

**Nothing More,
Nothing Less
For All People
With Disabilities**

Access to Independence of Cortland County, Inc.

ACCESS NEWS

Spring 2014

NUMBER XXXX

ATI Recognizes Volunteers

On April 10, ATI recognized the contributions of its volunteers by hosting them to pizza, wings and salad. ATI also presented special awards of appreciation to two individuals who went above and beyond over the past six months: Sara Askew and Rene Waddy.

Over the past six months, 45 individuals have volunteered their time at ATI for a total of 1,156 hours. Volunteers donated their time in various ways, including: providing clerical support, participating in advocacy efforts, participating on the Board of Directors, helping out at fundraisers, and helping out at awareness events, to name just a few.

Many thanks go out to each and every ATI volunteer for their dedication and commitment. Without their help, ATI would not be able to accomplish everything it does.

ATI Celebrates Founding Day

On May 8, ATI recognized its 16th anniversary as a nonprofit corporation by hosting 50 former and current Board Members to a celebration luncheon.

On May 8, 1998, founding Board Members included: Thomas Miller, Lorriane Janke and Christopher Farkas. Frances Pizzola was the founding volunteer Director. At the time ATI was housed in Room 200 of the County Office Building.

ATI's roots go back to the 1980's when it was known as the Cortland County Accessibility Committee (CCAC). As a local community action group, the CCAC spearheaded a number of initiatives relating to curb cuts and enforcement of accessible parking spots.

Just prior to its incorporation, ATI was affiliated with the Fingerlakes Independence Center (FLIC), a sister center based in Ithaca.

ATI Awarded Grants

Over the last several months, ATI has been awarded a number of small grants from area foundations in support of specific program and operations initiatives.

On February 19, ATI received \$2,000 from the Ralph R. Wilkins Foundation towards the cost of installing a new network server and productivity software for consumer and staff computers.

On March 31, ATI received \$2,000 from the Triad Foundation to provide support for ATI's 2014 Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM) programming and awareness activities.

On April 4, ATI received \$1,000 from the CNY Community Foundation's Allen Speiser Memorial Vocational Rehabilitation Fund to provide support for ATI's 2014 DEAM programming and awareness activities.



TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Bowl-a-Thon Raises \$3,700 for ATI	2
ATI Participates in 2014 Kidsville	3
SUNY Cortland Interns Complete Semester	3
Property Tax Exemptions	4
Housing Consortium Meets.....	5
PABSS Employment Legal Services.....	5
“With Help from a Friend”.....	6
ATI Develops Community Resource Guide.....	7
What is Medicaid Long Term Care?	8
Upcoming SSI Payment Change	8
What is the 2-1-1 Helpline?	8
ATI Presses State to Pass Housing Laws.....	9
Accessibility Construction Services	10

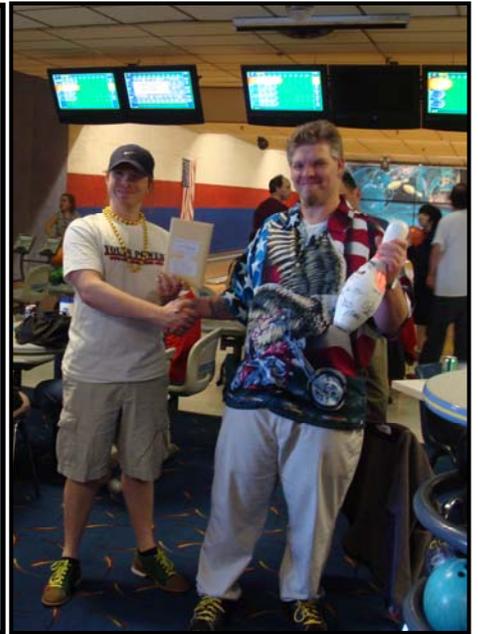
2014 Bowl-a-Thon Raises \$3,700 for ATI

On Saturday, April 12, more than 55 bowlers convened at Cort-Lanes to enjoy a half-day of rocking music, inclusive recreation fun, pizza, and door prizes donated by more than 20 local businesses!

ATI awarded four King Pin Trophy's at this year's event. Mark Bregard stole the show this year by taking home two trophies; one for most money raised by an individual and one for most pins knocked down by an individual. The Cortland Area Flute Ensemble team took home the trophy for most pins knocked down by a team. The TC3 team took home the trophy for most money raised by a team.

