

# ANNUAL REPORT

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2021



CANTALICIAN CENTER

*Exceptional People. No Exceptions.*

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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It's been another exceptional year of promoting independence and offering meaningful, integrated opportunities at Cantalician Center for Learning. We accomplished so much in 2018. From the unveiling of our new mission, vision, and values as part of our Strategic Plan; a plan that we believe will serve as a guide to set our organization on the trajectory to success to the opening of our new Technology, Education, and Career Hub (T.E.C.H) housed inside Diversified Labor Solutions, a division of our Employment and Contract Services. The classroom will host hands-on learning activities and assessments aimed at preparing people for the workplace.

We celebrated the graduation of 41 students between our preschool and high school as well as congratulated the people we serve in Day Habilitation Services for completing over 170,000 hours of service at 14 different volunteer locations across Western New York. We could not be more proud of everyone. We truly believe that if people can dream it, they can achieve it with the support of Cantalician Center.

Thank you to our valued supporters for their dedication to our organization. This year, a special thank you goes out to our valued donor Russell J. Salvatore who helped us reach our fundraising goal to renovate our courtyard space at our Academic Campus. We can't wait to unveil the new Russell J. Salvatore Courtyard in 2019! His donation will help transform the space into a fully functional and safe environment.

As we look toward the future, we look forward to serving more preschool students by bringing the Cantalician Center approach to integrated preschool services into the community, as well as expanding the footprint of Diversified Labor Solutions across Western New York. We are so excited to see what the next year will hold and are confident we can achieve great things with the support of our generous donors, hardworking staff members, and dedicated Board of Directors.



## ANNE SPISIAK

Executive Director, Cantalician Center for Learning

# WHO WE ARE

## Board of Directors

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Jamie N. DeWaters, Ph.D.  
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Kathy Messer  
Donna P. Mitchell, MAPM  
Dale M. Steinwald, CMA  
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Thomas Ulbrich  
Jeffrey A. Wach, SPHR

## The Membership

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Sister Mary Marcine Borowiak, CSSF  
Rev. Peter Karalus  
Michael C. LaFever, Ed.D.

## Advisory Council

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Joseph A. Stoeckl, Esq.  
Steven D. Timmel

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Darren Lisicki, Director of Employment Services  
Alicia Miller, Director of Community Services and New Initiatives  
Jason Petko, Director of Education  
Mark Rainforth, Director of IT and Security Officer  
Judith Vriesen, Director of Human Resources



**573 Total  
Staff  
Members**

**1,157\* Total  
People Served  
Organization-  
Wide**

\*Duplicative

# SCHOOL AGE & PRESCHOOL

It has been another successful year for our School Age and Preschool services. In June, 35 Preschool students and 6 High School students graduated. Our Preschool students will be attending Kindergarten within their home school district or moving up to Cantalician Center's School Age classrooms. The High School graduates will contribute to the community by entering adult day services and/or the local workforce. Each of these students has a bright future and are prepared for new challenges ahead. We are proud of all of the graduates for what they have accomplished while attending Cantalician Center.

We look toward a very bright future as Cantalician Center plans to collaborate with Holy Cross Head Start to give our students access to a learning environment within their own community, while allowing our organization to grow. Establishing and operating preschool classrooms within a community based location will better connect families, and limit travel time for students. We believe this partnership will cause children with and without disabilities to achieve more, gain confidence and independence, and develop a stronger sense of self.



**296 School Age & Preschool students from 30 different school districts in WNY**

**17 Administrators, Specialists & Administrative Assistants**

**85 Teachers & Therapists**

**120 Teacher Assistants & Classroom Aides**



# INFANTS & TODDLERS

## Daycare

This year we have increased our enrollment to full capacity with a waiting list for both the infant and toddler services. These services are an excellent recruitment tool for potential Cantalician Center employees and help significantly with employee retention. Parents that work at Cantalician Center feel a greater connection to their children by having them be in the skilled hands of their coworkers while being either onsite or nearby. The future looks bright for the daycare as we plan to grow and broaden our services to continuously meet the needs of our families both in the community and within our organization.

## Early Childhood Community Services

In 2018, we resumed conducting Niagara County Early Intervention Evaluations (EI), as well as began preparing for the usage of the CPSE Portal for Niagara County Preschoolers that is set to begin in 2019. We also began a cooperative working relationship with Empower in Niagara County by linking a Physical Therapist (PT) from Empower to provide Early Intervention PT services to children for Cantalician Center.



In 2019, our goal is to expand to include a greater number of service providers, especially personnel who can work during the school day thereby increasing caseloads for Related Services Only (RSO) for the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) and Early Intervention (EI) service provision. This will help provide services for a greater number of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in the greater Western New York community.

**25 infants & toddlers in attendance with 16 children on the waitlist**

**7 combined daycare staff members**

**51 combined early childhood community services staff members**

**560 combined evaluations performed**

**5,093 combined provided services**

# EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

We experienced great success in Employment Services this year with the opening of our new Technology, Education, and Career Hub (T.E.C.H) classroom. The new space allows our organization to provide a more comprehensive opportunity for vocational training and education in a formal, technology forward setting. We believe non-task related skill acquisition is key to each person's success and those skills will now be developed.

