

June 2022 | Advocates Incorporated

# STRONGER TOGETHER

ADVANCING INCLUSION | EMPOWERING FAMILIES | CREATING COMMUNITY



Dear Friends,

To move beyond obstacles, we must grow through them. The “Lives of Distinction” stories in this edition shine a light on the power of perseverance. Clara, Taylor and Steve demonstrate that the people by our sides who believe in us can make all of the difference in our ability to overcome challenges. We are grateful to each of them for sharing their stories and inspiring us with their success!

The foundation of our organization was built almost 30 years ago when a small group of parents gathered around a kitchen table to support each other and brainstorm solutions for their children. Today, Advocates has over 1,000 dedicated employees offering support and services as we partner with 1,000 children, adults and families. Through the decades, our mission and values remain clear and consistent. Our values include the following:

We believe in the value, potential and full participation of all people in the community.

We believe that people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities should have the choice to direct their own lives.

We believe that all is possible when we join together.

Thank you for being a part of the Advocates community. You are an important part of upholding our values and we look forward to growing with you for years to come!

*Amy Dugliss*, Executive Director



## MISSION STATEMENT

Advocates is a person-centered not for profit organization that empowers individuals with developmental disabilities to direct their own lives and create a vision for their future.

Together, we advocate for a future where people with developmental disabilities can fully participate in their homes, schools, and communities in a meaningful way.



## YOU'RE INVITED... SAVE THE DATE! JULY 29, 2022

We invite you and your family and friends to an evening of inspiration, art, and entertainment for all ages! Emotion Into Art™ is a unique speed painting inspirational performance presented by nationally acclaimed Tom Varano.

Tom travels the country with the “goal of inspiring people of all ages to not only follow their dreams, but to follow their dreams with PASSION!” Tom’s performance will captivate your attention as he speaks a message of hope and encouragement while creating three works of art live on stage, set to powerful music. His artwork will be auctioned off at the end of his performance.

Joey Walker from 93Q will be our Master of Ceremonies, and concessions will be available throughout the evening.

In addition to Tom’s performance, we will be hosting an Art Show featuring artists that receive services from Advocates.

Artwork displayed will be available for purchase. A group piece by our artists will be auctioned off at the beginning of the show.



Listed to the right is the evening's schedule of events. Emotion Into Art™ is open to those receiving services, families, employees, and the general public. We look forward to seeing you there!

You won't want to miss this amazing performance! Register today by either using the QR Code or at the link below:

[advocatesemotionintoart.eventbrite.com](https://advocatesemotionintoart.eventbrite.com)



Please support this event as all proceeds from Emotion Into Art™ benefit children and adults with disabilities.

### EMOTION INTO ART™

July 29, 2022

Art Exhibit: 5:30pm - 7:00pm

#### Performance General Admission

7:00 - 8:00pm

Cost: \$25/per person

#### Patron Reception 5:30pm - 7:00pm

(Includes wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, desserts and VIP seating at the show)

\$125/per person

**The Palace Theatre**  
2384 James Street  
Syracuse, NY 13206

Paintings by Advocates artists will be available for purchase throughout the evening.

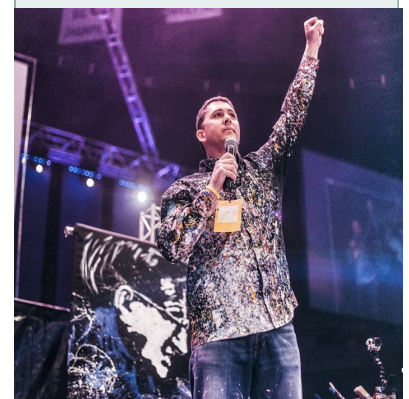
*“The way you mixed the paintings, storytelling and music while delivering your message was such a great way to get the students motivated and inspired! Thank you!!”*

Rory Flood  
Chesapeake College

*“We wanted to say thank you for such an incredible show you put on.”*

April Nedwell  
Oliver Winch Presentation

We are excited to offer this event to the Advocates community and we know that you will enjoy this nationally acclaimed inspirational performance!





## MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS: NEW CRISIS RESOURCE

988 is the new, three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL). 988 will be available nation-wide on July 16, 2022.