The 2014 ATI Bowl-a-Thon would not have been such a success without the ardent support of community donors and businesses. This year's event sponsors included Alpha, Inc. and Empire Construction. Business supporters included: Higgins Supply Company, SUNY Cortland Student Government Association and the Homer High School Student Council.

Many thanks go out to all of this year's bowlers and contributors!



ATI is recruiting interested individuals with diverse backgrounds, with & without disabilities, to serve on its Board.

For more information, please contact:

**Mary E. Ewing, Executive Director by phone: 607-753-7363;
or by email: mary.ewing@aticortland.org**

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2014 Kidsville Event

On April 12, ATI participated in the Cortland Child Development Council's (CCDC) 2014 Kidsville event. The CCDC holds the event each year as a way to raise awareness of the importance of early childhood programs and services.

This year, the central theme of Kidsville was "Adventures in Art". Three representatives from ATI, along with 24 community agencies worked hard to develop art-based programs that provided enjoyment, education and opportunity for self-expression.

Jessi Colletti, an intern from SUNY Cortland, created an adaptive art activity for ATI's booth called "Blackout Drawing". The purpose of the activity was to demonstrate that people of all abilities are able to participate in expressive arts.

Once participants were "blacked out" with a blind fold, instructions on how to draw a particular object were read to them. Upon completion of the drawings, participants were asked to take off their blind folds to witness their creation. Observation of creations resulted in laughs and the desire to play again.

When inquiring about the purpose of the blindfold, participants were told it acted as a sensory impairment. The purpose was to provide an understanding of what it is like to have a disability and how activities can be adapted to provide inclusivity among all participants.



SUNY Cortland Interns

Since January, ATI has benefited from the time and energy of two interns from SUNY Cortland. Both assisted with ATI's Systems Advocacy, Peer Mentoring and Youth Transition programs as well as helped to raise funds for our 2014 Bowl-a-Thon!

Christina Papaleo helped ATI develop an incredible Community Resource Guide and facilitated research and outreach to schools to ensure the Guide is an effective and accessible tool moving forward. Christina is a graduating senior from the Education Department at SUNY Cortland and will be going on to pursue her Master's degree in disability studies. She also plans to become an active member of YOUTH POWER!

Jessi Colletti helped ATI develop a fun and inspiring art activity for this year's Kidsville event and collaborated with Christina to research and develop a social-employment support group plan for 2014. Jessi is a graduating senior from the Recreation Therapy Department at SUNY Cortland and will be going on to an internship at a Psychiatric facility in New York City!

The Access to Independence Board of Directors and staff thank Christina and Jessi for their hard work, creativity and advocacy over the last few months and wish them the best in future endeavors.



ATI Youth Transition Services

Access to Independence (ATI) offers a variety of Youth Transition Services that aim to help youth and young adults make a successful transition from school into post-secondary education or employment.

ATI offers individualized peer mentoring, transition planning, independent living skills training and work readiness skills training to youth of all ages and provides support and advocacy to them and their families.

ATI also offers school-based workshops for students at all grade levels. For students in kindergarten through grade 6, ATI offers a series of disability awareness workshops, each of which is tailored to the grade-level of students. These workshops introduce students to the basic concepts of disabilities and aim to minimize the stigma that is often associated with having a disability.

For students in grades 7 through 12, ATI offers an additional series of workshops that focus on the independent living movement and the various laws that have been enacted to protect the civil rights of people with disabilities, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Lastly, ATI offers a unique self-determination workshop for students in special education. These interactive workshops help students learn more about their disabilities and abilities, and show them the importance of being engaged and involved during the development of their Individual Education Plans (IEP) and transition plans.

For more information on ATI's Youth Transition Services, please contact Aaron T. Baier, ATI Consumer & Systems Advocacy Coordinator, by phone at 607-753-7363, or by email at abaier@aticortland.org.

Property Tax Exemptions for Persons with Disabilities

Did you know that local governments and school districts in New York State can opt to grant a reduction on the amount of property taxes paid by qualifying persons with disabilities?

To qualify, a person with disabilities generally must have certain documented evidence of their disability and meet certain income limitations and other requirements.

The basic exemption is a 50% reduction in the assessed value of the legal residence of the qualifying person with a disability. For the basic exemption, the law allows each county, city, town, village, or school district to set the maximum income limit at any figure between \$3,000 and \$29,000.

