Racker. It was full of useful information that could be easily carried over to our preschool classrooms. The session was presented in a format that encouraged group learning and team spirit!"

Thank you to the Tompkins Trust Company Bridge Fund for their sponsorship of this conference which allowed over 100 of Racker Early Childhood staff the opportunity of learning, teaching and collaboration.