988 is more than just an easy-to-remember number. It is a direct connection to caring support for anyone in mental health distress. This may include:

- thoughts of suicide
- substance use crisis
- emotional distress

988 is a free service available to everyone. You can contact 988 by chat, text, or phone. Access support in Spanish by pressing 2. Interpretation services are available in over 150 languages.

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-ADVOCATES AND CAREGIVERS



## Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

In our last edition, we announced that we were fortunate to be the recipient of a grant from the New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council.

The funding provides individuals and their families/caregivers, who receive services from Advocates, opportunities to attend NY Alliance virtual events, workshops, and conferences throughout the year, presented by experts with extensive knowledge in their respective fields. The NY Alliance's core values are "to serve as a catalyst for positive change and leading resource for individuals with disabilities, their families, and the organizations supporting them through many facets of which includes education and training."

Participation at virtual events, workshops, and conferences offered through NY Alliance is offered on a first come, first served basis for Advocates families. Please visit the NY Alliance website for information on events, workshops, and conferences (<https://nyalliance.org>). If you wish to attend an event sponsored by the NY Alliance, please email [familysupport@advocatesincorporated.org](mailto:familysupport@advocatesincorporated.org) to register.

Advocates would like to thank the NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council for their support.



## SPECIAL THANKS

Advocates would like to acknowledge and thank Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State for providing much-needed funding for medical equipment not covered by insurance or Medicaid for individuals who receive services and supports from Advocates.

The items purchased will enhance ambulation and independence, assist with motility, bowel and bladder functions, increase bone density thereby minimizing the risk of fractures and osteoporosis, improve gross motor, fine motor and sensory goals, help with hearing and sight loss, and improve overall health and wellness.

Thank you Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State for partnering with Advocates to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities!



## UPCOMING VIRTUAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

**Families:** To register for any of our training presentations, please email [training@advocatesincorporated.org](mailto:training@advocatesincorporated.org) and provide the name of the person receiving services and the name of the Care Manager.

**Advocates employees looking for professional development opportunities are also welcome to register to attend!**

### SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS

**Presented by:**  
**Susan Scharoun, Ph.D.**  
**Professor, Psychology Department**  
**Le Moyne College**

**Wednesday, June 22, 2022 | 6:00pm (Zoom)**

Please join us on Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at 6:00pm for a discussion on "Social Relations" presented by Susan Scharoun, Ph.D.

People who have positive social relationships report greater happiness, fewer health problems, and live longer. Positive social connections are a great source of pleasure and when we need it most, they buffer us against the stresses of everyday life and crises. This webinar will focus on helping participants to understand the elements of social relationships and address ways to overcome obstacles to forming them.

### COMMUNICATION EXISTS IN VARIOUS FORMS: LEARN ABOUT A JOURNEY TO COMMUNICATION FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT SPEAK

**Presented by:**  
**Sherylanne Burke & Srilata Saroja**  
**Inclusion and Communication Initiatives (ICI)**

**Tuesday, June 28, 2022 | 6:00pm (Zoom)**

Please join Sherylanne Burke and Srilata Saroja on June 28th as they present "Communication Exists in Various Forms: Learn about a journey to communication for those who do not speak."

This presentation will address the connection between communication, movement, initiation, sensory and the key elements of support; all grounded in a presumption of competence. Sherylanne Burke and Srilata Saroja will provide an overview of supported typing, communication applications, and assistive technology.

**Mark your calendars  
for these upcoming  
Virtual Training  
Opportunities  
Hosted by Advocates!**

**September 20 | 6:00pm**

"What Went Well For You Today?:  
A Presentation on Gratitude and  
Learning to be Positive"

Presenter:  
Dr. Christina Michaelson, Ph.D.,  
LeMoyne College

**October 26 | 6:00pm**

"Planning for the Future:  
An Informed Discussion on Supple-  
mental Needs Trusts, Wills, Power of  
Attorney and Health Care Proxy"

Presenter: Scott E. Koldin, Esq.,  
Koldin Law Center

**November 14 | 6:00pm**

Understanding & Accessing  
SNAP  
(Food Stamp) Benefits

Presenter: Alice Webster  
of Food Bank of CNY

#### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Is there a particular topic you would like information on? Is there a specific speaker that you would like us to invite to one of our Family Training sessions? We welcome requests for a topic or speaker for future trainings. If you would like to submit a topic or speaker, please email [Training@advocatesincorporated.org](mailto:Training@advocatesincorporated.org) and provide the topic of interest and/or the speaker's name. We appreciate your ideas on future training topics of value to you!