Localities have the further option of giving exemptions of less than 50% to persons with qualifying disabilities whose incomes are more than \$29,000. Under this option, called the "sliding-scale" option, a qualifying owner can have a yearly income as high as \$37,399.99 and get a 5% exemption in places that are using the maximum limit.

When the property is owned by one or more people, and one or more of the owners qualify for this exemption while others qualify for the Senior Citizens' Exemption, the owners have the option of choosing the more beneficial exemption.

The property must be the "legal residence" of the person with a disability and must be occupied by that person unless he or she is absent from the property while receiving health-related services as an inpatient of a residential health care facility (a residential health care facility is a nursing home or other facility that provides lodging, board, and physical care including, but not limited to, the recording of health information, dietary supervision, and supervised hygienic services)

The property also must be used exclusively for residential purposes. If a portion of the property is used for other than residential purposes, the exemption will apply only to the portion that is used exclusively for residential purposes.

Please check with your local assessor or the clerks of the local governments and school district involved to determine which local options, if any, are in effect.



2014 Starlight Gala

Saturday, November 8, 2014

6:00 - 9:00 pm

SUNY Cortland Alumni House

Tickets are \$50.00 each.

*To purchase your tickets, call 607-753-7363, or
visit us at 26 N. Main Street, Cortland, NY.*

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All proceeds benefit Access to Independence of Cortland County, Inc.

Access To Independence
OF CORTLAND COUNTY, INC.

Update on Push for County Consolidated Plan for Housing

On March 26, more than 20 invested community stakeholders participated in a quarterly meeting of the Cortland County Housing Consortium (CCHC). At the meeting, discussion continued on the need for an updated Cortland County Consolidated Plan for Housing.

The group reviewed an email sent by Kevin Pagini, a staff person from the Cortland County Planning Department, indicating that he had initiated work to update statistical and demographic data in the existing Plan from 2002. In his email, Pagini stated that the Cortland County Planning Department lacked sufficient resources to complete a full update to the Plan and suggested that outside assistance might be necessary especially as it relates to strategic planning.

On April 12, the Cortland Standard reported that the Cortland County Legislature had authorized the Planning Department to begin securing preliminary bids from outside contractors willing to undertake the project to update the Plan. That article also quoted County Legislator and Chair Susan Briggs as questioning whether the plan even needed to be updated.

The existing Plan from 2002 was developed by Thoma Development and SUNY Cortland.

“The County must invest in an up-to-date Consolidated Plan for Housing,” said Aaron T. Baier, ATI Consumer & Systems Advocacy Coordinator. “A strategic vision for housing will open the door to opportunities for new housing grants and private sector development.”

Initial estimates put the cost of updating the Plan at approximately \$20,000. However, the potential revenue that could be generated for the County over the next 10 years could exceed \$40 million.

On May 8, the Legislature’s Agriculture / Planning / Environment Committee met to review proposed bids and to discuss the benefits and need of updating the Consolidated Plan for Housing. ATI representatives were on hand, along with local advocates, to ensure that the Legislature was fully aware of the need for a county-wide vision for housing.

The Cortland County Housing Consortium will meet again on Wednesday, June 25, at 8:00 am at the Main Street SUNY Cortland Building located at 9 Main Street.

For more information on the Consolidated Plan for Housing and the Cortland County Housing Consortium, please contact Aaron T. Baier by phone at 607-753-7363, or by email at abaier@aticortland.org.

ATI Computer Lab
Open Monday - Friday
9:00 am - 4:45 pm
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For more information,
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Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security

The Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) program provides free legal assistance to people with disabilities who receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplementary Security Income (SSI) and who encounter barriers in their efforts to become employed, or to receive employment-related training or services.

The Disability Rights New York Disability Advocates, Inc. provides a wide range of services under the PABSS program, including advocacy and advice. Disability Rights New York can help with a number of problems, including:

- **Employment discrimination** on the basis of disability;
- Disputes with **Employment Networks** under the Ticket-to-Work program;
- **Accommodations** that you may need in order to work;
- **Transportation, housing and debt** problems that are affecting your ability to work or get training and education;
- Social Security Administration decisions involving **overpayments**, work-related issues and **Continuing Disability Review** determinations;
- **Barriers** to getting the **training or education** you need to get the job you want
- **Health care benefits** problems affecting your employability

If you live in Cortland County, you can call Legal Services of Central New York at 315-475-3127 or toll free at 800-993-8982 for help with any of these work related issues.

For more information, contact Susan Lewis by phone: 607-753-7363, or by email: susan.lewis@aticortland.org.

