

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

**Access to Independence of Cortland County, Inc.**

# **ACCESS NEWS**

**Summer 2013**

**NUMBER XXXVII**

## **ATI Advocates Rally for Disability Rights in Washington, D. C.**

On July 25, Access to Independence (ATI) sent a team of 15 disability advocates to Washington, D.C. to fight for the civil rights of people with disabilities at the annual National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) Rally and Capitol Hill visits.

The team of 7 youth and 8 adults joined more than 1,000 others to fight for reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the Rehabilitation Act within it, creation of an Independent Living Administration, effective Medicaid reform, and improved enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

After the ATI team marched and rallied in front of the Capitol, they met with representatives of Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kirsten

Gillibrand and Congressman Richard Hanna to speak about pressing disability policy issues that would effect our local community.

ATI's advocates spoke feverishly about Cortland's need for improved availability of accessible transportation system and access to accessible, affordable and integrated housing. The advocates offered dozens of examples of how the lack of both effected the ability of many to live independently in the community.

ATI's advocates encouraged the leaders to support legislation that would provide people with disabilities the same opportunities that exist for people without disabilities.

For more information, contact Aaron T. Baier by phone: 607-753-7363, or by email: [abaier@aticortland.org](mailto:abaier@aticortland.org).

## **ATI Awarded New Grants**

Over the past several months, Access to Independence (ATI) received two grants from Foundations to support key initiatives.

In early June, the J. M. McDonald Foundation awarded ATI a \$35,000 grant to fund and expand ATI's loan closet of Durable Medical Equipment and Assistive Technology and to help pay for minor home accessibility modifications and repairs for people with disabilities in need of assistance.

In late July, the Cortland Community Foundation awarded ATI a \$4,200 grant to purchase a new computer system server and software. ATI will use the funds to modernize its information management systems in the coming year. Both staff and consumers will benefit from the upgrade.



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# Thank You 2013 ADA Celebration Sponsors!

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## Also Thanks To:

ATI Board Members, Cortland County Chamber of Commerce,  
Ken Dye, Chris Hilderbrant, Sandy Price, Carin Rouleau, Smokin' Mule,  
Walmart staff volunteers and WXHC (John Eves & Eric Mulvihill)



## ATI Celebrates 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the ADA!

On Saturday, July 27, Access to Independence (ATI) hosted the community to its annual picnic at Cortland's Courthouse Park in celebration of the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

More than 30 people with and without disabilities gathered at ATI offices to kick-off the celebration by participating in the annual "Stroll & Roll". The inclusive march down Cortland's Main Street aims to recognize local businesses that have made accessibility changes to promote full inclusion. This year, ATI recognized the Cortland Free Library for making accessibility changes to the library, including a set of automatic doors at their new accessible entrance (see article on page 4).

This year's celebration was the best attended event ever with more than 150 people! Attendees enjoyed barbecue fare catered by the Smokin' Mule and music from WXHC 101.5 radio.

Cortland County Legislator Sandy Price read a 2013 Proclamation naming July 27, 2013 Americans with Disabilities Day in Cortland County.

The 2013 vendor fair, featured local and regional vendors, including: Autocrafting, the Franziska Racker Centers, Seven Valleys Health Coalition-Way 2 Go Cortland, Cortland Regional Medical Practice and Monroe Wheelchair. A special thanks to Monroe Wheelchair, for allowing guests the opportunity to try out their motorized wheelchairs!

There is no doubt that the highlight of the day was the keynote address provided by Mr. Chris Hilderbrant, Chief Operating Officer of the Rochester-based Center for Disability Rights, (CDR).

Chris spoke about his journey to becoming the nationally-renowned advocate that he is today. He said his mother instilled in him the spirit of advocacy, something he first started at the age of 14.

Chris explained how he transitioned from being a "radical" advocate in his college years to a professional advocate today through his membership with ADAPT and his role at CDR.

Among many of Chris's accomplishments was his advocacy for the nursing home transition and diver-

sion Medicaid waiver legislation, which is critical for inclusion of individuals with disabilities in the community setting.

Following Chris' keynote, attendees couldn't wait to share a bit of how the ADA has made a difference in their lives. One woman shared how the ADA had helped her to become and remain employed. She was so proud to share that she received her "five year pin" from Kmart and was now starting another part time job.

The 2013 ADA Celebration couldn't end without ATI's annual watermelon eating contest. Unfortunately for the other participants, Lukas Pizzola came back this year and regained his first place position as watermelon eating champ! Runners-up included Veronica Cator in second place and Carmela Pizzola in third place.

