



CENTER FOR SPECTRUM SERVICES

Brightening the lives of people with autism

"You gave my son a voice. You taught him how to learn. You taught him how to play. You made him more aware. I am so grateful; I can't put it into words. You made me a better mom. Thank you."
- Mother of Ray

Welcome!

For forty-one Septembers, our doors have opened to children with autism. This year, we welcome students from 34 school districts in 7 counties throughout the Hudson Valley. Our students come from every walk of life. With diversity in background, they underscore the fact that autism affects and touches us all.

One of our Kingston students, John from the Ellenville school district, is so excited about our 41st year that he's designed a special logo in celebration, which you can see below.

Welcome to the first edition of our semiannual newsletter. In this newsletter, you'll learn about community businesses and organizations that support our children, a special educator with a strong commitment to her students, one of our amazing learners, and two active grandparents united for a special cause.

Brightening the lives of individuals with autism...it's what we do.

Susan Buckler
Co-Founder
Administrative Director

Jamey Wolff
Co-Founder
Program Director



A Family Affair

Everyone at last year's Harvest Hop had such a good time that when the night was winding down, they asked, "You are doing this again next year...right?" We promised we would, and we're keeping that promise! Our second Harvest Hop will celebrate the wonderful autumn season in the Hudson Valley on Saturday, November 19th at Diamond Mills in Saugerties.

Once again, Joe Veillette and The Phantoms will provide the music, both a cappella and plugged in. This year's special honoree and Harvest Hop chairperson is Sue Blakely Cutrone. Both Sue and Joe are drawn to this event because they share two very special things in common; Sue's grandson Oliver, and Joe's grandson Ethan, are both students at Spectrum Services.

"It's wonderful taking part and volunteering to support Oliver's school as the Harvest Hop chair," says Sue, "and we're making sure this year's attendees have as much fun, if not more, as last years." Sue mentions that anyone who wants to help make this a great event can jump in by donating or soliciting auction items, or helping local businesses to become sponsors. Those wanting to help can contact Spectrum Services Development office. Sue's volunteer activities for Oliver's school have also included grant support from her former employer, IBM.

The Phantom's lead performer, Joe Veillette, has arranged for the band to volunteer their time and talent to support Spectrum Services. "We know what this amazing organization does to help our grandson, Ethan, and his classmates reach their highest potential," says Joe, "and because of that, we know how important it is to support Spectrum Services." There's another familial



Sue Cutrone and Oliver Cutrone



Joe Veillette and Ethan Grant

connection with The Phantoms; Ethan's mom, Jasmine Veillette, is also one of the band members.

Spectrum Services' Co-Founder and Program Director, Jamey Wolff, says "we're excited to host our Harvest Hop at Diamond Mills and look forward to the delicious food prepared by their talented team."

Adds Susan Buckler, Spectrum Services Administrative Director, "with Sue's wonderful organizational skills, and Joe's extraordinary musical ability, these two grandparents have found their own unique way to commit their talents to support their grandchildren."

We're grateful to Sue Blakely Cutrone and Joe Veillette, two grandparents both making a difference in the lives of their own grandchildren, and in the lives of all the children attending Spectrum Service.



MEET THE EDUCATOR

Heather

Heather Gulnick began working at Spectrum Services in 1997 as a substitute teacher. Twenty years later, she is one of our most experienced special educators, with as much spirit and vitality as when she began.

"Heather's devotion to our students is exceptional," says Program Director Jamey Wolff, "as she gives unselfishly of her time and resources to make each of their days count as 'good' ones." She has demonstrated her expertise in various classes, with our unique children on the full range of the autism spectrum. With incredible flexibility through the years, Heather keeps up to date with evidenced based teaching and therapeutic strategies.

Well respected by her colleagues, Heather contributes her enthusiasm and energy to a multitude of activities at school, including facilitating the sibling group at our monthly Parent Discussion Group, supporting the brothers and sisters of our students with autism. In the classrooms and the hallways at school, it is clear to all how much Heather is loved by her students.



Heather Gulnick with husband Burt, Ulster County Commissioner of Finance, at the Spectrum Services Hollywood Jubilee 40th anniversary celebration.

MEET THE STUDENT

Gabriel

When Gabriel started at Spectrum Services in Ellenville in July 2015, he was just three years old. He communicated with about five signs and a handful of single word requests. As a result he was shy and hesitant to participate in activities.

His Mother, Justine, recalls thinking, "I wonder if he'll ever be able to say, 'I love you Mom.'"

Gabriel's program focused on speech/language development and peer interaction. Over time, his confidence emerged as his words increased and he was more easily understood. He is now talking in full sentences and initiating conversation with peers and adults. Gabriel actively seeks out his friends and joins in play activities throughout his school day.

Today, Justine describes Gabriel's progress as amazing. Recently, she told Gabriel that a family friend was coming to be with him while she went out. He replied, "But Mom, I'm really gonna miss you." Justine said, "He just melted my heart."



Community Supports Center for Spectrum Services

With support from generous individuals, businesses and local foundations, Center for Spectrum Services is able to provide exceptional programs for our students. Here are some of the recent grants we've received from our generous community.

Local Foundation Carve for a Cause Provides Sensory Library for Spectrum Services Students

For our students with autism spectrum disorders, aversions to touch, movement, sound, light or smells can impact their ability to fully experience their environment and engage in relationships with others. To enhance the sensory activities available to our students, Carve for a Cause Foundation, an Ulster County based foundation, donated \$5,000 for Spectrum Services to purchase materials for a Sensory Library. Marianne Murray, Founder of Carve for a Cause, notes "We believe strongly in supporting programs and projects that, in many cases, are not

eligible for traditional funding sources. We believed the new sensory library fell into this category, and are thrilled to be providing support through our 10th anniversary Grant Challenge."