# Together We Can Make A Difference!



On behalf of Advocates, our heartfelt thanks goes out to our families, supporters, sponsors, and donors for participating in our 4th Annual Stroll & Roll event. Proceeds from this event benefit children and adults with disabilities, and your support is integral to our ability to serve people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in our community and to improve the quality of life for all.



*“Advocates is all about empowerment, inclusion, guidance, friendship, and making people believe they can be more.”*

- Clara Penaloza

Special thanks to our Event Sponsor - KeyBank, Bib Sponsor - Delmonico Insurance Agency, Media Sponsor - CST Real Estate Photography (CST Media Productions), Swag Sponsor - Cathedral Candle Company, Food Truck Sponsor - Todd Luchsinger, and all other Sponsors and Donors - Price Chopper, Wegmans, SIGMA THETA TAU, Heather Galko, Todd Luchsinger, Carolyn Madison, Griswold Foundation - Assimon Family, Dr. Patrick & Kuni Riccardi, Edward J Ryan Funeral Home, Marsh & McLennan Co.,

Paladin Restoration, Toomey Residential & Community Services, CNY Premier/CNY Soccer Tots, Murrays, Skip Dorsch, Matthew Mosconi, Carol Gentry, Renae Rokicki, Amy Dugliss, Susan Nielsen, Cheri Haskins, Kimberly Parody, Sandy Finn, Kathy Kratz, Richard and Hope Zenker, Leah Marvin, Mary Gauthier, Elizabeth Riccardi, Leslie Gorke, Edna Manzo, Denny Duong, CNY Premier SC, Adriana Battle, Kyle Fournier, Jeffrey Gordon, Greer Gavan, Ashley White, Elizabeth Henderson, Shelley Dixon-Williams, 93Q and to all of our auction donors.



Our auction was spectacular and we kindly ask that you patronize and support the generous businesses that participated in the 5K and auction.

**Please save the date for Advocates 5th Annual Stroll & Roll on Saturday, May 13, 2023!**

## LIVES OF DISTINCTION - CLARA PENALOZA

Clara Penalzoza couldn't have been more aptly named. Google the name "Clara", and you'll see that she has fit its meaning well – bright, shining, and destined to be famous.

Clara has always desired to be in the spotlight and perform for people. She partially attributes this to the fact that she loves Hispanic culture and music. Music has always been soothing to her and helps her cope when challenges arise. "I tend to get very overwhelmed when I have many responsibilities or tasks at once," Clara admitted. "I've also struggled with decision making; I'm working on making better choices. Music helps to calm me and get me back on track."

Something else that helps Clara to stay on track is the critical support of her Mentors through Advocates. One of her Mentors, Viki Boorady-Kunkel, has worked with Clara for an entire decade. Viki's person-centered approach, years of experience, and impressive skill set has led to an incredible working relationship between the two, and is evidence of the invaluable role Advocates' Mentors play in the lives of the people they support.

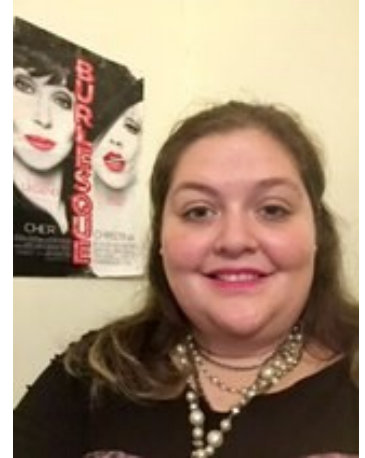
"You can do this! I'm always telling her, because I believe she can accomplish anything," Viki said. "We work on things like staying on task, empowerment, 'I-statements,' and understanding the consequences of her actions."



The number of areas in which Clara needs support and guidance is vastly outnumbered by her strengths and talents. Her self-reliance in many areas allows her to live independently. She can handle most daily responsibilities without support. She takes great pride in her job at Apex Entertainment in Destiny USA as an Attractions Attendant. She regularly receives positive feedback from customers, fellow staff members, and her Supervisor about her conscientious work and cheerful demeanor. In addition to her desirable work ethic and outgoing personality, Clara has been gifted with an incredibly creative, artistic mind, and baking skills that rival those of even the best bakers you know.

