



FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

75 Years of Service



In 2023, Racker proudly celebrated 75 years of creating a world where everyone knows they belong. This milestone allowed us to reflect on our achievements, challenges, and ongoing progress toward the full inclusion of people with disabilities. From exciting new partnerships to long-standing community support, this past year showcased Racker's commitment to fostering environments where individuals of all abilities can thrive.

As I think back on the year, there were a few moments that stood out to me. The reopening of our beautiful Autism and Sensory Lending Libraries was one of them. These spaces, available in Tioga, Cortland, and Tompkins Counties, provide not only spaces for people with disabilities and families to visit, but also an online inventory, community events, and support for local organizations as they make their spaces more sensory-friendly.

I am constantly humbled and awed by partnerships and collaborations that make the work at Racker so fulfilling and so successful. Our 75th year was no exception. Throughout the year, we strengthened connections with local colleges and universities. These partnerships bring new energy and resources to Racker's programs, benefiting both our community and the students involved. Racker Rivals Big Red is our signature fundraising event but is also only one of the ways that Racker is engaged with the local colleges and universities. We have interns and project-based learning with students from Cornell, SUNY Cortland, and Ithaca College who bring energy and expertise to our programs and services. We are excited to see what this next generation of therapists, adaptive physical education teachers, and business leaders will bring.

Racker has many generous donors listed throughout this report. In 2023, one stood out and made an amazing difference in the work that happens at our Gibson Preschool in Ithaca. Nancy Corwin Malina's generosity allowed us to transform our interior courtyard into a functional space for activities and therapies. This courtyard gives a safe space for children to participate in outdoor therapy sessions, socialize, or relax in a peaceful environment.

As with any year, 2023 had its challenges. High inflation rates and increasing costs stretched Racker's budget and impacted our staff. We continue to drive as much funding as possible to staff wages and benefits and our advocacy efforts are crucial to helping that happen. Each year, Racker teams, families, and people we support are engaged in the active education of our elected representatives to ensure they understand how critical this work is and how important their support is to ensuring we can continue to invest in the most important part of Racker: our incredible staff.

As we move into 2024 and beyond, we remain dedicated to building on the progress of the past 75 years. Our vision to create a world of belonging and inclusion is more important than ever, and we know that with continued community support, we can meet any challenge.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed to Racker's journey, from our dedicated staff and volunteers to the families we serve and the generous supporters who make our work possible. Together, we are shaping a brighter, more inclusive future for all. Here's to another 75 years of making a difference!



Cris Donovan
Executive Director, Racker

The Nancy Corwin Malina Sensory Atrium

2023



The Nancy Corwin Malina Atrium

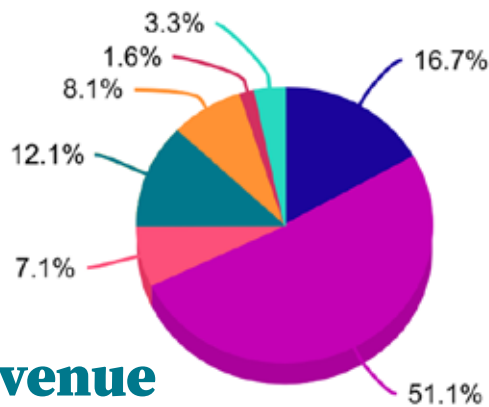
Our donors make the difference! A combination of clinical expertise, sensory awareness and donor generosity, the Nancy Corwin Malina Atrium was completed in June of 2023.



Racker Rivals Big Red

In 2023, Racker Rivals Big Red raised an amazing \$157,000 to support our early childhood services! In its 9th year of partnership with Big Red Hockey, this charity hockey game brings together players, fans, and volunteers for a great cause. We again owe thanks to Coach Mike Schafer and Topher Scott for their leadership and to everyone who played, pledged, and volunteered. Over the nine years of Racker Rivals Big Red, this game has raised over \$1,000,000.

