

FALL 2025

SPIRIT

SHARING STORIES OF FAITH AND COURAGE



HERITAGE
CHRISTIAN SERVICES

People of possibility

SELF-ADVOCACY

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

This season I'm deeply thankful — for God's steady hand, for the people who walk this path with us and for the many lives touched through our work. With faith and trust in His direction, we continue together in hope and purpose.

That spirit of perseverance was evident when the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities renewed our Compass accreditation for the 24th year this summer. The validation team affirmed our strong systems and culture of continuous improvement. As one of only four Compass-recognized agencies in New York, we're strengthening our quality framework to reflect not just regulations but the real, everyday experiences of the people and families who choose our services.

I'm especially grateful for those who make our work possible: the staff members who serve with dedication, the families and community who stand with us, and the people we support who share their voices and guide our path forward. Together, we reflect the hope and strength God provides.

We've also seen that self-advocacy strengthens quality. Renewed momentum is building around the power of self-advocacy, with a group meeting regularly at the Pieters Family Life Center. Stories abound of speaking up, being heard and shaping one's own path, with allies offering support and encouragement along the way. That feedback creates a direct loop into quality improvement.

As we look ahead to a new year, my prayer is that we continue walking in faith, encouraging one another and trusting in God. In every moment, His abundant love invites us to give thanks, to serve and to celebrate His work in our midst. †

With gratitude,

Marisa Geitner
President & C.E.O.



Marisa Geitner talks with attendees at the 2025 Spring Summit.

**"Follow God's example,
therefore, as dearly loved
children and walk in the way
of love, just as Christ loved us."**

— Ephesians 5:1-2

ON THE COVER: Ryan Knorr is a self-advocate who has spoken up and found supports that better fit his abilities and way of life.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

West Herr Automotive Group and the Scott Bieler Family Foundation

This fall, Heritage Christian Services celebrated the ribbon cutting of the Scott Bieler Family Foundation Home on Townline Road in Pendleton, now home to six men. Part of the Homes with Heart campaign, this home creates possibilities for people to age in place.

We are proud to recognize West Herr Automotive Group and the Scott Bieler Family Foundation for their extraordinary generosity. Their commitment made it possible to incorporate long-term accessibility features into this home, ensuring an impact for generations to come.



West Herr Automotive Group President & C.E.O. Scott Bieler cuts the ribbon on the Scott Bieler Family Foundation Home.

West Herr's support has made a lasting difference before. Through the campaign, the West Herr Automotive Home on Names Road in Chili allows six people supported by HCS to remain in their home through every stage of life.

In recognition of their dedication and alignment with our values, West Herr Automotive Group and the Scott Bieler Family Foundation have been named the 2025 HCS Community Partner. Their consistent investment has helped us build forever homes designed for dignity and joy. †

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

2025 Gail Otto Community Service Award Winner

The 2025 Gail Otto Community Service Award was presented to Craig Thesing at the Volunteer Appreciation Event in September. Named for Gail Otto, one of Heritage Christian Services' founders, this award honors people whose volunteerism has had a lasting impact on our organization.

For more than a decade, Craig has faithfully shared his time and talents at such Heritage Christian Services' events as the Sheep Shearing Festival and the Heritage Hero Run + Stroll + Roll. His willingness to serve shines through in every role, whether greeting guests, assisting behind the scenes or stepping in wherever help is needed. Craig approaches each event with a smile, a generous heart and the energy to see it through from start to finish.

Craig's uplifting positive spirit inspires fellow volunteers and ensures that every event is not only successful but also memorable. His dedication strengthens our community and reflects the very heart of Heritage Christian's mission. †



Craig Thesing holds the Gail Otto Community Service Award.

GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, Dec. 2



Join the global generosity giving wave!



Make your impact count by giving to Heritage Christian Services for #GivingTuesday.



Your donation will ensure that people can live in comfortable, familiar homes through all phases of their lives.



Learn more about how your gift can make a profound impact at

HeritageChristianServices.org/GivingTuesday.



When you see this icon, it means there's a video at HeritageChristianServices.org/newsletter.

