James S. Branciforte ————

It is always a pleasure to share the wonderful news of dreams realized and promises fulfilled at Lifetime Assistance, especially during this joyous holiday season. You will find this Lifetimes filled with remarkable real-life successes by individuals with exceptional drive and ambition; assisted by especially skilled service personnel, and embraced by our wonderfully supportive community.

Lifetime is very proud of the career advances of five talented, hardworking and deserving professionals, and we welcome the talent and expertise of two new Board members who have stepped up to make a difference.

Enjoy the news of new employment opportunities being launched and a moving story of Kadeem’s success in the kitchen. True to Lifetime’s entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to mission, we are pleased and proud to share the joy of five best friends who have created a new home together, and the success of the Foundation’s “Mobility and Accessibility” capital campaign. The campaign, thanks to the leadership of the Sperandio Family Foundation and the exceptional generosity of our wonderfully caring community, has directly touched the lives of 200 individuals and literally opened doors, bringing the latest technologies in independence and assistive devices into everyday life.

On a glamorous note, enjoy the beautiful photos of Cori and Katlin, who were celebrated as part of the Golisano Foundation’s 30 year anniversary.

Please take note of our year-end fundraising appeal. I invite you to share in the tremendous life-affirming work occurring every day at Lifetime Assistance, and assure you that your investment will make a real difference in the quality of life of our friends, neighbors and family members with developmental disabilities.

Thank you to our many supporters who assure a strong, spirited organization, dedicated to inclusive meaningful lives for persons of all abilities. You are brightening our world and we are deeply grateful!

Heartlines

Lori Siler
Director of Health Services

Lori has worked at Lifetime Assistance as a Senior Registered Nurse for 10 years. In addition to being an RN, Lori also holds a B.S. in Organizational and Business Management from Roberts Wesleyan College.

Nancy Ballaron
Director of Residential Services and Supports

Nancy began her career at Lifetime Assistance in 2004 as a Senior Manager. She holds a B.A. in Psychology and an M.S. in Education. In addition to her new Residential Director responsibilities, Nancy is overseeing a special project developing future Lifetime residential housing opportunities through a NYS Balancing Incentive Program grant.
Welcome New Board Members

John Myers

The Lifetime Assistance Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to welcome John Myers, Owner of Myers Creative Imaging. John opened his photography studio in 1987, and has worked with more than 500 companies across the globe; earning numerous prestigious awards for his exceptional work. John’s talent and creative services have benefited the Lifetime Assistance Foundation, and he has been happy to discover that his values closely align with the agency’s mission. Welcome, John Myers!

Thomas Smithgall

The Lifetime Assistance Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Thomas Smithgall. Thomas is the proud father of Kelly, who receives employment and residential services at Lifetime. He joins the Board of Directors to support and give back to Lifetime Assistance. Thomas is retired from Kodak, where he held various roles in the Health, Safety and Environment division. For his decades as volunteer coach, the Smithgall family was selected as the Monroe County Special Olympics Outstanding Family in 1990. Welcome, Thomas Smithgall!

Marianne Lampart

Associate Director of Residential Services and Supports

Marianne has been with Lifetime Assistance since 1997. She feels privileged to support and guide the amazing people receiving services, and is happy to be a part of this “exceptional team.” Marianne holds a B.S. in Psychology from SUNY Brockport.

Rosa Luciano-Julbe

Associate Director of Residential Services & Supports

Rosa has been working in the field of developmental disabilities since 1999. She holds a B.S. in Women and Gender Studies, and an M.S. in Strategic Leadership. Rosa is deeply driven by social impact, community service and innovation. She is involved in the research areas of autism within the family system, disabilities from a multi-cultural perspective, and advocacy.

Anne Pedley

Coordinator of Day Services

Anne began in the Lifetime Assistance Day Program in 2010 and most recently served as a Community Integration Specialist. She is passionate about empowering individuals to reach their greatest potential. Anne holds a B.S. in Psychology from SUNY Brockport.
Lifetime Assistance has been a leader in assuring job opportunities for many years.

