

SPRING 2026

SPiRiT

SHARING STORIES OF FAITH AND COURAGE



HERITAGE
CHRISTIAN SERVICES



Where Faith and Belonging Meet

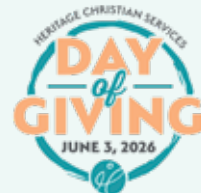
This Team Nurtures the HCS Spirit Page 6

Jordan "JJ" Justin, left, sits with Padraic Collins-Bohrer, faith inclusion community specialist, at the Pieters Family Life Center.

Page **3** Riding on 25 Years at the Stables

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24 hours to raise \$100,000
JUNE 3

HeritageChristianServices.org/DayofGiving

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

Our mission calls us to put faith into action every day. At Heritage Christian Services, faithfulness is not only something we hold, it's something we practice through the way we build supports that endure. Guided by my Christian faith, I am continually reminded that our work is rooted in the call to live, serve and honor the dignity of every person.

The quality of our care doesn't happen by chance. It grows from thoughtful leadership, disciplined systems and long-term investment in people. Faith in action means creating the structures that help our teams offer consistent, compassionate support—the kind that reflects Christ's inclusive love in both word and deed.

For our workforce, quality means defined expectations, professional development and leadership commitment. Quality services depend on strong support behind the scenes. It's the quiet, faithful work that helps every employee live out our shared values each day.

As we reflect on this foundation and more than four decades of service to the community, we also celebrate 30 years of dedicated support in the Buffalo-Niagara region. What began there as a single home grounded in faith and hospitality has grown into a community that continues to thrive because people show up with love, integrity and purpose.

This year, I invite you to join us on June 3 for our inaugural Day of Giving. This is an opportunity for us all to come together in generosity to strengthen the mission that drives forward quality of care and faith in action.

When organizations build quality intentionally, people and teams are better positioned to move forward with confidence. †

With gratitude,



Marisa Geitner
President & C.E.O.



Tom Layer with Marisa Geitner at the Buffalo Spring Summit.

"Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

– 1 John 3:18



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

CELEBRATING MILESTONE YEARS

FAITH Foundation's Legacy 30 Years Later

On June 3, we celebrate 30 years since the opening of the first Heritage Christian Services-operated home in western New York on Hoover Road in Sanborn. A group of parents started the FAITH Foundation, looking to provide Christian homes for their children, and asked Heritage Christian to extend their support to the Buffalo area. Anne and Mike Wolf were original members of the FAITH Foundation and upon Anne's passing in 1996, their home was transferred to Heritage Christian.

What began as a single home built on compassion and faith has grown into a wide network of support, innovation and opportunity. Through changing landscapes and expanding services, one thing has never wavered: our commitment to offering high-quality, person-centered care. For three decades in the Buffalo-Niagara region, we've walked alongside people and their families, adapting to changing needs while staying rooted in our mission. The foundation laid at the home on Hoover Road continues to guide us forward, with gratitude for the past and confidence in the future. †

"When I was offered a direct support professional position at Heritage Christian Services, I was not planning for it to turn into a career. Here I am, three decades later! I have stayed because the agency has been flexible in supporting me through the seasons of my life, like relocating regions, having children and supporting my aging mom. I am blessed to be part of this family."

— CARRIE HALLOCK, office manager



The home on Hoover Road was generously transferred to Heritage Christian Services by the Wolf family.

"The people I've worked with throughout the years are the reason I stay at Heritage Christian Services. They've taught me humility and given me grace when I needed it."

— COLLEEN BENSON, residence manager

Our Child Care in Webster Turns 10

Since opening under the Expressive Beginnings Child Care name in 2016, the Webster location has welcomed more than 1,400 children, ranging from infants to age 12. Celebrating 10 years, Expressive Beginnings Webster currently serves nearly 400 children and employs several staff members who attended the center as children.

"It's pretty awesome knowing that my son is growing up in the same environment that I did. The main thing that feels the same is the nurturing environment," said Liz Ahearn, a former EBCC student who now sends her own child there. "That's part of the reason why we chose [EBCC], along with all of the green space available to play." To see more of what the students are up to, visit the EBCC Facebook page or ExpressiveBeginningsChildCare.org. †



To celebrate the 10th anniversary, children at the child care created a collaborative art project and enjoyed sheet cake.