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



Spaghetti Dinner Celebrates WNY
This year's Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Raffle at Banchetti by Rizzo's in Amherst welcomed over 300 people for a night of joy and connection. Together, we raised over \$28,000 for the Heritage Christian Services Foundation. This wouldn't have been possible without our generous sponsors, donors and attendees. †

Presented by: Parkview HEALTH SERVICES

Lisa Thomson shows off the basket she won at the Spaghetti Dinner.

Heart of Dance

Heart of Dance delivered a captivating and memorable performance to a full house. Staff members, people supported by the agency and family members took to the stage to put on a dazzling display of movement and dance. This year's performance featured music from genres including reggae, rock, hip-hop, pop and more. †



Heart of Dance performers take to the stage.

DSP Recognition Week 2025

Caring professionals were recognized during Direct Support Professional Recognition Week, Sept. 7-13. Celebrations around the agency showed appreciation for direct support staff members. This year, for a special video, we invited staff members to watch messages from families, a powerful reminder of the impact caring professionals make every day. We're grateful for caring professionals all year round. †

ERN Holiday Toy and Gift Drive

Spread holiday cheer this season by contributing to the Employer Resource Network toy and gift drive, organized by the success coaches. Last year, the drive provided gifts to 190 children from over 70 families. Scan the code for an Amazon wish list, or drop off donations of new and unwrapped gifts or gift cards at the Heritage Christian Services offices by Dec. 15. †



People danced during the festivities at the Pieters Family Life Center in Rochester.

Celebrating 41 Years of Heritage Christian Services

Celebrations were held in Rochester and Buffalo in honor of Heritage Christian Services' anniversary on June 24, a day that marks the opening of the first home on Jennifer Lane. People wore Heritage Christian gear and enjoyed a DJ and dancing to celebrate 41 years of community building and offering opportunities for people to live out endless possibilities. †



Leadership Circle members Mike Osborn, Bill Rhinehart, Eileen Farlow, and Pat and John Feola were celebrated at this year's luncheon.

Annual Leadership Circle and Legacy Society Luncheon

We honored the generosity of Heritage Christian Services Leadership Circle and Legacy Society donors at the Arbor Loft in Rochester. We welcomed 71 new Leadership Circle members, who made gifts of \$1,000 or more this year, and three new Legacy Society members, who have included Heritage Christian in their estate plans. We are deeply grateful for their support. †



Jeff Pecoraro, Matthew Hondt, Derek Scott and Jack Feola had a great time at Bills Camp this year.

Go Bills!

More than 250 people from Heritage Christian Services were welcomed with great hospitality to Bills Camp at St. John Fisher University. Guests enjoyed a private tent with catered breakfast and lunch, as well as a great view of the action. Billy Buffalo greeted the group, and people cheered on their favorite players as they prepared for the season. †



Attendees, organizers and speakers pose for a photo at the kick-off event.

Women of Color and Allies Connect

Hundreds gathered in Niagara Falls for the sixth annual Women of Color Summit to explore this year's theme, "A C.A.L.L. to Action: Commit, Assemble, Leverage and Lead." Presented by Eleversity, the event brought together women of color and allies to lead, connect and thrive. The two-day kickoff event was followed by two days of virtual sessions. †

SAVE THE DATE

- Dec. 2, 2025:** #GivingTuesday/ROC the Day
- Dec. 3, 2025:** Holiday Tree Lighting at the Pieters Family Life Center
- Dec. 18, 2025:** Gala Holiday Pops with the RPO at Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre
- April 21, 2026:** Spring Planning with Purpose Seminar at the Pieters Family Life Center
- April 25, 2026:** Sheep Shearing Festival at Springdale Farm
- May 5, 2026:** Heart of Dance at Monroe Community College
- June 3, 2026:** HCS WNY 30th Anniversary
- Aug. 3, 2026:** Golf Classic at Monroe Golf Club

See details at HeritageChristianServices.org/events



Summer Fun at Rochester Rotary Sunshine Camp

This year, HCS welcomed 18 campers to Rochester Rotary Sunshine Camp in Rush for Respite Camp. From fishing and paddle boating to climbing the rock wall, the days were packed with excitement.