In July 2013, New York State public policy signaled a move away from “sheltered workshops,” in which men and women with developmental disabilities learn and work, creating products and providing services for businesses throughout the community. With the announced public policy changes away from work centers and toward integrated community-based employment for all, Lifetime is once again providing leadership in expanding job opportunities, while demonstrating continued commitment to individuals of all abilities. Lifetime is building upon years of successful supported and competitive community-based employment services, and developing a variety of new options for achieving employment goals and realizing success, even beyond what some may have thought possible.

Of the many initiatives available, an exciting “Community Pre-voc” service offers a model for success. Based at three community work sites; a hotel, a community center, and a mailing services company, employees work at jobs that appeal to them, while also developing job skills at their worksite. On the job vocational skills training is provided, such as cooking, customer service, job readiness and “habits of successful people” as keys to assuring both employee and employer satisfaction.

As skills and interests are further refined, employees are provided opportunities to work in a variety of jobs leading to success in the workplace.

Hector Morales is one of five individuals currently working at a local community center. When some of the more traditional training approaches proved especially challenging, the vocational team found success with individualized videos and internet tools for specialized language and skill development. Hector and his peers are flourishing in their jobs, working in the center’s café as servers, cashiers, prep cooks and dishwashers. Hector is highly regarded by the seniors at the community center. He looks forward to future competitive employment, in the dietary department of a nursing home or...
hospital, where he can continue to use his job skills and his compassion for others.

A recent joint employment initiative with a local mailing services company is providing jobs to 10 individuals who were previously at the work center for over a decade. This worksite provides work experience and vocational exploration for Thu Le, who has learned sign language and in turn has taught her peers, furthering her participation in the workforce. Sam Kitt, who is excited to be working in the community after 32 years in the work center shares, “I can do more here, I have more responsibilities.”

Bill Gotshall began working at the company in May, and quickly found his niche. In July, Bill was hired directly by the company and he is an inspiration to his peers. “Each of us are just trying to reach our goals,” says Bill; “we’ve all come a long way.”

What is the next step?

Unfortunately, many young adults with disabilities find that after graduating from school, there is a gap in supportive services. By collaborating with schools and creating a “transition plan,” Lifetime works to continue to prepare students, exposing teens to work-based learning early on, and working with students to transition from school to community employment.

Lifetime Assistance is paving the way to success in the workplace with innovative programs and services allowing individuals such as Hector, Thu Le, Sam and Bill to find fulfilling jobs and achieve newfound independence.

Sam sums up the tremendous feeling of pride and accomplishment realized in a meaningful day’s work, in his words, “This has been my dream.”
In memory of Joanne Mills, this prestigious award is presented to a Registered Nurse who emulates the care and compassion that Joanne demonstrated for more than 24 years as RN and Associate Director at Lifetime Assistance. Joanne's tireless efforts in promoting quality care to people with developmental disabilities shaped Lifetime’s outstanding nursing services.

Sarah Milliman is the deserving recipient of this honor in 2015. As an RN in Lifetime’s residential program, Sarah has been an inspiration to her peers and residents. Recently, when an individual under her care became ill, Sarah worked tirelessly to arrange for him to get the care he needed at home so he could pass away peacefully in a place that he loved, surrounded by his family and friends. Her dedication to providing compassionate care makes her the deserving recipient of this year’s Joanne Mills Award for Nursing Excellence.

PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: Sandra Hamilton, Lori Siler, James Branciforte, Jordan Brown, Sarah Milliman, Rachel Berezuk, Jennifer Stow, Deb Argus

These highly motivated award recipients work hard for their future and the mission of Lifetime Assistance. By furthering their education in applicable fields such as nursing, social work, human services, healthcare administration and accounting, this year’s honorees will help to assure the highest quality care for people with developmental disabilities for many years to come.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE DESERVING RECIPIENTS:

Sperando Family Scholarship: Phillip Zuber
Kleiman Family Scholarship: Yolanda Davis
Lifetime Assistance Foundation Scholarships: Sandra Hamilton, Theresa Jobes, Kelly Leone-Penley, Jennifer Modzel, and Teresa Shannon

STANDING LEFT TO RIGHT: Kelly Leone-Penley, Theresa Shannon, James Branciforte, Lori Klafehn, Jamie Rada, Tyler Ellis
SEATED LEFT TO RIGHT: Phillip Zuber, Theresa Jobes, Yolanda Davis
NOT PICTURED: Sandra Hamilton and Jennifer Modzel
Day of Caring

The annual United Way “Day of Caring” provides a special opportunity for local neighbors and businesses to come together and give back to their community.

