

QUARTERLY | FALL 2020

OUTLOOK Racker

WWW.RACKER.ORG

Supporting People with Disabilities

National Direct Support Professionals

Recognition Week September 13th-19th

ANNUAL REPORT

2019 Donor & Financials

Chuck Tompkins

Reflects On His History With Racker

Sense-ational You

Sensory Friendly Fashion Show

Family Resource

Stays Active & Goes Virtual

RACKER RIVALS

BIG RED

NETS \$170,000



Cornell Men's Hockey Coach Mike Schafer and Tompkins Trust Company CEO, Greg Hartz, went head-to-head in a virtual fundraising competition from June 15th to July 15th. In a tremendously competitive and close competition, it was Coach Schafer's Team Big Red pulling out in victory. This competition temporarily replaced the annual hockey game traditionally held at Lynah Rink that features NHL stars, former Cornell hockey players and local celebrities.

The Virtual Face-Off launched with a draft of potential fundraisers, moderated by Topher Scott. Team captains picked their roster based on fundraising ability, as opposed to hockey skill. Every \$1,000 raised was the equivalent of scoring a goal. With a final score of 49-49, it was only a hundred dollars separating the two teams. Generous sponsorship dollars and grants from the *Triad Foundation* and the *Nolan Foundation* contributed to the final total of \$170,000.

The real winners are the individuals with disabilities and their families who receive services from Racker. We are humbled by the generosity of our community, and want to express our sincere gratitude to all 633 donors, all of our players and everyone who supported this event.

Thank you for your support during this difficult time! 🌲



Ben White at
Racker Rivals Big Red 2019



Chuck Tompkins writes...

My long term relationship with the Racker organization has been a joy and privilege! I was first introduced to Racker through long time supporter and board member, David Dunlop. Little did I know what it would personally mean to be included in such a highly respected and relationally rich organization. I was “hooked” from my first board meeting as I observed the leadership skill of Roger Sibley and the caliber of talent that sat around the board table. From my first days in the organization I was impressed with the exceptional competency of the staff as well as the heart that the board had for the organization. Over the years, I would lament the retirement of a seasoned staff person, figuring that no applicant would begin to fill the shoes of the person who left. Wrong on all occasions! Racker attracts not only the *brightest and the best* but they attract those who serve with a heart for the individuals and families they serve.

Under Dan Brown’s empowering leadership, the organization has continued to thrive, even during these rough months with COVID. Challenges are mere opportunities. Team spirit is in the DNA of Racker. The vision and mission is carried with such excellence that it is considered one of the most respected nonprofits in our community and with its effective advocacy by staff and families who visit Albany, it has earned respect from elected officials.

The Roundtable Leadership is highly competent and absolutely trustworthy as it stewards the vested trust of donors. The board is not a rubber stamp, but is tapped for its expertise, wisdom and broad-based knowledge, making it a most active and engaged board. Transparency from Dan to all staff is a key quality, sharing freely both successes and failures in overseeing a multi-million dollar operation. The Racker team trusts the board and the board trusts the staff.

Annual highlights include our geographical Celebrations in Tioga, Cortland and Tompkins counties. The vision takes on real life as we hear from families and individuals whose lives have been changed as a result of the Racker touch. Staff are honored with various awards and those breakfast events only serve to confirm that the world is a better place because of Racker and its impact on those who, many times in mainstream culture are marginalized or their presence not acknowledged. I cannot forget the emotional grateful accolades of many parents as they share the progress of their son or daughter. Or who can forget the broad smile from a resident that has moved from dependency to interdependency in a group home and the difference a relational investment made for their self esteem and contribution to their community.

In my retirement years, I spent some time painting in the resident facilities which gave me up close access to both staff and residents. I often affirmed the staff as I observed how they treated some challenging residents with respect and dignity. They didn’t see what they did as a mere “job” but as a “calling” which accessed the best of their humanity in service to others and often with no thanks in return. I was grateful to make many friends over the years.

I was part of the process to see our vision/mission refined and what a wonderfully smooth (and time consuming!) process; but the end result is excellent—**envisioning a world where everyone knows they belong**. I am so thankful to have belonged and to have served!

Gratefully,

Chuck Tompkins

Chuck Tompkins



Chucks paints at Racker Administrative Offices in Tioga County

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION WEEK 9/13-9/19

Direct and Community Support Professionals at Racker and across New York State have faced an enduring and often challenging work place since Early Spring; close to 30 weeks! With already strict guidelines from the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, new COVID-19 regulations and guidance dictate constantly changing work environments for all Racker staff.



September 13th-19th marks **National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week**. We thank the countless number of current and former essential workers that work the front line every day to support people with disabilities to achieve their goals and stay safe and healthy. Even as

NYS first, and then the US, went into lock down, essential Racker staff kept going into work, faced new regulations and setbacks head on, and developed new and creative ways to meet the needs of the people they support.