That same week, more than 700 friends and family members gathered to experience fellowship and fun activities at Family Night. Guests enjoyed music, carnival games and a visit from the Rochester Amerks Moose as they celebrated community together. †

Top left: Ivelisse Pereira Castro and Christopher Zimmerman enjoy some fishing at Rochester Rotary Sunshine Camp.



Bottom left: The Holleran family, Mary, Jim and Katie, at this year's Rotary Sunshine Camp Family Night.

HCS staff members worked alongside representatives from Bethel Ministries International on a recent trip to Guatemala.



International Ministries in Guatemala

Since 2001, Heritage Christian Services has partnered with Bethel Ministries to lead mission trips to Chimaltenango, Guatemala. Each year, volunteers host a three-week camp for people who use wheelchairs or adaptive equipment. This September, HCS sent another team that, in addition to visiting homes, distributing food and conducting a wheelchair clinic, built another two homes during the trip. To date, 19 homes have been built. †

Diamond Jones attended the kickoff event for the Empower HERitage employee resource group.



ERG Kickoff event at PFLC

Heritage Christian Services held its first Empower HERitage employee resource group at the Pieters Family Life Center. ERGs are employee-led communities that provide opportunities for people with shared experiences to come together, celebrate diversity, foster professional growth and create lasting impact. Members of the group encouraged one another by sharing personal experiences and exploring ways to strengthen self-advocacy in the workplace and beyond. †

Self-Advocates: Changing Communities Together

When Ryan Knorr looked around at the supports available to him, he realized day habilitation wasn't the right fit. Instead, he advocated for a community habilitation plan that better supports his priorities, including his nine-year commitment to volunteering as a donor ambassador with the American Red Cross of Western New York.

That spirit is at the heart of self-advocacy: having the confidence and tools to speak up, make choices and shape one's own life, even when it's hard. For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, it can mean standing up for one's rights, questioning the status quo and taking the initiative to engage in leadership roles in ways big and small. Allies — staff members, family, friends or community members — play an important role by listening, encouraging and walking alongside self-advocates.

Heritage Christian Services partners with the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State to ensure that people have opportunities to learn, connect and lead.

At one recent session at the Pieters Family Life Center, a panel of self-advocates encouraged others to get involved. Ryan attended and spoke about the importance of having options for transportation. Navigating public transit services highlights how systems can open doors.

Mara Wright, another strong self-advocate, lives independently and is an active member of the HCS CARE Committee, a self-advocacy group based in Buffalo. She shares knowledge with advocacy groups, works two jobs and enjoys encouraging her peers. With support from a nurse, Mara sets weekly goals to gain independence, from using Buffalo's Paratransit to managing her own appointments. "There, I did it!" she said enthusiastically when explaining how she has embraced advocating for herself.

"Self-advocates are building the courage and skills to speak up for themselves and others."

— Maureen Phillips

DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY SUPPORTS AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES



FIND OUT MORE

For more information, visit HeritageChristianServices.org/fair. To learn more about the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State, visit sanys.org.

Sherry Gricar, a faith community inclusion specialist, said the CARE Committee, a group of people who mainly live in residential homes supported by HCS, meets once a month to talk about community concerns. "This group," she said, "they're big encouragers of each other and sharing their experiences. It's cool to hear them problem-solving together."

"Self-advocates are building the courage and skills to speak up for themselves and others," said Maureen Phillips, director of advocacy supports and community resources. "As people grow in that role, they not only shape their own lives but help create communities that welcome everyone."

Through this partnership, self-advocates like Ryan and Mara are finding new ways to grow. Their voices help shape inclusive communities and ensure that support reflects each person's goals and choices. †

National Effort Continues for Recognition of DSPs

National advocacy for direct support professionals is pressing forward, with ongoing efforts to secure federal recognition for them. The outcome could directly shape wages, benefits and the long-overdue recognition these workers deserve.

Joe Macbeth, president and C.E.O. of the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals, is a leading advocate for establishing a federal Standard Occupational Classification for direct support professionals. This is a critical step in the continued work for fair wages, benefits and recognition for direct care workers.

Although the U.S. House of Representatives did not pass the recent Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act, there is still work to do.

