AURORA
of Central New York
Annual Report 2010

518 James Street
Suite 100
Syracuse, NY 13203-2282
315-422-7263 voice
315-422-9746 tdd

E-mail:
auroracny@auroraofcny.org
Website:
www.auroraofcny.org

A United Way Agency of Central New York,
Oswego & Cayuga Counties
Contract Agency of Onondaga
County Office for Aging & Youth

Serving People who are
Blind, Visually Impaired,
Deaf or Hard of Hearing
AURORA’s Statement of Financial Position

Government Contracts $1,193,432
Program Fees 777,497
United Way 114,637
Donations 28,634
Net Investment Income 139,491
Fundraising 129,201
Adaptive Equipment Sales 38,748
Legacies 8,174
Misc. Income 146
Grants 41,567
Loss on abandonment of Grants (39,389)

Total $2,432,138

2010 Audited
Assets $2,856,927
Liabilities $319,043
Net Assets $2,537,883
Total $2,856,927

2009 Audited
Assets $2,757,895
Liabilities $349,768
Net Assets $2,408,127
Total $2,757,895

Auditors: Buffington & Hootland CPAs

We wish to thank the following organizations/individuals for their generosity and support of AURORA’s services:

Fred & Berthe P. Harder Foundation
Welch Allyn, Inc.
Key Foundation
Crouse Hospital
The Rosamond Gifford Charitable Corp.
Entergy Nuclear Northeast
Cultural Resources Council of Syracuse
Louise B. Stickley Trust

Flora Bernice Smith Foundation
P. Drescher Co., Inc.
Empire Vision Center
Specialty Surgery Center of CNY
Retina-Vitreous Surgeons
H. Kenneth Fitzgerald
Assemblyman Bill Magnarelli
Estate of Delores B. Davis

Funding Sources

- NYS Office of Vocational & Educational Services to Individuals with Disabilities
- NYS Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped
- NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities
- Onondaga County Dept. of Aging & Youth
- Onondaga County Authorized Agency
- United Way of Central New York, Inc.
- United Way of Greater Oswego County
- United Way of Cayuga County
- Fees for Service
- Fundraising Events
- Memberships & Donations
- Corporate & Foundation Grants
- Syracuse Veterans Administration Medical Center
With heavy hearts we say goodbye to our dear friend and colleague Cindy Sicherman, who passed away after a long illness on June 29th. She had been the Finance Director at AURORA since January 2003. Cindy had a sweet and gentle style that exuded grace and competence, even under pressure. She was a true professional and a wonderful person. She leaves behind a heartbroken family, including three children, and a large extended family of friends and colleagues. Please keep them in your thoughts and join us in remembering Cindy and the beautiful and irreplaceable contribution she made to AURORA and to all of us who knew her.

**Mattie Letham Community Leadership Award**

When members of Oswego County Visually Impaired (OCVI) group wanted to go on regular outings such as a monthly book group or luncheon gatherings, they thought getting transportation would be an obstacle until they met with Gary Mashaw. Gary is transportation director at Oswego County Opportunities and OCVI president and AURORA board member Laura Smith says 'We'll make it happen' is Gary's trademark quote.

In the 31 years he has worked for Oswego County Opportunities, Gary has made many improvements for Call-N-Ride passengers. He established a token system for fares when he realized that riders with vision loss were having trouble distinguishing among denominations of bills. He trains drivers to give above-average service.

Among his many affiliations: Gary serves as board member of Greater Oswego County and the NYS Public Transit Association, advisory member for the NY Rural Transportation Assistance Program and chairman of the Oswego County Transportation Coalition. Gary is also a member of the Oswego County Vision Network, the Human Needs Committee and the Human Needs Communications Committee.
Excellence Award Recipients

Many companies say they are committed to diversity, but **FedEx Ground** proves its commitment every day. The company recently hired several workers who are Deaf and all say that this is a company that truly understands their needs. FedEx Ground consistently and enthusiastically provides interpreters and other accommodations that workers need to succeed. They also provide trainer-facilitated courses for managers to enhance their understanding of diversity and improve their communication and conflict-management skills. FedEx Ground states that all employees should be able to contribute to their full potential. We are grateful for our partnership with FedEx Ground to employ the people we serve.

**Lance Lyons** is a Property Manager from Auburn with an inspirational and important story to tell about his rebound from a sudden and permanent vision loss that he sustained back in 2002. Since that time he has volunteered to assist AURORA with several projects and is a dynamic spokesperson for our organization. He is involved in countless community efforts in Cayuga County and was featured this year in United Way of Cayuga County’s media campaign.

**Charles O’Bryan** graduated from the Rome School for the Deaf in 1995 and attended three colleges, graduating from Bryant and Stratton. He has worked as an electrician, carpenter, painter and maintenance worker, but his favorite job is the one he has been doing for three years: unloading packages at FedEx. His goals include becoming a manager assistant at FedEx. Charles is a dedicated employee who can be depended on to get the job done. His work ethic is phenomenal and he is a good role model for other Deaf employees.

**Marissa Cutrone**, a junior at Liverpool High School, has already won several awards, including the Liverpool Central School District Outstanding Achievement Award, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Youth Essay Award, and National History Day Recognition. She enjoys singing, dancing and acting and attends the Christian School of Performing Arts. Marissa also volunteers at Word of Life Church in Baldwinsville. Through AURORA’s prevocational program, she spent this past summer as an assistant at CNY Central, where she worked for news channels 3, 5 and 6. Marissa plans to major in broadcasting or journalism in college; she also wants to get involved in ministry.
In Review ..........

Program Accomplishments

13,450 hours of professional interpreting services were provided to 14 Central New York counties through the Marjorie Clere Interpreter Referral Service (MCIRS).

93 youth and adults received employment and placement services this year.

78 people received assessment and/or instruction in how to use adaptive technology for computer proficiency through the Adaptive Technology Center (ATC).

406 patients received comprehensive low vision examinations for a total of 560 hours of low vision service.

623 individuals learned new skills to manage in their homes, jobs and communities and completed orientation and mobility training to remain safe and independent.

830 people received social work support, information and advocacy to develop skills for coping and accessing community resources to deal with a loss in sight or hearing.

63 community presentations were made by staff and volunteers to educate about treatment, care and prevention of sensory loss and promote AURORA and its services.
AURORA’s Board of Directors for 2009-2010
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Robert Haege, Assistant Treasurer
Leslie Rapson, Secretary
John McCormick, Assistant Secretary

Mark Dadey
Robert Didio
Jeffrey Eades
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Vera Lange
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AURORA’s Professional Staff
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Michelle Chapman
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