Equine programs at the Stables support people of all abilities, including children, older adults and veterans.

Community Connections Across Decades

Heritage Christian Stables is celebrating a quarter-century of connection, growth and opportunity. Since its founding, the stables has provided therapeutic riding, equine-assisted learning and volunteer opportunities that help riders build confidence, develop new skills and experience the unique bond between people and horses. To learn more, visit HeritageChristianStables.org. †

HERITAGE HAPPENINGS



Heritage Christian Services Participates in Winter Special Olympics Athletes joined hundreds of competitors at the Special Olympics New York Winter Games, showcasing determination, teamwork and sportsmanship. We thank community leaders like The Golisano Foundation for creating opportunities for people supported by Heritage Christian Services, including the Special Olympics. †



People served by Heritage Christian Services, including some photographed at left, showed up to ice skate, snowshoe and participate in other events.



Heritage Hurricanes Showcase Talent and Joy The Heritage Hurricanes All-Abilities Color Guard kicked off their winter season at the Winter Guard International regional competition in Corning, performing for more than 1,000 people. The season continued with performances in Medina and at Gates-Chili High School before wrapping up with a spirited friends-and-family showcase at the Pieters Family Life Center. In every event, the Hurricanes brought creativity, dedication and unmistakable joy. †

Check them out on Facebook at [tinyurl.com/HeritageHurricanes](https://www.facebook.com/HeritageHurricanes)



Debbie Vanderpool (middle left) joined Mark Zawacki and Chuck Collard to share her story as a family advocate and direct support professional with legislators including Assemblymember Jen Lunsford (middle right).

Legislative Day in Albany

Heritage Christian Services leaders and a parent advocate traveled to Albany to meet with state leaders and advocate for what we believe is the appropriate investment in the New York state budget to safeguard people with disabilities and the workforce that supports them from future funding shortfalls. The visit was organized in alignment with the New York Alliance for Innovation & Inclusion, which brought advocates and providers together around shared priorities. †

ROCStars Self-Advocates Shine

The self-advocacy group, the ROCStars, has worked over the past several months to strengthen their structure and voice, in partnership with the Self-Advocates Association of New York State. Monthly meetings are a cornerstone, offering a consistent space to connect, share ideas and identify advocacy priorities. The group's tagline remains their guiding principle: "Be the Star You Are!" Contact Info@PietersFamilyLifeCenter.org for information. †



Self-advocates, including Tim Little (middle), are growing their skills to connect, lead and influence change.



Springdale Farm Sheep Shearing Festival

Springdale Farm hosted its annual Sheep Shearing Festival, where families had the chance to meet the newest additions to the farm, a pair of bonded mini ponies, Aladdin and Jasmine. †



These efforts reflect compassion in action.

Giving Back to the Community Thanks to the generosity of donors, including Heritage Christian Services staff members, the Children's Health Home of Upstate New York team provided 40 customized Thanksgiving baskets and Angel Tree gifts for families with limited means. Heritage Christian success coaches also partnered with Employer Resource Network business partners and community members for a Holiday Toy and Gift Drive, serving 95 families and nearly 240 children. †



Together, We Make It Possible

Moments of joy are supported by the generosity of donors and friends who give to Heritage Christian Services. Join us June 3 for the Heritage Christian Services Day of Giving, as we come together to raise support for people as they live lives of endless possibility.

Learn more or make a gift at

HeritageChristianServices.org/DayOfGiving



Seth Greenman (center) pictured with brothers Caleb and Josiah Sweet, shared insights on housing options and resources.

Families Learn to Plan with a Purpose Families heard from Josh Bielemeier, housing supports coordinator at Heritage Christian Services, and Seth Greenman, co-director of the New York Housing Resource Center, about non-certified housing options, available supports and strategies for long-term planning. We're grateful to the speakers, volunteers and advisors who made the seminar possible. †

OBITUARIES

After this Spirit, we will no longer mail memorials or list obituaries here, recognizing how challenging it can be to coordinate funeral details within print and mail timelines during an already tender time. We will continue to honor each life by staying connected with those most affected, especially care, support and grief resources to the staff.