Every year, a tremendous corps of volunteers comes forward to contribute their time and energy to make a huge difference in the lives of individuals receiving services at Lifetime Assistance. This year, Excellus volunteered several teams to beautify Lifetime homes; putting hours of work into yard care, window washing, and landscaping. Four teams of compassionate workers from Kodak planted vegetables, cleaned garages, and stained outdoor furniture. Xerox, Semrock, Sutherland Global Services, Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection, Urban League of Rochester, Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, Paychex, Key Bank and Verizon all provided teams who made a real difference in our Lifetime homes and neighborhoods.

Thank you, to the companies and individuals who have made such a positive impact with giving of yourselves as compassionate and generous neighbors.
Perspective

As we prepare for our holiday traditions, please be mindful of the people in our community who will go without; not just without a turkey or a present to unwrap, but without a bed, a warm coat, or any supper at all.

Lifetime Assistance’s Family Support Services currently serves approximately 400 children and families with developmental disabilities, most of whom fall below the poverty line. As our community continues to face unprecedented challenges, the number of children and families in need has grown considerably; making this assistance more important than ever. Many have basic needs going unmet: beds, bedding, coats, gloves, clothing, hygiene products and household appliances to name a few. If you are interested in supporting our families in need, please visit lifetimeassistance.org or contact me at the Lifetime Assistance Foundation at (585) 784-5002 or jamie.rada@lifetimeassistance.org.

Jamie Rada, Coordinator of Development

Lifetime Society

The Lifetime Society is a special group of families and individuals who are dedicated to ensuring a bright future for people with developmental disabilities.

Through their generosity, members allow the Lifetime Assistance Foundation to carry out its charitable purpose of enriching the lives of people with developmental disabilities for generations to come.

Wills

Remembering the Lifetime Assistance Foundation in your will is incredibly meaningful, and not at all difficult. By naming the Lifetime Assistance Foundation, Inc. as a beneficiary, you are able to leave a percentage or a specific dollar amount as your legacy.

Life Insurance

The gift of a paid-up life insurance policy not only provides valuable assistance to people with developmental disabilities, but could also result in substantial tax savings. By changing the beneficiary on an existing policy, or by purchasing a new policy, you can join the ranks of other Lifetime Society Members who rest easy knowing their gift of the future will help provide opportunities of a lifetime for years to come.

If you are interested in leaving a lasting legacy by joining the Lifetime Society, please contact Jamie Rada at the Lifetime Assistance Foundation, at (585) 784-5002 or jamie.rada@lifetimeassistance.org.
Generosity in Motion

Lifetime’s Mobility and Accessibility Campaign began with a $100,000 matching gift and $50,000 donation from the Sperandio Family Foundation. Just 18 months later, the Golisano Foundation has taken us across the finish line with a total of $385,000.

In early Fall, a VIP celebration at the Country Club of Rochester was held to recognize key leaders who supported the campaign. At this event, Bob and Jackie Sperandio gave touching remarks about their longtime partnership with Lifetime Assistance, and shared their gratitude for those who joined them in contributing to this campaign. In addition, donors were able to hear from Jerry DeWinde, who uses mobility equipment in his home. Jerry thanked donors and talked about the significant impact equipment purchased through this campaign has had in his daily life. As he and others expressed in a heartfelt video;

“Thank you for all your support for the mobility devices that help people with disabilities and will help people with disabilities in the future.”

More than 200 individuals’ lives have been touched by lifts, transfers and accessibility equipment made possible by this campaign. From everyone at Lifetime Assistance, thank you.

To view the Mobility and Accessibility Campaign video, visit youtube.com and search Lifetime Assistance.