Clara's love for Broadway and entertainment in general led to one of her self-created goals – to become a famous singer. She has showcased her dynamic voice in a variety of ways over the

years, from participating in the All Star C.A.S.T., Advocates' Talent Show, and several other theatrical performances. She even has a following as a YouTube "vlogger," where she creates and uploads video blogs on subjects like entertainment, a glance at her personal life, and even tutorials on how to bake some of her delectable creations. Clara has certainly received her share of accolades from having been in the spotlight over the years, but she made a point of sharing exactly why she enjoys the attention as an adult.



"I hope to inspire others by what I do," she said. "Don't let anyone discourage you or tell you that you're not capable." Clara particularly likes that Advocates' philosophies are quite the contrary. "Advocates is all about empowerment, inclusion, guidance, friendship, and making people believe they can be more."

While Clara has accomplished a lot, she believes she can be and do more. She continues to take voice lessons and may pursue piano lessons in the future in hopes of improving what is already an impressive set of musical skills. She works with her Mentors on important life skills, such as maintaining a clean and orderly living space, staying organized, and budgeting money. These and other objectives are ones that will not only benefit Clara in the short term, but will also lead to her success with bigger things in the future.

"I hope to own my own baking business one day, called 'Unique and Chic Sweets,'" Clara said. Her passions, dreams, and goals are ones she hopes will one day lead to a life in New York City. "I love New York and try to go a couple times a year," she said. "It just fits me in many ways."

When Clara isn't performing, traveling, or baking, she enjoys writing, arts and crafts, planning parties and other events, going to concerts, spending time with friends, and frequenting her favorite restaurants and thrift stores around town.

"If you have a dream, don't let anybody take it away," Clara told us, sharing one of her favorite quotes from the late Selena. With Clara's determination, strong circle of support, and even her namesake, her dreams are not a matter of if they'll come true, but rather when they'll come true.



## REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR ADVOCATES 17TH ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT



Advocates is pleased to announce that the 17th Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held on Wednesday, September 14th at the Turning Stone Resort Casino.

We are looking forward to welcoming back our sponsors and golfers for this great event. We are so appreciative of their support throughout the years. The success of our tournament is a result of their charitable generosity.

We are looking for additional sponsors and golfers. If you, your colleagues, or your business would like to support a worthy cause, meet new faces and network with great people, please consider golfing with us in this year's tournament. There are a variety of sponsorships available to choose from.

Golfers will be treated to a day of fun and comradery, playing on the Shenendoah and Kaluhyat courses.

Shenendoah offers 18 holes of PGA-level golf in a magnificent natural setting. The course is maintained to TOUR standards. Kaluhyat offers dramatic changes in elevation with plateau settings that offer breathtaking views of the surrounding terrain.

The day will feature 18 holes of golf, beverages on the course, grilled lunch on the turn, networking reception with cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres, raffles, silent auction, contests, short program, and great swag.

So, polish up your golf clubs and register today!

To request a registration/sponsor brochure, please email [development@advocatesincorporated.org](mailto:development@advocatesincorporated.org)



**Remember, the most important rule in golf is to have fun!**



### GOLF SCHEDULE

**Wednesday, Sept. 14th**

**Registration**  
9:30am - 10:45am

**Golf Pro's Message**  
10:50am

**Shotgun Start**  
11:00am

**Grilled Lunch on the Turn**  
11:00am - 3:00pm

**Reception**  
4:30pm - 7:00pm

**Program/Raffles**  
6:00pm

**Silent Auction Closes**  
6:30pm

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Please note:

The reception will be held at the Clubhouse, outside on the patio.

However, if it is raining, the upstairs Clubhouse has been reserved for our usage.



# SAVE THE DATE: Onondaga County Advocates Family Picnic 2022



We are happy to announce that our Annual Onondaga County Advocates Family Picnic is back! We look forward to seeing you on:

**Wednesday, August 17th, from 4 pm - 7 pm**

**Willow Bay, Onondaga Lake Park (3858 Long Branch Rd, Liverpool, NY 13090)**

Please RSVP by August 12th by emailing [Recreation@advocatesincorporated.org](mailto:Recreation@advocatesincorporated.org)

Family Recreation is an Advocates program through our Family Supports and Services Grant in Onondaga County.



