

# OUTLOOK



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

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***Playing Hockey – Supporting People with Special Needs***  
**Saturday, April 5, 2014 at 7:00 pm – Lynah Rink**

Franziska Racker Centers and Cornell's Big Red Hockey are about to embark on a unique partnership. On Saturday, April 5, 2014 the first ever Racker Rivals Big Red Hockey Game will be presented. This unique community event will include players from Cornell's men's and women's teams, Cornell hockey coaches, Cornell alumni, hockey celebrities (see page 6), and local players from the community - all gathering at Lynah Rink to raise awareness and funds for Franziska Racker Centers.

### **PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY**

\$10 in advance/ \$14 at the door

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.cornellbigredtickets.com](http://www.cornellbigredtickets.com) or in person at the following sites:

- Cornell University Athletic Ticket office
- Racker Centers Tompkins County Preschool, 3226 Wilkins Road, Ithaca
- Racker Centers Clinic – Signworks Building, 1001 West Seneca Street, Ithaca
- Racker Centers Cortland Preschool, 882 Rt. 13 Cortland
- Racker Centers Owego Preschool, 1277 Taylor Rd. Owego

→ or directly from a number of volunteers. (Group rates available for groups of 20 or more.)

### **PLEDGE A PLAYER OR A TEAM TODAY**

Pledge your player today and contribute to services and supports provided to those most in need throughout our communities. Pledge a player by going online or returning the pledge form on page 5 in the enclosed envelope.

media sponsor: **The Ithaca JOURNAL**

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing to you on behalf of my son, who happens to share your name.

Andrew, his Mom, and I want to call your attention to ongoing budget cuts affecting supports and services for individuals with disabilities. We are feeling their damaging effects and wish to review the solemn promise which New York State made long ago – a promise that you recently reaffirmed, and that these cuts threaten.

Andrew is a bright-smiled, social, and mischievous preschooler. He would ask you himself about these budget cuts, but he cannot talk.

He would have accompanied me to visit your budget office and the offices of our Senator and Assemblywoman, but he cannot walk. Andrew has cerebral palsy.

Thankfully, he is a New Yorker. And he has already benefitted more profoundly from that lucky geography than any of us ever will.

Since he was two months old, he has received nearly daily services to help him overcome his physical challenges. Andrew would love to tell you about his expert therapists. Jen and I are delighted with how his “play” with them is helping him learn to stand, use his right arm, and begin to make verbal sounds.

But Andrew would also tell you about the stressful conversations he has overheard, when Jen and I learned of changes your administration made this year to Early Intervention (EI) services.

These changes are now forcing therapists out of the system, and taking them away from children-in-need, such as Andrew. And now, we have learned that even after EI, his situation is no safer, as many years of budget cuts to OPWDD and services for the disabled of all ages are threatening Andrew’s progress, and that of many others across our State.

These budget cuts threaten their future. The cuts renege on New York’s promise, which you thoughtfully and rightly reaffirmed in your 2010 campaign book. We are asking you to stop them.

New York has recently been in the laudable position of providing truly enabling services for those, like Andrew, who were born with physical or mental challenges. There was a time, when you and I were boys, when our state failed miserably at caring for the disabled.

But the work during intervening decades, in response to that catastrophic failure of duty, brought system-wide improvements, and has helped us achieve an example to be followed. Andrew’s first three years of life and progress are a great example of that work. The promise was kept.

This is no time to change course.

I work in economic development. Every day, I am proud and excited by the programs your administration is promoting to help our innovation economy. But I wonder, as a father, neighbor and native New Yorker, what kind of future are you building for us. What value are on-time, balanced budgets if they come with cuts to care for those in need? We think New Yorkers deserve better. We know Andrew does. Please put an end to these cuts now.