“With Help From a Friend, You Can Reach the Stars!”

The Access to Independence (ATI) Peer Mentoring Program (PMP) aims to help young people with disabilities become more engaged in their transition planning and to develop strong community ties.

Through one-on-one peer mentoring, job shadowing and hands-on training, independent living skills training, and college exploration, ATI offers opportunities which not only prepare youth for life after high school, but empower them to take an active role in their future.

Jessica is an 18 year old senior at a local high school. As a junior, Jessica decided that her top career pick would be journalism and second pick would be creative writing. Jessica is a top student and excels at writing, however as a person with a mental health diagnosis, she sometimes struggled with motivation and organization.

Jessica joined ATI’s PMP in May of 2013. She began meeting with a peer counselor, Aaron, once a week to talk about her goals, share writing samples and to research future options for college.

Jessica and Aaron developed a list of independent living and college goals to help her track her progress. Together, they set up a job shadow experience at the Cortland Standard, where she met with Katie, a reporter.

During the job shadow, Jessica talked about her dreams and learned more about the world of journalism from the reporter and editor perspective. Katie saw much potential in Jessica’s writing and wanted to help her gain a greater connection to the community.

Jessica’s job shadow turned into a mini-internship with Katie as her peer mentor. Katie and Jessica met

weekly to talk about different styles of writing and about the expectations and responsibilities of the field. Katie also helped Jessica publish her first public newspaper articles. The two of them visited the Cortland Free Library and worked together to shape future articles for publication.

Now that Jessica had a mentor to guide and support her towards a career in journalism, she and Aaron began to focus on college preparation. They researched several two- and four-year journalism schools and learned what would be the application requirements for each.

Jessica learned to coordinate her efforts between her guidance counselor, teachers, and community supports to pull her application together. Jessica developed a dynamite college application essay.

Jessica opted to begin at a community college as she believed this to be a more appropriate place for her as class sizes were smaller and she could work more closely with professors.

With continued guidance and support from her family, and assistance from Aaron and Katie, Jessica finalized her college application to four two-year colleges in New York State.

Jessica was excited to report that she had been accepted to all four of her choices.

Currently, Jessica is still meeting with her mentor and Aaron, she is researching and preparing to visit each college before she graduates and she is planning to start college in the fall. She is using the tools she has gained over the last year to stay organized and focused.

We look forward to seeing great things from Jessica in the future and wish her luck on her journey!

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ATI Develops Community Resource Guide to Help Transitioning Students

On April 11, Access to Independence (ATI) representatives met with local school counselors to present a Community Resource Guide they are currently developing, titled “The Cortland County Community Connector” (the Guide).

The purpose of the meeting was to present the Guide and secure feedback about how to best integrate the Guide into current school transition policies and services.

ATI plans to publish a final version of the Guide within the next few months once input from local school districts has been received. The agency will continue to collaborate with school districts to ensure successful implementation.

The Guide specifically focuses on local community supports. Being aware of these supports will help students make the transition from school onto college or employment much easier. Furthermore, the information provided in the Guide aims to help students develop into independent self-advocates.

There are three fundamental reasons for publishing the Guide:

1. Provide information to transitioning high school students and their families;
2. Convince local school districts to incorporate the Guide into Transition Planning Policy; and
3. Make the Guide available through the Committee on Special Education (CSE), Open House events, district websites, Adult Career and Continuing Education Services-Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCESS-VR), and other related services.

Components of the Guide include: common questions about postsecondary planning, transition checklists, self-determination advice, comparison of disability laws and policies, helpful life-skills to develop, advocacy tips, clarification of common acronyms, and contact information of local support services. All information is presented in an accessible and youth-friendly structure to make the transition process stress-free and engaging.

According to the National Council on Disability (2007), many students with disabilities are unaware of their full potential. Most U.S. high schools emphasize college preparation, which often overshadows attention to actual workforce readiness. As a result, students with disabilities are more likely to experience unemployment or underemployment, lower pay, and job dissatisfaction. It is important to expose these students early to resources and information that will help them develop their decision-making and self-advocacy skills that they will need during the transition process and after high school.

For more information on the Cortland County Community Connector, contact Aaron Baier, ATI Consumer & Systems Advocacy Coordinator by phone at 607-753-7363, or by e-mail at abaier@aticortland.org.

