

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

















Cris Donovan Executive Director



Annual reports give us an opportunity to reflect on successes and plan for what comes next. Racker, like most of the world, continues to heal from the impacts of COVID. Throughout 2021, Racker kept going. Through fatigue and exhaustion, fear and uncertainty, hope and disappointment, Racker and each and every staff member kept taking that next step forward. The creativity we needed to pivot in 2020 was institutionalized in 2021 and allowed us to keep an eye on what was happening with the pandemic, while also focusing on our organizational priorities to address what comes next.

One of the most significant impacts of COVID was the social isolation and subsequent loneliness that many of us felt. Some of us continued to work from home, connecting only via Zoom with our teams. Babies and young children did not have the same opportunities to learn and play together. Young adults were often in a hybrid world, trying to simultaneously navigate expectations for safety, academic achievement, and connection. Adults with disabilities found that their social circles were significantly limited as a result of protections from the virus and program closures.

Racker's Vision statement is "a world where all people know they belong." In the days before COVID, this was primarily driven by the lack of social connections experienced by many people with disabilities. Today, our reach must be broader. Each program area had to keep this front and center for themselves, their teams, and the people and families supported. We were so grateful to bring people back together at 2021's Racker Rivals Big Red. We continue to look for opportunities to bring our friends closer in our new world.

I asked current board member and Racker donor Nancy Corwin Malina what about Racker inspires her dedication to Racker. She replied, "community and belonging are intrinsic to the human experience – truly a reason to live. Racker's mission is to help provide those connections while fostering human potential. It reaches people of all ages in three counties; people who might otherwise be isolated by their challenges. Racker enables those it serves to create a scaffolding for building life skills and forming and maintaining a network of relationships throughout a lifetime."

I couldn't have said it any better. Thank you for being on this journey with us, for being part of the Racker community, and for supporting our work. It's more important now than ever.

Racker Society

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

Anonymous Robert B. Allan* **Beverly Baker** Paul & Diane Banfield Rose Beckwith* Tom & Donna Bohn Dan & Eve Brown Bethany Brown & Bradley Smith Susan Budney & Linda Swarthout Cecilia Campbell & Deb Gagnon **David Campbell & Tom Connors** William & Anne Chernish Richard & Andrea Clark John & Ann Racker Costello Donald* & Sylvia Dickinson Cris & Chuck Donovan Clifford DuBreuil* Jean M. Dunlavey* Dave & Peggy Dunlop John* & Martha Ferger Robert E. Fish* William F. Fuerst. Jr.* Doris I. German*

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*Gift has been realized

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PROGRAM NUMBERS

CHILDHOOD & CLINICAL SERVICES

Our Early Childhood Classrooms support children from 18 months through five years of age. Racker's inclusive preschool program helps children thrive. Our Clinical Therapy programs serve children from birth through the school years in family's homes, child care centers, and school districts. The Audiology clinic serves all ages and is open to the general public.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The Community Support program offers a range of services in the community including Community Habilitation, Lending Library, Advocacy programs, Supporting Success and In-Home Behavior, Respite & more!

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES & SUPPORTS

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 and meaningful days.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

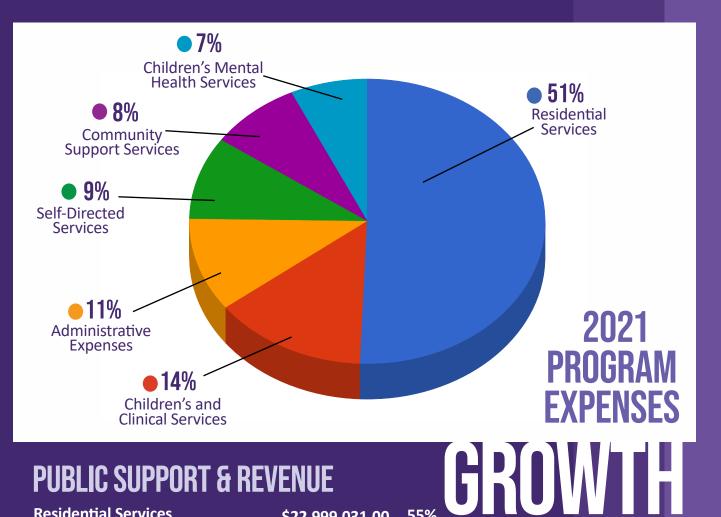
SELF-DIRECTED SERVICES

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 such as Community Habilitation and Respite.