Matt Ford was known for his contagious smile and laughter, and his life was marked by humor and joy. He passed away Oct. 28 at the age of 58. †



Carol Donahue's life was marked by joy, both in what she embraced and the joy she brought to others. She passed away March 25 at the age of 56. †



Jennifer Garver moved through the world with a quiet radiance. She passed away Nov. 29 at the age of 55. †



Kathy Scott was known for her smile, her deep faith and how she cared for family and friends. She passed away March 29 at the age of 72. †



Nancy Tantalo embraced life wholeheartedly, leaving a legacy of laughter and kindness. She was 61 when she passed away Dec. 16. †



Robert Orico will be remembered for his bright smile, gentle kindness and the care he showed as a friend. He passed away March 31 at the age of 74. †



Karen Robertson was known for her bright smile and spunky energy. She passed away Feb. 3 at the age of 55. †



Dan Bergen was known for his caring heart, Irish humor, determination and gentle strength. He passed away April 9 at the age of 62. †



Joan Schutt was known for her laughter and spirited personality. She passed away Feb. 18 at the age of 64. †



Kornelijus "Neil" Cieminis was a devoted and generous board leader who had a decades-long impact on Heritage Christian Services. He passed away Jan. 24 at the age of 76. †



Linda Mazza lived a life filled with determination, love and warmth. She passed away March 23 at the age of 73. †



Pop-Up Pantry Events Bring Neighbors Together

Heritage Christian Services partnered with Foodlink for two Pop-Up Pantry events at the Pieters Family Life Center in Henrietta. With the help of almost 70 volunteers, nearly 400 households received fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, dairy products and more. The drive-through food pantries made it easy to pick up groceries, turning a simple idea into meaningful days of community connection. †

Pop-Up Pantries offer relief to areas with limited access to traditional food pantries.

The faith community inclusion team has a combined tenure of more than 90 years!



Building Bridges of Faith and Belonging

Some work happens quietly, but its impact reaches every corner of Heritage Christian Services.

The members of the faith community inclusion team — Diane Sturmer, Sherry Gricar, Joe Starling and Padraic Collins-Bohrer — support people to make meaningful connections with their faith and faith communities.

The team's work reflects the diverse faith traditions of the people served. They help people connect with faith communities and traditions, celebrate milestones such as weddings, baptisms, holiday observances and community gatherings, and walk alongside people as they grieve life's hardest moments.

"We're in hospitals, homes and programs — visiting, praying with someone, supporting the staff members who are there, especially when someone is very ill

or nearing the end of life," said Starling.

For Sturmer, at the agency since 1987, the heart of the role remains the same.

"My original title was community bridge builder," she said. "That's still what we're doing, building bridges between people and the things that are important to them."

"My original title was community bridge builder. That's still what we're doing, building bridges between people and the things that are important to them."

—Diane Sturmer

Sometimes that means supporting someone through grief or hospice care. Other times, it's creating moments

of joy: retreats, dance, music or time outdoors.

As people supported by Heritage Christian age, this work becomes even more important, helping ensure that spiritual health remains part of the compassionate, person-centered support that defines our commitment to quality.



Top: Kelly Darlak and Sherry Gricar enjoy some time outdoors.

Bottom: Padraic Collins-Bohrer and David Longo play bingo during a Wellness Wednesday event.





Joe Best and Diane Sturmer enjoy a moment of fellowship at the Heritage Christian Fall Summit.

President & C.E.O. Marisa Geitner says that commitment has been part of Heritage Christian since its earliest days. "This team has reported directly to the president since our founding, and that has always mattered," she said. "I'm proud of the day-to-day involvement I have with their work. I see the impact and know this level of investment is a true differentiator for Heritage Christian Services. Most providers simply don't have anything like it." Team members have regularly been invited to share this unique work at local, statewide and national gatherings.

Their work also reaches the staff members who walk alongside the people that choose our services, whether it's through encouragement, listening, prayer, team-building activities or on-site presence to help teams stay grounded, connected and cared for.

In May, Heritage Christian Services also hosted the annual conference for the Council of Reformed Charities welcoming leaders of faith-based service organizations from across the country for conversation, fellowship and learning.

Through all of it, the faith community

Supporting People Through Grief



Loss is part of every life. At Heritage Christian Services, a dedicated grief support team made up of members of the faith community inclusion team and clinicians helps ensure that no one navigates it alone.

