



2014 ANNUAL REPORT



HISTORY

Racker was founded in 1948 to support people with disabilities and their families. Families wanted their children with disabilities to participate in their community, to belong. Sixty-six years later great progress has been made on this goal, but we are not there yet. People with disabilities still do not feel that they belong. Research indicates that sixty percent of people with disabilities do not have friends. Only 12% of people with disabilities are working side-by-side with individuals that do not have disabilities.

The strategic planning work resulted in a new Vision, Mission and Three-to-Five Year outcome statement:

VISION

We envision a world where all people know they belong.

MISSION

We support people with disabilities and their families to lead fulfilling lives by providing opportunities to learn and be connected with others.

THREE-to-FIVE YEAR OUTCOME

Individuals and families that we support will know they belong to more communities of their choosing.

ORLANDO PETERSON

A straightforward way for each of us to think about the current situation for people with disabilities is a slightly modified version of a quote by Orlando Peterson: "The opposite of separation is not freedom, it is belonging."

SEPARATE TRACKS

Have you ever walked into a room and felt like you were invisible? You were there, but you didn't feel like you belonged. People with disabilities are now seen in society, at restaurants, movies, public schools, but the "separated feeling" for most people with disabilities still exists. That will only change when they are in the room and "visible."

2014 FOCUSED ON STRATEGIC PLANNING

The importance of the belonging focus, which comes from our founders in 1948, was strengthened by the Strategic Planning that we

did in 2014. The planning process consisted of meetings with over 400 people, including community members, business representatives, partners, people with disabilities and their families, self-advocates, board members and our staff.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

With your support and the great work of our staff we will:

- Help people with disabilities find things they are interested in
- Help people with disabilities to have the confidence to take risks in community settings of their choice
- Make connections that nurture their interests
- Educate the community that people with disabilities can and do add value to their world



DAN BROWN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"It will take people with disabilities AND people without disabilities to make our Vision come true."

-Dan Brown

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF OUR PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM SERVICES, THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF OUR SERVICES HAPPEN AT OFFSITE LOCATIONS SUCH AS SCHOOLS, PEOPLE'S HOMES AND THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY. ONLY ABOUT 9% OF SERVICES HAPPEN AT RACKER CENTERS LOCATIONS.

HANNAH | A SUCCESS STORY

"WE WERE APPREHENSIVE AT FIRST, BUT ALL OUR FEARS WERE LAID TO REST WITHIN A VERY SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME."
~HANNAH'S MOTHER, JAN



Hannah with her CSP (Community Support Professional) Nancy

Hannah is a 31 year old with intellectual and developmental disabilities who lives in the Coventry house operated by Racker Centers. After waiting for seven years, Jan and Jerry, Hannah's parents, were delighted to hear that the house was available and that both Hannah and her sister, Angie, would be able to move in together.

To help with this new transition, Hannah and her family were able to go into the house while it was being built and were given the opportunity to see their room that they now share while it was being built. Today, the room is full of each girl's personality; there are John Wayne and Wizard of Oz posters plastered on the walls and vanity tops covered in a variety of scented perfumes and beauty products.

Hannah spends her weeks going on outings with her Community Support Professional (CSP), Nancy Jackson, to A New Hope Center where she volunteers 4 days a week organizing, sorting, and folding clothing donations. Outside of volunteering, Nancy and Hannah enjoy going to zoos, parks, and shopping malls.

"She laughs a whole lot more, she stands better, she really recognizes the people that she works with" remarked Jan when discussing Hannah's progress since working with Racker Centers and volunteering with A New Hope Center. Hannah's eye contact has improved and her CSP, Nancy, says "she will look at me when I am talking to her and most of the time she'll look at the objects that I show her."

Volunteering at A New Hope Center has helped Hannah to belong to her community. "It helps her to be a part of the community that she lives in and I think that is very important," Jan says. "People look forward to having Hannah come, they miss her if she doesn't show up and ask about her; that means she's assimilated into the community a great deal."