Not only do DSPs take great pride in the work that they do, and is what drives them to keep coming back (even through blizzards and states of emergency) but the individuals and families they support take an even greater pride in the work of DSPs. Building a world where all people know they belong and actively creating opportunities for people to be connected in that world is more important now than ever, and we are thankful for the DSPs and CSPs who have shown us resilience and creativity in the midst of a pandemic. We are so grateful for you. 🌱



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING COMMITMENT IN SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES!

PRESCHOOL REOPENS FOR SUMMER

Racker's Early Child Education Centers in Tompkins and Cortland Counties opened for a reduced capacity session this Summer. Strict guidelines, safety videos, and tracing protocols ensured that staff, families, and students were operating in a safe atmosphere for everyone involved, and without any loss to opportunities for education and success.

The session included continued remote opportunities via Racker's Remote Learning Channel on YouTube throughout the Summer, as well as dedicated in classroom learning for those that met New York State's criteria for in person special education services. Safety protocols included robust cleaning and sanitizing, pick-up and drop-off protocols (written and video modeled) for children arriving with parent or school bus. Floor decals and parking lot signs helped make safety measures straight forward and easy to follow. 🌱

For information on how Racker is planning safe reopenings for essential programs like Early Childhood Education Services, Clinical Services, Community Support Services, and more please visit www.racker.org/reopening

FASHION SHOW

Three of our Wilkins Preschool graduates had a unique opportunity last Spring – they were in a fashion show at Cornell University! The kids wore designs created by Julia DeNey, a 2020 Cornell graduate majoring in Fashion Design.

Julia started working with our preschool as the *Philanthropic Chair* for her sorority, volunteering her time at the preschool and learning how children with autism or other special needs struggle to find clothes that feel comfortable. As she worked on her fashion line for the 2019 show, Julia focused on sensory friendly clothing options that incorporated compression linings, fidgets, tag-free shirts, and other adaptations to make clothes more comfortable and inclusive for children.



Casper showcases *Sense-ational You* apparel. Photo by: Julia DeNey

Based on her years of independent research, Julia has spent her time since graduation working on launching her own online clothing label that meets the sensory needs of children, called *Sense-ational You*. We are thrilled to see the fashion industry paying attention to these unique challenges, and even more thrilled that some of our preschoolers were able to participate! 🌱

FAMILY RESOURCE VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES

When New York State first shut down and many in person services for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities were shuttered or put on hold, Racker's Community Services teams continued to provide in-person services throughout the pandemic for those who needed that level of support to maintain their health and safety. To reach those who were unable to receive in-person supports, and to provide additional opportunities for connection across the Racker family, the Family Resource Program team jumped into action and Virtual Activities were born!

The Virtual Activity format incorporates many favorite activities into a reoccurring ZOOM virtual conference. Some of the successful activities include: *Interactive Hands with Danielle* - Learn and Practice American Sign Language; *Other Voices In The 607* - Self-Advocacy Group; Bingo; Pantry Cooking; *Dating, Relationships, and Disabilities* - How to Have Confidence and Succeed; and so much more that rotate weekly. 🌱

The schedule can be found weekly at www.racker.org/events



Interactive Hands - ASL Performance of "You Are My Sunshine"



2019 Annual Report

Racker Society

Our special friends, who by their thoughtful actions and planned giving, have helped to build and sustain Racker for future generations.

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**Gift has been realized*

For more information on how you can become a Racker Society Member call Bob Brazill at 607.272.5891 x 224

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Shawn Yetter
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Simin Zaidi
Ellen Zanfordino & Ellen Daitch
Ryan Zapolski
Kip & Nancy Zeiter
Marisa Zogg
Joel & Cathy Zumoff

Business Friends of Racker

Anonymous
AdoreOil Premium Beauty Care
All-Mode Communications, Inc.

Alpha Xi Delta
American Legion Post 221
Arctic Bear Plumbing, Heating & Air, Inc.
Bangs Ambulance
Bousquet Holstein PLLC
Camillus Youth Hockey
Car Pride of Ithaca
Chemung Canal Trust Company
City Club of Ithaca
CMH Services, Inc.
Complete Construction Concepts, LLC
Cornell Catering
Cornell University Wrestling Team
Cortland Standard
Dasher's Corner Pub
Delaware North
Dell Technologies
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First National Bank of Dryden
First National Bank of Groton
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Hampton Inn
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Knights of Columbus Cortland Council, No. 233
LeChase Construction Services, LLC
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Major Skills, LLC
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Myco Mechanical, Inc.
NEFCO Corporation
Newfield Lioness Club
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Pew Knitters
Philoptochos Society of St. Catherine
Greek Orthodox Church
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Rebel Wear Inc.
The Frame Shop
The Hockey Think Tank
The Medicine Shoppe LTC
The Strebel Planning Group
Tioga State Bank
Tompkins County Deputy Sheriffs Association
Tonik of Cortland LLC
Trihammer Wines & Spirits
United Way for Cortland County
United Way of Central New York
United Way of the Southern Tier
Vizella Media
Wilcox Building Specialties
WXHC

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND CLINICAL

Our Early Childhood programs support children from birth through five years of age. Whether in their homes, in early childhood programs throughout the region, or in Racker’s inclusive preschool programs, we help children thrive. Our Clinical programs support birth through adult including an Audiology clinic that’s open to the general public.