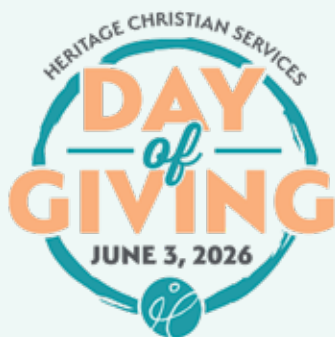
The team provides education, emotional support and spiritual guidance to people supported by Heritage Christian Services and staff members. Through training, conversation and compassionate presence, the team helps people understand loss, express their feelings and find comfort in community. †

inclusion team continues its quiet work: listening closely, building connections and helping people find the spiritual communities where they flourish. †

Joe Starling and Mitchell Spiegle rock out together.



Your Support Makes This Possible



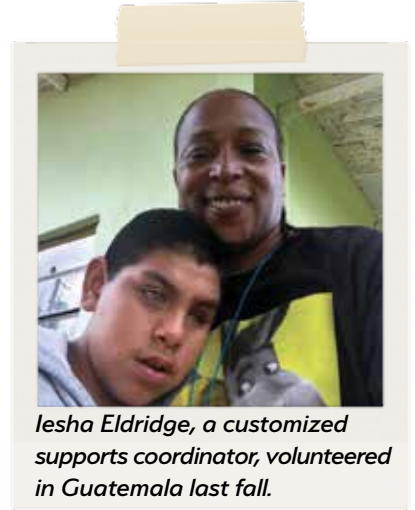
Gifts to Heritage Christian Services help enhance programs and initiatives, including the work of the faith community inclusion team.

On June 3, our community will come together for the Heritage Christian Services Day of Giving, supporting programs that nurture connection, belonging and opportunity across the organization.

Learn more or make a gift at HeritageChristianServices.org/DayOfGiving.



HERITAGE CHRISTIAN SERVICES IN GUATEMALA



Ilesha Eldridge, a customized supports coordinator, volunteered in Guatemala last fall.

Sharing Faith, Friendship and Opportunity

For more than two decades, Heritage Christian Services has shared a partnership in Guatemala grounded in faith, friendship and a belief in the dignity of every person.

The connection began in 2001, when the first volunteers traveled to Guatemala through Heritage Christian Services' International Ministries program.

Through the agency's long-standing partnership with Bethel Ministries International, teams return each year to expand opportunity and belonging for people with disabilities. Since beginning, Heritage Christian volunteers have built 17 homes, distributed roughly 600 wheelchairs and have served more than 3,400 people through camps and related programs.

Our trips in 2025 included building homes, distributing mobility equipment and supporting

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GUATEMALA, From Page 7

three weeklong camps welcoming children, teens and adults of all abilities. During that trip, volunteers supported the distribution of wheelchairs, walkers, canes and crutches that offered greater mobility and independence to 80 people.



Wade Blackman is a long-term volunteer in Guatemala, and works as an LPN at Heritage Christian.

The camps are filled with simple moments that grow into lasting connections, including daily activities, games, worship and shared meals, creating space for laughter, confidence and belonging. The volunteers who participate represent a wide range of roles across Heritage Christian Services, and each brings home experiences that deepen their connection to the mission and influence their daily work.

For Matt Smeltzer, success coach, one of those connections began at a drawing table when Edgar, an aspiring artist who had lost his hands in a fire, joined him to sketch.

"It was really empowering for him," Smeltzer said. "He saw that someone believed in him and that he had a real talent he could develop."



Kids attending one of the week-long inclusion camps enjoy some time playing games outside.

Joan Levato, associate director of quality advancement, experienced a similar moment with a man named Gudy. One evening, Levato paused to pray with a mother. "Gudy came right up next to her and put his hand on her, and his other hand on her son," Levato recalled. "It was just a beautiful moment."

Joe Starling, a faith community inclusion specialist, has traveled

to Guatemala more than 16 times and continues to be moved by the spirit of collaboration that defines each visit.

"It's hard work," he said, "but it's amazing how everybody gets together to become one team."

For the people who gather each year in Guatemala, those connections remain at the heart of it all. †



For the first time since 2019, volunteers, including President & C.E.O. Marisa Geitner, built homes.

Secondhand Finds, Global Impact

Proceeds from A Second Thought Resale Shop support Heritage Christian Services' International Ministries, including efforts in Guatemala that provide wheelchairs to people with disabilities and home builds. Through partnerships with local organizations, donated wheelchairs are refurbished and delivered to people who need them, opening the door to greater mobility, independence and connection with their communities.