ATI Peer Mentoring Program

The Access to Independence (ATI) Peer Mentoring Program (PMP) aims to help youth and adults with disabilities reach their education, employment, and life goals through a variety of unique and individualized, peer-centered services.

The heart of the PMP is that of peers, or people who share something in common. This means people with disabilities helping other people with disabilities.

One-on-one peer mentors are able to share their life experiences with mentees and guide and support them through life’s challenges. Further, peer mentors help connect their mentee with other community services, volunteer and networking opportunities, public transportation, and leisure activities. Peer mentors may also offer educational support, tutoring, career planning and preparation, and even computer assistance.

For more information on the Peer Mentoring Program, please contact Aaron T. Baier, ATI Consumer & Systems Advocacy Coordinator, by phone at 607-753-7363, or by email at abaier@aticortland.org.



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Peer-Run Community Support Services

What is Medicaid Managed Long Term Care (MLTC)?

If you are a person on, or eligible for, Medicaid and Medicare, and have a chronic illness or a disability that requires long-term care, Medicaid Managed Long Term Care (MLTC) is a new option for you.

Managed Long Term Care plans can provide an array of long-term care services that may help prevent a nursing home placement. These services and supports are managed by one agency to help lower costs.

At this time, enrolling in a Managed Long Term Care Plan is optional for upstate New York residents who need long term care services for more than 120 days.

However, as of **November 1, 2014**, enrollment will be mandatory for anyone meeting the MLTC requirements. If you meet the MLTC requirements and don't sign up by November 1, Medicaid will pick a plan for you.

Each member of an MLTC plan will be involved in creating a care plan that is overseen by a Nurse Case Manager. This case manager will assist in making sure a member is receiving the correct services from the correct care provider.

Cortland County residents can choose to enroll in Fidelis Care at Home, Today's Options (used to be

Total Care), or iCircle Long Term Managed Care.

Each MLTC plan will offer a variety of services, but those services must be medically necessary and approved.

Services may include: care management, home health care (including nursing, home health aides, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech pathology and medical social service), adult day health care or social day care, personal care, durable medical equipment, medical and surgical supplies, personal emergency response systems, prosthetics and orthotics, non-emergency transportation, podiatry, dentistry, optometry/eyeglasses, audiology, nutrition care, respiratory therapy and nursing home care if needed.

People enrolled in the Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver, Nursing Home Transition and Diversion Waiver, OPWDD Waiver will not have to enroll in a Medicaid Long Term Care Plan at this time.

For more information, contact Susan Lewis, ATI Independent Living Coordinator and Certified Benefits Counselor, by phone: 607-753-7363, or by email: susan.lewis@aticortland.org.

What is the 2-1-1 Helpline?

Connecting individuals with housing services, free tax preparation, employment support, services for people with disabilities, recreational activities, medical transportation and much more, is all in a day's work for the community services specialists at the 2-1-1 Tompkins/Cortland call center.

The 2-1-1 Tompkins/Cortland Helpline connects people in need of assistance or information with services available in the community. No question is too big or too small. Individuals can dial 2-1-1 or 877-211-8667 to be connected with a community services specialist.

Specialists access a database of resources available from public, private, not-for-profit, educational institutions and health and human service agencies in order to match callers' needs with available resources, and link them to agencies and organizations that can help.

In short, 2-1-1 connects people in need with programs designed to address their needs by providing a central telephone information service, online chat and services database, and walk-in service fueled by a database of community resource information.

2-1-1 is free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, everyday..

Upcoming Change to SSI Benefit Payments

If you currently receive SSI benefits, you receive your whole benefit in one check or one deposit. In most cases this amount includes the federal SSI benefit and a NY State supplement of as much as \$87, depending on your age and living arrangements.

Starting October 1, the NY State supplement will be paid separate from the SSI benefit. The amount of a person's total benefit will not change; rather, they will realize two deposits into a bank account or a Direct Express debit card instead of one. Payments will continue to be made on or before the first day of each month.

NYS and the Social Security Administration plans to send a letter to everyone who receives SSI benefits in August to let them know what is happening.

Need Help? Find Help.
2-1-1 Cortland connects callers with local services and information.



Dial 2-1-1 or 1-877-211-8667 to connect with a community services specialist. Search the online database or chat at 211cortland.org.

FREE! • Confidential • 24/7

Referrals available for emergency financial help, family education, fitness programs, and more.

Help is just a phone call away!

ATI Calls on State Leaders to Pass Pressing Housing Legislation

In addition to working to facilitate systems change at the local level, Access to Independence (ATI) also works to facilitate systems change at the state level.