"We are hopeful that our advocacy efforts will be recognized and direct support professional will become an official job title and classification," Macbeth said.

More than 10,000 people weighed in during a recent review process, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics is now considering new occupational categories, a rare opportunity that comes only once every eight to 10 years. †

The Continued Pursuit of Quality

Heritage Christian recently received Compass accreditation for the 24th year in a row, affirming our long-standing commitment to the highest standards of care and individual protections. Compliance remains essential, and meeting every benchmark is a responsibility taken seriously. At the same time, quality extends beyond just the basic requirements. It shows up in safe environments, meaningful relationships and the everyday experiences of people and families who choose our services.

Vicki Reina, vice president of quality advancement, notes that this work includes strengthening communication with staff members so everyone understands their role in providing quality services.

"Knowledge is power," Vicki said, "and quality begins with understanding. It's important that we teach, talk about and show what quality looks like. That way, people can recognize it when it's there and when it's not. Real quality grows in places where people work together, stay curious, ask questions and keep improving."



Members of Heritage Christian Services and the OPWDD team converge to validate another Compass designation.

Families have a crucial role in our quality framework. Their feedback helps us highlight areas that are essential to the best interactions. The individual and family survey, completed in October, is one way those voices are shaping decisions.

Meaningful connections remind us that quality is about more than policies — it's about people. It begins with compassion, listening without agenda and honoring each person's heart and lived experience.

The Compass validation team saw that quality is built into everyday practice at HCS. They highlighted our smart use of technology, fresh approaches to improvement, welcoming onboarding process and the sense of consistency and inclusion that runs throughout the organization.

This year's renewal came with a reflection of our strong systems and our ongoing commitment to learning, growing and providing the best possible support. †

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Joanie Parker Honored

After a 29-year career, Joanie Parker retired as vice president of education, employment and Finger Lakes day services. Joanie received the Ally Award at this year's Women of Color Summit and is a 2025 ICON Honors recipient. †



Mark Zawacki Honored

Mark Zawacki, executive director of the Heritage Christian Services Foundation, was named the Robert A. Clinger Outstanding Fundraising Professional by the Genesee Valley Chapter of the Association of Fundraising professionals. Mark's contributions are many, including his pivotal role in the success of the \$10.1 million Homes with Heart campaign. †



HCS in Chamber's Top 100

Heritage Christian Services was again named to the Greater Rochester Chamber Top 100 list, a yearly honor given to companies in the area that have a profound impact on the region's economic vitality and the lives of thousands of people. †



Expressive Beginnings Honored with Elevating Women Award

Expressive Beginnings Child Care was named a 2025 Elevating Women honoree by the Rochester Business Journal. The recognition highlights organizations in the Rochester region that actively support and empower women through documented results and innovative practices. Expressive Beginnings stood out for its commitment to creating opportunities, elevating women's voices and investing in their growth. †



Top row: Mark Zawacki, Sara Eggert, Iesha Eldridge and Carrie Hallock.
Bottom row: Samantha DeMart, Theresa Buick, Marisa Geitner, Ashley Wilbern, Joanie Parker, Donna Mostiller and Stephanie Ward.

Marisa Geitner Awarded for Inclusive Leadership

Marisa Geitner has been named the Greater Rochester Chamber Inclusive Leadership Award recipient. This award is presented annually to a leader in the Rochester region whose work exemplifies a deep and lasting commitment to fostering belonging across diverse backgrounds. In addition, the Rochester Business Journal has named Marisa to its 2025 Power List for Health Care, which honors efforts to improve the health of the Rochester community. †



Terry Whlen is the new vice president of clinical and Finger Lakes residential services. With experience across major health systems and a personal family connection to Heritage Christian, he is dedicated to advancing inclusion, dignity and meaningful outcomes. †



Chris McConnell has joined Heritage Christian Services as vice president of education, employment and Finger Lakes day services. His work is inspired by his son with intellectual disabilities, grounding his commitment to inclusion and advocacy. †



The National Human Resources Association has selected **Lori Florack** as its Human Resources Executive of the Year. Florack, a member of the HCS board of directors, is executive vice president and chief human resources officer at Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. †