*The Mutolo Family. Photo by Laura Kozlowski*

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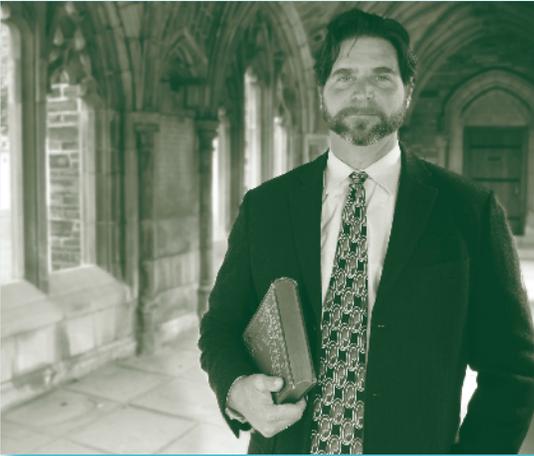
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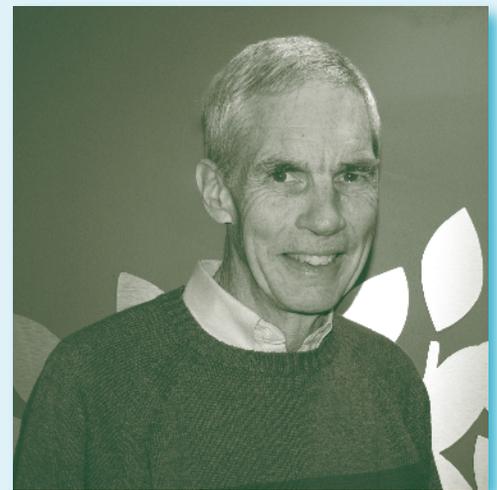
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## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



**David Hall** is the owner of National Book Auctions as well as a commercial and residential landlord in the Town of Danby. He served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce in 2013 and currently sits on the Town of Danby Board of Zoning Appeals. This year he will also volunteer on the board of Challenge Workforce Solutions. David has a lengthy relationship with Racker Centers that began when his son was diagnosed with autism at the age of 18 months. Through the services that David's son began receiving, David and his family became more familiar with Racker Centers and the staff, and feel a great appreciation for the supports provided by the agency. He looks forward to working more closely with Racker Centers, an agency that he feels fills a critical role in our community.

**Chuck Tompkins** has lived in Ithaca for almost 30 years, where he served as senior Pastor at Bethel Grove Bible Church for twenty years. Since retiring from the church, he serves on both Cornell and Ithaca College campuses as a volunteer chaplain, and is co-chair of the Protestant Community at Ithaca College. Chuck chairs the Community Faith Partnership which currently oversees the Second Wind Cottage Project, a joint collaboration of the faith community and community agencies to provide transitional homes for those who are currently homeless. Chuck was first introduced to Racker Centers when originally asked to join the Board of Directors by long-time volunteer and Emeritus Director, David Dunlop. In 2014 Chuck returns to the Board, eager, as he says, "to serve alongside special friends in our shared vision." In addition to Chuck's volunteer work on the Board, as a part-time painter, he also enjoys volunteering his time to work alongside Racker staff and those we serve in our residential homes and various other sites, allowing him the opportunity "to encourage and affirm their exceptional work."



## FOOD BASKET TRADITION CONTINUES

Stephen Lipinski, incoming Board President, along with his wife Kathryn, have made it a tradition to give back over the holiday season. Coming from a large family, Kathryn knows well how stressful the holidays can be. In an effort to refocus their resources, since 2002 they have put together food baskets (totes really), for families in need. The Lipinskis' work



with Racker Centers' Service Coordinators throughout Cortland, Tompkins and Tioga Counties to identify families most in need. Racker staff then take the totes of food and supplies that will best serve the families and deliver them in order to maintain confidentiality. "The first year we did this was very similar to this past holiday season. The way the holidays fell this season left many families with a full two weeks of being out of school and work. Because so many families rely on the assistance of discounted food programs through schools, this makes it very difficult for some families to afford to eat," states Steve. "This helps these families get through these breaks without going hungry."

This year over 87 people were fed through the Lipinskis' generous donations.

