



# The Growing Tree News

A Publication of the E. John Gavras Center

182 North Street Auburn, NY 13021

Operated by U.C.P.A. of Cayuga County, Inc.  
Richard M. Hansinger, Executive Director

A United Way Agency Summer 2007  
www.gavrascenter.com

## A Message from Rick Hansinger

Hello and a welcome back newsletter for all of our board of directors, staff, consumers, families, friends and anyone who has an opportunity to read about all of the great things we do here at the Gavras Center. I know we have been away for a few years and many exciting things have or are about to happen. Over the next several issues, we will attempt to bring you up to speed as to what is happening here, as well as highlight many of the new and exciting things our staff is accomplishing each and every day.

I will begin by letting you know this newsletter will now be published monthly, and will focus on everyone we serve and the staff that accomplish it day in and day out. For without all of the great things our consumers and staff do every day, we would not be here.

Today, I will highlight a new staff member for us, Ellen Baumes. I am highlighting her, because she will be our Publisher, Managing Editor, Circulation and Marketing as well as chief bottle washer and cook for our revised and revamped newsletter. Please welcome Ellen who has great ideas for the newsletter and when she asks staff for an interview to spot light all of the great things you do every day, please take the time to meet with her. She will also be spotlighting many of our consumers and their families in future issues.

In addition to getting the word out to our community on all of the great things we do at the Center, this newsletter will be an opportunity for all of our staff to see what other programs and services are being provided by a Gavras Center Team Member. Quite often, even our own staff will not have an opportunity to see the great things that different departments are doing on a daily basis.

So welcome back, sit back, relax and enjoy our first of many issues!

## Ready, Set, GO!

It was a beautiful day and there was excitement in the air when the All American Soap Box Derby was held Saturday, May 26, 2007 on East Genesee Street Hill in Auburn. For the fifth year running, the E. John Gavras Center was well represented. Our team of volunteers was capably headed up

by Marie Gannetti and included Steve Ross, Devin Scutt, Ann Marie Jackson, Tracey Perron, Mary Myers, Carol Ogonowski, Sue Sargent, Liz Northrup, Frank Northrup, as well as clients and friends. Marie thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and she would do it again.

The Super Kids division of the All-American Soap Box Derby came about in 1981 when a special needs child whose brother who was racing asked "Why can't I do that?" Why indeed. The cars were specially built and the smiling faces, positive attitudes and desire to compete from these first children to participate prompted the name of the event, the *Super Kids Classic*.

Decked out in bright green shirts, 9 of the racers involved in the Derby were Super Kids from the Gavras Center, and all had previously participated in past years. Each racer took 3 or 4 rides down the hill. They interacted with the rest of the derby participants in other divisions, building a terrific sense of community. Former Derby racers who had aged out of the competition drove in the cars behind the current racers.



Up next is an Awards Dinner to be held on June 7th at the YMCA. Until 3 years ago, awards were presented at the end of the race day, but this inclusive dinner makes it easier for the Super Kids to participate in the ceremony.

2 of our participants will be going on to the National Super Kids Classic in Akron, OH to compete with other winners from all over the country. All of us at the Gavras Center wish them good luck!



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Editor's Note: This is OUR newsletter. Please send me your ideas, your articles and your feedback. I can be reached @ 315 255-2746, via internal email to Ellen Baumes, or at [ellenb@gavrascenter.com](mailto:ellenb@gavrascenter.com). Thank you!

## Employee Recognition Recipients

### January

\* Deb Sleight \* Nancy Damalt \* Aaron Clark \* Toni VanNostrand \*  
Kate Dunchak \* Ed Butts \* Carol Ogonowski \* Alison Prentice \*

### February

\* Brad Salmon \* Cindy Delmar \* Laurie Wheeler \* Lew Davis \*  
Courtney Blowers \* Jennifer Breck \* Rick Hansinger \* Jackie  
Drechsler \* Christie Burch \* Shirley Siracusa \* Sue Sargent \* Sandra  
Bennett \*

### Honorable Mention

Toni VanNostrand

### March

\* Cindy Springstead \* John Brown \* Katie Dennis \* Carole Rigby \*  
Pat Cleaver \* Chad Goodell \* Roseann DeLuca \* Amy Woodruff \*  
Erin Coleman-Wilbur \*

### Honorable Mention

Laurie Wheeler

### April

\* Sylvia Lukins \* Richard Heintz \* Ellen Baumes \* Danielle  
Ambrose \* Chad Goodell \* Marie Gannetti \* The Front Office Team  
\* Donatina Casamassa \* Jena Weed \* Steve Smith \*

### May

\* Amy Gavras \* Mimi Gilmore \* Laurie Wheeler \* Nancy Gremli \*  
Steve Ross \* Lew Davis \* Claudia Bashta \* Meghan Mennerich \*  
Aaron Clark \* MaryBeth Delany \* Dave Pidlypchak \*

### June

\* Barbara Gray \* Rhonda Davis \* Anna Ellis \* Linda Mizro \* Cathy  
Barrigar \* Maribeth Delaney \*

### Thought for the day....

"Acceptance is such an important commodity, some have called it "The first law of personal growth.""

Peter McWilliams

## Service Anniversaries

### Five Years Service:

Patricia Ambrose  
Claudia Bashta  
Marcella Casamassa  
Debra Chamberlin  
Lisa Gruel  
Lynn Hannon  
Ann Marie Jackson  
Carol Klock  
Dawn Laird  
Mary Myers  
Tracy Myers  
Debra Sleight  
Nancy Tehan  
Katie Walsh

### Ten Years Service:

Nancy Kratz

### Twenty Years Service:

Cathy Barrigar  
Kathryn Mabbett

### Twenty Five Years Service

Gale Fritz