Danielle Pierleoni, legacy and leadership giving manager, has been named to the Rochester Business Journal's Forty Under 40 list. Danielle contributed to the Homes with Heart campaign success and has built strong relationships with our donors, re-energizing the HCS planned giving program. †



Michelle Kenville, director of quality advancement, has been honored with the Monroe County Hispanic Heritage Award. She was awarded for her commitment and contributions to strengthening our shared values of inclusion, diversity, equity and access. †



Sarah Campbell, community services coordinator, also works at Arc GLOW, where she was honored as direct support professional of the year at the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State Western Region Self-Advocacy Conference. †

GIFTS OF SUPPORT

Many thanks to the **Genesee Valley Regional Market Authority** for supporting agricultural education at Springdale Farm, operated by Heritage Christian Services and owned by Monroe County Parks. †

The **Children's Guild Foundation** has our gratitude for supporting our Club Adventure respite program in Tonawanda. †

We are humbled by the generosity shown by the following contributors who have provided support of enabling people to stay in their homes throughout their lives with safety, comfort and dignity. †



The **Charles J. & Burton S. August Family Foundation** generously provided support as we work to replace our therapeutic pool at the Pieters Family Life Center. †

Our heartfelt thanks to the **Walter Hubbell Employment Services Fund** and the Rochester Red Wings, whose support across 12 years has contributed \$385,000 for the Employment Alliance. †

Heritage Christian Stables extends heartfelt thanks to **Camp Smile**, the **Odd Fellow & Rebekah Benefit Fund** and **Wegmans** for their generous support. †

We thank **The Chapel at CrossPoint** for supporting International Ministries and our mission trips to Guatemala. †

Elevesity, the education and training division serving businesses around the state, thanks the following organizations for helping promote career development and equity through the ColoRISE Lunch and Learn series, Empower to Lead program and Women of Color Summit. †



HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS

Often, people will donate in memory of a loved one who has passed away. The agency sends the bereaved family a note of sympathy and informs them of the gift, without disclosing the amount. People also mark joyous occasions — like birthdays, anniversaries and weddings — by donating in honor of a friend or family member.

Questions? Email info@HeritageChristianServices.org.

MAY 2025 - AUGUST 2025

IN MEMORY OF

Margita Amidzic
Bob and Dee Lucacci
Drew and Jennison
Bielemeier

Mary Baumbarger
Paul Baumbarger

Arnold Bennigsohn
Annemarie Baldo
Marilee Buechel
Barbara and Patrick
Corona

Nancy and Kevin Gillan
Laura and David Goldman
Mary Ellen and Gerry Green

Norma and Anthony Leone
Jane Murray
Steven Smith
Cheryl Wightman

Michele Ciehowski
Joni Pobedinsky

Rosaria Cipolla
Debra Giordano

Robert Cottier
Brad Cottier

Emilia D'Angelo
David and Carol Coon

Laura DeLong
Ralph and Laura Vanner

Kim DeSarra
Bob and Sue DeSarra

Paul DeSarra
Bob and Sue DeSarra

Jennifer Duncan Young
Dick and Kathie Duncan

Mimi Dundon
Drew and Jennison
Bielemeier

Anne Brett
Jillian Carter

Kim and Tim Clark
Charles and Carole

Ann Collard
Marisa Geitner

Linda Gerlach
Judy Knab

Michael and Jan Osborn

Julie Owen and Jeff Cook
Danielle Pierleoni
Donna and David Willome
Mark and Nancy Zawacki