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

1,298 CHILDREN WERE PROVIDED UNIVERSAL MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS IN 2014 AT THEIR DOCTORS' OFFICES, SCHOOLS, AND PRESCHOOLS THROUGH OUR **EARLY RECOGNITION PROJECT**. THIS IS A PROGRAM MADE POSSIBLE WITH PASS THROUGH FUNDING FROM THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH, AND IS AVAILABLE TO KIDS IN TOMPKINS AND SENECA COUNTIES.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2014

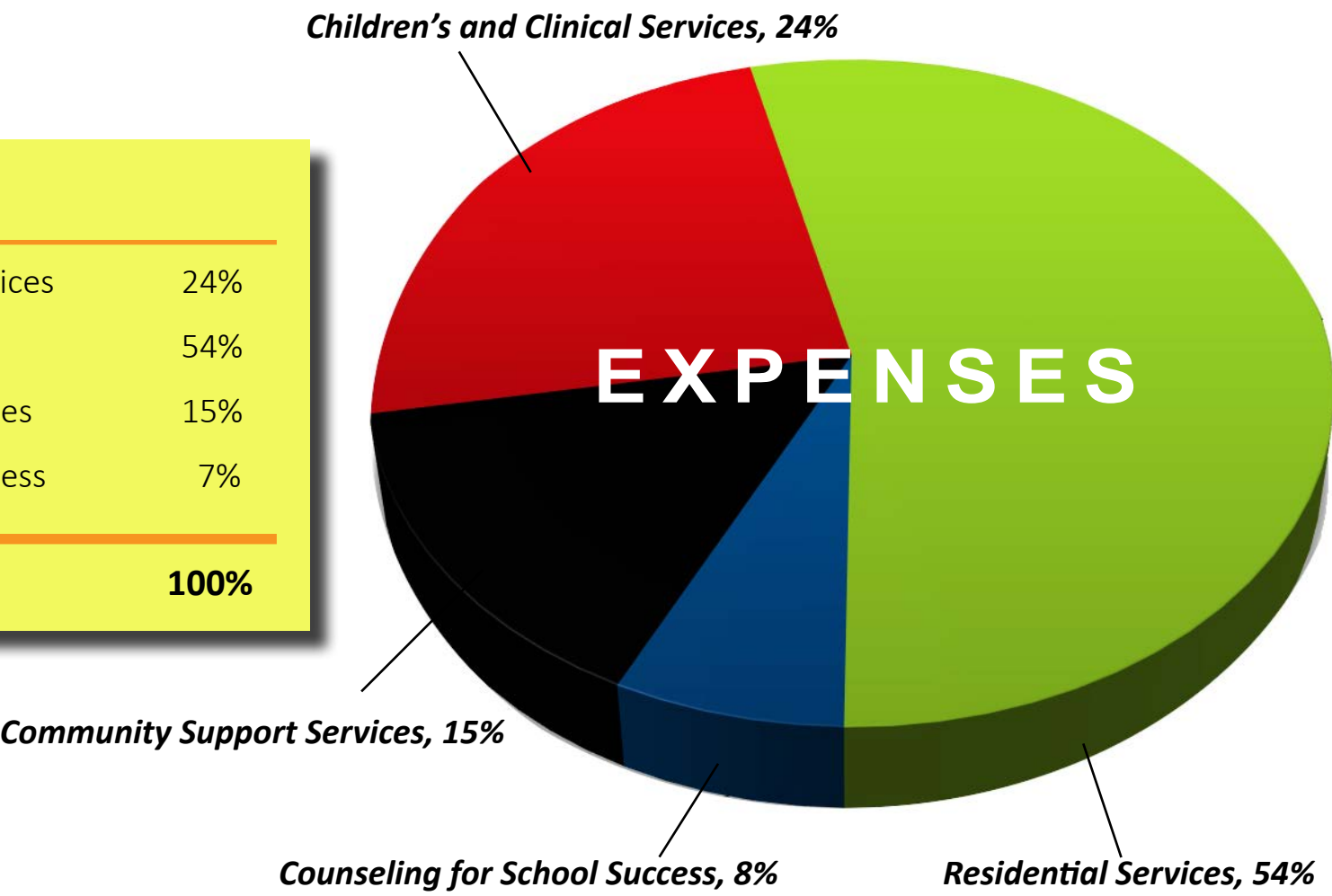
Public Support & Revenue

Children's and Clinical Services	\$7,119,935	22%
Residential Services	\$17,362,626	53%
Community Support Services	\$5,095,941	15%
Counseling for School Success	\$2,534,441	8%
Fund Raising / Capital Campaign	\$393,595	1%
Other Revenue	\$169,814	1%
Investment Gains.....	\$96,895	
Prior Period Adjustments.....	\$4,254	
Miscellaneous.....	\$68,665	
TOTAL	\$32,676,352	100%



Expenses

Children's and Clinical Services	24%
Residential Services	54%
Community Support Services	15%
Counseling for School Success	7%
TOTAL	100%



THROUGHOUT 2014 RACKER CENTERS BENEFITTED FROM THE SUPPORT OF 697 COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS AND 118 BUSINESSES THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY, TO HELP US CARRY OUT OUR MISSION OF SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES TO LEAD FULFILLING LIVES BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND BE CONNECTED TO OTHERS.

program highlights



In 2014 the total number of children reached through **Early Childhood Services** included:

Early Intervention: 237

Preschool – Classroom: 159

Preschool Services in the community: 143

School age: 216

Special Education Itinerant Therapy: 51



DID YOU KNOW?