In less than two years, ATI will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the passage of the ADA. By that time, perhaps we will be closer to realizing a society where discrimination and barriers no longer exist!

**Many thanks to all of this year's ADA event sponsors!**



### **Crash Course on the ADA**

This year marks the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). On July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed into law this landmark legislation. The ADA gives civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities and guarantees equal opportunity in public accommodations, employment, transportation, state and local government services and telecommunications.

#### **Definition of Disability**

The ADA, as amended, defines a person with a disability as someone who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity. In general, these activities include, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating and working.

#### **Reasonable Accommodation**

A reasonable accommodation is a key nondiscrimination requirement of the ADA. It is defined as any modification or adjustment to a job or work environment that will enable a qualified applicant or employee with a disability to participate in the application process or to perform essential job functions. Reasonable accommodations assure that a qualified individual with a disability has the same rights and privileges as those without disabilities.

#### **Filing a Complaint**

ADA enforcement is a complaint driven process. Many people are surprised to learn that government officials do not make visits to employers, state and local agencies or businesses to see if they are ADA compliant. However, once someone has filed a formal complaint, various government agencies are responsible for conducting an investigation and taking legal action, if appropriate.

If you feel that you have been discriminated against because of your disability, the following resources may be helpful:

- Department of Justice ADA Information Hotline: 800-514-0301
- Department of Housing and Urban Development: housing discrimination.
- U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: employment discrimination

### **Automatic Doors Arrive at Cortland Free Library**

In 2010, after years of wear and tear on the large winding ramp on the front of the Cortland Free Library, the library Board of Directors decided to remove the ramp and create a new accessible entrance. The removal of the ramp required the need for an elevator so that people with disabilities and parents with strollers would have access to the second level of the library. ATI staff provided consult throughout the process.

In 2011, the Cortland Free Library completed a first phase of accessibility renovations, including the installation of accessible parking, a brand-new elevator, a renovated restroom on the second floor and a new accessible entrance. Shortly thereafter, ATI staff visited the library to check out the renovations. The parking area and the accessible route to the new entrance were in compliance with the ADA and led directly to the accessible entrance on Court Street. However, the glass and metal door at the accessible entrance was too heavy to open. For many individuals it was impossible to get into the library without assistance.

Once in, there were no problems in navigating independently to the second level. The elevator was very easy-to-use and the accessible restroom was right around the corner from the elevator. However, there were still several areas in the library that were not accessible to people using wheelchairs, including a room that contains a community art gallery.

ATI contacted Kay Zaharis, the library director, and Diane Ames, president of the Cortland Free Library Board of Directors, to discuss the possibility of additional modifications: access to the art gallery and the accessible entrance door.

ATI learned that it would be impossible for the new elevator to reach the inaccessible art gallery room due to structural reasons and the fact that the building was protected as a historic building. However, Ms. Zaharis stated that library staff would assist anyone unable to reach the floor to access books. The community art gallery, however, remains inaccessible.

Though unsuccessful with securing access to the community art gallery, after almost two years of advocacy, there is now an automated door opener at the accessible entrance of the library on Court Street! The Library's architect and staff from the County Buildings and Grounds Department found a creative way to get electricity through to an exterior wall and onto a pedestal outside the children's room entrance.

Though it took almost two years for the Cortland Free Library to come up with the solution, the disability community is appreciative that the library director and Board took the extra time and effort to find a way to install an automatic door opener. As one saying goes, "Where there's a will, there's a way!"

**Footnote:** Automated doors are not required under the ADA.

## Update on Health Benefits Exchange & Insurance Marketplace

As of January 1, 2014, every New York resident will need to be covered by some kind of health insurance or face penalties that will increase each year. New York State residents will be able to sign up for a health insurance plan starting October 1, 2013. One of the best ways to find out what kind of insurance you qualify for is to visit the new Health Benefit Exchange at [www.healthbenefitexchange.ny.gov](http://www.healthbenefitexchange.ny.gov). The website provides important information that you will need to choose a health insurance plan and to assist you in signing up for one that will best suit your needs.