Laurie Hopkins, Occupational and Physical Therapy Department Head notes, "materials and equipment purchased with grant funds will be shared with the classrooms to allow increased opportunities for sensory activities. "The Sensory Library will be equipped with a wide range of materials and equipment such as



Student Shawn from the Onteora School District on a sensory spinner

weighted blankets, a standing table, seating to provide soothing movement experiences, and richly textured materials to be used daily by our students.

Klock Foundation Funds Smart Boards for Spectrum Services Classrooms

The Klock Kingston Foundation granted Spectrum Services \$10,000 to install two Smart Boards at the school. Sloan Saverine, Vice President and Senior Trust Officer at Key Private Bank, representing the trustees of Klock Kingston, noted "Klock Kingston has supported Spectrum Services for years

as they continue to provide a vital service to our local community. I am honored to represent Klock in this endeavor."

Research demonstrates the use of Smart Boards may result in a marked improvement in students' capabilities. "A number of the students in my class

will transition to a classroom in their home school district," explains special educator Jackie Allen. "Many public school classrooms already use this technology. The use of Smart Boards will prepare our students to arrive at their new school on equal footing with their peers."

Community Supports Center for Spectrum Services

Ellenville High's Girls Softball Hits a Home Run for Spectrum Services

Imagine the excitement when Sandy Brownsey, Program Coordinator at our Ellenville school, received a call from the President of the Ellenville Central School District PTO, explaining the girl's high school softball team wanted to play a game to raise funds for Spectrum Services.

Members of the high school teams from Ellenville and Tri-Valley schools came to our school, were paired with our students, and went to a local playground for an afternoon of great fun!

The fund raising softball game raised close to \$3,000. Several of the athletes said the day spent with our students was the best they had in high school, and asked if the funds could go towards something special for our students. And so this past summer, a children's



Ellenville HS Girl's Softball Captain, Cassandra Little (right) with special educator Janine Sprague, and Ellenville School District student AJ enjoying a moment.

garden was planted in the front of our Ellenville school. As Sandy said "the seeds planted that special day will grow deep roots and beautiful flowers and bloom for the children to care for and enjoy."

Cars and Caring Are What Sawyer Motors is All About

Sawyer Motors celebrated its 13th annual "Best Little Car Show in the Northeast" in July. With perfect weather, over 10,000 visitors coming from all over the east coast, and more than 500 cars on display, the day was a success. Sawyer Motors demonstrates its community involvement and civic-mindedness in many ways, including this free, open to the public car show. Community support is very important to Sawyer Motors, and owners Bob and Larry Siracusano use the occasion of the



car show to donate to local organizations that support the community.

This year, Spectrum Services was one of the recipients and received a \$5,000 donation. "We're very grateful to Sawyer Motors for supporting our special students," says Spectrum Service's Development and Public Relations Coordinator David Juhren, "Bob and Larry are wonderful benefactors to our students, and support like this reaches each and every one of them."

You Can Help, Too!

Early Intervention can change the life of a child with autism by providing diagnostic, therapeutic, and educational services to toddlers and preschoolers. These programs are vital to very young children, when focused services in the early years create significant opportunities for development.

We offer early intervention services to our community. BUT...this program is woefully underfunded. Each year we

must fundraise to fill the gap between the costs of providing these programs and the shortage of funds we receive.

You can change the life of a child with autism. Making a donation is as easy as going to our website www.centerforspectrumservices.org, and clicking the Donate Now button in the left column. Any level of donation is appreciated.



Saturday, November 19
7:30pm - 10:30pm
DIAMOND MILLS
Saugerties, NY

Sue Blakely Cutrone, Harvest Hop Honoree & Chairperson

Back by popular demand, it's our Harvest Hop Dance. Join us for a bountiful night of fun, frolic, and friends, as we enjoy sumptuous fare, live music for dancing, a silent auction, and more.

The highly sought after music group The Phantoms will be performing throughout the night, both acapella and plugged in! A wonderful night out for you, all supporting the programs and services of Center for Spectrum Services and the life-changing work we do with our children with autism.

- First hour complimentary wine, beer, and soft drinks with a cash bar
- Dancing to the music and vocal rhythms of the nationally acclaimed The Phantoms
- A superb assortment of hors d'oeuvres and fun fare to fit the season
- A cornucopia of silent auction items, services, and goods

RESERVATIONS

Reservations are \$60 per person, and includes the first hour of complimentary wine, beer, and soft drinks, a smorgasbord of delicacies throughout the night sure to wow your taste buds, music by the phenomenal Phantoms, dancing, and more!

Make your reservations now on Spectrum Services' website www.centerforspectrumservices.org.



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Center for Spectrum Services is a not-for-profit organization designed especially for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. We are approved by the New York State Office of Education of Children with Disabling Conditions and the New York State Health Department.

Since our inception in 1976, Spectrum Services has served as a model special education program. With two centers located in Kingston and Ellenville, our outreach extends to children and families from throughout New York's Hudson Valley. In addition to our educational programming, we also operate the Spectrum Services Outreach Program, providing comprehensive diagnostic evaluations to children, adolescents, and adults in the community. It also offers Social Skills Groups, individual counseling, and professional and family trainings and workshops.

Annually, we attract hundreds of visitors, sponsor trainings and seminars for professionals and families, and are nationally recognized for our leadership in the field.

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www.centerforspectrumservices.org