RACKER CENTERS' FAMILY NAVIGATOR'S PROGRAM IS A GRANT FUNDED PROGRAM WHICH HELPS TO MATCH FAMILIES FACING MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES, WITH AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS HAD EXPERIENCE IN SUPPORTING THEIR OWN FAMILY MEMBER WHO HAS ALSO STRUGGLED WITH MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES. THIS PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM HAS IDENTIFIED THREE INDIVIDUALS WITH "LIVED" EXPERIENCE AND HAS SUCCESSFULLY PAIRED THEM WITH 30 FAMILIES IN 2014.

Through our **mental health day treatment program** in partnership with both Onondaga-Cortland-Madison (OCM) BOCES and Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga (TST) BOCES, Racker Centers has supported the following number of students throughout 2014:

TST BOCES

Possibilities: 27 students

Lighthouse: 30 students

Turning Point: 108 students

OCM BOCES

Turning Point: 52

Cortland Afterschool: 6 students



program highlights



In 2014 Racker Centers' **Community Support Services (CSS) program** supported 799 individuals from ages 2 years to 87 years of age; the breakdown of those individuals by county is as follows:

Tompkins: 350

Tioga: 220

Cortland: 229

Many of those individuals receive more than one area of service through CSS, services provided include:

- Community and Day Habilitation– 604
- Community Support Service Case Study– 11
- Family Support Services/Education and Training– 384
- Medicaid Service Coordination– 1473
- Plan of Care Support Services (PCSS) – 14
- Respite– 259



The **Residential Program** served 143 individuals throughout 2014. The breakdown of those individuals by county is:

- Tompkins – 93 individuals and 15 houses
- Tioga – 33 individuals and 6 houses
- Cortland – 18 individuals and 4 houses



DID YOU KNOW?

WHERE STAFF LIVE BY COUNTY:

TOMPKINS – 40%

TIOGA – 30%

CORTLAND – 30%

FAMILIES SERVED BY COUNTY IN 2014

	TOMPKINS	CORTLAND	TIOGA	TOTAL
POPULATION	104,691	49,474	50,160	204,325
# OF FAMILIES	45,518	19,028	16,500	81,046
# SERVED	1,400	600	500	2,500
SERVICE RATE 1 OUT OF EVERY	33	32	33	32

WE ENVISION A WORLD WHERE ALL PEOPLE BELONG.



A LOOK BACK AT 2014...



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