As is the case with local advocacy efforts, ATI's statewide advocacy efforts aim to promote the civil rights of people with disabilities. ATI is dedicated to removing barriers to the full community integration of people with disabilities.

ATI routinely advocates for legislative change at the state level on many fronts, including: housing, education, healthcare, employment and transportation, to name just a few. This article will review ATI's current advocacy efforts at the state level on housing issues.

Last October, Governor Cuomo issued New York's long awaited *Olmstead* Implementation Plan. That plan details how the State intends to comply with the Supreme Court's *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision of 1999 to ensure individuals with disabilities receive services and supports in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.

Over the last few months, ATI staff and consumers have joined with disability advocates from across the state to educate state leaders on legislative priorities that support *Olmstead* implementation by addressing barriers to community living and ensuring individual rights.

For example, ATI has taken action to encourage the area's state leaders to support a number of key legislative initiatives relating to housing, including:

- Make discrimination by landlords based on a tenant's source of income illegal under State Human Rights Law. *A.2095/S.168*

Landlords often reject tenants with rental subsidies, such as Section 8 and subsidies tied to the Nursing Home Transition and Diversion and Traumatic Brain Injury Medicaid Waivers. Many people with disabilities rely on subsidies and other assistance programs to live independently in the community. Discrimination based on source of income is illegal in New York City. Source of income discrimination should be illegal throughout New York State.

- Incorporate inclusive home design/visitability features in new residential housing that receives financial assistance for construction from federal, state, county or local governments. *A5068/S.3160*

Most existing housing stock was not built to meet the needs of people with disabilities, including disabilities acquired as one ages. Housing built with basic accessibility features – known as “inclusive home design” or “visitability” - would meet the needs of people throughout the lifespan and allow homes to be visitable by friends and family members with disabilities. Renovation of homes is much more expensive than including accessibility features at the start, when the home is constructed.

- A tax credit for purchase, construction or retrofitting of a principal residence to achieve universal visitability pursuant to standards adopted by the division of housing and community renewal. *A.7537/ S.3956*

This bill would complement the aforementioned bill by incentivizing private homeowners, who are not covered by it, to include visitable standards when constructing or retro-fitting their homes. Most people

do not consider adopting these standards when constructing their homes and, as a result, there are very few private homes with any accessibility features. However, as people age or become disabled, these features are highly desirable. This tax credit will incentivize more people to include these design features when building or remodeling their homes. This bill will also ease the financial burden of retro-fitting a person's home after they acquire a disability, which helps keep individuals out of unwanted and costly institutions.

As a Member of the NY Association on Independent Living, ATI collaborates with disability advocates from across the state to educate state leaders on pressing legislative priorities.

For more information on how you can get involved in helping us to facilitate systems change at the state level, contact Aaron T. Baier, ATI Consumer & Systems Advocacy Coordinator, by phone: 607-753-7363, or by email: abaier@aticortland.org.

Join ATI's Disability Advocacy Network!

- Keep current on pressing disability issues!
- Receive email alerts on policy and budget matters!
- Fight for the civil rights of people with disabilities!
- Join 1,000+ statewide advocates to fight for change!

For more information, or to join our advocacy network, email:
abaier@aticortland.org

Accessibility Construction Services: Let ATI Accessibility Experts Help You!

Did you know that Access to Independence (ATI) staff has overseen the completion of more than 250 home modifications to make them more accessible? Since 2005, ATI has provided a variety of accessibility construction services to consumers throughout Cortland County and 15 neighboring counties. Let us help you make your home accessible through our fee-for-service, Accessibility Construction Services (ACS) program.

Our accessibility experts will come to your home and sit down with you to assess your accessibility needs. They will share their ideas and develop a written proposal, including a cost estimate. If you wish to proceed with the project after reviewing the proposal, ATI will develop a "scope of work" document that specifies all aspects of the project, including recommendations on specific products to be used and detailed drawings. There is a small charge for the drawings if the homeowner wants to take them and hire his/her own contractor. If you decide to have ATI manage the project, this charge is deducted from the final cost.

In the event you decide to utilize ATI's exceptional project management services, ATI will put your project "out to bid" by soliciting vetted contractors to price the project based on the specifications. ATI has a number of experienced and professional contractors, available to work with us throughout the Central New York area. We ensure that contractors are thoroughly vetted, have appropriate liability and workers' compensation insurance, and have proven experience providing exceptional quality service. ATI remains active throughout the duration of the project, from start to finish, by completing routine inspections to ensure 100% compliance with work specifications. No project is complete until the consumer is 100% satisfied.