## Advocates Community Meetings

Employees, people we support, and families are invited to join us virtually on the first Tuesday of each month at 4:00pm for Advocates Community Meetings!

Tuesday, July 5	Tuesday, Oct. 4
Tuesday, Aug. 2	Tuesday, Nov. 1
Tuesday, Sept. 6	Tuesday, Dec. 6

Registration: [advocatesincorporated.org](https://advocatesincorporated.org)  
"Information/Resources"

**We look forward to meeting you, sharing updates, answering questions, and learning what additional resources we can provide!**



## RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE HOSTED BY ADVOCATES



Advocates is sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, June 28th from 1:00pm - 6:00pm. The drive will take place at Advocates office in Liverpool.

Appointments may be made through the American Red Cross website. According to the American Red Cross, every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood as blood supplies are essential for surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses, and traumatic injuries. "Whether a patient receives whole blood, red cells, platelets or plasma, this lifesaving care starts with one person making a generous donation."

To register, search "Advocates" at [redcrossblood.org/give](https://redcrossblood.org/give)

## SELF-DIRECTION REIMBURSEMENT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Advocates is pleased to announce that the FI Team (Fiscal Intermediary Services) at Advocates will offer regularly scheduled bi-weekly reimbursement training opportunities for individuals who self-direct their services and their families.

Trainings will be virtual and will cover payment standards and service documentation requirements to support reimbursement claims for FI services. Trainings will also include tutorials on submitting reimbursements into the eVer0 MyCarePortal app. To register, please email [FI@advocatesincorporated.org](mailto:FI@advocatesincorporated.org).

Additional information on this opportunity will be coming shortly.

## ACCEPTING LATE REGISTRATIONS - YOU'RE STILL WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN ADVOCATES KICKBALL!

People ages 11 and up who receive services from Advocates are welcome to join us for our summer session of Advocates Kickball! The 12-week session will run from June 8th to August 24th,

The session will be held on Wednesdays from 5:00pm - 6:00pm at Carrier Field of Dreams located at 1033 Kinne Street, East Syracuse. The fee for this session will be \$40 per person. Payments will be accepted at the Liverpool office, and we ask you to please make your check payable to Advocates Incorporated.



Late registrations are accepted. However, kickball t-shirts are limited and will be distributed to those that register before the deadline. If you have any questions, please contact the Recreation Department - [recreation@advocatesincorporated.org](mailto:recreation@advocatesincorporated.org)

## The Best of Both Worlds - Steve Boudreau



2011 was a special year for Steve Boudreau. In addition to marrying his best friend, Tracey, he joined the Advocates team as a Mentor. Eleven years later, Steve says he doesn't know what he'd do without either fundamental part of his life.

Prior to entering the disability service field nearly 30 years ago, Steve lacked direction when it came to what he wanted to do professionally. He had worked part time jobs through high school and afterward, most notably as a restaurant prep cook. Because he didn't consider himself a people person, he enjoyed the ability to perform his job with no customer interaction. Ultimately, though, Steve felt something was missing. That something was a yearning to be of greater service to people in his community.

While Steve was contemplating his next move, a friend casually mentioned that she thought Steve would be great at what she did – acting as a Direct Support Professional for someone with a disability. Steve was admittedly apprehensive about the thought of working with people in that capacity. Due to his tendency to keep to himself and the fact that he hadn't any experience with people with disabilities, he almost passed on the opportunity.

Looking back, Steve is glad he set his fears aside and gave the profession a chance.

"I made the jump and immediately fell in love with the job because of the people we support," he said. "It really did fill the void because our people have a great outlook on life and provide a different perspective." The positive role Steve has played in the lives of several people he's supported over the years at Advocates has left him with a true sense of pride and accomplishment. He can recall multiple people who have taken great strides in their independence and have grown in other ways under his tutelage.

One such example is a young man Steve has now supported for years. When the two had first met, the young man expressed that he'd always wanted to swim with his friends but was terrified of the water – so much so that he would barely get his feet wet. Before a swimming goal could be established, Steve realized that he first needed to establish something greater – a solid relationship built on trust. Before long, a rapport was developed and with it came the setting of the new goal for the young man.

