

1948-

70 Years of Building a World Where All People Know They Belong

-2018

QUARTERLY | Spring 2018

OUTLOOK Racker

www.racker.org

Supporting People with Disabilities

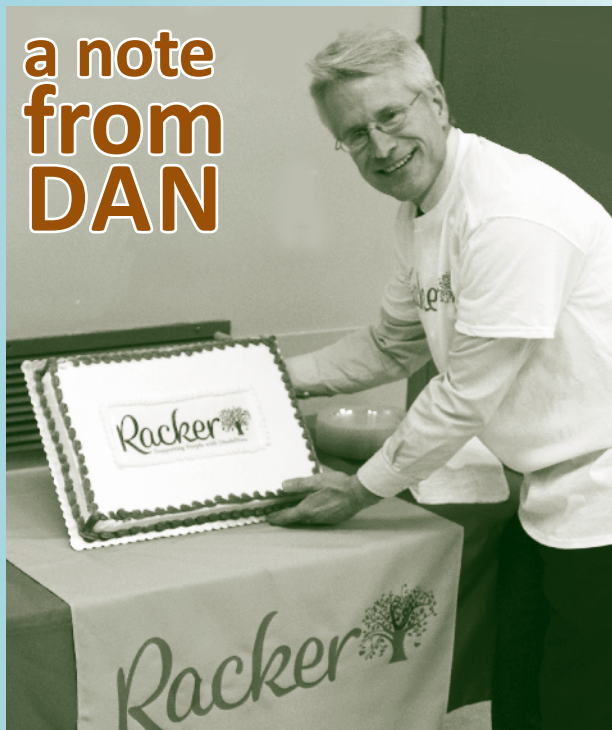


Racker celebrates 70 years of service with new name and logo!



See Dan's Note on Page 2 for more details!

a note from DAN



mile-stone--an action or event marking a significant change or stage in development:

Racker is a place for milestones—first words, first steps, first jobs—and while we relish the incredible achievements of those we serve each and every day, it is the culmination of these successes that we recognize in 2018, with a year-long celebration of Racker's 70th Anniversary.

As we looked at ways to mark this incredible milestone, we reflected on our past and began to plan for our future in the same way we always have—by reaching out to the communities we serve. One of the things we learned was that regardless of geography, relationship or affiliation, people primarily refer to us not as Franziska Racker Centers, or even Racker Centers, but simply—Racker.

Armed with this feedback and the blessing of Dr. Ann Costello, daughter of beloved, long-time medical director and agency namesake, Dr. Franziska Racker, we proudly unveiled our new name and logo earlier this year:



Ann reminded us that her mother's humility prevented her from really embracing the naming of the agency in her honor. After all, one of Dr. Racker's greatest legacies was her commitment to belonging and the recognition that the sum of our shared contributions is far greater than our individual successes.

As we celebrate 70 years of milestones, we remember the families who started Racker in 1948 because they wanted their children to be a part of our community. Seven decades has brought considerable change to Racker, but that single vision remains at the forefront of everything we do: **WE ENVISION A WORLD WHERE ALL PEOPLE KNOW THEY BELONG!**



Sarah R. Brown

LOGO REVEAL PARTIES WERE HELD FOR STAFF IN EACH COUNTY!

celebrating
70
years

1948-

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**SAVE
The
DATE**

Cheers to 70 Years!

It's Racker's 70th birthday and you're invited!

This year all of our Community Celebrations will be FREE for all who would like to attend. Mark your calendar for the event in your area. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Tioga County

Thursday, April 26th
Tioga Downs Casino,
Nichols

Cortland County

Thursday, May 17th
Corey Union Hall,
Cortland State

Tompkins County

Thursday, October 11th
Emerson Suites,
Ithaca College

All Community Celebrations begin at 8:30am and include a buffet breakfast!

NEW DIRECTOR OF COUNSELING FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS HIRED

We are thrilled to announce the appointment of Sarah Tarrow as Director of Counseling for School Success. Sarah will succeed Mary Hutchens, who retired in February after four decades of service to Racker.

