

# OUTLOOK

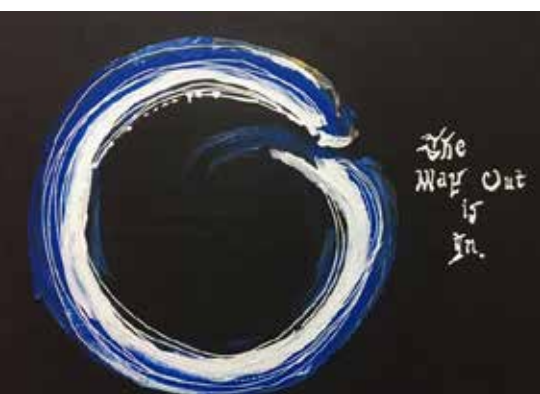
Racker 

QUARTERLY | WINTER 2021-22

[WWW.RACKER.ORG](http://WWW.RACKER.ORG)



## The Art of Racker



The Way Out is In.





## FROM THE DESK OF BOB BRAZILL

Director of Community Relations & Development

"Nothing can dim the light  
that shines from within."  
-Maya Angelou

Around May of last year, a few months into the global pandemic, our Community Relations team began planning the next edition of this newsletter. It was a time of uncertainty, isolation, confusion and fear. We weren't seeing our colleagues in person, or the children on their trains in the hallways. The phrase 'new normal' was just taking shape, and already becoming a tiresome term. Frankly, we were struggling to be creative, or find stories to share with you, our Racker Community- it felt dark.

So, as our team thought about the Spring Outlook in 2020, it became clear that we needed to bring some light to our newsletter. We decided to reach out to our Racker Community and ask for art- in all forms. It was a shot in the dark, and we weren't sure if we would receive any response. Thankfully, we were very wrong.

In the days that followed, we quickly learned that we were, and continue to be, surrounded by talented, thoughtful and creative people. Photographs, drawings, paintings, collaborative works came pouring in while everyone hunkered down in isolation. Our team received so many submissions that we couldn't fit them all into the publication- so we posted all of them on our Racker website. They were MY much-needed rays of light.

That light was reflected in the response we received from our Racker Community. Every work connected the artist to our community, and helped lift that feeling of separation. The artists themselves found a personal space to express themselves and share their gift. We were so grateful and impressed that we knew it had to continue - so here it is.

For this season's Winter Outlook, we bring you the second edition of the Art of Racker- a compilation of the many artists in our Racker family. Inside, you will find pictures from people in many of our programs, both young and old. Talented staff members who found the time to create their original artwork and share it with all of us. The art took so many unique forms, you'll even find a beautiful homemade wedding dress.

As we continue on this journey together, I want to thank all of our artists, our readers, our donors and my colleagues at Racker. Thank you for providing and spreading the light in our Racker Community. I hope you enjoy this edition of the Art of Racker. 🌱





## THE STEVE AND KATHY LIPINSKI OPPORTUNITY FUND

### 20 YEARS AND COUNTING



For two decades, Steve and Kathy Lipinski have provided two weeks of meals and essential items to feed at least a dozen families every year in our Racker community. They gather items such as ham and mashed potatoes, pasta and sauces with grated parmesan for dinner; peanut butter, 5 pound blocks of sliced cheese and soups for lunch, and pancake mix, syrup and oatmeal for breakfast. Bags of fresh fruit, brownie mix, Christmas candy and snacks are balanced by toothpaste and new brushes. They carefully select essential items to include so that each family can celebrate and enjoy the holidays without having to worry about the expense. Their impact is immense. Steve and Kathy have brought joy and comfort to hundreds of families and more than 1000 people. For the Racker staff who deliver these care packages, the private stories of grateful tears are overwhelming.

Steve and Kathy enjoy spreading the joy during the holiday season, but don't be fooled by the small staff of two. This operation is purposeful, well thought out and runs like a machine. Weeks of thoughtful preparation and a spreadsheet full of items, quantities and potential number of families guides them into the holiday season. They are prepared so when Racker calls with families in need they are ready to help.

The Lipinski's generosity and connection to Racker begins at home. Steve's service on the Racker Board of Directors, sponsorship of Racker Rivals Big Red hockey, and the baskets, are all to honor their beloved niece, Spencer Margaret. Her impact on their lives has been immeasurable and inspired their service to our community and to Racker. Their purpose-driven work is fueled by the thoughtfulness and spirit of Spencer Margaret. Many years of "Thank You" to Steve and Kathy Lipinski! The memories you've created for hundreds of families will endure for generations.

In honor of our special niece, Spencer Margaret, and all her friends, we will be establishing a sustainable fund to be administered by Racker to help individuals and families in need throughout the year. Support for this endeavor may be provided by visiting [Racker.org](http://Racker.org) and pledging the Steve and Kathy Lipinski Opportunity Fund. Thank you! And thank you, Spencer! 🌲

# INTRODUCING THE RESILIENT RACKER INITIATIVE!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of Resilient Racker, an agency wide initiative to build the well-being and resilience of every Racker Staff member and everyone that we serve.