Your next treasure can help make that possible. Visit [ASecondThought.org](https://www.ASecondThought.org).

"It's hard work," he said, "but it's amazing how everybody gets together to become one team."

—Joe Starling

FAITH COMMUNITY INCLUSION SPECIALIST

A New Chapter in Quality Oversight

After 24 consecutive years of Compass accreditation, Heritage Christian Services is preparing for the next chapter in quality oversight. New York state is phasing out the Compass accreditation and transitioning all providers to a unified review process

through the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities' Division of Quality Improvement.

For Heritage Christian, the moment reflects both pride and opportunity. The systems we've developed, from internal

audits to continuous improvement practices, will continue guiding our work. As a new framework takes shape, we look forward to sharing what we've learned and collaborating with partners to strengthen quality, accountability and person-centered outcomes. †

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

AGENCY BOARD



Mike Osborn, founder of Digm, served nine years as the foundation board chair, guiding the Homes with Heart campaign that built and renovated 14 homes across Buffalo and Rochester. His brother, Andy, lives in an HCS home. †



Nuala Boyle brings 27+ years of higher-education leadership, specializing in civic engagement and experiential learning. She directs equity and access in experiential education at Nazareth University, and serves her community through multiple organizations, including Brigid's Hope. †

FOUNDATION BOARD



Stephanie Sieffert, a partner at Nixon Peabody, uses her legal and financial expertise to help families develop strategies to preserve and transfer wealth. She also guides corporate fiduciaries on complex matters involving wills, estates and trusts. †



Kelly Gusmano, a partner at Woods Oviatt Gillman LLP, specializes in elder law, long-term health care and special needs planning. She supports families navigating complex decisions and is a dedicated advocate for her clients. †

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce Top 100

For the fourth year in a row, Heritage Christian Services was named to the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce Top 100, ranking 27th. †



STAFF AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED



The Amy Marie Tesson Advocacy Award: **Maria Rosa Capozzolo**, speech pathologist



The V.K. Tarneja Empathy Award: **Sonja Tisdale**, day hab manager



The Eunice Hanson Excellence in Nursing Award: **Beth Carey**, Registered Nurse



The Paul W. Hanson Excellence Award: **Debi Hill**, director of day services



The Anne Wolf Memorial Award: **Dawn Losey**, direct support professional



The Jobina Bruinsma Memorial Award: **Catalina Johnson**, director of health home care management †



Jona Wright Named Vice President of People Operations **Jona Wright** joined Heritage Christian Services as vice president of people operations, overseeing human resources technology, workforce analytics, compliance and employee services. She has over 15 years of leadership in people operations. Wright holds a Masters of Science in Administration and a Doctor of Education in Executive Leadership and Organizational Development from St. John Fisher University. †



Megan Antonitto Named United Way Trailblazer **Megan Antonitto**, vice president of corporate compliance and risk management, was awarded the Leaders United Trailblazer Award by the United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes. †



Marisa Geitner Selected as ATHENA International Award Finalist President & C.E.O. **Marisa Geitner** was recognized as an ATHENA Award finalist by the Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce. This award honors women who demonstrate professional excellence, meaningful mentorship and lasting impact in their communities. †



Deborah Campbell Receives RBJ Impact and Inclusion Award Rochester Business Journal recognized Director of Eleversity **Deborah Campbell** with the Impact and Inclusion Award for her dedication to an equitable and inclusive workplace for all. †



Julie Owen Honored as Woman of Excellence **Julie Owen**, vice president of customized sports, was honored as a Rochester Business Journal Woman of Excellence, which identifies high-achieving women with significant career and community accomplishments. †

Save the Date!

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN SERVICES

GOLF CLASSIC



Monday, Aug. 3

Monroe Golf Club in Pittsford

Learn more at

HeritageChristianServices.org/golf

WNY Basket Raffle at the 30th Anniversary Celebration: A Win for All!

A fan favorite is getting a fresh twist. Join us for an anniversary celebration that brings together the best of the Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Raffle: fun eats, music and plenty of joy.

5-7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 18

Clarence Church of Christ
5375 Old Goodrich Road
Clarence Center, NY 14032

Basket raffle tickets will be available at the event for \$5 for a sheet of 25 tickets or \$10 for three tickets. Proceeds help us continue to elevate our caring professionals and enhance services for people we support.

