AURORA of Central New York
Annual Report 2016

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100 Years
AURORA OF CENTRAL NY, INC.
Serving People who are Blind, Visually Impaired, Deaf or Hard of Hearing

United Way

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>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government Contracts</td>
<td>$1,227,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Fees</td>
<td>567,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way</td>
<td>132,970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>34,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Investment Income</td>
<td>(58,224)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>151,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adaptive Equipment Sales</td>
<td>35,685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacies</td>
<td>43,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. Income</td>
<td>4,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>90,551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,229,398</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 2015 Audited vs. 2016 Audited

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2015 Audited</th>
<th>2016 Audited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td>$4,298,616</td>
<td>$4,046,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
<td>$406,042</td>
<td>$312,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
<td>$3,892,574</td>
<td>$3,734,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$4,298,616</td>
<td>$4,046,338</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Auditors:** Buffington & Hoatland CPA

### Estate, Gifts and Foundation Grants

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

- Blue Ocean Strategic Capital, LLC
- NYS Commission for the Blind
- NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities
- Onondaga County Dept. of Adult & Long Term Care Services
- Onondaga County Authorized Agency
- United Way of Central New York, Inc.
- United Way of Greater Oswego County
- Geddes Federal Savings & Loan
- Health Foundation of Western & CNY
- Morgan Stanley
- Retina-Vitreous Surgeons of CNY, PC
- Romano Motors
- Stickley Audi & Co.
- Tessy Plastics
- The Allyn Foundation
- The Howard A. Drescher Foundation

### Funding Sources

- ACCES-VR
- NYS Commission for the Blind
- NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities
- Onondaga County Dept. of Adult & Long Term Care Services
- 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
- City of Auburn Community Development Block Grant
- Corporate & Foundation Grants
- Syracuse Veterans Administration Medical Center
WOMEN OF AURORA Reach Out 2016, our annual fall gathering, reached a beautiful crescendo with the largest gathering yet, with almost 75 women who attended to learn about and support AURORA and its programs. Surrounded by the elegance and beauty of the home of Sam and Carol Nappi, and accompanied by the ambient music of classical harp and piano provided by Maria DeSantis Music, the guests were treated to delicious food and drink while hearing the stories of two inspirational and successful women.

Kelley Cooper, AURORA’s Deaf Services Director, shared what it was like to grow up Deaf in a hearing world, explaining the challenges of communicating with friends and the need for equipment that was too expensive for her family to buy.

Monica Johnson, who lost her sight at the age of 29 to Type I diabetes, demonstrated the vital technology that helps her run her own motivational speaking business and live independently. She pointed out that the women were there not just to make a donation, but to make an investment in the lives of others.

Both women spoke to the essential need for the establishment of a Lending Closet for adaptive equipment and devices such as flashing smoke alarms, check writing guides and talking money identifiers to be available to people of all ages with vision or hearing loss, regardless of the ability to pay.

The evening was dedicated to the memory of AURORA Honorary Board Member and longtime friend Amelia Greiner who passed away the previous evening. The event was a perfect way to celebrate Amelia, who truly embodied everything that Women of AURORA stands for. We are grateful to all who contributed to the event and especially want to thank Carol Nappi for opening up her home to us and so generously and graciously offering her gift of hospitality to us all.
Technology plays an increasingly important role in all of our lives, but it is particularly critical for youth who are blind or visually impaired. One advocacy group has even gone so far as to say that “technology programs and products are changing what it means to be blind.”

AURORA, in partnership with the New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB), offers a Pre-Vocational Program that incorporates technology training and career exploration for students with vision loss. This fall a group gathered for a full day of training. In the morning session they listened intently as Brianna Rhodes shared her experience of attending AURORA’s Pre-College Program for college-bound students with vision loss. She explained how technology can be challenging but fun to use so that you can keep up with your studies and succeed in school.

Students in the Pre-College Program receive an IPAD and take an on-line, interactive writing course using a group meeting format for instruction.

The Pre-Vocational program participants also completed interest inventories on-line with computers equipped with adaptive software. In the afternoon, the group visited the grounds of Abbot Farms, a successful local grower and family owned business. There the students learned the intricacies of apple growing, cider making and the science and technology behind running an agricultural enterprise. It was a full day of fun and learning as students prepare for their futures.

Getting Ahead With Technology

Justin B. sizing up the adapted computer

Jacob B. completing online Interest Inventory

Brianna R. shares her story!
Program Accomplishments

10,648 hours of professional interpreting services were provided to 8 Central New York counties through the Marjorie Clere Interpreter Referral Service (MCIRS).

113 youth and adults received vocational and employment placement and training, to lead productive, satisfying lives.

80 youth and adults received adaptive equipment, technology and/or hearing aids along with instruction on their use to succeed in school and beyond.

319 patients received comprehensive low vision examinations.

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

887 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.

45 people participated in our community-based American Sign Language classes.

99 community education presentations /sign language classes were delivered by staff and volunteers to educate about treatment, care and prevention of sensory loss, promote AURORA and its services, and advance community knowledge of Deaf culture and American Sign Language.
AURORA’s Board of Directors for 2015-2016

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Stephen Koldin
David Liddell
Nancy Marsden

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   Leslie Rapson
   Maria Russell
   John Scala
   Linda Shaffer

Priscilla Soden
   Linda & Frank Tyrrell
   Hon. Karen Uplinger
   Robert Welcher

AURORA’s Professional Staff

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Sydney Astafan
Susan Barni
Deborah Battiste
Joel Brennan
Akemee Capers
Lucia Castellani
Brad Castellino
Mariah Castleman
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