## TOPHER SCOTT - LONG TIME FRIEND TO RACKER CENTERS

The **Racker Rivals Big Red Hockey Game** has come together at the hands of many dedicated people, but none more dedicated than long-time Racker friend and current Men's Ice Hockey Assistant Coach, Topher Scott. Topher's history and involvement with Racker Centers began during his days as a student at Cornell and athlete on the Men's Ice Hockey team. The mission of Racker Centers is very near and dear to Topher's heart. He grew up and is very close with two family members who have special needs, and came from a family where giving back to your community was an important value. When an original fundraising event involving the men's hockey team called, "*Saves for the Centers,*" was created by teammate Dave McKee, Topher became involved. This served as his first introduction and started his long-lasting friendship with Racker Centers. From his sophomore year on, Topher, along with other teammates began visiting Racker Centers two or three times per year. He participated in "*Saves for the Centers,*" and then initiated a new fundraising event called, "*The Steve Garner Teddy Bear Toss.*"

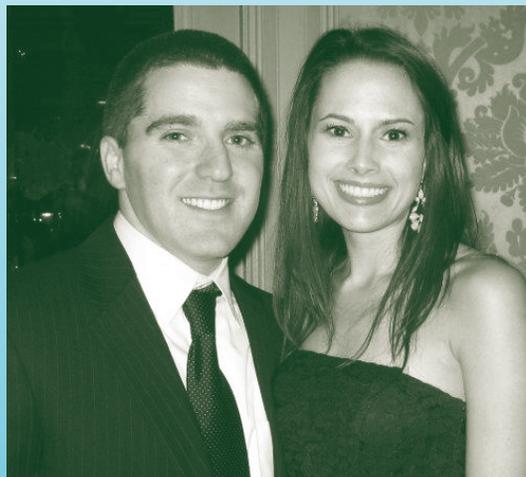


The "*Teddy Bear Toss*" raises money at one game per year through the sale of teddy bears that are tossed onto the ice by fans at the end of the game. This event has consistently raised funds for Racker Centers and The Cancer Resource Center. Topher along with other Cornell Men's Hockey members over the years, including Ben Scrivens '10, Dan Dileo '09, Keir Ross '12, Rodger Craig '14, and Andy Iles '14 have all been involved with organizing the "*Teddy Bear Toss*" as a means of supporting the community and in memory of long-time hockey supporter, Steve Garner, late president of Tompkins Trust Company.

*The mission of Racker Centers is very near and dear to Topher's heart. He grew up and is very close with two family members who have special needs, and came from a family where giving back to your community was an important value.*

Topher returned to the area in 2010 as the Men's Assistant Coach working with Head Coach, Mike Schafer. It wasn't long before Topher reached out to Perri LoPinto, Director of Community Relations at Racker Centers to see how he could once again get the team involved. Thus, the **Racker Rivals Big Red** exhibition hockey game was born. Now, Topher couldn't be more proud that his involvement with Racker Centers is a family affair. His wife, Emma, became involved with the agency in early 2013 serving on the events committee. She will continue to assist with the planning of events, including **Racker Rivals Big Red**, as an Associate Director for Racker Centers with the Board of Directors.

Both Topher and Emma have been such wonderful advocates for Racker Centers and we look forward to working with them for years to come!



*Top : Topher visits the Tompkins County preschool with this years Men's Ice Hockey Team. Middle: Playing in the toddler classroom. Bottom Left: Topher and Emma Scott*

# PLEDGE FORM



**Saturday, April 5, 2014  
7:00 p.m. Lynah Rink**

*Pledge your favorite player or the entire men's team or women's hockey team.*

*Every pledge will support individuals with disabilities in our community.*

**To make a pledge complete this form, tear out and return it with payment in the enclosed envelope OR complete your pledge online at [www.rackercenters.org/rackerrivalsbigred](http://www.rackercenters.org/rackerrivalsbigred)**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Cornell Men's Hockey Team*      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Topher Scott   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Mike Kennedy  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Cornell Women's Hockey Team*    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Ben Syer       | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Dani Bilodeau |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Celebrity Player Joe Nieuwendyk | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Michael Budney | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Edith Racine  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Celebrity Player Mike Richter   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Doug Derraugh  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Greg Hartz    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Mike Schafer                    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Tyler Roeszler | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ Matt Hedge    |

View player bios at [www.rackercenters.org/rackerrivalsbigred](http://www.rackercenters.org/rackerrivalsbigred)  
**More players to be announced soon!**

**TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  This gift is anonymous  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT TYPE**  credit card (enter information below)  check enclosed (make payable to Racker Centers)

