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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Contracts</td>
<td>$1,251,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Fees</td>
<td>848,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way</td>
<td>169,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>39,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Investment Income</td>
<td>10,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>149,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adaptive Equipment Sales</td>
<td>36,358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacies</td>
<td>165,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. Income</td>
<td>586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>54,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$2,725,131</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2011 Audited**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td>$3,567,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>$ 397,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>$3,169,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$3,567,220</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Auditors: Buffington & Hootland CPA

**Estate, Gifts and Foundation Grants**

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

- Fred & Berthe P. Harder Foundation
- Flora Bernice Smith Foundation
- Key Bank Foundation
- The Rosamond Gifford Charitable Corp.
- Louise B. Stickley Trust
- P. Drescher Co., Inc.
- Dept. of Ophthalmology Medical Service
- Druger Eye Care
- Specialty Surgery Center of CNY
- H. Kenneth Fitzgerald
- Edwin & Delores Davis Fund
- Central New York Community Foundation
- Estate of Alfred W. Richberg

**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
Employer of the Year

The Olinsky Law Group has been a leader in disability law for over 25 years. Its practice areas are limited to social security disability, workers’ compensation, long-term disability claims and ERISA, and ADA (Americans with Disability Act) Discrimination. Currently the firm represents over 2200 individuals with nine attorneys and 25 support staff. They have opened their doors to hire people with disabilities by working in partnership with AURORA’s Employment placement services. They were an active member of Disability Mentoring Day 2012 and remain committed to their vision statement of enforcing the rights of people with disabilities through legal representation and education. Lise Mayo, Aurora’s Placement Coordinator confirms that the Olinsky Law Group have been “easy to work with and completely open and that the law firms is living up to its mission which is a success story for everyone!”

Mattie Letham Community Leadership Award

Dr. Arlene Balestra-Marko is a New York State Licensed Audiologist with a specialty certification in Pediatric Audiology and the founder of Hear 2 Learn, Inc., a for profit agency that provide comprehensive services for children in Early Intervention and pre-school children with disabilities. Over the past 7 years the agency has grown to provide a host of therapies and educational services for children with a broad spectrum of developmental delays. In 2007, Hear 2 Learn opened a pediatric audiology clinic with state of the art diagnostic equipment to provide testing and diagnostics in a child friendly environment. Dr. Marko has been instrumental in the provision of two partnership projects with AURORA to provide low cost hearing aids to seniors and children. Her passion for excellence and commitment to access to service for all who need it has ensured that countless seniors and now children will receive the hearing aids and support they need to improve the quality of their lives.
Excellence Award Recipients

Monica Johnson, of Syracuse, is a true inspiration and a living example of someone who has lost her physical sight, only to gain a whole new vision. She says, ‘When I could see, I painted myself in a corner and was afraid of the world—now that I am blind, I see the whole world as an opportunity!” She makes the most of her opportunities as a gifted equine riding instructor and as a sought after motivational speaker. Monica has a special call to speak to young people to encourage them to “find their identities early so they won’t be swayed and searching.” She shares her life experiences in a powerful way to help others and is currently working to build her speaking career.

Shaunna Smith, of Syracuse, embodies the persona of a “go-getter.” Her upbeat personality, positive attitude and strong determination have paid off as she has been seeking employment through AURORA’s Deaf Services. Employed since March 2012 at the Rescue Mission as an attendant at their donation center, Shaunna’s supervisor describes her as a “godsend and a life-saver.” Shaunna routinely works extra hours. She also assisted as a panelist at this year’s Deaf Awareness Week DEAF THAT! Community Education Workshop, sharing her experiences to enlighten the hearing world.

Megan Mullen is a senior at C.W. Baker High School in Baldwinsville where she has consistently achieved grades that have landed her on the high honor roll since junior high. Megan enjoys science and writing and has pursued these interests by writing for the school newspaper and as a member of the Environmental Club. For the past three summers, Megan has successfully worked as a camp counselor at the MOST and Rosamond Gifford Zoo and as an assistant at Park Rose Terrace. In spite of numerous personal and medical challenges over the past several years, Megan continues to achieve academic excellence and looks forward to a career in elementary education.

Christine Aiken of Camillus is currently enrolled as a freshman at Onondaga Community College where she is taking her first steps toward becoming a counselor for teens at risk. Her sights are set on attending Gallaudette University to finish her degree. Since middle school, Christine has been a mentor in the WHOLE ME afterschool program and is currently working with deaf and hard of hearing teens to produce a documentary about life as a deaf teenager. WHOLE ME’s Executive Director Chris Kovar describes Christine as an amazing woman who consistently displays Leadership, Initiative, Gumption, Heart and Tenacity…a bright “light” that shines for us all!
In Review

Program Accomplishments

14,900 hours of professional interpreting services were provided to 14 Central New York counties through the Marjorie Clere Interpreter Referral Service (MCIRS).

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

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

377 patients received comprehensive low vision examinations.

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

753 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.

160 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 2011-2012

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