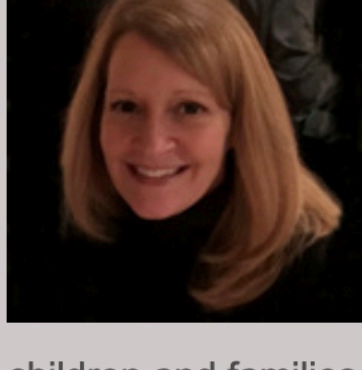


Thank you for your generous support of Hillside's mission!



FROM OUR LEADERS

You Make the Difference

It can't be said enough: **thank you for supporting Hillside!** I'm thrilled to be a part of this incredible organization that touches so many lives.

Hillside's impact is felt every day among thousands of children and families, and the benefits extend much further—into every neighborhood, school district and community served by the agency. The successes described in this newsletter, and many others, simply wouldn't be possible without the generosity of donors like you. We especially want to thank everyone who contributed to this year's successful Special Santa program!

I hope you enjoy the stories shared in this issue. Little Evie touched my heart! The world needs more people like her, at all ages. Thank you again for being a devoted member of the Hillside family.

Anne Komanecky
Member, Hillside Board of Governors
Chair, Hillside Advancement Committee

Charity Begins Early for Hillside Supporter



At just 7 years old, **Evie Lepel** already inspires.

When she learned that children in residential treatment at Hillside are temporarily unable to live with their families, Evie decided to raise money to help them, via a favorite activity: reading. Family and friends agreed to sponsor her reading, at a set financial amount per chapter. She exceeded all expectations by devouring 42 chapters in a single weekend—five books in all—and raised over \$900 for Hillside.



Evie and her parents, **Marc and Rebecca** of Henrietta, NY, visited Hillside's Monroe Campus to deliver her gift and was thanked in person by President & CEO **Maria Cristalli**. The Lepels also received a campus tour; she didn't meet any children that day, but Evie spotted a stuffed unicorn in one residence hall window.

"I always knew she would change the world someday," Rebecca Lepel said of her daughter. "Our job is to guide her toward positive change."

Evie, Hillside thanks you for your support—and keep reading!

A Seasonal Opportunity at Snell Farm



Grade-A maple syrup is a time-honored tradition at Hillside's Snell Farm Campus. Each season, up to 1,400 maple trees are tapped on the 170-acre property in Bath, NY—the first step in a process that leads from the woods to the "sugar shack" where the syrup is made and bottled, to be sold as a fundraiser.

Therapy for Snell Farm residents often includes helping out with chores related to syrup-making and other farm-related tasks. Now, a new apprenticeship program provides another sweet benefit for two to three teens each year—helping them build work-readiness skills as they prepare for adulthood.

"They learn everything about making the syrup, and also other skills," said **Darlene Appgar**, Recreation & Vocational Manager. "They discover the responsibility of coming to a job, and the satisfaction of seeing what hard work can accomplish."

Innovative apprenticeships like this have been developed at most Hillside campuses. Youth work closely with a staff mentor, usually for four to six months as part of an individualized treatment plan.

To bring some syrup home, contact Darlene Appgar at 607-329-7933.

Thank You to Our Special Santa 2020 Sponsors

Hillside's annual Special Santa program saw huge changes last year due to COVID-19, but the program was a wonderful success thanks to extraordinary community support—especially from our sponsors!

We're so grateful to the **Glover-Crask Charitable Trust**, **Canandaigua National Bank and Trust**, **Lamar Advertising** and **REDCOM Laboratories** for lending invaluable support to Special Santa 2020. The program moved online model for public safety during COVID-19—and with the help of our sponsors and a generous community, toys and gifts were provided to over 3,500 children and families during the holiday season.

The individuals and families we serve are often at particularly vulnerable points in their lives, and their challenges have only been magnified by the pandemic—making Special Santa all the more meaningful. Our 2020 sponsors and overwhelming community support helped them enjoy the happy holidays they deserve.

Thank you to all who helped make this happen!



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