AURORA of CNY, Inc. is pleased to announce a partnership made possible through funds from the Gifford Foundation and a private donor to collaborate with Hear 2 Learn, Inc. to offer a low-cost hearing aid program for youth who are hard of hearing. The service will provide hearing aids for 10 youth aged 4-18 and include on-going education and support for the youngsters and their families.

“Hearing aids are expensive and access to providers can be difficult due to insurance issues,” explained Debra Chaiken, AURORA’s Executive Director. In fact, during the first three years of life, the costs associated with hearing loss can add up to close to $20,000. These costs are covered through county-run early intervention programs. However, as a child grows the need for new, properly fitted hearing aids continues. Many families cannot afford the cost. This program will address the need by providing brand new, digital hearing aids for children who qualify.

For more information about eligibility criteria or to begin the registration process, contact Frieda Heckman at 315-422-7263.

The New York State Commission for the Blind has awarded AURORA, as one of only two agencies in the state, with a five year grant to deliver a Pre-College Program for youth who are blind or visually impaired. The program will be conducted in partnership with LeMoyne College in Syracuse to prepare up to thirty high school juniors from across the state with four weeks of immersion into college life. Students will live on campus, take a college-level course and participate in a Technology Seminar. They will also enjoy many of the social amenities of the area and attend a “Survival Skills 101” class that will address such practical needs as cooking, laundry, and staying on a budget.
Since this is a Presidential Election year, with other hotly contested races for federal, state and local offices, knowing how to cast your vote is going to be as important as who you’re voting for.

AURORA has partnered with ARISE, Disabled in Action of Greater Syracuse (DIA) and Enable since 2009 to provide “Disability Etiquette” training for the Onondaga County Board of Elections’ annual mandatory Election Inspector training classes and to offer voters with sensory impairments an opportunity to learn how to use the Ballot Marking Device (BMD).

Starting on September 17 the Ballot Marking Device will be available at AURORA for anyone interested in learning how to use the BMD. Appointments take approximately ½ hour and can be scheduled Monday through Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
Mark your calendars…
16th Annual ForeSIGHT Golf Classic
Monday, September 10th
The Links at Erie Village
Shotgun Start at 12:20 p.m.

It’s not too late to join us for the 16th Annual ForeSIGHT Golf Classic to be held on Monday, **September 10, 2012** at our new venue: **The Links at Erie Village**, 5904 N. Burdick Street in East Syracuse. We are pleased to announce that **Doug Logan**, Director of Time Warner Cable Sports and **Coach Mac**, former SU Football Coach will serve as Co-Chairs for the event. This year’s event will continue the tradition of fun, good food and great times to support our mission and will feature **Sydney Astafan** as guest speaker. With a shotgun start at 12:20 and a captain and crew format, lunch and dinner and appetizers provided by The Links, we invite you to play the day away! Contact Diane LaBeff to reserve your spot, (315)422-7263 .
Nominations Sought for Annual Excellent Awards

EXCELLENCE- The quality or condition of being outstanding.

Do you know someone with a vision or hearing loss or someone who is Deaf who fits this description?

If you do, than we invite you to nominate them for AURORA’s Annual Excellence Awards which are given to adults and young adults who are role models and sources of inspiration for others.

We also give out the Mattie Letham Community Leadership Award, recognizing an individual or group that has advanced accessibility, advocacy and the promotion of people with vision or hearing loss in our community.

Please call AURORA with your nomination or visit our website to view the criteria and download the forms at (www.auroraofcny.org). We will look forward to bestowing these distinguished awards at our Annual Meeting in November. For further information contact 315-422-7263 or fax completed forms to 315-422-4792. Deadline for nominations is Oct 12, 2012.

Member Only Workshop
Understanding Your Macular Degeneration

This workshop is specifically designed for Aurora’s membership only. Aurora of Central New York in cooperation with Retina Vitreous Surgeons presents Dr. Jamin Brown. Dr Brown will answer questions about Macular Degeneration.

Some topics that will be discussed are:

♦ Difference between wet and dry forms
♦ Recent treatments and interventions
♦ Current research
♦ Future developments
♦ Understanding your visual condition

When: Wednesday, October 31, 2012 11:00 – 12:30
Where: Rosamond Gifford Community Room (518 James St., Syracuse, NY-lower level)

Seating is limited, reservations will be on a first come first serve basis.

Please RSVP to Aurora of Central New York – 315-422-7263 or auroraofcny@auroraofcny.org
Please let us know if you require any special accommodations.

It’s Not Too Late!!!

If you haven’t renewed your membership or become a new member for the 2012 calendar year it is not too late! Please help us to continue our mission. We appreciate your support!
Sensitivity Training Encourages Best Practices for Elder Care Workers

“This is the best and most useful training I have received in my entire 8 years of working here.”

~feedback from a certified home health aid

Thanks to a continuation of a grant we received from the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York, AURORA has presented Sensitivity in Practice Training to health care professionals in all five of Loretto’s Assisted Living Residences. The training was adapted from the “Enhancing the Healthcare Experience™” curriculum developed through the first phase of the grant. Participants learned techniques for safe mobility, strategies for effective communication and about the latest in adaptive technology for people with vision and hearing loss. Additional trainings were also held for staff at Home Aides of CNY and PACE-CNY.

Syracuse ADA March Well Attended

A Proclamation, March and Celebration of the 22nd Anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act was held on July 12th at the OnCenter in Syracuse. The event included speakers, a live band, community march and vendor fair that included employers looking to hire. It was a chance to gather as a community to reflect on the achievements and advances brought about by the ADA and look to the future for continued opportunity and accessibility for people with disabilities.
We are pleased to announce that Kelley Cooper was appointed full-time Program Director of Deaf Services as of July 1, and Nicole Rambo has been hired as staff interpreter. Referrals to AURORA’s Employment Services have been increasing steadily. In a two month period, the Deaf Service staff placed a record number of people in employment.

Kelley will lead a team of three to meet the goal “to empower each Deaf and Hard of Hearing consumer to become successful and more independent in achieving their full potential.”