ATI's Accessibility Construction Services staff includes Dick Platt, ATI Architectural Barrier Specialist, who has more than 30 years of experience building and remodeling homes in the Cortland area. Staff also includes Audrey Jones, ATI's Architectural Barrier Programs Coordinator, who has a degree in Construction Technology and has worked in the building and construction field for the past thirteen years. Both have completed specialized training regarding the directives of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Universal Design concepts, and accessibility guidelines.

For more information on ATI's Accessibility Construction Services, contact Audrey or Dick by phone: 607-753-7363; or by email: ajones@aticortland.org. You may also visit us online at www.aticortland.org.

We are your accessibility experts!



Accessibility Construction Services



- Wheelchair ramps & lifts
 - Stair lifts
- Accessible porches / decks
 - Handrails / grab bars
 - Expanded doorways
- Bathroom modifications
- Kitchen modifications
 - Roll-in showers



26 North Main Street
Cortland, New York 13045
Phone: (607) 753-7363
Email: info@aticortland.org



Got rent?

The Cortland Housing Authority has a rental assistance program that may be able to help you!!

The Section 8 Housing Program helps qualified people meet their monthly rent bills by paying a portion of their rent directly to their landlord.

Interested persons may pick up applications at the Housing Authority offices located at 42 Church Street or 51 Port Watson Street Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm or

Call 607-753-9364 or 607-753-1771 to request to have an application sent by mail



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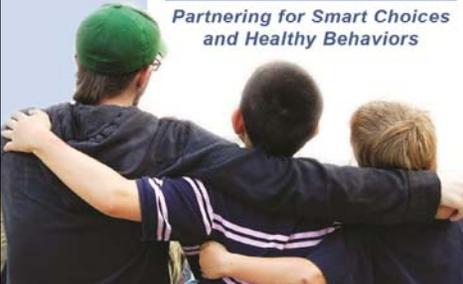
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Celebrating 24 Years!
Saturday, July 26, 2014
11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Courthouse Park
2014 ADA Celebration

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2014 ADA Celebration Vendor/Sponsorship Form

Celebrating 24 years of the Passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)!

Saturday, July 26, 2014 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Courthouse Park, Church Street, Cortland, NY

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Telephone/Fax Number: _____

***All Vendors are asked to bring their own table & chairs.**

****Set up will be from 10:00 - 11:00 am.**



Business & Individual Sponsorship Levels

_____ \$50 "Curb-cut" - table space & mention in program

_____ \$100 "Accessible Parking" - above plus name on t-shirt

_____ \$150 "Ramp" - above plus mention on live radio

_____ \$200 "Automatic Door" - above plus logo on t-shirt

_____ \$250 "Spirit of ADA": above plus 1 minute on live radio broadcast



PRINTING DEADLINE:

Friday, July 11, 2014

Please mail completed forms & payments to:

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**Please make checks payable to:
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OF CORTLAND COUNTY, INC.

 **Celebrating 24 Years!** 

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

 
When: July 26, 2014 — 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Where: Courthouse Park

  
ADA Sponsor:

Walmart

Spirit of ADA Sponsor

TBD

  
There is still time to sponsor this event.
See reverse side for more information!

Activities:

- * Stroll & Roll 
- * Free Food and Drink
- * Live Radio: WXHC 
- * Watermelon Eating Contest
- * Special Guest: **TBD**
- * Reading of Proclamation
- * Vendor Tables 



Accommodations available upon request. Please call: 607-753-7363.

CORTLAND COUNTY NEEDS A PLAN!

Tell Legislators to Update Our Consolidated Plan for Housing

DEFINING A COMMUNITY BY ITS HOUSING

Nothing defines a community's Quality of Life better than the condition, variety, and affordability of its Housing stock. Housing defines the place we call home. It is an economic development attraction and retention tool. Municipalities and school districts rely heavily on the taxes generated by residential properties. It is incumbent, therefore, for a community to periodically assess the condition, marketability, accessibility, safety, and future development opportunities associated with its Housing in order to remain viable. In Cortland County, a 2002 Consolidated Plan was created to provide a vision for housing across the County. This Plan was highly successful in generating millions of dollars in grant-funded projects alone. Unfortunately, this Plan has become obsolete and needs to be updated.