These times have challenged the emotional, physical and spiritual well-being of the world. Resilient Racker seeks to build our personal and agency wide understanding of how chronic stress and trauma affects us and to find ways we can build our resilience, together!

Led by a team of caring and dedicated Resilient Racker Ambassadors, Resilient Racker will be offering a variety of learning experiences and opportunities for individual and agency wide self-reflection over the next months and years. We are working with experts in the trauma and resilience field from Coordinated Care Services Inc. (CCSI) from Rochester, N.Y. to deliver some great trainings that will help to “get us all on the same page” in terms of our knowledge and understanding. CCSI will also assist us in implementing an agency wide assessment that will help us identify our strengths and our areas for growth.

They will also be helping us look at both staff supervision and staff turnover through a trauma responsive and resilience focused lens.

Once we have some common knowledge, the data from our assessments, and reflections from staff, the Resilient Racker Ambassadors will use all of that information to create an individualized solution focused plan for building our resilience with each other and as an agency. We will examine our environments, practices, policies and relationships through a trauma responsive lens. We will brainstorm together about how we can support each other and build community. In short, we will find new and innovative ways to build a world where all people belong, especially when the going gets tough!

Be on the lookout in January 2022 for the first Resilient Racker publication called “Racker Together!” The newsletter will include Resilient Racker news and a section each month with ideas about ways to build connection, find purpose, foster wellness and embrace healthy thinking.

*Here is a sneak preview...*

If you have any questions about Resilient Racker or if you have some great ideas about how to increase well-being and resilience at Racker, please contact any of these awesome...

## RESILIENT RACKER AMBASSADORS

KIM BELDEN  
MELISSA CHIUSANO  
NIKKI GRAVES  
STEPHANIE HALVERSON  
CATI HARTZ  
YVONNE LOMAX  
SALLY MANNING  
JAYDN MCCUNE  
LAURAN MURPHY  
LAURA RIKER  
PATRICK SCHLOUPT  
NICK SCOLLARD  
SUSAN THOMAS

Excerpted from “Racker Together!”



Resilient Racker is an agency-wide initiative seeking to ensure that all Racker employees feel supported and valued. Has your team found ways to stay together and stay strong? We want to hear from you! Please share with us your ideas for wellness, connection, healthy thinking, and finding purpose.

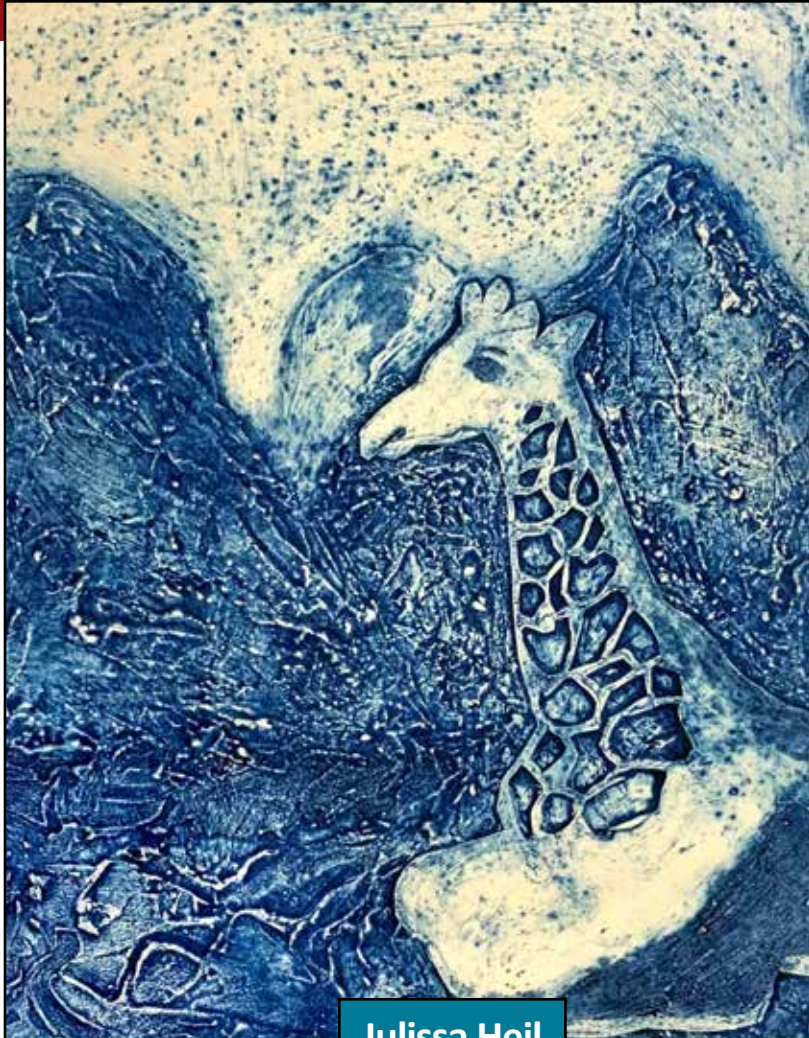


# The Art of Racker

The works featured here are made by people in our preschool, residential program, self-direction, community support, Racker staff, and families.



