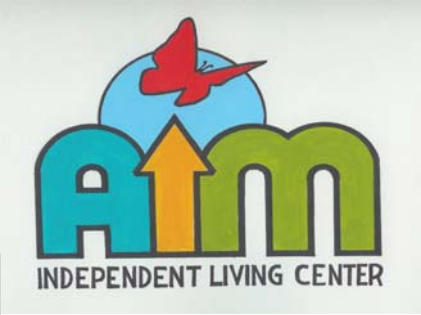
♦ VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 ♦ MARCH 2007

Wings of Change



271 EAST FIRST STREET CORNING, NY 14830

AIM's red-orange Butterfly represents the Fire and Determination in each Human Spirit as he or she chooses Life and the Freedom of Independence.

CONSUMER DIRECTED PERSONAL ASSISTANCE

For almost ten years, Connie Corwin has been providing care to CDPAS consumers. The job has never been easy but Connie says it is very important and rewarding. Connie started with CDPAS when a good friend approached her about becoming a Consumer Directed Personal Assistant because his mother needed care. She applied and says "the rest is history." Connie defines one of the hallmarks of the program "as the need for CDPAS employees who are dedicated, compassionate and really want to help others. "

"You have to want to help people…If you really care about other people and care about helping someone, it's all worthwhile. To see a smile on their faces or to have someone say thank-you, that's what makes the job worth it."

Connie Corwin

Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Services, administered by AIM, offers consumers the chance to live in the community as independently as possible. The program is designed to enable consumers to take an active and responsible role in planning their home care. Under CDPAS individuals are able to receive personal assistance services free of the restraints that would otherwise be mandated by a more formal health care environment. Services can include basic housekeeping, personal care or a variety of nursing services. Authorized under New York State law, consumers must be receiving Medicaid or are eligible for Medicaid. They must also be able to be self-directing or have a legal guardian who is able to direct the personal care assistants on behalf of the consumer. Individuals must the

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AIM'S NEW WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING AND IT'S MIGHTY FINE!

AIM's new website features an abundance of information including links detailing AIM's programs and services, a frequently asked question page, referrals to other organizations and a way to contact AIM staff. There is even a link to download some of the forms pertaining to AIM. Visitors can also view video clips of AIM's Pumpkin Chuckin´ event and the new Deaf services DVD. Please visit www.aimcil.com and let us know what you think.

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ability to make informed choices and to participate in the selection, supervision, evaluation and termination of their own personal care providers.

As a CDPAS personal assistant, Connie has witnessed a number of changes over the years. The program has undergone a huge increase with the demand for personal assistants outweighing the supply. The type of care has changed too with individuals requiring increasing physical care. According to Connie, "The job never stays the same and each person is different and a lot of what I've learned is through hands-on training." Connie states that she plans to continue working under CDPAS and says she can't imagine doing anything else. "I like being a personal assistant and the people I work with become like my family."

If you are interested in learning more about the program or are considering becoming a Consumer Directed Personal Assistant, please contact Patricia Myers at pmyers@aimcil.com or call the AIM Corning office at 962-8225, phone extension 15. You may also visit AIM's new website and click on "Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Services" on the left side menu. The website provides access to copies of forms relating to CDPAS. Click on the menu item listed on the left side of the page under "Forms" and then scroll down to "Forms Relating to Employment ."

DEAF SERVICES

AIM's Deaf Services staff are currently preparing two new instructional DVD's. One will provide training, sensitivity and awareness to help ensure equitable treatment of individuals who are deaf when interacting with law enforcement officials and will assist police forces in distinguishing behaviors that pose a real risk from behaviors that do not. The other video revolves around enlightening school district personnel on several different ways to communicate in a variety of settings with individuals who are deaf.

The staff in the Deaf Services Department at AIM provide education, advocacy, and information and referral services to individuals who are hard of hearing and to the Deaf community. Also provided is peer counseling, a current list of local qualified interpreters, information on how to contract with an interpreter, training on TTY text telephone and Relay Service usage. A loan closet library at the AIM Elmira satellite office is available to the public. For information about hiring an American Sign Language Interpreter, attending a Deaf Support Group or learning more about the services explained above, please contact David Bailey at *dbailey@aimcil.com*, phone 607-733-3718 or call Kelley Crocker at *kcrocker@aimcil.com*, TTY 607-733-7764 or New York Relay 711.

FLAME TO PLAY AT ACCESS AWARDS

AIM's commemoration of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act will be held on the 17th anniversary of the ADA. Scheduled for July 26, 2007 at the Big Flats American Legion, 45 Olcott Road South, Big Flats, New York, the celebration will also honor AIM's volunteers who have assisted throughout the year as well as those who will receive Access Awards for increasing accessibility for people with disabilities. Starting time is 3:00 PM with dinner beginning at 4:00 PM and FLAME at 5:00 PM. More information will be provided in the next newsletter. If you have questions now, please call Kimberly Walters at 607 962-8225.