The Health Benefits Exchange is an organized marketplace designed to help people shop for and enroll in health insurance coverage. Individuals, families and small businesses will be able to use the Exchange to help them compare commercial insurance options, calculate costs and select coverage online, in person, over the phone or by mail. The Exchange will also help people to check their eligibility for health care programs like Medicaid and to sign up for these programs if they are eligible. The Exchange will also be able to tell what type of financial assistance is available to applicants to help them afford health insurance purchased through the Exchange. Insurance coverage can be purchased through the Health Benefit Exchange beginning in October 2013 for coverage that is effective January 1, 2014.

In the Health Insurance Marketplace you may be able to lower the costs of your health insurance coverage by paying lower monthly premiums. You will see the amount of savings you are eligible for when you fill out your Marketplace application. While the prices shown for insurance will reflect the lower costs, they are actually handled with a tax credit (Advance Premium Tax Credit), which you may choose to apply directly to your monthly premiums so you get the lower costs immediately.

Health insurance companies offering coverage through the Marketplace must lower the amount you pay out of pocket for essential health benefits if your household income is below the following amounts. (These incomes are based on 2013 numbers. They are likely to be slightly higher in 2014).

- |                                    |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ∞ Up to \$28,725 for individuals   | ∞ Up to \$68,925 for a family of 5 |
| ∞ Up to \$38,775 for a family of 2 | ∞ Up to \$78,975 for a family of 6 |
| ∞ Up to \$48,825 for a family of 3 | ∞ Up to \$89,025 for a family of 7 |
| ∞ Up to \$58,875 for a family of 4 | ∞ Up to \$99,075 for a family of 8 |

The essential health benefits that must be included in every plan are: Ambulatory patient services, Emergency services, Hospitalization, Maternity and newborn care, Mental Health and substance use disorders services, Prescription drugs, Rehabilitative and habilitative services and devices, Laboratory services, Preventive and wellness services and chronic disease management and Pediatric services, including oral and vision care.

Plans in the Marketplace are separated into 4 different categories: Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. These categories are based on how much of your medical costs you pay and how much the plan pays when you get medical care. If you qualify for out-of-pocket savings, you must choose a Silver plan to get the savings.

For more information, please contact Susan Lewis by phone: 607-753-7363, or by email: [slewis@aticortland.org](mailto:slewis@aticortland.org).



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**We are now accepting referrals to our NHTD & TBI Medicaid Waiver programs for the following services:**

- SC (Service Coordination)
- ILST (Independent Living Skills Training)
- AT (Assistive Technology)
- CTS (Community Transitional Services)
- MA (Moving Assistance)
- EMODs (Environmental Modifications)

For more information, please contact,  
**Mary E. Ewing, by phone: 607-753-7363;**  
or by email: [mary.ewing@aticortland.org](mailto:mary.ewing@aticortland.org).

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

The Access to Independence (ATI) Peer Mentoring Program (PMP) aims to help people with disabilities reach their independent living and employment goals. Through one-on-one peer mentoring, group support, work readiness training, volunteerism, and a little encouragement, participants learn new skills and take a proactive role in their own lives.

Renee joined the PMP in 2012 after she was laid-off from her previous job for medical reasons. Renee is a strong self-advocate and made the decision to be proactive and prepare for her next career.

Renee’s journey began when she and her service coordinator met with ATI staff to identify Renee’s weaknesses and strengths and to develop strategies to help Renee reach her goals.

Renee knew that she needed some help to improve a few of her skill sets. Her ability to communicate effectively with people was a challenge and she was uncomfortable in asking for help to address her needs. Renee also wanted to learn more about office work as it would be more accommodating to her physical needs.

Together, Renee and ATI decided on a course of action that would help Renee develop these skill sets and provide consistent peer support to her throughout her training.

First, Renee was matched with a mentor, Phyllis, who sat down with Renee to talk about her limitations and goals and they worked out a plan. They began by working on Renee’s communication needs as well as other goals such as clerical tasks and computer use. They also worked together with ATI to identify possible volunteer opportunities for Renee to try out and test her skills.

“I was really excited to get started,” Renee said recently. “I wanted to find something that would help me communicate easier and that I wouldn’t be afraid to use.” Renee learned about alternative tools for communication. She worked with her mentor to learn about high-tech devices like a Sorenson Video Phone on which she could use sign-language to speak to people over the phone. This was one alternative to the traditional TTY device that she was used to.

Renee also tried to use a device that would speak aloud whatever she typed. While this seemed like a great tool, Renee felt it was cumbersome and didn’t offer an effective solution. Renee and her mentor put together some index cards with commonly used statements and put them into a small book. It seemed Renee preferred the low-tech solution. Renee also obtained a small white board to carry around for more detailed conversations.