740 AUDIOLOGY 25 **CHILDCARE** 63 EARLY INTERVENTION THERAPIES 423 **EVALUATIONS** 131 PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS 391 PRESCHOOL THERAPIES 164 SCHOOL AGE THERAPIES **COMMUNITY HABILITATION** 246 **GOODS/SERVICES REIMBURSEMENT** 158 LENDING LIBRARY & ADVOCACY PROGRAMS 41 SUPPORTING SUCCESS/ IN-HOME BEHAVIOR 100 **RESPITE REIMBURSEMENT** 115 35 DAY HABILITATION WITHOUT WALLS 34 FREE STANDING RESPITE 145 **SUPERVISED IRAS** CHILDREN'S CARE MANAGEMENT 75 147 DAY TREATMENT/TURNING POINT 29 LIGHTHOUSE STUDENTS **POSSIBILITIES FAMILIES** 61 **BROKERAGE SERVICES** 150 FISCAL INTERMEDIARY SERVICES 174

SERVED

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PUBLIC SUPPORT & REVENUE

Residential Services	\$22,999,031.00	55%
Children's and Clinical Services	\$6,350,665.00	15%
Self-Directed Services	\$4,277,089.00	10%
Community Support Services	\$3,773,987.00	9%
Children's Mental Health Services	\$3,190,305.00	8%
Other Revenue	\$828,508.00	2%
Fundraising	\$574,441.00	1%

\$41,994,026.00 100%

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Total

"An Amazing Place"

Our early childhood programs foster extraordinary growth in children. Teachers and therapists work with parents to help children of all abilities succeed. Getting to know each student and their families is a crucial part of their job.

Trevor is a child in our preschool who was diagnosed with delays as he began his school career. He did not use words to communicate and struggled to interact with his peers. In his first few months at Racker's preschool, he was working on his letters and numbers and was progressing well- then the pandemic shut down the schools. Trevor's progress began to slow down. With the help of his classroom teachers, and Racker's team of therapists, Trevor started using the tools at home for his education and personal growth. He became intently focused on writing letters and numbers. His family utilized Racker-provided technology to continue his therapies and education, and Trevor began to blossom in his home environment. Trevor's ability to verbalize sounds led him to start talking more, and using words like "Mommy" and "Daddy" for the first time.

Trevor's Mom reflected on his growth at Racker: "Trevor has grown in amazing ways. He went from a kid that was nonverbal and not really interacting with others to now reading and writing and communicating with sign language, to speaking phrases now."

When Trevor began the 2020-2021 school year, he was ready to show what he had learned at home. Because of their collab-

IMPACT

oration during the pandemic, Trevor and his team of teachers and therapists were ready to pick up his education and continue his remarkable progress.

"Racker is an amazing place. Racker's teachers are amazing, they do so much. They care about each student individually and their individual needs. There is always hope for the future. And there is always someone willing to help you. Enrolling your child in Racker is setting your child up for success"

Trevor graduated from Racker's preschool and is ready to start his educational journey.



RACKER FELLOW

Gifts of \$1,000 -\$2,499 from individuals & families

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Gifts of \$1,000-\$2,499 from corporations, foundations & businesses

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BUSINESS VISIONARY

Gifts of \$2,500 & above from corporations, foundations & businesses

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McNeil Development MPL Inc. Precision Filters Inc. Puzzle Solvers St. Anthony Church Schickel Construction Security Mutual Insurance Company

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(continued)

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> Thank You to Our FRIENDS OF RACKER

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3226 Wilkins Road Ithaca, NY 14850 800-336-1660



OUR MISSION:

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

Thank you for believing in a world where all people know they belong. racker.org



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