MARKET STREET ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT

According to Jim Goodling, The City of Corning's Director of Planning and Urban Development, the Market Street Historic District Accessibility Project has been completed. Nearly sixty storefronts were modified with new automatic door openers and new ramps were added to five of the businesses. The remaining stores in the district are either unable to be adapted because of space limitations or the facilities were constructed after the ADA was enacted and no changes were necessary. Mr. Goodling described the project as a cooperative effort between Corning's Planning and Urban Development Agency, Patrick Flynn, Administrator and Architect of the Market Street Restoration Agency and AIM Independent Living Center. Mr. Goodling added the City of Corning, the Planning and Urban Development Agency and the Market Street Restoration Agency are extremely grateful to Diane Demuth, Executive Director of AIM, for her vision to enhance the accessibility of the Market Street Historic District and her efforts toward making the project a success. Please let us know your experiences in using these new adaptations.

TIMOTHY'S LAW SIGNED INTO LEGISLATION

On December 22, 2006, Timothy's Law was signed into legislation requiring insurance companies to provide coverage for individuals with mental illnesses. Under this new law, effected January 1, 2007, health insurance providers are required to provide comparable insurance coverage for mental illnesses ("parity") as the policies provide for other medical care. This will allow adults and children with biologically-based mental illnesses to receive the same health care coverage benefits as those provided for other physical ailments. In a calendar year, the coverage must include at least 30 days of active inpatient (hospital) care, and at least 20 days of active treatment in a facility operated by the State Office of Mental Health (OMH), a psychiatrist or psychologist licensed to practice in New York, or a university faculty practice corporation. The cost of any premiums and deductibles must be consistent with those imposed for other benefits available under the insurance policy.

Information excerpted by the Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc. http://www.mhanys.org/publications/mhupdate/update070111.htm

BLINDLINE® - AN INNOVATIVE RESOURCE FOR NYS RESIDENTS

Blindline® (1-888-625-1616 or www.blindline.org) is a new information resource for New York state residents with vision loss and their families and friends. Blindline is made up of a visually impaired staffed telephone hotline and a public web site with a searchable database of programs and services targeted to or adapted for visually impaired people and their families. Blindline's distinctive database covers more than 300 organizations and businesses, a comprehensive list of specialized agencies, and hundreds of community businesses and services that make their services accessible to people with vision loss. Blindline invites consumers and their families to let them know about local services that should be added to the information resource. In addition, individuals and their families are invited to comment on any service listed on the site based on their own experience.

EVALUATING NYS NURSING HOMES

Finding out more information about nursing homes just got easier with the creation of a new website evaluating nursing homes on measures such as overall residents' satisfaction, time spent restrained, staff care, and the breakdown of daily activities. The site also provides information such a nursing homes with special services. According to an Associated Press article published in December, Richard Wollot, Executive Director of the Long Term Care Community Coalition, the ranking is "...a good start, but by no leans a comprehensive picture of what a nursing home might be like. The best indication of a home's quality comes from visiting, talking to residents, and checking out staffing levels." For more information: www.nyhealth.gov. www.newsday.com/news/ocal/wire/newyork/ny-bc-ny---nursinghome prof.

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY MOVES TO A DIFFERENT LOCATION

The Corning Community Food Pantry, a member of the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, has a new home, even if it is only temporary, at the former Treu Office Supply building, 64 Denison Parkway East. The food pantry opened its interim location after operating for more than 30 years at the former St. Patrick's Church on Denison Parkway. Hours are 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Mondays and Tuesdays; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesdays; noon to 2:45 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 9 to 11 a.m., the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. For more information please call 607 962-6750.

"211" HELPLINE

Helpline is a free of charge and confidential service providing information and referral to up-to-date current human service agencies in the Southern Tier of New York. Trained call counselors can assist callers in finding answers to non-emergency questions by directing them to the most appropriate services providers. 2-1-1 offers referrals for emergency food, shelter, clothing, crisis counseling, substance abuse issues, employment, financial and legal issues, physical and mental health needs and more. If you need help, just ask! Call 2-1-1– or 1-877-FLNY2-1-1- (1-877-356-9211, accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays , with Spanish speaking call counselors and Language Line Translation Services available.)

N11 numbers are three digit telephone numbers in which the first digit is anything other than zero or one, and the last two digits are both one, resulting in only eight possibilities. These numbers, administered by the FCC in the US, provide access to special services, as listed below.