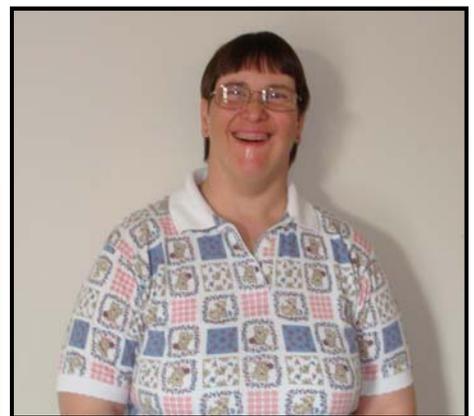
Renee now felt more confident with her communication. She and her mentor practiced throughout the community, including on public transportation where Renee requested various accommodations to make travel more accessible. Communication, check! Confidence, check!

While Renee is not yet employed, she has grown by leaps and bounds in improving her independent living and work readiness skills and each day gets closer to her goal of employment.

Renee currently volunteers weekly at ATI, CNY SNAP, and helps out with her family. She continues to work with her mentor on clerical skills and is beginning to learn computer skills. Renee also continued to attend monthly Work Readiness workshops to network with other peers and maintain quality peer support. She also worked with ATI staff to redesign her resume and add all the skills she had learned.

Today, Renee continues to work to build up her stamina, communication and work skills so that she can begin looking for part-time, paid employment.

Keep up the great work Renee!



**Above:** Renee Waddy currently volunteers at ATI one day each week to help improve her office skills.

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**Peer-Run Community Support Services**



## 2013 Disability Employment Awareness Month Events

Every October, Access to Independence recognizes National Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM) with a series of free employment-related events and activities open to the community. This year's national theme is: "Because We Are Equal to the Task." The 2013 DEAM lineup in Cortland County is set to be the best ever! Mark your calendars with the following events!

### 2013 Employment Conference - October 3, 10 & 17

The ATI Employment Conference is a community-wide staple of DEAM. The three-day conference will cater to job seekers with varying disabilities and each session will offer tools, interactive workshops, networking, and empowering speakers to help attendees further their job search and inevitable career.

This year's conference will be held at the Cortland Works Career Center from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Each session of the Conference will cater to a specific set of disability populations. Each session will feature a keynote presentation from a peer leader on specialized topics, including advocacy, inclusion, and employee/employer accountability. Sessions will include opportunities to speak with a variety of employers, as well as workshops on leadership, work ethic and professionalism, diversity and cultural competency and self-management.

### 2013 Disability Mentoring Day (DMD) - October 16

DMD is a day-long celebration of job shadowing and career exploration offered to area youth. Also known as Cortland County Mentoring Day, DMD will provide more than 50 area youth the opportunity to job shadow in a career of their choice and to get valuable hands-on experience. The day will close with a luncheon where attending youth will participate in innovative workshops and hear from empowering speakers who will talk about their lives, leadership and overcoming adversity. ATI and its partners are aiming to bring on students from a third school district this year (students from Homer and Cortland school districts currently participate).

### 2013 Community Business Leader Luncheon - October 24

ATI will host its second annual luncheon for local employers from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm at the SUNY Cortland Downtown building. The luncheon will feature guest speakers who want to help local business representatives build a stronger business plan and share information about the value of an inclusive workforce. Big business... small business... all business should be inclusive because equality is just good business! ATI plans to collaborate with the Cortland County Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Business Partnership to plan and promote the event.

ATI is currently seeking interested businesses and individuals who might be interested in participating in the planning process or in hosting job shadowing opportunities for youth. For more information, please contact Aaron T. Baier by phone at 607-753-7363, or by email at [abaier@aticortland.org](mailto:abaier@aticortland.org).