Contact Chloe Kay at Chloe.Kay@HeritageChristianServices.org or Carrie Hallock at challock@HeritageChristianServices.org with questions.

While there is no entry fee, donations are welcomed.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Lynn and Pete Sarratori

Lynn and Pete Sarratori have supported Heritage Christian Services for many years as members of both our Leadership Circle and Legacy Society, first connecting with the agency through Rochester Rotary Sunshine Camp. Recently, after meeting with their attorney, they chose to include Heritage Christian as a beneficiary of their individual retirement account.

"A legacy gift through our IRA stood out to us," Pete said. "Being able to pass our gift to Heritage Christian without tax consequence to our heirs made perfect sense. Heritage Christian gives so many people quality of life and families peace of mind. This is something we want to see continue for years to come."

Heritage Christian Services is grateful to generous Leadership Circle and Legacy Society donors like Lynn and Pete who have included our agency in their estate and annual giving plans. Their legacy commitment and gifts today ensure future generations of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities live meaningful lives full of endless possibilities. †

Questions about the Leadership Circle or Legacy Society?

Contact Danielle Pierleoni

(585) 340-2068

Danielle.Pierleoni@HeritageChristianServices.org



Leadership Circle and Legacy Society members Lynn and Pete Sarratori have chosen to include HCS in their estate and financial plans.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Joan Harrington

The 2026 Gail Otto Community Service Award recipient is Joan Harrington. Named in honor of Gail Otto, one of Heritage Christian Services' founders, this award recognizes people whose volunteerism has made a lasting and meaningful impact.

For more than a decade, Joan has generously shared her time and talents with Heritage Christian Stables, contributing over 300 volunteer hours in 2025 alone. Whether caring for the horses or supporting riders in lessons, Joan shows up with unwavering dedication on the coldest winter mornings and the hottest summer afternoons alike. She is dependable, compassionate and deeply committed, ensuring that riders have the opportunity to participate in lessons, no matter the circumstances.

Joan builds relationships rooted in compassion, respect and joy. Her dedication is a true gift to the community, strengthening our mission and reflecting the heart of Heritage Christian through her commitment to excellence and her steadfast belief in the dignity and worth of every person. †



Joan Harrington was honored at the Volunteer Appreciation event in March.

GIFTS OF SUPPORT

Many thanks to the **Rochester Area Community Foundation** for supporting the important animal care and agricultural education taking place at Springdale Farm. †



Eleversity, the education and training division serving businesses around the state, thanks the following organizations for helping promote career development and equity through our 2025 ColoRISE Lunch and Learn series, Empowered to Lead program and Women of Color Summit. †



The **Mother Cabrini Health Foundation** and **Davenport-Hatch Foundation** generously provided support as we installed a new therapeutic pool at the Pieters Family Life Center. †



Heritage Christian Stables recognizes and thanks the following foundations for their generous support, allowing children and adults with developmental disabilities, veterans and community members to access therapeutic horse-riding lessons. †



RALPH AND WILMA MAIBAUM TRUST

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



We thank **The Fred & Floy Willmott Foundation** for boosting our spiritual life programming, and the **Kyrias Foundation** for providing support to purchase needed medical equipment. †



The **Rich Family Foundation** and **Rochester Press-Radio Club** generously supported our respite programs, which offer families a break from everyday caregiving. †



CORPORATE GIVING WITH A PURPOSE

Corporate partners fuel life-changing programs and support communities where everyone belongs. Your support can strengthen essential programs for children, older adults and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and the caring professionals who walk alongside them. As a corporate partner, your company will be recognized year-round, not only at our signature events, but across the programs and communities your generosity empowers. You will also become a member of our Leadership Circle.



Together, we can build inclusive communities where every person is valued and has opportunities to thrive.

Join our corporate partners program and make a lasting difference.

HeritageChristianServices.org/CorporatePartners

SAVE THE DATE

Wednesday, June 3

Inaugural Heritage Christian Services Day of Giving



Thursday, June 11

Workplace Wellness Seminar, hosted by Eleversity, at Ridgmont Country Club

Thursday, June 18

Western New York 30th Anniversary Celebration & Basket Raffle at the Clarence Church of Christ

Wednesday, June 24

Finger Lakes Anniversary Celebration at the Pieters Family Life Center

Monday, Aug. 3

Golf Classic at Monroe Golf Club

Wednesday, Aug. 19

Family Night at Rochester Rotary Sunshine Camp

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Pieters Family Life Center

Thursday, Dec. 17

Gala Holiday Pops Concert with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra at Kodak Hall at Eastman Theatre



For additional information, please visit HeritageChristianServices.org/events

HONORARIUMS & MEMORIALS | SEPTEMBER 2025 - MARCH 2026

Often, people will make a donation 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.