2-1-1 Non-crisis, confidential, community information and referral services

3-1-1 Non-emergency police and government services

4-1-1 Local directory assistance

5-1-1 Access to transportation and traffic information

6-1-1 Repair service

7-1-1 Deaf and hard of hearing relay service

8-1-1 Access to services to protect pipeline and utilities from excavation damage

9-1-1 Emergency police, fire, ambulance

Finger Lakes Region, New York
2-1-1
Get Connected. Get Answers.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SERVICES

March is TBI Awareness Month

Brain Injury Awareness Month was developed to increase public awareness of brain injuries and their consequences. Brain Injury Awareness Month coincides with Brain Injury Awareness Week (March 14--20, 2005). Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) often is called a silent epidemic or an invisible disability because the problems associated with it are not immediately visible. Each year in the United States, at least 1.4 million persons sustain a TBI; of these persons, approximately 50,000 die, 235,000 are hospitalized, and 1.1 million are treated and released from emergency departments (*1*). Approximately 5.3 million U.S. residents have a long-term or lifelong need for help to perform activities of daily living as a result of a TBI (*2*). In recognition of Brain Injury Awareness Month, the Brain Injury Association of America is offering educational kits about living with brain injury. The kits include posters, a fact sheet, and additional resources. Materials are available at http://www.biausa.org/Pages/biam2005.html. Additional information about brain injuries, including causes, symptoms, and prevention tips, is available at http://www.cdc.gov/tbi and at http://www.biausa.org.

Information provided by the Department of Health and Human Services Website at: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwR/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5408a5.htm

For more information about AIM's TBI Support Group's calendar of events, please contact David Tokar, 962-8225 extension 52.

TRAID SEEKS EQUIPMENT DONATIONS

If you have a recliner lift chair, grab bars, and/or a rolling walker please consider donating it to the TRAID Center at AIM. TRAID staff provide information, training, device demonstration, technical assistance and advocacy on how to obtain and use assistive technology services and devices. The TRAID Center also maintains a loan closet of assistive technology for infants, children and adults with disabilities. For more information or to donate gently used equipment in good working order, please contact: James Tokar, AIM ILC, 607 962-8225 extension 23 (voice/TTY) or jtokar@aimcil.com.

WEBSITE BRINGS TOGETHER EMPLOYERS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Access Solutions, LLC has announced the launch of DisabilityWORK.com, a service that brings employers and people with disabilities together. Employers can expect to reach an untapped pool of qualified workers, while people with disabilities have a new venue in which to showcase their talents. Employers can search a database of resumes to find prospective candidates to fill needed positions. They can also post their job openings on the website and utilize DisabilityWORK.com's headhunting services. People with disabilities can not only post their resumes on the website, but they can also use an array of services ranging from resume-writing and career coaching to job placement and job coaching. For more information, please go to http://www.disabilitywork.com//default.aspx.

Information excerpted from the ADA Technical Bulletin: February 2007 northeastada-mailbox@cornell.edu [northeastada@cornell.edu]

AIM for your goals…they are yours to reach…

271 East First Street
Corning, NY 14812

Voice/TTY: 607-962-8225
Fax: 607-937-5125

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ***On-going: TBI Support Group Meetings*** - Every second Tuesday of each month at AIM's McNeil Center. Individuals who have experienced a traumatic brain injury are invited. Please call David Tokar at 962-8225, extension 52. Transportation is provided on a limited basis.
- ***On-going until March 25, 2007: Bowling Sponsored by AIM -*** Bowling at Crystal Lanes each Sunday starting at 10:30 AM now through March 25th. The cost is $2.00 per person for three games with free shoe rentals. Transportation is provided on a limited basis. For more information please call Traci Roche, Director of Consumer Services at 962-8225 extension 23.
- ***April: AIM's Transitional Services - Annual Movin On Conference -*** April 2, 2007 at CCC for students with disabilities from Elmira Free Academy and Southside High School in Elmira. To find out more about the conference please call Jill Durkin at AIM, 962-8225.
- ***July: AIM's Access Awards and Volunteer Recognition Day*** - July 26, 2007. To be held at the Big Flats American Legion, 45 Olcott Road South, Big Flats, New York. Public is invited. To make reservations now, please AIM's Corning office at 962-8225 and ask to speak to Kimberly Walters.
- ***October: AIM's 2007 Fall Festival and Pumpkin Chuckin' event -*** October 13, 2007 starting at 10:00 AM at the Chemung County Fairgrounds. Lots of games, activities and events for children and adults. Don't miss out on a terrific day. Donations and sponsorships are currently being sought. ***Pumpkin Chuckers always welcome.*** Email fallfestival@aimcil.com or call AIM at 962-8225.