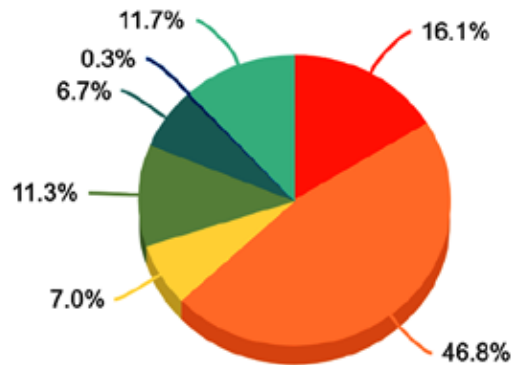




Revenue

51.1%	Residential Services \$24,529,062.84
16.7%	Children's & Clinical Services \$8,034,799.40
12.1%	Self-Directed Services \$5,805,884.27
3.3%	Investment Return \$1,572,358.30
8.1%	Counseling for School Success \$3,874,494.12
7.1%	Community Support Services \$3,419,199.10
1.6%	Fundraising/Other \$766,346.82

Total Revenue \$48,002,145



Expenses

46.8%	Residential Services \$21,745,703.16
16.1%	Children's & Clinical Services \$7,491,600.01
11.7%	Administration \$5,439,513
11.3%	Self-Directed Services \$5,270,220.94
7.0%	Community Support Services \$3,264,472.19
6.7%	Counseling for School Success \$3,111,057.31
0.3%	Fundraising/Other \$145,707.39

Total Expenses: \$46,468,274

Net Revenue: \$1,533,871



Children's Mental Health Services



Day Treatment Students: 100
Possibilities Students: 89
Lighthouse Program Enrollment: 52

In addition to the community based services like Children's Care Management & SPOA Coordination, Counseling for School Success is committed to supporting young people with emotional and behavioral needs through targeted programs offered in partnership with Tompkins Seneca Tioga (TST) and Onondaga Cortland Madison (OCM) BOCES, as well as local school districts. Our Day Treatment program is designed to provide comprehensive mental health services integrated seamlessly into the students' academic experience. This holistic approach ensures that students receive the support they need to thrive both emotionally & academically.

Our program is distinguished by a high level of staffing, which enables us to deliver an intensive level of care. This includes thorough assessments, consistent mental health support, and skill-building activities tailored to each student's unique needs. By maintaining a robust support system, we help students develop the emotional and behavioral skills necessary for success in school and beyond.

The Day Treatment services are fully licensed by the New York State Office of Mental Health, ensuring that our programs meet the highest standards of care. Our services include individual counseling, group counseling, case management, family therapy and support, medication management, and crisis intervention. Each component of our program is designed to address the diverse and complex needs of our students, providing them with the tools and resources they need to overcome challenges and achieve their full potential.

At Counseling for School Success, we are dedicated to creating a supportive environment where students can flourish, grow, and succeed.



Community Support Services



People Served: 477

Community Habilitation services focus on person-driven skill-building activities that promote independence. These services, which can be provided at home or in the community, help individuals develop essential skills such as money management, food preparation, personal care, independent travel, and social skills. By working closely with a chosen team of supporters, individuals can achieve their desired outcomes and build a life of independence and fulfillment.



New and Improved Lending Library:

In 2023, Racker's Autism Lending Library reopened & expanded its offerings of items including weighted vest and blankets, body socks, compression pods, fidget toys, games, adaptive equipment, and activities for fine motor skills. It is equipped with 1,000s of items to meet all ages, preferences, and needs. We are constantly expanding our inventory and welcome families to visit often to see what new and exciting options we have to offer.

The program is designed to support those with established eligibility through OPWDD. The library caters to individuals who live at home with their family or caregiver and qualify for Family Support Services, also known as FSS. However, we welcome all Racker families to join us in the space and work with our team to find sensory items to meet their needs or the needs of the people they support.

Clinical Services

Early Intervention Evaluations: 123



Therapies:
(Ages 3-5) 534
(Ages 6-up) 236
Audiology: 1157

Our Clinical Services department is dedicated to providing comprehensive and specialized support to children and families, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Our multidisciplinary team of professionals offers a wide range of services tailored to meet the unique needs of each child.



Early Intervention

Early Intervention (EI) services cater to children under the age of three who qualify through evaluations conducted by the County Health Department. The demand for these services is very high. EI services are crucial during a child's formative years, providing interactions and support that foster early skill development. Racker provides speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy, delivered by a diverse group of specialized providers at our facilities or in the community.

