**AURORA’s Statement of Financial Position**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013 Audited</th>
<th>2014 Audited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td>$3,911,129</td>
<td>$4,376,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$388,244</td>
<td>$438,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>$3,522,905</td>
<td>$3,937,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$3,911,129</td>
<td>$4,376,527</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Auditors: Buffington & Hoatland CPA

**Estate, Gifts and Foundation Grants**

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

- Eye Physicians of CNY
- Estate of Mary Dodds
- Specialty Surgery Center
- Tessy Plastics
- The Howard A. Drescher Foundation
- Druger Eye Care
- Central New York Community Foundation
- Fust Charles Chambers, LLP
- J. Daniel & Diane Pluff
- Flora Bernice Smith Foundation
- The Allyn Foundation, Inc.
- Blue Ocean Strategic Capital
- Pinckney Hugo Group
- Anaren
- Dr. H. Kenneth Fitzgerald
- Mrs. Caroline Fitzgerald
- Fred & Berthe P. Harder Foundation
- Edwin & Delores Davis Fund
- Franciscan Management
- Geddes Federal Savings and Loan
- Lavelle Fund for the Blind
- Dr. & Mrs. William Delaney

**Funding Sources**

- ACCES-VR
- NYS Commission for the Blind
- 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
Employer of the Year

Joseph J. Geglia epitomizes the spirit of our Employer of the Year Award, having demonstrated an “above and beyond” commitment to hire workers who are blind or visually impaired. As the Executive Director of Elmcrest Children’s Center, Joe directs 500 employees to meet the needs of children with a variety of emotional, behavioral and developmental needs. In the past year he has worked with AURORA’s Placement Director to place individuals with a vision loss that are a good match for both the individual and the agency. Joe has been a champion of hiring workers with vision loss within the organization and has a “can do” attitude that communicates dignity and respect for the skills and talents of all of his employees.

Mattie Letham Community Leadership Award

Chad and Bill Norton are the driving force behind what has become an annual tradition for the members of AURORA’s Support Groups for vision/hearing loss. For several years they have made Webster’s Pond available as well as catered the food and given our consumers a chance to fish at our annual picnic. Their generosity and commitment to full accessibility extend to the community at large through the Angler’s Association of Onondaga, where Chad is Vice-President. Together, they facilitate fishing days for veterans, individuals with muscular dystrophy and underprivileged children. Many memories have been created and opportunities for fun have been made possible by this dynamic and dedicated duo of advocates for full inclusion.
Excellence Award Recipients

Sheila Greene and Sharon Thompson, identical twin sisters from Syracuse, are being honored for their long time commitment to volunteerism and an inextinguishable spirit that puts others’ needs above their own. The sisters have knitted hundreds of scarves, hats mittens and more for the needy and have “adopted” residents of James Square who don’t have families to make sure they have gifts on birthdays and holidays. Whenever anything needs doing at Ross Towers, they are there to help. We are doubly grateful for the contributions the sisters have made to make the world a better place.

Monu Dhakal has overcome a series of hardships that you and I can only imagine. She was born in Bhutan to devoted parents, became a refugee in Nepal and eventually resettled in America in 2007. Since then she has singlehandedly reached out to every Deaf refugee she can find in the Syracuse area to offer guidance, support, teaching and advocacy. She has opened up her home and her heart to ensure that Deaf refugees can overcome oppression and become self-sufficient. She teaches sign language and citizenship classes; she interprets for appointments and is even supporting seven deaf women to launch their own seamstress shop. Monu is a role model who reflects hope and all that is possible for anyone who keeps learning and pushing through the barriers that stand in their way.

Aaliyah Ripley of Brewerton is in the 12th grade at PV Moore High School in Central Square and is already taking several college courses to prepare her for future studies in the area of Psychology. She is a strong self-advocate and role model who has impressed her teachers and other adults with her ability to communicate her needs for accommodations effectively. Aaliya is a well-rounded young lady who also volunteers with Big Brother/Big Sister where she helps children with their homework. She is active in her church as an Assistant Teacher and is also the proud winner of a Character Education Award.

Devin Martinez-Hernandez of Cortland is a seventeen year old force to be reckoned with. He emerged as a level-headed leader, with a maturity beyond his years at AURORA’s Pre-College Program. With aspirations to become a clinical psychologist, Devin has spent two years working with Access to Independence, an agency that serves people with disabilities, as an intern and Program Assistant. Devin also routinely presents at SUNY Cortland in the Department of Special Education which educates future teachers on the needs of students with disabilities. Devin’s sensitivity and understanding of those needs have impressed all who come to know him and he is already well on the road to success.
In Review .......

Program Accomplishments

12,750 hours of professional interpreting services were provided to 8 Central New York counties through the Marjorie Clere Interpreter Referral Service (MCIRS).

48 students completed ASL Sign Language Classes.

138 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).

303 patients received comprehensive low vision examinations.

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

771 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.

185 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 2013-2014

John McCormick, Chair
Scott Gucciardi, 1st Vice Chair
James Granito, 2nd Vice Chair
Ryan T. Emery, Treasurer
Robert C. Haege, Assistant Treasurer
Leslie Rapson, Secretary
Jeffrey Eades, Assistant Secretary

Laila Kobrossy Audi
Pat Culeton
Linda Ervin
Pamela Everingham
Nassar Fitwi
Edwin Kelley
Nancy Marsden
Jeanne Mathews-Fox
Francis Mirabito
Jack Mott
Bradley O’Connor
Ted Pasinski
Diane Pluff
Ken Reger
John Scala
Linda & Frank Tyrrell
Wilfred Wagner
Frank Warren
Robert Welcher
Angela Wienfield
Keith J. Worek

Honorary Board

Liz Ayers
Thomas Dadey
Robert Dideo
H. Kenneth Fitzgerald
Earleen Foulk
Amelia Greiner
Herman L. Harding
Gloria Hooper-Rasberry
Stephen Koldin
Vera Lange
David Liddell
Rev. Virginia Nagel
Carol Nappi
Michael O’Connor
Maria Russell
Linda Shaffer
Priscilla Soden
Jeff Sterly
Dr. Lawrence Stewart
Hon. Karen Uplinger
Mary Ann Winters

AURORA’s Professional Staff

Nancy Anderson
Charlotte Ashworth
Sydney Astafan
Joel Brennan
Beth Burns-Epperson
Akeemee Capers
Brad Castellino
Debra Chaiken
Michelle Chapman
Kelley Cooper
Angelo Coppola
Sheryl Coppola
Anne Costa
Connie Cottrell
Ross Duff
David D’Francis
Bob Dice
Judy Garrison
Angela Giocondo
Starr Guckert
Frieda Heckman
Debra Hess
Martie Hess
Diane LaBaff
Mare Landry
Samantha Landry
Joyce Mahoney
Lise Mayo
Dan MclLaughlin
Leeandia Nun
Deanna Pavlacka
Kaitlyn Ranieri
Donna Reese
David Roberts
Andrea Roth
Maggie Russell