

LDA
LIFE AND LEARNING
SERVICES

A Turn to Learn



Annual Report
2006

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Mission

LDA Life and Learning Services is a not-for-profit agency helping individuals with learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, and other developmental disabilities seek personal success in school, work, relationships, and independent living.

Vision

LDA Life and Learning Services envisions a society in which all individuals with varying abilities prosper and participate fully in their communities.

Leadership Team

Colin Garwood, *Executive Director*

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A Turn to Learn

In June 2006 LDA Life and Learning Services began regularly presenting a one-hour program to educate the public about learning disabilities and LDA's Education Services. The presentation, called "Turn to Learn," includes hands-on experiential simulations of what it's like to have a learning disability, as well as demonstrations of assistive technologies available in LDA's Nicholas C. Shakeshaft Learning Center.

While the "Turn to Learn" presentation focuses on LDA's Education Services, its core message applies to all of LDA's services: everyone deserves a turn to learn. Whether it's school subjects or life skills, everyone has the right to learn in the manner that works best for them.

The service outcomes reported in this 2006 Annual Report are a testament to the achievements people with learning disabilities, ADD, and other developmental disabilities can make when they have an individualized opportunity to learn.

Education Services



Intake & Referral

1,100 served

Educational Advocacy

225 served

Adult Education

20 served

After School/Saturday/ Supplemental Education Service (SES)

24 served

Annual Conference

300 served

Annual Conference Features Rick LaVoie

On Wednesday, November 8, nearly 300 parents, teachers and other professionals were captivated by Rick LaVoie's instructive and entertaining presentation, "It's So Much Work to be Your Friend," at LDA's Annual Conference. Conference participants learned about the socialization challenges children with learning disabilities often face and – most important – left the conference with tools for helping these students.

ADD Workshop Series has "Sold Out" Attendance

All three workshops offered as part of an ADD Workshop Series from October to December were filled to capacity. The series included the following workshops:

- ◆ *Understanding and Treating ADHD* with Dan DeMarle, Ph.D., Education Specialist, Behavioral Pediatrics Rochester General Hospital
- ◆ *Help Your Child Take Charge of ADD* with Dr. Leon Schofield, Clinical Psychologist, Private Practice
- ◆ *Free Appropriate Public Education for Youth with ADD/ADHD: More than just a good IDEA* with Amy Silber, LDA Educational Consultant

Supplemental Education Services Grow

In September 2006 the Rochester City School District (RCSD) contracted with LDA Life and Learning Services to provide Supplemental Education Services (SES) to students in low performing schools. LDA received 18 referrals from the RCSD for SES in its first year.

NYS Education Department Deems ABE/GED Program “Exemplary”

The New York State Education Department gave LDA’s Adult Basic Education (ABE)/Graduate Equivalency Diploma (GED) program an “exemplary” rating on its Report Card for Adult Education Providers. The rubric used for the rating gives heaviest weight to academic gain. Twenty people were enrolled in LDA’s GED program in 2006.

LDA’s ABE/GED program plays a special role in Rochester’s adult education community, serving students with identified disabilities and students who have struggled in traditional ABE/GED programs. LDA works with New York State to develop and provide training on learning disabilities to other adult education providers. In addition, LDA was invited to participate on the Learning Disabilities Task Force on Adult Education which is looking at ways to improve statewide outcomes for adult students with learning disabilities.

Xerox Grants Social Service Leave Employee to LDA

In December LDA Life and Learning Services received word from Xerox Corporation that one of its employees had been awarded a six-month “Social Service Leave” to work for LDA. Carolyn Steinkirchner is one of six Xerox employees nationwide who received the paid leave of absence in 2007 to devote their full time to critical community service projects. The Xerox program is designed to enable select employees to apply their technical, business and personal skills to help not-for-profits address a range of social issues. Carolyn, who is a publishing product manager for Xerox, began her service leave in April 2007. She is working on LDA’s Project Connect, an effort to link parents, educators and health professionals in order to serve children with learning disabilities faster and more effectively. Carolyn has been involved with LDA for many years, most recently presenting her “parent testimonial” during Turn to Learn sessions and serving as a Table Captain at the 2007 LDA Partners In Learning Luncheon.



Xerox Social Service Leave recipient Carolyn Steinkirchner was awarded a six-month leave of absence from her position at Xerox to coordinate implementation of LDA’s Project Connect.

Photo courtesy of Xerox Corporation

Employment Support Services

Supported Employment
150 served

SUCCE²SS
42 served

Day Habilitation
32 served

Fiscal Employer Agent
11 served

Service Coordination
140 served



LDA Friends Helping Friends Assistant Marilyn Stata was recognized for “significant achievement as a Self-Advocate” by the Self-Advocacy Association of New York State, Inc.