WHAT IS A CONSOLIDATED PLAN?

A Consolidated Plan for Housing is an assessment of a community's housing and development needs based on existing and potential market conditions. More importantly, it provides a vision for a community's housing infrastructure. It is data-driven, place-based, and offers unique insight into future investment opportunities (public and private). The consolidated planning process serves as a framework for a community-wide dialogue to identify community housing and development priorities. A Consolidated Plan brings together essential, relevant, and up-to-date data from all municipalities, housing providers, organizations concerned with housing, and the community at-large into a single document. This document is an essential ingredient to municipal and community planning. It is something Cortland County needs.

HOW WILL A NEW CONSOLIDATED PLAN IMPACT CORTLAND COUNTY

- **Funding** - It would assist municipalities and organizations in securing funding for new or existing housing development projects, programs, and services. An up-to-date Plan opens doors to more opportunities through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), NYS Housing and Community Renewal, and other funding sources which require funding requests be in conformance with up-to-date community plans. Actual and projected Cortland County funding for housing related projects:
 - ★ Grant Revenue from Existing Plan ~\$28 Million (2003 - 2013)
 - ★ Potential Revenue from an Updated Plan ~\$40 Million (2014 - 2024)
- **Vision** - While a Consolidated Plan will not solve problems overnight, it creates a vision which the community can work toward. Developing the Plan requires various housing groups to work together to create the vision, and this collaboration, along with public awareness of the vision and plan, will create an environment which the community will support and invest and reinvest in.
- **Numbers** - A Consolidated Plan will contain significant data related to housing that are accessible to a variety of sources such as housing providers, realtors, housing developers, and other stakeholders who each contribute to the community's vision for housing.
- **Evaluation** - A Consolidated Plan, its data, and the programs and projects developed to achieve the community's vision, can each be evaluated periodically to ensure that efficiency and financial solvency is maintained and desired outcomes are reached.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN A CONSOLIDATED PLAN?

- Housing Demographics- population, housing units, rental versus owner-occupied housing, housing age, housing values, homes sales, home values, and rental costs.
- Substandard housing assessment
- Needs assessment for homelessness and other supportive housing needs
- Information regarding policies, regulations, and ordinances related to housing
- Assessment of special needs housing: people with disabilities, frail elderly, foster care, institutional homes
- Assessment of local market conditions / market analysis
- Assessment of lead-based paint and other housing hazards such as radon and asbestos
- Identification of impediments to increased affordable housing stock throughout Cortland County
- Development of short-term and long-term strategic plan to enhance housing options for people who want to live in Cortland County

WHAT IS THE COST OF A NEW/UPDATED CONSOLIDATED PLAN?

The cost to develop a new Consolidated Plan or to thoroughly update an existing Plan is approximately \$20,000. Ideally, a Consolidated Plan should be updated every 5-10 years. These costs are miniscule compared to the amount of revenue that can be obtained through grants and other funding streams.

COUNTY LEGISLATOR CONTACT INFORMATION

LD 1 - John Troy (D) 21 Summit Street Cortland, NY 13045 jtroy@cutland-co.org	LD 2 - Amy Cobb (D) 3 Stevenson Street Cortland, NY 13045 acobb@cutland-co.org	LD 3 - Thomas Hartnett (D) 19 Pearl Street Cortland, NY 13045 thartnett@cutland-co.org
LD 4 - Richard Bushnell (D) 11 Owego Street Cortland, NY 13045 rbushnell@cutland-co.org	LD 5 - Luke Snyder (D) 5 Cedar Street Cortland, NY 13045 lsnyder@cutland-co.org	LD 6 - Mary Ann Discenza (D) 20 Pomeroy Street Cortland, NY 13045 mdiscenza@cutland-co.org
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LD 13 - Kevin Whitney (R) 1204 Starr Road Cortland, NY 13045 kwhitney@cutland-co.org	LD 14 - Sandy Price (D) 1189 Church Street Cortland, NY 13045 sprice@cutland-co.org	LD 15 - George Wagner (R) 3310 Highland Road Marathon, NY 13803 gwagner@cutland-co.org
LD 16 - James Denkenberger (R) 7738 Shackham Road Tully, NY 13159 idekenberger@cutland-co.org	LD 17 - Charles Sudbrink (R) 1122 St. Route 4, P.O. Box 28 Willet, NY 13863 csudbrink@cutland-co.org	