Please bill my: (circle one) VISA / MASTERCARD / DISCOVER

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card: (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*If pledging the men's or women's team, would you like to make your gift in honor of a specific team member? If so, who? \_\_\_\_\_**

*If you would like to make a gift to our Annual Fund please go to [www.rackercenters.org](http://www.rackercenters.org)*

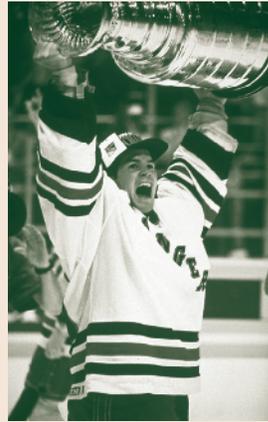
# RACKER RIVALS BIG RED: HOCKEY PLAYER HIGHLIGHTS



**JOE NIEUWENDYK**

A Canadian former National Hockey League (NHL) player, **Joe Nieuwendyk** was a second round selection of the Calgary Flames, 27th overall, at the 1985 NHL Entry Draft and played 20 seasons for the Flames, Stars, New Jersey Devils, Toronto Maple Leafs and Florida Panthers. Joe Nieuwendyk played for Cornell University from 1984-87. He is one of only ten players in NHL history to win the Stanley Cup with three different teams, winning titles with Calgary in 1989, Dallas in 1999 and New Jersey in 2003. A

two-time Olympian, Nieuwendyk won a gold medal with Team Canada at the 2002 winter games. He was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 2011. Source: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)



**MIKE RICHTER**

A former ice hockey goaltender. One of the most successful American-born goaltenders in history, **Mike Richter** is best known for having led the New York Rangers to the Stanley Cup title in 1994 and for repeatedly representing the United States in international play. Due to his success, Richter was a part of the Class of 2008 in the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame. One of the most popular players ever to wear the Rangers uniform, Mike Richter retired in September 2003 as the team's all-time winningest goaltender with

301 victories. He later became only the third player in Blueshirts history to have his number retired, as No. 35 was hoisted to the Madison Square Garden rafters on Feb. 4, 2004. Mike Richter also represented the United States on three Olympic teams, earning World Cup gold in 1996 and an Olympic Silver Medal in 2002.

Source: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com), [www.nhl.com](http://www.nhl.com)



**Mike Schafer** guided the Big Red to the NCAA tournament nine times, including a berth in the NCAA Frozen Four in 2002-03, the program's first since 1980. He is Cornell Hockey's second-

longest tenured coach, while his 347-198-66 record has him as the winningest coach in Cornell men's hockey history. He picked up his 231st career victory on Jan. 27, 2007, a 2-1 victory against Colgate at Lynah Rink, to become the program's all-time wins leader. Schafer reached the 300-win milestone, a mark previously reached by only 45 coaches in all of college hockey. Widely regarded as one of the top defensive masterminds in college hockey, Schafer's emphasis on defense has helped countless players earn league and national recognition.

Source: [www.cornellbigred.com](http://www.cornellbigred.com)



**Doug Derraugh** is the head coach of the women's ice hockey team at Cornell University where he has a record of 146-95-17 through the 2012-2013 season after eight seasons

as coach. He is the winningest coach in the history of the program. He was the NCAA Division 1 Coach of the Year in 2010. Taking a program that won just four games in the season prior to his arrival, Derraugh guided the Big Red to the national title game in his fifth season and back-to-back-to-back NCAA Frozen Four appearances in 2010, 2011 and 2012, completely turning around the culture of the women's hockey program at Cornell. Source: [www.cornellbigred.com](http://www.cornellbigred.com)



**Greg Hartz** is President & CEO of Tompkins Trust Company, and President of Tompkins Financial Advisors, the wealth management firm owned

by Tompkins Financial Corporation. A life-long resident of Tompkins County, Greg supports the community by way of involvement in a number of community organizations. He is proud of his family and when not spending time with them or at work, he enjoys physical activity including hockey, golf, and riding his bike; and also enjoys cooking and gardening.