Supported Employment Participants Gainfully Employed

At the close of its contract year, LDA’s Supported Employment Services reported:

- ◆ **95%** of participants employed above minimum wage, with an average wage of **\$9/hour**
- ◆ **60%** of supported employees eligible for employer-paid health benefits or time-off benefits
- ◆ Several **“best practices”** identified by NY State Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID) during contract review

SUCCE²SS Students Stay In School, Graduate On Time

Students in LDA’s school-to-work program, SUCCE²SS (Students Using Community Connections, Education and Experience to Succeed in Society), posted the following achievements:

- ◆ **95%** stayed in school to continue their high school education
- ◆ **88%** of those scheduled to graduate in 2006 did so

Day Habilitation Services More Individualized

In 2006 LDA enhanced its Day Habilitation Services to provide more individualized options. Individuals now can participate in day habilitation activities as a member of a large group, a small group or as an individual. In addition to art projects offered in the LDA Atelier of Art and computer-based activities offered in the Nicholas C. Shakeshaft Learning Center, adults looking for day habilitation experiences also can engage in any number of activities offered throughout the community with the support of an LDA day habilitation counselor. LDA Day Habilitation Services saw an 88% increase in the number of people served in 2006 over the number served in 2005.

Residential Services

Flagship 10-Person Residence Opens

On November 1, 2006 LDA Life and Learning Services welcomed ten residents into a newly renovated facility on St. Paul Boulevard in Irondequoit. This newest of LDA's five supervised Individualized Residential Alternative (IRA) properties provides 24x7 supervision and features three two-bedroom apartments, four one-bedroom apartments, two laundry rooms, and a common area.

Centralization of Apartments Benefits Recipients of Supportive Residential Services

In 2006 LDA began to shift Supportive Residential Services from individual apartments scattered throughout the city to apartments in one of two adjacent apartment complexes in a location providing convenient access to community services. The consolidation offers the residents more opportunities for socialization and group activities while also providing a more integrated setting.

Quality Assurance Oversight is Strengthened

Signaling an ongoing commitment to providing the highest quality of services, LDA bolstered its internal auditing capabilities with an initial focus on its Residential Services in 2006. Led by Theresa Brechue in the newly-created position of Deputy Director Quality Assistance, staff reviewed and -- where necessary -- revised all Residential Services policies and procedures. An improved system of internal audits was implemented, along with more intensive training for staff. In addition, medical oversight was strengthened through increased nursing staffing. As a result, LDA entered 2007 well positioned to ensure the quality of its residential services.



Supervised Residential Services

33 served

Supportive Residential Services

31 served

Shared Living

10 served

Community Residential Habilitation Services

11 served

Our Supporters

Through their generous financial support, the following individuals and organizations have partnered with LDA to serve our community. On behalf of the individuals whose lives have been touched by these gifts, we thank all who support LDA's work.

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A golfer lines up his shot at the “Sink the Boat” contest, a popular activity at the Golf With Your Friends tournament held to benefit LDA's Project Connect.

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The Irondequoit Chamber of Commerce presented LDA Executive Director Colin Garwood (center) with their “Best Renovations Award” for LDA’s new residential facility on St. Paul Boulevard. With Colin are chamber president, Peter Kelderhouse (left) and Jeff Reisenberger, president of Irondequoit Landscape Architects, who provided landscaping at the residence.

Photo courtesy of Messenger Post Newspapers

IN MEMORIAM



Shirley A. Cass

On the last day of 2006 LDA's former executive director, Shirley A. Cass, passed away. Shirley's long service to LDA was marked by her deep passion and commitment to advocacy for the rights of individuals with disabilities. In addition to her work with LDA Life and Learning Services, Shirley was a co-founder of the Norman Howard School, served on the NYS LDA Board of Trustees and the NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, was active in the League of Women Voters, was a founding member of Geva Theatre, and held numerous other leadership roles in the community. A celebration of Shirley's life was held January 20, 2007, at Oak Hill Country Club. Shirley's strong spirit and determination in serving individuals with learning and developmental disabilities continue to inspire those who knew her. She is deeply missed.

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LDA Life and Learning Services meets the standards of

- New York State Department of Education
- New York State Office of Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities (NYS OMRDD)
- Council of Agency Executives

LDA Life and Learning Services is a member of

- Learning Disabilities Association of New York State, Inc.
- Learning Disabilities Association of America
- Association for Persons in Supported Employment (APSE)
- New York State Association of Community and Residential Agencies (NYSACRA)
- Monroe County Youth Services Quality Council
- Council of Agency Executives
- Rochester Education Advocacy Network (REAN)

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