AURORA
of Central New York
Annual Report 2013

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Serving People who are
Blind, Visually Impaired,
Deaf or Hard of Hearing

A United Way Agency of Central New York,
Oswego & Cayuga Counties
Contract Agency of Onondaga
County Office for Aging & Youth
AURORA’s Statement of Financial Position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012 Audited</th>
<th>2013 Audited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Contracts</td>
<td>$1,279,140</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Fees</td>
<td>875,826</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way</td>
<td>160,996</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>29,165</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Investment Income</td>
<td>203,519</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>143,239</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adaptive Equipment Sales</td>
<td>40,143</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacies</td>
<td>180,318</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. Income</td>
<td>412</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>54,388</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,967,146</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,911,129</strong></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:

James L. Culeton
Estate of Margaret Winowski
Specialty Surgery Center
Lions Club of Syracuse
KeyBank Foundation
The Howard A. Drescher Foundation
Druger Eye Care
Central New York Community Foundation
Fust Charles Chambers, LLP
Dr. & Mrs. Murray Grossman
Flora Bernice Smith Foundation
The Allyn Foundation, Inc.
Kopp
Retina-Vitreous Surgeons of CNY, PC
Seneca
Estate of Alfred Richberg
Blue Ocean Strategic Capital
Anaren
Dr. H. Kenneth Fitzgerald
Fred & Berthe P. Harder Foundation
Flora Bernice Smith Foundation
P. Drescher Co., Inc.
Edwin & Delores Davis Fund
Specialty Surgery Center of CNY
Franciscan Management
Geddes Federal Savings and Loan

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 Syracuse Rescue Mission has opened its doors wide open to hire employees with vision and hearing loss and we want everyone to know it. Within the past year the Rescue Mission has hired nine deaf workers and offered work experience opportunities for individuals who are blind or visually impaired. The Rescue Mission’s enthusiasm and willingness to provide creative worksite accommodations is a stellar example for the employment community to follow. Denise Soles, Supervisor of Donation Centers, has been an instrumental partner and has worked very closely with AURORA Employment staff to ensure the success of workers by making accessible communication a priority. We value our ongoing relationship with the Rescue Mission and salute them for their commitment to an inclusive and supportive working environment.

Mattie Letham Community Leadership Award

Geremy Cope is the Deputy Chief of Police at the Department of Veterans Affairs through the Syracuse VA Medical Center. He is a retired New York State Trooper and is on active duty with the United States Air Force. He holds a Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Keuka College.

We know him as ‘The AC’ and as a staunch advocate of AURORA and our switchboard operation at the VA. AC Cope truly understands the issues that face the switchboard team and has offered his time, leadership and problem-solving expertise to improve their working environment and relationships within the hospital. AC Cope is highly respected and an invaluable source of support for switchboard supervisor, Sydney Astafan. He acts as mentor, teacher and guide as together they tackle issues head on. According to Sydney, “whenever AC Cope’s name is mentioned around the switchboard, the operator’s comments are flooded with positive feedback.” It’s that kind of partnership, mutual respect and warm regard that has been the hallmark of our working relationship and the reason why we gratefully honor him.
Excellence Award Recipients

Henry Belloir of Marcellus is a New Hampshire “transplant” who moved to the Central New York area in May of 2012 “for a change of scene.” Prior to that, he was employed at Southern New Hampshire University for 14 years. He is described by Kelley Cooper, AURORA's Director of Deaf Services as a “very enthusiastic” employee who never gave up during the job search process. Henry’s dedication and hard work paid off when he received two job offers! He is currently employed at National Grid on contract through DTZ Inc. where he consistently excels and enjoys his work.

Shane Bressette of Baldwinsville has been involved with AURORA for many years, first as a recipient of services and most recently as a valued intern. He served as a role model and integral member of AURORA’s team, working at our first Pre-College Program and revamped Work Readiness Program. With nearly ten years of experience working in early childhood education as a Kindergarten teacher and summer camp coordinator, Shane continues to advance his career and will achieve his Bachelor’s Degree in Community and Human Services/Social Work through Empire State College next month.

Charlene Purchas of Parish is a senior at Mexico High School where “she has met every challenge with a positive attitude” according to Tamara Seymour, her Teacher of the Deaf, “and leaves a favorable impression with everyone she meets.” Whether at home, school, or in the community, Charlene is ready to volunteer her time and talents. She has been active for over three years with the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Club through BOCES and participates in many school activities including as a scorekeeper for multiple sports. She recently completed a successful summer employment experience as an IT Assistant where she was asked to continue after school started because of the quality of her work. Additionally, Charlene is a member of the National Honor Society and the Top 25 League at her high school, as well as an honorary member of the Mexico Lion’s Club. Charlene plans to apply to college at Rochester Institute of Technology/NTID and major in computer repair or graphic design/technology.

Victoria “Tori” Everett of Syracuse has achieved the Honor Roll eight times as a student at Henninger High School where she is currently in the tenth grade. Not only does she excel at academics but she is also a dedicated volunteer with the Destiny Christian Center where she attends. As a member of the worship team she has participated in outreach activities to distribute toys and clothing to those in need and has been involved in raising money for missionaries. Tori is described as a “bright and friendly young lady with a great attitude toward life” by her Orientation and Mobility Instructor Ross DeForrest. She is looking forward to a career in the human services, possibly in the medical field.
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).

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

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

351 patients received comprehensive low vision examinations.

595 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.

182 community presentations were made by staff and volunteers to educate about treatment, care and prevention of sensory loss and promote AU-RORA and its services.
AURORA’s Board of Directors for 2012-2013

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Scott Gucciardi, 1st Vice President
James Granito, 2nd Vice President
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Robert C. Haege, Assistant Treasurer
Leslie Rapson, Secretary
Jeffrey Eades, Assistant Secretary

Laila Kobrossy Audi
Debbie Bondi-Ellison
Pat Culeton
Gloria Hooper-Raspberry
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Nancy Marsden
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Jack Mott
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Vera Lange
David Liddell
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Maria Russell
Priscilla Soden
Dr. Lawrence Stewart
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AURORA’s Professional Staff

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Joel Brennan
Beth Burns-Epperson
Akemee Capers
Brad Castellino
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Michelle Chapman
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Marti Hess
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