## 2013 NDEAM Calendar!



### Employment Conference

**October 3, 10 & 17**

**9:00 am - 2:00 pm**



### Disability Mentoring Day

**October 16 - ALL DAY!**

**For High School Students!**



### Community Business

**Leader Luncheon**

**Thursday, October 24**

**11:00 am - 1:00 pm**



**Save the Dates Today!**

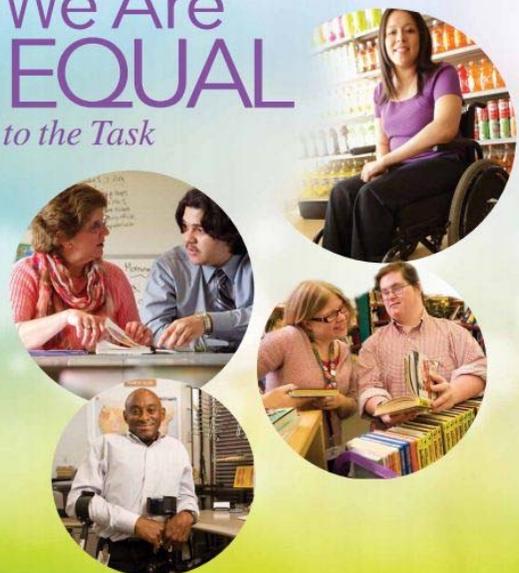


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## Independent Living and Reauthorization of the *Rehabilitation Act*

Disability advocates from across the nation are urging Congress to enact a *Workforce Investment Act (WIA)* bill (that includes reauthorization of the *Rehabilitation Act*) in this 113th Congressional Session (S. 1356). The bill is similar to a bipartisan draft bill that has already been created by Senators Harkin, Isakson, Murray and Enzi. Advocates are eager for Congress to take action now to help Americans with disabilities get back to work and live more independently.

### What is the *Rehabilitation Act*?

The *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* is a piece of legislation currently contained within a larger bill called the *Workforce Investment Act*. As the first major legislative effort to secure an equal playing field for individuals with disabilities, it prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability. The *Rehabilitation Act* is the federal legislation that authorizes the formula grant programs of vocational rehabilitation, supported employment, client assistance and Independent Living.

### What is Independent Living?

Independent Living (IL) is the most widely accepted perspective on disability rights in America. The

National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) is a national organization that advocates for this philosophy, which emphasizes that people with disabilities are the best experts on their own needs, that they have crucial and valuable perspective to contribute to society, and deserve equal opportunity to decide how to live, work, and take part in their communities.

Independent Living is a nonpartisan priority in both Democratic and Republican Administrations. Congress originally established the Independent Living Program within the Department of Education, and continues to provide funding for Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs), which are congressionally mandated organizations that plan or deliver services and support people with disabilities to live independently.

### Why Reauthorize the *Rehab Act*?

Federal support for CILs and SILCs is primarily established in the *Rehabilitation Act*, which has not been reauthorized in nearly 15 years, even though Congress requires itself to reauthorize the legislation every 5 years. The most im-

portant way right now to help Americans with disabilities live and work more independently is to reauthorize the *Rehabilitation Act*, and establish an Independent Living Administration (ILA).

The ILA would properly support the Independent Living Program that serves CILs and SILCs allowing the program to function more effectively. The ILA Director would be directly responsible to the Administrator for the Administration for Community Living (ACL) of the Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS).

### Why an ILA?

Since the late 1970s, the first 10 federally funded CILs have outgrown their current placement under the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and today's 417 CILs require more specialization if Congress wants to make good on its commitment to IL, home and community-based services, and freedom for Americans with disabilities.

The IL Program's current placement within RSA is inappropriate considering its vocational mission. The ILA would operate under the IL Philosophy and would draw upon the decades of expertise developed in IL nationally, providing effective leadership of the program, and facilitating its potential to increase services to consumers and value to taxpayers.

### Take Action:

Urge Senators Schumer & Gillibrand to support S.1356, the bill that reauthorizes WIA and the *Rehabilitation Act*. Remind them that this is a bipartisan bill that will improve the lives of people with disabilities at no additional cost to taxpayers.

Source: [www.ncil.org/rehabact/](http://www.ncil.org/rehabact/)



*2013 Harvest Moon Gala*

Saturday, November 2, 2013  
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## ATI Completes Needs Assessment on Unmet Needs of Older Individuals

Access to Independence has recently completed an assessment on the unmet needs of individuals age 60+ in Cortland County.

The study was produced by a like-minded collaboration of higher education, an Independent Living Center and experts on aging.

The study reveals opportunities for deepened understanding of the unmet needs of older individuals in Cortland County who are most at risk for falling through service gaps, either due to isolation stemming from disability, and/or lack of access to communication, information and transportation.

The ATI Needs Assessment Ad Hoc Committee of its Board of Directors oversaw all aspects of the study. Dr. Judy K. C. Bentley (ATI Board Member and SUNY Cortland Associate Professor) and Chad W. Underwood (ATI Chief Operating Officer) served as the study's Principal Investigators. Both secured certification in the ethical collection of data.