Each week, Steve would take his friend to the YMCA to get more comfortable in and around the water. Steve exercised much patience in the process when building a routine and allowing him to proceed at his own pace. Through Steve's admirable approach and steady doses of encouragement, the young man went from taking baby steps with swimming to being an accomplished swimmer in a matter of months.

"He now swims like a fish and it's his main source of exercise these days," Steve said with a giant smile on his face. "It's rewarding, seeing his growth and accomplishing his goals...all because we developed that trusting relationship."

It's stories similar to this that Steve can share that make him appreciate his job and the agency as much as he does the people he supports. **"I could talk all day about everything I like about Advocates,"** Steve said. **"I particularly like how we support the entire family through the process, and not just the person receiving services."** What Steve also likes about Advocates and his role here is that he feels valued – both in the small circles of those he supports and as part of a much larger team of Advocates employees. "It's nice having other Mentors respect my opinion and advice because of my experience," he told us. "It's great to have the support from the Advocates team when you need it, too."

When Steve isn't making a positive impact on people's lives while on the clock with Advocates, he does so as a husband, father, and friend. As much as he loves his job with Advocates, he says the best job of all is being a dad. "Being a dad is such a privilege, and I'm so lucky to have them," Steve said, referring to his two children, Grace and Fletcher. "I mostly have great days at work, and afterward, I get to go home to my beautiful wife and kids," he continued. **"I really have the best of both worlds."**

For those of us who know Steve, it's hard to believe there was a time when he wasn't a people person. It's also hard to believe that he got introduced to the field in his 20s, because as he acknowledged himself, he feels he was born to serve people in the way he does today. **"I just try hard to treat people the way I would want to be treated,"** he said. It's this philosophy that has governed how he performs his jobs as both a Mentor and a father. We are truly grateful to have dedicated people like Steve on our team, and we thank him for the critical supports he provides people every day.



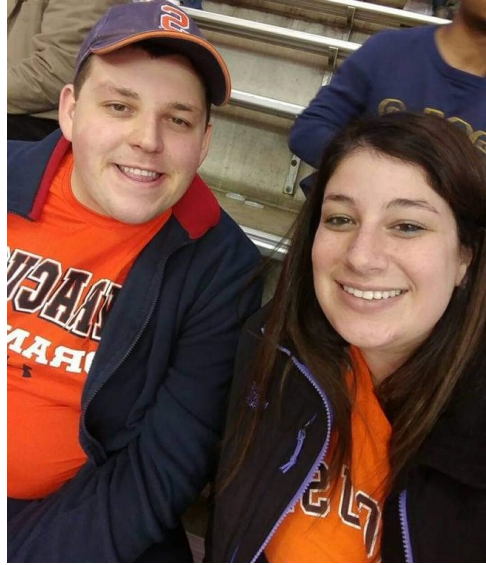
## LIVES OF DISTINCTION - TAYLOR PERKINS

You've probably heard the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." When that child amounts to a successful adult the way Taylor Perkins has, it's easy to see why there's truth to this age-old adage.

Those who have been a part of Taylor's "village" for some time will tell you that his early life was more challenging due to his disability. "He was a happy and loving little boy but as he developed, we noticed his lack of language and an ability to disappear into his own world," Taylor's mother, Dee, told us. "These were the signs of autism and when he was diagnosed in 1998, this was a world before the internet, cell phones, and autism portrayed in tv shows. We had to work really hard to get the latest research." His Mentor of 8 years through Advocates, Christina Adamski, concurred. "He really struggled with social interaction and communication, and this affected everything else," she said. Taylor's disability and introversion negatively affected other things, such as his self-confidence and ability to make friends. This wouldn't last long, however, as those closest to him were determined to lay a foundation of support to ensure that his formative and adult years would look drastically different.

It took Taylor some time to learn to communicate effectively, but he was able to do this thanks to hard work and the constant support of his parents. This support included the use of therapies which helped him to use language to meet his needs and successfully communicate with others. According to Dee, it was Advocates that finally got Taylor to come out of his shell. "Over the years, he has formed a group of friends through Advocates," she said. "He loves working with his Mentors, Christina, Steve, and Anna, and they all take the time to help Taylor be more sociable and create groups of friends who like to do similar things together."