Jessica Tunison



Julissa Heil



Patricia Sarnicola







Devlin Laurenson



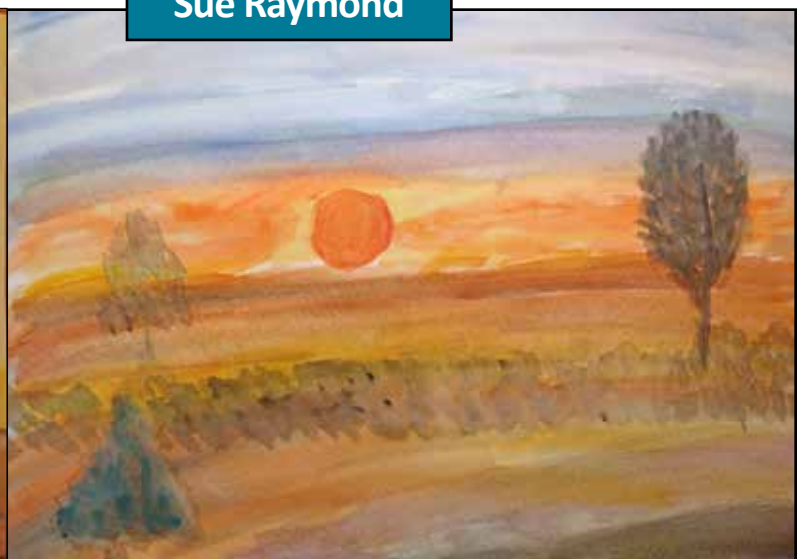
Michelle Moorehouse



Mari Wilson



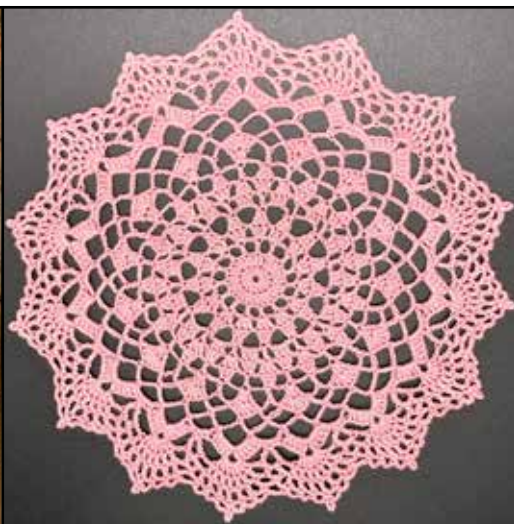
Sue Raymond







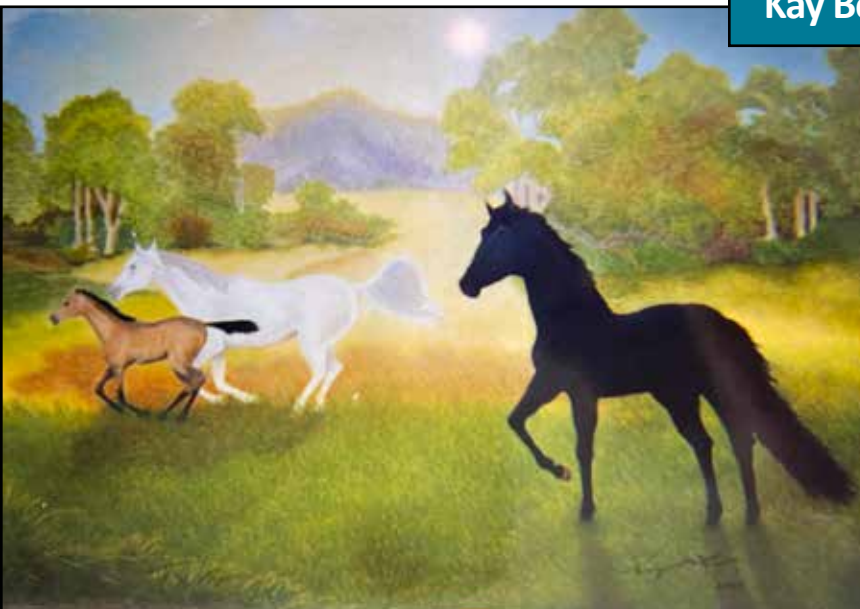
Paige Hamilton



Natalie White

View more artwork  
on our website:  
[racker.org/artofracker](http://racker.org/artofracker)

Kay Beeman





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# OUTLOOK

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SCAN ME

**2020**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**DIGITAL VERSION**

**we**  
**grow**  
**with**  
**you**



Shannon Dolan



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