IN HONOR OF

In Honor of Lucy Arseneau
Mary Ellen Weber

In Honor of Cheryl Bailey
Kelly and Tom Curran

In Honor of Buffalo Area and Anne Wolf Fund
Anonymous

In Honor of Drew Bielemeier
Kelly and Tom Curran
Marisa Geitner

In Honor of Devon Booker
Donald and Jacque Booker
Donyelle Booker

In Honor of Chris Bruinsma
Jeff and Judith Bruinsma

In Honor of Julie Buick
Douglas and Ann Cole

In Honor of Jimmy Capozzoli
Mary Rinere

In Honor of Jillian Carter
Marian and Chuck Turner

In Honor of Samantha Cashimere
Christina Cashimere-Brown
and David Brown

In Honor of Nancy Cataldi
Angela Cataldi
Jessica Cataldi
Thomas and Sandra Meleca

In Honor of Michael Cavanaugh
Ann and James Finger

In Honor of Mike Chiariello
Mary Rinere

In Honor of Robin Coleman
Eric Tri Vinh Linh

In Honor of Pdraic Collins-Bohrer
Marisa Geitner
The Rev. Angela Sims,
Ph.D. and Terron Sims

In Honor of Danny Cushman
Mary Jane Cottier

In Honor of Andrea D'Orsi
David and Lauri Crocker

In Honor of Sylvia Davis and Bruce Davis Jr
Sylvia and Bruce Davis

In Honor of Raquel DeJesus
Bob and Jane Moore

In Honor of Sue Dennie
Kelly and Tom Curran

In Honor of Tom Dillon
James and Patricia Dillon

In Honor of Sue Doherty
Marian and Chuck Turner

In Honor of Gary Drzewiecki
Anonymous

In Honor of Caroline English
Marian and Chuck Turner

In Honor of Eileen Farlow
Jared and Lori Lusk

In Honor of Josh Faulks
Lynda Faulks

In Honor of Jack and Jane Felber
Mary Jane Cottier

In Honor of Holly Fisher
Joanne and Greg Fisher

In Honor of Jessica Furber
Karen Caton

In Honor of Kim Gagarinas
Nina Somers

In Honor of Sherry Gricar
Marisa Geitner

In Honor of Samantha Hancy
Kelly and Tom Curran

In Honor of HCS Staff - Blossom Rd Day Hab
Robert and Mary Ellen
McDowell

In Honor of HCS Staff - Osage
Karen Collins

In Honor of HCS Staff - Perinton Day Hab
Kelly and Tom Curran

In Honor of HCS Staff - Respitewood
Michael and Kimberly Chatwin
Robert and Mary Ellen
McDowell