- *Early Intervention (0-3)*.....244 served
- *Special Education Preschool Service*195 served
- *Childcare*.....95 served
- *School Aged Therapies*.....196 served
- *Itinerant Services*.....157 served
- *Audiology*.....933 served
- *Evaluations*.....571 served

COUNSELING FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS

Racker provides school based mental health services for students attending the Turning Point programs at Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga and Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES. In addition, we work with children, families, and schools to support students’ overall success in their home schools and communities.

- *Day Treatment & School-Based Counseling*115 served
 - *Family Navigator*.....100 families served
 - *Lighthouse*.....35 students/families served
 - *Possibilities*.....74 students/families served
- Possibilities continued753 hours of professional development to districts*

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Community Support program offers a range of services in the community including Care Management, Family Resource, Self-Direction, Community Habilitation, Home Service, Respite, and more!

- *Community and Day Habilitation*.....356 served
- *Family Support*.....835 served
- *Childrens Health Home Care Management*.....66 served

SELF-DIRECTION

Self-Direction empowers people to design supports based on their unique strengths and needs so they can live the life they want. Individuals and families work together with a team to customize services.

- *Self-Direction*.....100 served

RESIDENTIAL

Residential provides people with developmental disabilities of all ages a place where they can live and thrive. Our goal is to enhance the lives of participants by affording opportunities for lifelong community involvement in a nurturing environment.

- *Residential*145 individuals served
- *Free Standing Respite*.....64 individuals served

PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE

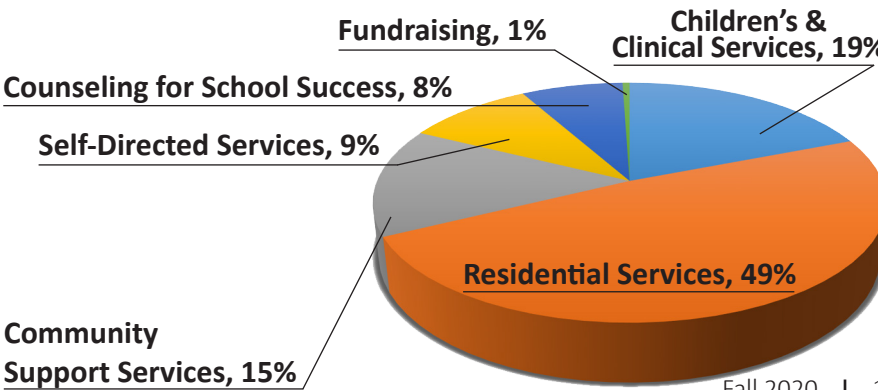
Residential Services	\$18,937,976.00	47%
Children’s and Clinical Services	\$6,898,643.00	17%
Community Support Services	\$5,797,820.00	14%
Self-Directed Services	\$3,517,782.00	9%
Counseling for School Success	\$3,152,617.00	8%
Fundraising	\$1,327,952.00	3%
Other Revenue	\$598,017.00	1%

TOTAL	\$40,230,807.00	100%
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EXPENSES

Residential Services	49%
Children’s and Clinical Services	19%
Community Support Services	15%
Self-Directed Services	9%
Counseling for School Success	8%
Fundraising	1%

TOTAL	100%
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FALL 2020

OUTLOOK

WWW.RACKER.ORG

Racker
3226 Wilkins Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

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YOU'RE INVITED TO RACKER'S VIRTUAL COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

EACH COUNTY WILL HAVE A WEEK-LONG FEATURE ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CULMINATING
WITH A LIVE ZOOM CALL CELEBRATING THE AWARD RECIPIENTS FROM THAT COUNTY!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SEE A COMPLETE LIST OF AWARD WINNERS,
PLEASE VISIT [RACKER.ORG/EVENTS](https://www.racker.org/events) AND CHOOSE YOUR DESIRED COUNTY CELEBRATION.

TIOGA CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 8
7PM

CORTLAND CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 15
7PM

TOMPKINS CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 22
7PM

Racker Champions

Thank you to our Racker Champions who stepped forward to help make **Racker Rivals Big Red - The Virtual Face-Off** a success!



FINANCIAL DESIGNS



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United Way
of Tompkins County
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