Sarah joined the Racker team in 1996 and has a demonstrated commitment to the Counseling for School Success Program. During her 20-year tenure, Sarah has served as a Day Treatment counselor, admissions counselor, led the continuing implementation of the Program's technology needs, created systems to support accurate billing and participated in planning and program development.

Replacing a member of the Racker team with the knowledge, compassion, leadership and optimism that Mary embodied for 40 years was a daunting task. However, Sarah's leadership and interpersonal skills, commitment to teamwork and community collaborations and loyalty to Racker's vision and mission made her an ideal candidate and will undoubtedly, help to ensure a smooth transition for Counseling for School Success and bright futures for the children and families we serve. Congratulations, Sarah!



Sarah Tarrow, Director of Counseling for School Success

1948
Cerebral Palsy
Association of
Ithaca forms



1949-1955
Clinics open in Tompkins,
Cortland and Schuyler Counties



1964
Frances
Berko
named
executive
director

1966
Home
Service
program
begins



1963
Agency
renamed
Special
Children's
Center

Racker RIVALS BIG RED

presented by TOMPKINS Trust Company

MARK ✓ YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, July 14th, 2018
at Cornell's Lynah Rink

Join the teams comprised of celebrity NHL players, Cornell alumni players, local celebrity players, and student athletes as they compete on the ice to raise funds for Racker!

Hockey Legend Joe Nieuwendyck will once again join the Racker Rivals celebration!

Thank you to those sponsors who have already stepped forward to make Racker Rivals Big Red 2018 a success. Special thanks to our Title Sponsor Tompkins Trust Company.



HARRIS BEACH PLLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



More opportunities exist for businesses and individuals to sponsor at a variety of levels. For more information, please contact Perri LoPinto at 607-272-5891 Ext.234 or perri@rackercenters.org.

BOARD MEMBERS HONORED

Racker recently recognized the commitment and service of long-time board member John Crosby by naming him Emeritus Director. John joined the Racker Board of Directors in 1997 and has been a steadfast supporter of our services and a tireless advocate for individuals with disabilities for more than two decades.

Outgoing Board President Eugene Yarussi was also recognized for his incredible commitment to Racker. Gene was instrumental to the success of our Making Room Capital Campaign. He has served on our Board of Directors since 2012.



Eugene Yarussi and John Crosby

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER



We are delighted to welcome Mary Wright, RN to the Racker Board of Directors. Mary has held numerous positions during her 33-year tenure at Cortland Regional Medical Centers. A licensed nursing home administrator, Mary spent more than two decades working with the hospital's nursing facility before become Vice President of nursing. She

plays a key role in the day-to-day operation of the nursing units within the hospital and nursing home and brings a wealth of knowledge and commitment to individualized treatment and services to the Racker Board.

Mary lives in Cortland with her husband Darren. They have three grown children, Brett, Steve and Sara, and enjoy traveling and spending time with family. Mary holds a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing and is currently enrolled in Utica College where she is working toward completion of a master's degree in healthcare administration.

Don't Forget to ROLLOVER your charitable IRA distribution!

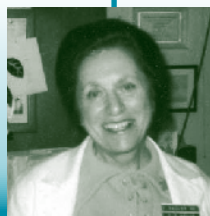


If you are 70 ½ or older a great way to support Racker might also be a great way to save on your taxes. Your annual IRA distribution can be sent directly to support the causes that are important to you and won't be counted as earned income – a win, win! For more information, talk to your financial advisor. Some restrictions apply.

1971
Dr. Franziska Racker named medical director



1979
Roger Sibley becomes executive director



1980
Agency opens first integrated preschool



1986
Day Treatment opens at TST BOCES

1985
Respite programs begin with launch of Rest-A-Bit

1988
Turning Point program begins



1989
First residential home opens in Dryden

1994
Service Coordination Begins. Early Intervention formalized.

1999
Agency renamed Franziska Racker Centers in honor of Dr. Racker's 28-year commitment and leadership to strength-based services



2001
Parent Network Forms

2000
Lighthouse program begins



2008
Agency celebrates 60 years

Lipinski's Share Holiday Spirit With Gift Basket Donations

Each year, we are awestruck by the generosity of Steve and Kathy Lipinski. The Lipinski's annual gift baskets for families we serve who have experienced hardships during the year are so overflowing with food, toothbrushes and special treats that we are almost unable to carry them. Thank you Steve and Kathy for your ongoing support and for reminding us of what is truly important during the busy holiday season.