In Honor of HCS Volunteers
Lois B. Miller

In Honor of Heritage Christian Stables
Unicorn Specialties, LLC

In Honor of Debi Hill
Kelly and Tom Curran

In Honor of Catalina Johnson
Julie Owen and Jeff Cook

In Honor of Phirun Kay
Robert Pieters

In Honor of Tiffany King
Peggy Malvaso

In Honor of Lisa Kulp
Kelly and Tom Curran

In Honor of Mary Ellen Lederhouse
Pdraic Collins-Bohrer

In Honor of Debora Lehmann
Frederick Lehmann

In Honor of Chris Lepsch
Darrin Costantini

In Honor of Felicia Lewis
Julie Owen and Jeff Cook

In Honor of Tameka Martin
Kelly and Tom Curran

In Honor of Kathy McCarthy
Kelly and Tom Curran

In Honor of Benjamin McClure
Lauren and Paul McClure

In Honor of Kamia McCullough
Julie Owen and Jeff Cook

In Honor of Sean McManus's Birthday
Jennifer Griffin
Deidre Ann McManus

In Honor of Brittany Merritt
Karen Merritt

In Honor of Mary Miller
Adam and Jessica Larrabee

In Honor of Donna Mostiller
Marisa Geitner

In Honor of Jeffery Nelson
Julie Owen and Jeff Cook

In Honor of Laura Nenno
Shirley Meston

In Honor of Troy Parker
Beth and Scott Parker

In Honor of Christopher Phillips
Carol Marshall

In Honor of Christopher Phillips
Pastor D. Bryan Buttram

In Honor of Maureen Phillips
Kelly and Tom Curran
Marisa Geitner

In Honor of Jamie Rhinehart
Chris and Bob Rhinehart

In Honor of Joan Rinere
Angela Cataldi
Mary Rinere
Fernando and Karen Savella

In Honor of Mickey Ritzenthaler
Francis and Margarita Abbey

In Honor of Michael Rogan
Michael and Sally Saunders

In Honor of Kathy Schlafer
Norma McLernon

In Honor of Ryan Schnitzler
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THE IMPACT OF GIVING

In 2025, your generosity made these moments possible:

76 people are now living in homes newly designed to help them age in place with dignity, safety and independence.

43 dancers took the stage in the Heart of Dance "Coming Home" performance, celebrating creativity, confidence and belonging.

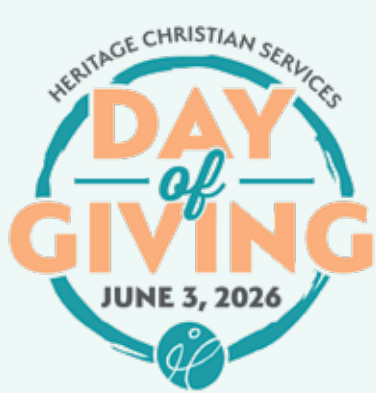
80 people received properly fitted wheelchairs, increasing mobility, independence and access to daily life through our International Ministries program.

2 homes were built in Guatemala, providing safe shelter and stability for families who previously lived without adequate housing.

44 families facing food insecurity received Thanksgiving dinners through the Children's Health Home of Upstate New York sponsored program, ensuring they could celebrate the holiday with a full table.

1,600 caring professionals were affected by a salary increase.

Want to Make an Impact?



The inaugural Heritage Christian Services Day of Giving is June 3, and your gift can support our mission of creating opportunities and community for children, older adults and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Learn more or make a gift at HeritageChristianServices.org/DayOfGiving

New Beginnings at the Walter Hubbell Home on Stream View Circle

Community members, government officials and Heritage Christian Services employees gathered on Stream View Circle in



Perinton to celebrate the ribbon cutting for the Walter Hubbell Home. The new residence, made possible through the Homes with Heart campaign, reflects a shared commitment to helping people age in place with dignity and comfort.

During the celebration, several of the men who live at the home joined donors and elected officials to cut the ribbon together, marking the beginning of a new chapter in a space created for endless possibilities. Derek Scott, the Hubbell home's residence manager with more than 18 years of tenure, shared, "We are looking forward to the future and the good things and memories that will come with our new home." †



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CHRISTIAN SERVICES

People of possibility

SPIRIT is a biannual publication of Heritage Christian Services.

AT HERITAGE CHRISTIAN SERVICES, WE BELIEVE IN ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.

Heritage Christian Services, established in 1984, strives to advance an inclusive and equitable community. Our more than 3,900 employees provide services that ensure meaningful and diverse experiences for children, older adults and people with developmental disabilities. Based in western New York, with concentrations in the Finger Lakes and Buffalo-Niagara regions, we're innovating and expanding as the needs of our community grow. We offer people programs that promote housing options — and the support within them — along with programs that create relevant employment and day habilitation; establish high-quality child care; set the standard for statewide workforce education; ensure robust health and wellness; and embrace self-empowerment.

Visit HeritageChristianServices.org.

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Join the Heritage Christian Services community on June 3 as we come together to raise \$100,000 in 24 hours to support opportunities and community for children, older adults and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

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*All gifts will be matched to the HCS General Fund.

Every dollar raised supports essential programs, including:

- Residential homes and day habilitation programs
- Community habilitation and engagement
- Respite care
- Community programs offering equine therapy, a public demonstration farm, workforce education, health and wellness, self-empowerment, employment supports and more!



24 hours to raise \$100,000

Together, we make it possible.

Give on June 3. HeritageChristianServices.org/DayOfGiving