INSET: Amoad Hanna, Jerry DeWinde

www.lifetimeassistance.org
Kadeem Wearen knew he wanted to work in a kitchen when he started at Lifetime Assistance in 2010. Kadeem has worked hard to build his personal and professional skills, and quickly moved into a vocational services track. “He is a superstar,” says social worker Jennifer Anderson, “one of our biggest success stories.” Once Kadeem began working in the kitchen, “we started from scratch;” remembers Mary Stek, Catering Manager; “we trained on everything from how to hold a knife to how to provide excellent customer service, and now he has the ability to run the whole kitchen if he needed to. His progress is outstanding.”

Kadeem has big plans for the future. He hopes to work at a pizza shop someday, and have an apartment in the community. “No matter how hectic it may get in the kitchen, he’s always smiling,” says Mary. “he is 100% professional, with great people skills.” Kadeem says, “I love setting goals and reaching them!”
Cori Piels and Katlin Detsch were chosen from Lifetime Assistance as 2 of 20 individuals participating in an exciting project. Through the Golisano Foundation, these inspiring honorees attended a professional photo shoot with Rick Guidotti, an award-winning fashion photographer and founder of Positive Exposure, an innovative arts, education and advocacy organization. Through his organization, Mr. Guidotti uses photography to highlight the true beauty of individuals with diverse genetic, physical, cognitive and behavioral differences. The completed artwork was revealed at a private gathering with the models. On October 15, they attended the Golisano Foundation’s 30th Anniversary celebration where the artwork was displayed for the public. Katlin and Cori were chosen for their strength and determination to overcome obstacles in their lives and for their positive work to give a voice and a face to people with disabilities in their community. By participating in this celebration, they once again have taken an opportunity to advocate for themselves and their peers while inspiring an entire community.

PICTURED: Michael Worboys, Pat Dadey, Kevin Miller, Adolph Dupree

LEFT TO RIGHT INSETS: 1 Rick Guidotti, Katlin Detsch, Charlene Detsch  2 Katlin Detsch  3 Cori Piels  4 Rick Guidotti, Cori Piels
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All donations received after October 9, 2015 will be recognized in the next newsletter.

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**Enclosed is my donation of:**

- $25
- $100
- $250
- $500
- $1,000
- A Gift of your Choosing

If paying by check, please make payable to Lifetime Assistance Foundation.

I’d prefer to use my:

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My gift is:  in memory of  in honor of ______

I will enclose the name and address of those who should receive notifications of my memorial/honorary gift.

You can also donate online at lifetimeassistance.org
There’s No Place Like Home...
Welcome to Peck Road
Against All Odds.

When Michael and Anita Green approached Lifetime Assistance for residential support for their daughter and four of her friends, they knew the road ahead would not be easy, given a virtual freeze in the development of new group homes. However, through a unique combination of circumstances, including a one-time funding opportunity, timing, and a stroke of good fortune, the years of persistence, dedication and advocacy paid off.

Michelle Green attended the School of the Holy Childhood with her friends Amy Cassara, Lisa Campbell, Rebekah Burdette and Allison Ziarko; and the five women and their families were determined to make their dream a reality.

Today, the friends live in a cheerful house on Peck Road; filled with love and a full calendar of events. Each month, they enjoy dinner at one of their parents’ homes, keeping their connection strong and creating an extended family bond.

Coincidentally, four of the five gentlemen living in Lifetime’s Idlewood Drive home also attended school with the ladies; and the friends frequently get together for backyard barbecues. “We love spending time with our friends, hanging out and making each other laugh,” Amy says.

“It was a blessing,” says Anita; “Lifetime was able to provide us with this incredible opportunity for our children against all odds. We are so grateful and relieved knowing they are happy and in a place that they are not only being taken care of but are growing and learning.”

BACK ROW: Amy Cassara, Michelle Green
FRONT ROW: Allison Ziarko, Lisa Campbell, Rebekah Burdette
Lifetime Assistance has helped thousands of individuals realize the opportunities of a lifetime and envision a brighter future, but there are many others in need. With your help, individuals of all abilities will continue to receive the highest quality services, including life-changing mobility and accessibility equipment, technological advancements and assistance in attaining independence, jobs and community living skills.

See Page 12 to Learn How You Can Help.