Above: Medicaid Service Coordinator's and program staff from each county help to distribute the gift baskets to families



Right: Lipinski baskets lined up- waiting to be picked up!

Seventy for 70: Planned Giving 2018

As we celebrate seven decades of service to individuals with disabilities and their families, we recognize—now more than ever—that our ability to meet the evolving needs of our community relies not on our legacy alone, but on the legacies of those who support our vision of a world where all people know they belong.

Our commitment to that vision is why we've set a goal of 70 new planned gifts in commemoration of our 70th Anniversary. Throughout our history, planned gifts have allowed us to be agile, to address critical issues and to provide access to early childhood, mental health, residential, clinical and community support services for thousands. Please consider joining planned giving supporters like Joe and Marney Thomas by helping us reach our goal of Seventy for 70!

"The vision of a world where all people know they belong speaks deeply to me. I want to make sure that this vision can continue. Serving on the board of directors confirms for me that the agency is well-run, financially sound and mission driven. Marney and I both feel confident that our planned gift will be well-used." —Joe Thomas

To join Joe and Marney on our Racker Society or to learn more about planned giving opportunities, contact Perri LoPinto at 607.272.5891 extension 234 or Perri@rackercenters.org.

Elks Major Projects, Inc Supports Sibshops



A big THANK YOU to New York State Elks Major Projects, Inc. for their generous grant support of Racker staff members, Jennifer Frank, home service director, and Elvia Morales, MSC, in their efforts to establish a Sibshops program at Racker for the siblings of children with disabilities. Of all of the

people in an individual's life, siblings will likely have the longest relationship with their disabled family member. Yet few programs focus on the development of this identity with young children--the ones who often have unanswered questions and concerns about this role. The Sibshops model was created by Don Meyer of the Sibling Support Project and is celebrated worldwide. These workshops bring together siblings between 8 and 12 years old for a recreational, fun and informative afternoon designed to meet their unique needs. In a Sibshop, siblings have an opportunity to connect through play and to receive peer support surrounding their unique questions and concerns. The Elks grant allowed Jennifer and Elvia to become trained facilitators and begin hosting Sibshops programs at Racker.



Workshops for siblings of children with special needs

The grant allowed for Jennifer and Elvia to become trained Sibshops facilitators, and they are currently hosting informational sessions for families throughout the region in anticipation of Racker's first Sibshop on April 14 at 10:30am.

We are excited to provide opportunities for siblings to connect and explore their relationships through this incredible program and are deeply grateful for the support of the Elks. For more information contact Jennifer Frank at 607-277-8020 ext. 500 or jenniferf@rackercenters.org

#GivingTuesday 2018

Thank you to everyone who contributed to #NYGivesDay! Our #GivingTuesday online campaign

#GIVINGTUESDAY

helped support the purchase of an indoor play structure for our Cortland Preschool. Once purchased, the structure will help children in our integrated preschool program develop their gross motor skills while playing alongside their friends. It will also be a huge asset to the program during periods of inclement weather, when busy kiddos are unable to get outdoors to play. The online campaign netted \$2780 toward the structure's \$10,000 purchase price.



2009
A generous bequest from Charles A. Gibson allowed for construction of "The Children's Playground," at the Racker Preschool in Cortland



2010
Ithaca preschool program named for longtime friend and volunteer, Margaret "Gibby" Gibson, Making Room Campaign Launched



2011
Starry Night Respite opens in Cortland



2012
Roger Sibley retires after 33 years, Dan Brown named executive director, renovated Margaret Gibson Preschool and Jean Dunlavey Learning Center open.



2017
Dr. Jeffrey S. Lewis named medical director

2018
Agency celebrates 70th Anniversary with new logo, becomes Racker

SPRING 2018

OUTLOOK

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www.racker.org

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