ATI's goal was to gain more rich and intimate knowledge of the local population in the 60+ age range of the study, and to somehow reach and better understand those individuals who service providers advised us were reluctant or difficult to reach (primarily individuals in rural areas who were cut off from services and information due to lack of transportation, and individuals who were reluctant to communicate because they felt a stigma about accepting what they perceived as the "welfare" nature of services).

Nearly half-way through the assessment, Access to Independence and the Cortland County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) launched

collaborative efforts to immediately address some of the study's findings. ATI and the AAA continued that collaboration throughout the remainder of the study and have identified specific plans to collaborate going forward.

Given the unique nature of this collaborative study, there are most certainly other individuals and communities that would benefit from an understanding of how and why it happened, and its implications for local communities.

Dr. Bentley, Mr. Underwood and Elizabeth Haskins (AAA Director) have been approved to present a workshop to interested individuals from across the state on September 10, as part of the 2013 New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL) Conference in Albany, NY. The Team will most certainly have a captive audience as the provision of disabil-

ity and aging services is being evaluated and restructured at the national level and in states across the country (primarily due to Medicaid Redesign and Olmstead initiatives).

Dr. Bentley and Mr. Underwood have also been approved to present a poster on the project at the December 2013 TASH Conference in Chicago, Illinois. The poster will portray a visual summary of the entire assessment process, the findings and resulting actions. Dr. Bentley and Mr. Underwood will meet with interested individuals from across the nation to talk about the experience and to promote the study's utility and findings.

For more information on ATI's recently completed assessment on the unmet needs of individuals age 60+ in Cortland County, please contact Chad W. Underwood by phone: 607-753-7363; or by email: [cwunderwood@aticortland.org](mailto:cwunderwood@aticortland.org).



**Access To Independence**  
OF CORTLAND COUNTY, INC.

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## Faces of Independence: ATI Helps Area Youth to Live More Independently

Three years ago, the Kulas family of Port Crane N.Y. (near Binghamton) celebrated the birth of their first child. Kalen Kulas was born on June 29, 2010. The doctors had some difficult news for the family, however; Kalen was born with a neuromuscular condition known as spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), which effects one out of every 6,000 to 10,000 babies born worldwide every year.

SMA is genetic and progressive; it attacks the nerve cells in the spinal cord which control the body's voluntary movements. This causes muscle weakness and atrophy (wasting away). It affects movement of the arms and legs, and even such basic functions as swallowing and breathing. The latter symptoms can cause an increased risk of pneumonia and other infections.

The Kulas family spent some time looking for a support system to help them learn more about SMA and how to cope with it. Not finding anything that was helpful to them, they started an online support group. It now has 1,200 members from all over the world!

In spite of the challenges he faces, Kalen (who is now three years old) is an outgoing, active child. He

likes racing cars and building things with blocks and Legos.

In 2012, the Kulas' welcomed a second child, Kyan, to their family. Kyan too has SMA. Kyan is the quieter of the brothers; he likes the outdoors, loves to swim and ride horses. Even though they have distinct personalities, the two brothers are best buddies. The Kulas' treat Kalen and Kyan like any other kids; they encourage them to do things on their own whenever possible.

It wasn't long before the Kulas family began to struggle. It quickly became difficult for Kalen to navigate the home. The Kulas parents had to carry the children in and out of the house and it was nearly impossible for either of the kids to access the bathroom.

While doing some work on the Kulas' house, a contractor who often works with Access to Independence (ATI) on home modifications mentioned that they might be eligible for assistance in making the necessary adaptations to their home. The Kulas family did indeed qualify for assistance through ATI's *Access to Home* program.

This past spring, ATI began work to make the home more accessible for the two children. ATI

started by installing a ramp that wrapped around the back of the house and up to the driveway.

Next came the family's bathroom. Because the boys use a reclining shower chair, ATI installed a roll-in shower to make enough room for bathing. A new ADA accessible sink and toilet completed the project just last month.

Kalen can now do many more things for himself. He can now use a detachable shower head and bathe himself. He can now use the ramp to get outside to play in the backyard without relying on one of his parents to carry him!

For more information on any of ATI's Architectural Barrier Programs, please contact Audrey Jones by phone: 607-753-7363, or by email: [ajones@aticortland.org](mailto:ajones@aticortland.org).



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**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**

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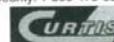


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