**Cornell Women's and Men's Ice Hockey Teams 2014**



## LOCAL SALON RAISES FUNDS

Racker Centers thanks Innovations Aveda Salon for hosting “Cuts Because We Care” on January 27th, a fundraising event that benefitted Franziska Racker Centers. Innovations has successfully operated in Ithaca for 23 years as an upscale salon offering a number of services including cuts, styling, coloring, waxing, facials, makeup applications and permanent cosmetics. The salon is an official Aveda salon. The idea for the event was brought to owner Barrie French by long time employee Jill Cowan, whose daughter has received services through Racker Centers for a number of years. Innovations stylists and staff, including Barrie, Jill Cowan, Thea Clair, Rachel Solbeski, Melanie Baker and Linda Zeito all donated their time and talents providing salon services with all proceeds coming to Racker Centers. The salon accommodated over 20 appointments and raised over \$1,000.

Thank you Innovations Salon and your talented team for your support!

*Jill Cowan prepares to cut Executive Director, Dan Brown's hair.*



## BARNES AND NOBLE HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE

Thank you to Norma Jean Burns, Ithaca Barnes & Noble Store Manager and Angela LaPadula, Community Relations Manager for coordinating such a wonderful community based program that benefitted two organizations this year: Franziska Racker Centers and the Tompkins County Public Library. We also want to thank the many individuals who shopped at Barnes & Noble throughout the season and purchased books to donate to Racker Centers. As a result of the book drive, Racker Centers ended up with nearly 700 books that were donated for people we serve of all ages. These books were distributed to families and are being used in our special education preschool, mental health and community based programs throughout Cortland, Tompkins and Tioga Counties.

## FUN ON OUR NEW GYM FLOOR!

We are grateful to the many individuals and families who responded to our request for donations for the repair of our Margaret Gibson Preschool gym floor. The gym floor was irreparably damaged in August when our Wilkins Road site was flooded with 8” of water. After the flood water had been removed, staff discovered that water had seeped between the new marmoleum (which had been installed just one year prior) and the wood floor beneath. With an overwhelming response from the community, Franziska Racker Centers was able to raise the needed \$15,000 to cover the cost of the renovations. With our new floor in place, children in our preschool program are once again enjoying the benefits of the gymnasium.

What do the kids think of the new gym floor? Patrick, Miles, and Jacob from the Owl’s classroom were happy to tell us their thoughts: “Fun!” “I like to ride bikes!” “I build houses with blocks (large Styrofoam blocks).” Owl’s classroom teacher Barb Marmora corroborated adding, “The gym is a big asset for the Centers. The kids really look forward to gym time. When it’s time to line up, they all run to the door.” Marmora commented that gym time is more than just free play. Gross motor activities are an important part of the preschool curriculum and her lesson plans include planned activities around those goals.

## THANK YOU BUSINESS PARTNERS\*

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\* Business Partners are donors who make gifts of \$1,000 or above



## MISSION

We are dedicated to helping people with special needs and their families have good lives, with opportunities to learn, to be responsible, to feel cared for, to share, to be connected to others. We are committed to creating a culture of inclusion in our community, celebrating the richness that diversity and interdependence bring.

## VISION

We are inspired by the vision of our founding families: that all people with disabilities will be valued members of a welcoming and supportive community.

**EDITOR** Heather Hughes, Director of Public Relations

**DESIGN** Dawn Bricen LaMorte, SUNRISE STUDIOS DESIGN [www.SunriseStudiosDesign.com](http://www.SunriseStudiosDesign.com)

**CONTRIBUTORS** Heather Hughes, Mary Johnson, Paul Mutolo, Lauren Schler



*Holiday Hills Open House for the community. Pictured left to right: Sarah Fosdick, Amanda Hoskin, Ashley Abbott, Dustin Zimmer, Theresa Melynck, and Lacey Chandanais Back: Ashley Keelty, Brooke Malone*

## RACKER CENTERS LIGHTS IT UP BLUE

By Mary Johnson

Join us as we participate in Autism Speaks "Light It Up Blue" event in recognition of World Autism Awareness Day 2014! On April 2nd, individuals, businesses, and organizations will "Light It Up Blue" to help raise awareness and honor those with Autism. Racker Centers will support this initiative by handing out blue glow necklaces to staff and families at all of our main sites, while individuals and staff in our Residential homes and community services will participate by "lighting it up blue" as well. We encourage you to shine a light on Autism and Light It Up Blue on April 2nd!



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