

# THE HELPER

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## A Match Made in Heaven

After a lifetime of caring for Donna, her developmentally disabled daughter, Mary Jane reached a difficult decision that she could no longer meet the physical demands that go with providing such devoted care. Donna is able to communicate but cannot speak. Over time, Donna had acquired additional medical conditions that caused her care to become more complex and beyond the skill of one loving mother trying to manage on her own.

In essence, Mary Jane recalls, "In that last year we were home together, we were pretty much homebound together."

So seven years ago, Donna was able to move to UH's Lisbon IRA!

Mary Jane felt such relief to be able to find a nearby, new home for Donna. She can visit her regularly and can help Donna participate in crafts and other activities at the house.

"It was a match made in heaven," she says with contentment.

Mary Jane worried about the change at first. But now, when Mary Jane takes Donna on an outing on their own, Donna is sure to let her mother know when she's ready to go home, back to the IRA! Mary Jane's worries about Donna's ability to find peace and belonging there did not come to fruition, and she is grateful.

Donna was living at the house during the height of the pandemic. When several residents, including Donna, and many staff were sick, UH staff banded together in an inspiring way. Some moved in to the house to be quarantined together with the program members. Someone else parked their camper in the parking lot at the house, to quarantine right there together. United Helpers sent in meals for everyone who was in isolation at the IRA.

"United Helpers cares for medically fragile people," she emphasizes. "They do whatever it takes." And now, she sees United Helpers' care for her daughter, Donna, as "the gift of a lifetime."

### POV

(Point of View)

Mary Jane's daughter is a program member at a United Helpers IRA (Individualized Residential Alternative)

## Outstanding Canton Rehab & Senior Care Inspection

Earlier this year, Canton Rehabilitation and Senior Care (UHCRC) received its first "regular" visit from the Department of Health (DOH). COVID-19 had prevented DOH visits in three years, whereas they typically happen each year.

Our inspection, or "survey," results, as they are called, were excellent. Chief Operating Officer Stacey Cannizzo praised the team at UHCRC, saying, "In my 20 years in long-term care, I have rarely seen a survey that exceeds UHCRC's results this year. The team have excelled in every way under the most extreme conditions. This is a testament to United Helpers' leadership and strong team."



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UH Rehab & Senior Care, Canton, NY

REHABILITATION AND SENIOR CARE • INDEPENDENT SENIOR LIVING • BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND LIFE SKILLS

## 2022 Spies Awards Presented

This year's Margaret R. Spies Award winners included senior staff and newcomers. Chief Operating Officer Stacey Cannizzo praised their achievement: "These people exemplify everything UH stands for."

The winners were Kelly Woodward, a direct support professional (DSP); Kimberly Mattice, a certified nursing assistant (CNA), Deborah Aldrich, a CNA, and Madison Longamore, a med-certified DSP.

Ms. Aldrich received the Spies Award in 2010. UH Canton Rehabilitation & Senior Care (UHCRC) Vice President of Operations Timothy Parsons said, "Nearly every year, you're nominated for an award." He then read reflections from Director of Rehabilitation Trent Worden. "When she has a well-deserved day off, we notice," he said. "During the worst of COVID, she stepped up more than anyone to serve the residents."

Ms. Mattice is a newer employee at UHCRC but made an impact right away. "Kim came to UH in 2021, so she has seen the tough times," Mr. Parsons said. While she studied for certification, she often worked a full work shift and had a full day of class. "She is now one of our finest CNAs," Mr. Parsons said.

Honorees from the IRAs (Individualized Residential Alternatives) work with people with developmental disabilities.

Ms. Woodward's nomination was written by Residence Supervisor Alicia Durant, saying, "Kelly is courteous and helpful." And her dedication is apparent. "She truly enjoys program members. She goes above and beyond."

Ms. Longamore worked for UH until recently. She is missed!

Since 2001, the Margaret R. Spies Awards have been presented to UH employees who embody the most desirable qualities in direct care: dedication to the people they care for and a willingness to go beyond expectations.



L to R: recipient Kelly Woodward; Program Leader Paul Linden; recipient Madison Longamore; Margaret Spies's daughter, Ann Spies; Director of Residential Services Colleen Aldridge; Vice President of Operations at Canton Rehabilitation and Senior Care Timothy Parsons; recipient Deborah Aldrich. Absent: recipient Kimberly Mattice.

## Community Foundation Match Success

In 2019, we received a wonderful surprise from the Northern New York Community Foundation—they awarded United Helpers a matching opportunity!

In order for United Helpers to receive \$10,000 in matching funds from the Community Foundation, we needed you to give \$10,000 first. That was their requirement.

And you did it! You gave more than \$17,000 so that we could receive the matching \$10,000 from the Community Foundation! Now, all of your gifts and the match have been invested in an endowment that will earn interest forever, strengthening United Helpers in perpetuity.