"I've been beyond blessed working with Taylor, but when we first met, I was always trying to pull information from him," Christina added. "He's modeled how his Mentors engage with others, and now he's texting his friends, asking people if they want to hang out, and asking people how their days are going... It's all great to see." Though the support of Taylor's Mentors has been critical to his success, Dee was quick to credit another key person in his figurative "village." Her endorsement of Stephany



Keans (Taylor's Care Manager) and the integral role she has played in Taylor's development exemplifies the importance of one's entire Circle of Support. "We wouldn't be as successful as we are if it wasn't for Stephany," Dee said. "She has been with us through all of the planning and changes, and we are so lucky to have such a caring person in Stephany." While Stephany agrees that it's been a team effort, she was quick to shift the recognition back to the family.

"Dee and Mark (Taylor's father) are key in Taylor's success; they've never, ever talked about what he wasn't capable of doing, but rather what he is capable of doing," Stephany said. "In my fifteen years of working with them, they never looked at his disability as a negative, and that positive thinking created a solid foundation that Taylor's success was built upon."

While every member of Taylor's Circle of Support deserves praise for his strides in communication and sociability, so does Taylor himself. He also deserves an equal or greater amount of credit for his work ethic, which he demonstrates daily at home and at Tully's Restaurant, where he will be celebrating 9 years as part of their prep team this August.

"Doing my job at Tully's makes me feel proud and brings me closer to people like my work friends," Taylor said. "I like making our customers happy by providing good food." Though Taylor surely brings customers joy by way of making the restaurant's famous peanut butter pies, he puts smiles on the faces of more people than he likely realizes. His coworkers value his work ethic and productivity, but not nearly as much as the caliber person he is.

"I look forward to every shift knowing Taylor will be there," said Shannon Brewer, Taylor's coworker and Head of Tully's Prep Department. "He is always in a good mood and he's super eager to help everyone any way he can. I've said this a million times: we at Tully's could not do the business we do without him, and I wish I had a kitchen full of Taylors." With his experience, added responsibilities, and strong work ethic, it's no wonder that even the Restaurant's lead manager is impressed by the job he does. "He is fast and efficient and is just such a valued member of our team," said Tully's Manager, Elissa Quigley.

Taylor's goal is to continue his growth at Tully's while also focusing on his responsibilities and interests outside of work. When he isn't working or helping around the house, you can find him pursuing one of his many hobbies or interests in the community. He loves taking day trips to places such as theme parks, the Corning Museum of Glass, Alexandria Bay, and The Museum of Intrigue. Because he's active and enjoys being outdoors, you may run into him at the YMCA, Onondaga Lake Park, or playing sports such as Challenger Baseball, where he will remarkably begin his 22nd season this June. Taylor adores playing the game and the camaraderie the league provides – a chance to hang out with his friends and Mentors, as well as his parents, who administrate the league. He also enjoys traveling, writing, baking, art, and bowling. He has been a top player in the Upstate Medical Bowling League for over 7 years, and was recently awarded a large trophy for producing one of the top averages in the league.

Taylor will still face challenges presented by his disability, but his successes are many and his future is bright thanks to the people that will always be there to support and guide him. So, if you happen upon Taylor one day, be sure introduce yourself to learn more about these successes as well as his dreams. You'll be glad you did because he is quite the conversationalist these days.

And, if you're fortunate enough to get to know the Perkins family, we believe you'll have the same admiration of Taylor's village that we do. "The successes that Taylor has had have been successes that Dee, Mark, and his Mentors have had as well, because it's been a total team effort," Stephany said.



## Save the Dates

June 28, 2022  
Advocates Blood Drive, Liverpool Office

July 29, 2022  
Emotion into Art, The Palace Theatre

August 17, 2022  
Onondaga County Advocates Family Picnic

Willow Bay, Onondaga Lake Park

September 14, 2022  
Advocates 17th Annual Charity Golf Tournament  
Turning Stone Resort & Casino



Let's stay connected!  
Visit [www.advocatesincorporated.org](http://www.advocatesincorporated.org)  
and follow "Advocates Incorporated" on



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Liverpool, NY 13088  
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