Physical, Speech Language & Occupational Therapies

Our team of therapists brings a wealth of expertise in areas such as Sensory Processing, Feeding, Cranial Sacral Therapy, Adaptive Equipment, Bilingual Speech, Hearing Impairment, Massage, and Neurodevelopmental Treatment (NDT).

Physical Therapy

Our physical therapists use play to help children navigate their environments safely and independently, focusing on gross motor skills, safety, motor planning, adaptive equipment, strength, and endurance.

Speech Therapy

Our Speech Language Pathologists and Speech Therapists employ various techniques to support effective communication and social interaction. Through play-based strategies, we address receptive and expressive language and its social aspects.

Occupational Therapy

Our occupational therapists work closely with children to help them reach their highest potential, enabling them to fully participate in school, social situations, and daily activities. We excel in adapting environments and tasks to meet each child's needs, ensuring they can engage in the activities they want and need to do. We emphasize a multidisciplinary team approach to deliver coordinated and holistic care.

Audiology

Our audiology clinic serves all age groups, offering comprehensive evaluation testing, hearing aid sales, as well as cleaning and repairs. Racker's clinic is open to the public and committed to delivering professional, high-quality care.



Early Childhood Services



Preschool Students: 141
Childcare Enrollement: 60

The first five years of life are critically important for the physical, social-emotional, and cognitive development of a child. During these formative years, children thrive in nurturing relationships—primarily with their families and caring professionals—while engaging in meaningful and interesting activities. Whether in homes, early childhood programs across the region, or in our inclusive preschool programs, children embark on life’s journey within a supportive and enriching environment.

Racker operates 11 inclusive preschool classrooms across Cortland, Tioga, and Tompkins Counties and 3 Infant/Toddler classrooms in Tompkins County. Our integrated preschools provide learning opportunities for kids of all abilities.

Our early childhood programs are built on a foundation of skilled professionals who employ a collaborative, team-based approach to foster strong partnerships with families. By working closely together, we ensure that each child’s unique developmental needs are met, creating a successful and enriching learning experience. The commitment of our staff to providing nurturing programs is



unwavering, and their dedication is instrumental in guiding children through their critical early years, setting them on a path toward lifelong growth and success.

At Racker, we believe that every child deserves the opportunity to flourish in a supportive and inclusive environment. Through our early childhood programs, we are proud to offer the resources, expertise, and care that children need to thrive during these essential years of development.



Self Direction



197 People Served

Self-Direction is New York State's current self-determination program, designed to empower people by allowing them to create and manage supports tailored to their unique strengths and needs. This program encourages people to live the life they choose by offering a flexible approach to services.

With Self-Direction, individuals and families collaborate with a team to customize various services, such as Community Habilitation, Respite, and more. The benefits of self-directing services are numerous:



Increased Control:

Individuals have greater decision-making power and control over the funding used to purchase services.

Personalized Choices:

Individuals and families can select their own staff, choose some or all of their services, and decide which organizations will provide them.

Flexibility:

The program offers more adaptable services to better meet the unique needs of each person.

Through Self-Direction, individuals are given the opportunity to lead their lives on their own terms, making choices in their supports & services that truly reflect their goals and aspirations.





Residential



Residents: 135
Residential Houses: 26

Racker's Residential Program is committed to enriching the lives of people across three counties by providing person-centered care that reflects their dreams, goals, and preferences. In all 26 homes that we operate, we promote independence, personal growth, and community inclusion while offering tailored services to meet each person's unique needs.

Beyond person-centered care, the heart of Racker's Residential Program lies in promoting inclusion, dignity, and empowerment. The support provided not only enhances the overall well-being, but also fosters inclusion, helping those supported actively contribute to and engage with their communities.

Racker supports 135 people, from adolescents to seniors, offering a range of services tailored to their needs. Our staff work tirelessly to create a supportive, home environment that encourages personal growth, independence, and strong community connections, ensuring that each person is valued and respected.

Additionally, Racker operates a free-standing respite house in Cortland County, offering essential temporary relief for families and caregivers in need of a break, while providing a safe and caring environment for their loved ones.

Through our unwavering commitment to personalized care and community engagement, Racker's Residential Program strives to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve, enriching their experiences and empowering them to thrive while actively supporting and strengthening our community.





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 at 607.272.5891 x224

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OUR MISSION:

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



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