Given the many essential services that United Helpers provides, this endowment is a lasting gift that you have given to our region. It's a moving statement during an extraordinary time. Thank you!



Northern New York  
Community Foundation

## Sign Up for UH's Latest

Would you like to stay "UH-informed"?  
To be in the know about UH's

- latest news
- newest initiatives
- unique services
- transformative giving
- job openings
- residents' stories
- employees' achievements
- strategic plans
- and more...

send an email to  
[news@unitedhelpers.org](mailto:news@unitedhelpers.org), with "enroll" as  
the subject, and you'll be on the list!



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## A Season of Thanks—from CEO Todd Amo

At this year's Donor Recognition Event, we shared with you some important updates about the people you help us serve. Here is a meaningful summary of how you help us care for our community every day:

- UH serves approximately 1,800 people every day throughout the entire organization
- We manage 510 affordable housing apartments in St. Lawrence and Jefferson counties
- We offer Rehabilitation and Senior Care as well as Assisted Living in Canton
- Throughout St. Lawrence County, we have 10 Individualized Residential Alternatives (IRAs), home to 88 program members who live with developmental or intellectual disabilities or brain injuries
- We operate 2 behavioral health clinics in Ogdensburg and Canton
- We support approximately 350 people/month through our Care Coordination services
- We provide temporary housing and support services at Gateway Apartments in Ogdensburg
- We offer Independent Senior Living apartments in Canton



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Tanner Creek Farm in Dekalb Junction hosted this year's Donor Recognition Event

We are in a great many communities, managing 40 facilities and counting! All in service to you and our neighbors. Thank you for making this widespread, caring network possible.

## Is a Charitable Remainder Trust right for you?

by Society Board Member Mike Curtis CFP®, ChFC®, CLU®

I enjoy sharing ideas with you each season. I work with folks like you, helping them envision the future.

Today I suggest this idea:

If you have two objectives

- (1) "I want income for a specified period or a lifetime"
- (2) "I want to give to a qualified charity, such as United Helpers"

you might consider a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT).

Discuss the CRT idea with your financial advisor, estate attorney, and tax accountant. If you want to move forward, establish the trust through the estate attorney.

After your CRT is created:

- Transfer assets into this irrevocable trust
- Income from the trust passes to you or beneficiaries
- After the specified period, the remainder passes to your chosen charity, such as UH
- The remainder must be 10%+ of the initial fair market value of assets placed in the trust

This type of trust may provide you benefits:

- Tax deferral on the assets placed in the trust
- Possible partial charitable deduction based on the trust's charitable interest

Email [giving@unitedhelpers.org](mailto:giving@unitedhelpers.org) about your UH philanthropy. Securities and Advisory Services offered through Cadaret, Grant & Co., Inc., a Registered Investment Advisor and Member FINRA/SIPC. MCC and Cadaret, Grant & Co., Inc. are separate entities.

### EXCITING ANNIVERSARY!

UNITED HELPERS,  
FOUNDED IN 1898  
ORIGINALLY TO HOUSE  
INDIGENT, NEGLECTED  
CHILDREN IN THE AREA,  
WILL TURN 125 NEXT YEAR!

[www.unitedhelpers.org/giving](http://www.unitedhelpers.org/giving)



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## THREE HONORED WITH ANNUAL HELEN S. RANDLES SCHOLARSHIPS

UH presented our annual Helen S. Randles Scholarships to three high school graduates, supporting their dreams to become health care providers. The \$750 scholarships are funded by an endowment the late Ms. Randles created more than 45 years ago.

Rylee McCallus, Ogdensburg, is enrolled in SUNY Canton's nursing program. She plans to become a nurse practitioner in labor and delivery. Kayla Booth, Lisbon, is also enrolled in SUNY Canton's nursing program. She plans to become a specialty nurse. Both Ms. McCallus and Ms. Booth are employed with UH as Direct Support Professionals.

Angelie Bush, Madrid, is enrolled in Nazareth University's Occupational Therapy program, to become an Occupational Therapist.

Society of United Helpers Vice President Patti Wood chairs the Scholarship Committee and read from a recipient's essay. "Ms. Bush wrote, 'It is impressive how Ms. Randles served the United Helpers organization for over 45 years.... If I can achieve just a portion of what she did, I will consider myself successful.'"

Ms. Wood said the students are already on the path to success, a point echoed by UH's Chief Operating Officer Stacey Cannizzo, who said, "The people we are honoring are the future of UH."

The Helen S. Randles Scholarship is awarded annually to three students from St. Lawrence County who are pursuing higher education in health care. Ms. Randles's hope in creating the scholarship was that recipients would return to become UH employees.



From left, scholarship winners Rylee McCallus, Angelie Bush, and Kayla Booth.

Second row, from left, Scholarship Committee members Darlene Liscum, Dr. Edward Gordon, Committee Chair Patti Wood, Molly Pressey, and Yvonne Lewandowski.



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