Ted Everitt
Jon Dolf Bass and
Edith Bass

Mary Beth Ferguson
John Ferguson

John and William Gucker
Alice Gucker

Tony Joseph
Bonnie Crawford
and Family
Joan Morrison

Jim Killeen
Jackson and Loraine
Bowling

William Dyrek
Elizabeth Flynn

GlaxoSmithKline
Brendan Killeen

Colleen LaVigne
Olavo and Carolyn Macedo

Hugh and Linda Russ
Melissa Schaefer

Stevens Transport

Jane Kitchenman
Judith Kiley

Nelson Leenhouts
Arlene Leenhouts

Christine Lucacci
Bob and Dee Lucacci

Lisa Anne Lucacci
Bob and Dee Lucacci

Amanda Marshall
Martha Rutowski

Rose Maxwell
Drew and Jennison
Bielemeier

Don and Karen Bonner
Anne Brett

Louise and James Brown
Jillian Carter

Kim and Tim Clark
Marisa Geitner

Julie Owen and Jeff Cook
Mark and Nancy
Zawacki

Thomas McManis
Gary McManis

Mary Ann Miller
Dr. and Mrs. Tom Miller

David Nenzo
Shirley Meston

Brian Nicholson
Tom and Jeanne Myers

George Palmer
Victoria Hong and
Vito Buscemi

Judy Pawlik
Linda Pawlik

Danny Phillips
Sandra Ashby
Patricia Ford

Kathleen Lansberry
Nancy Phillips

Ronald Smay
Ed and Carol Seitz

Katie Speicher
Mary Beth and Shaun
Speicher

Amy Tesson
Judith Kiley

Patricia Wayne
Tara Cross
L A Dewey

Jared Macary
Kelly and Chris Nash

Alecia Swasy

**Sandra, Frances and
Howard Wissick**
Howard McGinn

**IN HONOR OF
Samantha Cashimere**
Christina Cashimere-Brown
and David Brown

Angela Cataldi's Birthday
Nancy Odonaghue
Mary Rinere

Nancy Cataldi's Birthday
Jessica Cataldi
Mary Rinere

Kim Gagarinas
Nina Somers

OBITUARIES



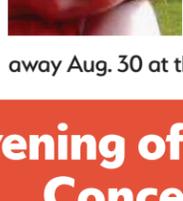
Mimi Dundon was known for sharing her gifts of quick wit, artistry and style. She passed away on Aug. 4 at the age of 69. †



Roseanne Maxwell, affectionately known as Rose, had a radiant smile and shared joy and love with everyone she met. She passed away on Aug. 12 at the age of 59. †



Naomi Goldberg, one of the first people to call Goodburlet home, brought joy and light to every room she entered. She passed away Aug. 30 at the age of 64. †



Annie Weber was a compassionate woman with a sharp wit and warm laugh. She passed away on Sept. 1 at the age of 58. †



Catherine Cecilia O'Brien, affectionately known as Cece, loved learning and radiated kindness and joy. She passed away on Sept. 23 at the age of 63. †



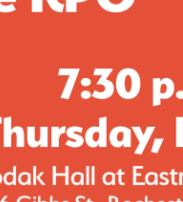
Kenny Howlett was a man of faith who built strong connections with those around him. He passed away Oct. 21 at the age of 49. †



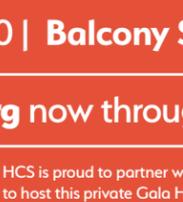
Mary and Paul Gately Thomas and Judy Wolbert



Libbie Hard Deborah A. Hard



Garrett Hopkin Courtney and Justin Hopkin



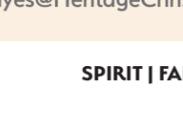
Drew Hoselton's Birthday Coralie Hoselton



Andrew Hulbert Erin Gimbel



Becca McColl Marna Distaffen



Laura Nenno Shirley Meston

Beth Palmer Maria Buscemi

Mickey Ritzenthaler Larry and Barb Ritzenthaler

Nancy Tantalo Elaine Tantalo

Michael Thumm's Birthday Barbara Thumm

April Ward Bill and Vicky Ward

Terry Wihlen Stacey Chapman
UnitedHealth Group †

HERITAGE HERO

Heritage Christian Services hosted the Heritage Hero Run + Stroll + Roll on Saturday, Sept. 27, at the new location of Ontario Beach Park. Runners enjoyed the triple-loop course, and walkers and families took in the scenic location during a day



Fundraising group Team Addie at the Heritage Hero Run + Stroll + Roll.

of fun and community spirit. Cristina Dermody, a member of the fundraising group Team Addie, participated in the event and has a deep connection to our agency. "Heritage Christian Services is an organization you can lean on. It makes such a difference just knowing people are there for our family that I can reach out to when we need support," she said. Because of the generosity and dedication of the Heritage Christian community, we raised over \$90,000. †

Many thanks to all of the sponsors that helped make this event possible, including:



GOLF CLASSIC



Geoff Cook of Taylor, The Builders, teamed up with Mike Baker of Weckesser Brick and Jesse Champagne of Gallagher Insurance.

35th Annual Golf Classic

Business professionals and community members gathered at Monroe Golf Club for the Heritage Christian Services Golf Classic, presented by Lawley. We raised over \$188,000, which will make a meaningful impact in the lives of people who choose our services and the dedicated staff members who support them. †

Thank you to all of the sponsors that helped make this event possible, including:



An Evening of Joy: Gala Holiday Pops Concert with the RPO



7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 18
Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre
26 Gibbs St., Rochester, NY 14604

Premier Seat: \$50 | Balcony Seat: \$25

Secure your spot at RPOwithHCS.org now through Dec. 12.

Questions? Contact Chloe Kay at (585) 340-5715 or Chloe.Kay@HeritageChristianServices.org

HCS is proud to partner with Rochester Rotary to host this private Gala Holiday Pops Concert with the RPO.

Holiday Tree Lighting Reception

Purchase a light in honor or memory of someone special to help our evergreen trees shine.

5-6:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Dec. 3**

Pieters Family Life Center, 1025 Commons Way, Rochester, NY 14623

If you're able, join us for the annual reception.

Learn more and purchase your lights at HeritageChristianServices.org/light or contact Mackenzie Schayes at (585) 340-5798 or Mackenzie.Schayes@HeritageChristianServices.org.



HERITAGE
CHRISTIAN SERVICES
People of possibility

SPiRiT is a biannual publication of Heritage Christian Services.

AT HERITAGE CHRISTIAN SERVICES, WE BELIEVE IN ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.

Established in 1984, Heritage Christian Services strives to advance an inclusive and equitable community. Our more than 3,600 employees work alongside the people who choose our services, ensuring that everyone can achieve what is meaningful to them. Based in Rochester, with concentrations in the Finger Lakes and western New York, we're innovating and expanding as the needs of our community grow. We serve our community with programs that promote housing options and the support within them, in addition to programs that sustain relevant employment and day habilitation. We have also established programs for high-quality childcare, setting the standard for statewide workforce education, ensuring robust health, wellness and equity, and embracing self-empowerment.

Visit HeritageChristianServices.org.

OUR INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS

A Second Thought Resale Shop
Eleversity | Employment Alliance
Expressive Beginnings Child Care
Ferncliff Apartments and Heritage Gardens
Heritage Christian Stables
Heritage Hollow Retreat Center
International Ministries | Pieters Family Life Center
Springdale Farm and Balcony Point

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TDD: (800) 662-1220	



OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY & JUSTICE

We believe that people are entitled to dignity, respect, equity and justice. We champion a society that removes barriers. We reject racism and discrimination of any kind. We protest systemic and political inequities that marginalize people, recognizing that there is a history of structural racism in the United States. We will continue to learn and change to achieve justice. We know that strength comes from unity.

Turning Generosity into Legacy



The Walter Hubbell Home Endowment Fund

Heritage Christian Services is honored to announce the creation of the Walter Hubbell Home Endowment Fund, established from a generous gift from the Walter Hubbell Employment Services Fund.

This newly-endowed \$250,000 fund will ensure that, for generations to come, we can provide financial resources for direct support professionals' fair and equitable compensation.

By strengthening resources for wages and recognition, the Walter Hubbell Home Endowment Fund, in support of the Walter Hubbell Home in Perinton, affirms the value of talented professionals and reinforces our commitment to attracting and retaining the best caregivers. It is an investment not only in staff members, but also in the people and families who rely on their dedication. †

**For more information on ways
to support our mission, visit
HeritageChristianServices.org/donate.**

Heritage Christian Services
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Rochester, NY 14623

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YOU CARE FOR OTHERS. WE CARE FOR YOU.

Seeking a role where you can have a real impact? Heritage Christian Services is hiring!

Certain residential shifts pay up to
\$22.25/HR



Text HIREME@HCS to 97211 or apply today at JoinHCS.org.