In 2019, we are implementing a new software program that will allow us to streamline our daily, required documentation allowing us to become more efficient in delivering our services. It will also simultaneously allow us to gather and analyze data critical to Employment Services. Similarly, we plan to continue to increase our footprint across Western New York, and plan to consolidate our space in Tri-Main Center, allowing us to provide services in a one-suite location. This will increase service delivery, as well as efficiency for our customers and the people we serve.

**213,598 hours  
worked in  
employment  
opportunities**

**33  
Employment  
Services Staff  
Members**

**169 people  
served in  
Employment  
Services**



# DAY HABILITATION SERVICES

This year, we opened three new Day Habilitation (Day Hab) locations that are in the communities where the people we serve live. This contributed to shorter van rides and less weather and traffic related lateness. More importantly, this change has helped the people we serve become more involved in the communities that they live in. In 2018, we changed our transportation provider to Cedar Bus Corporation to help us provide a more efficient, cost effective transportation system. All of the changes we have made to our services have allowed us to provide a more exceptional level of support to the hundreds of people that benefit from our Day Hab Services at Cantalician Center.

Our goal for next year is to provide services to more people in the region as well as open a senior-based Day Hab location. This location will provide retirement activities and staff will be specialized in providing care for people with dementia. Seniors will enjoy pet therapy, art classes, bingo, trips to area parks, and more. The focus will be on relaxing and enjoying friends and the community.

## RESPIRE

In 2018, we began a pilot program for afterschool Respite services to the School Age children we serve. The afterschool services provides much needed care for working families in a relaxing atmosphere. The expectation for the children in Respite is to have fun while interacting with their peers. Our afterschool Respite was such a hit that we plan to grow the services by offering it to more School Age students next year.

**107 adults served in Day Habilitation Services**

**30 Day Habilitation Services staff members**

**170,328 volunteer hours served at 14 different WNY organizations**

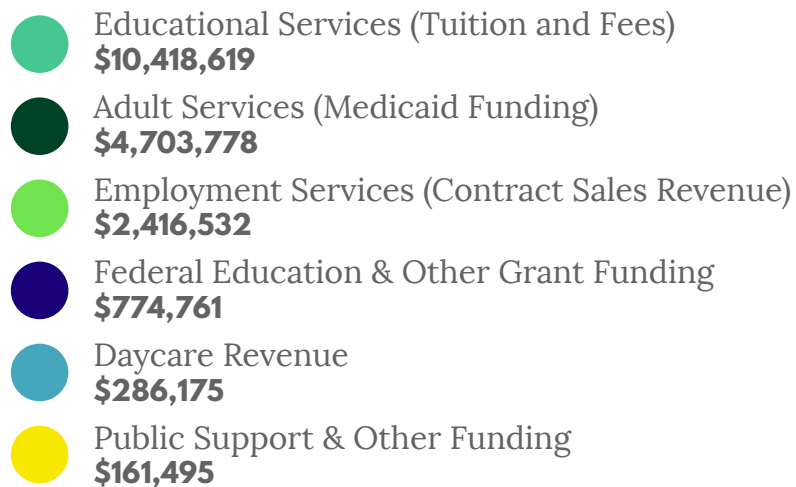
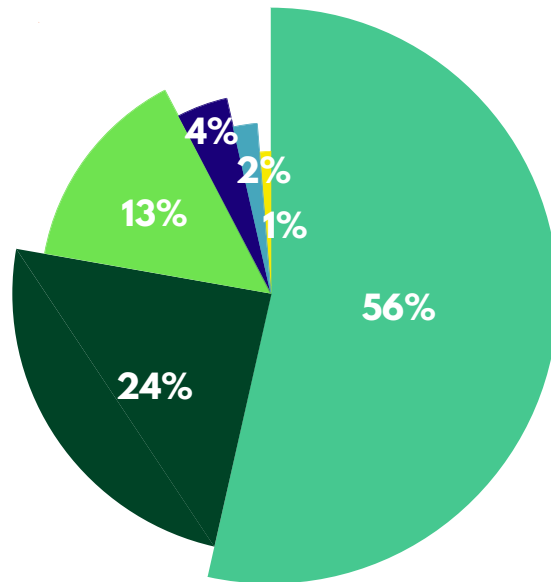
**8 Respite staff members**

**10 children served in Respite**

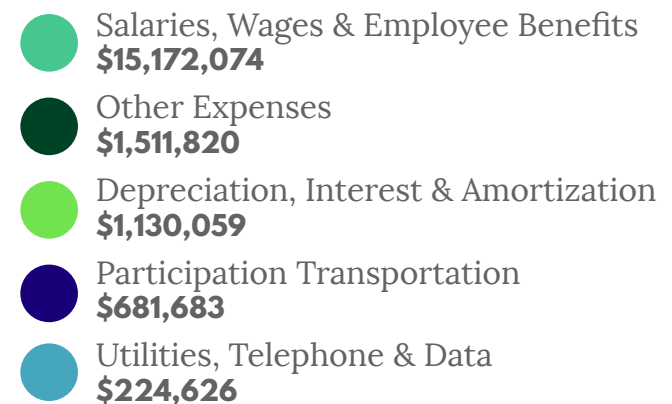
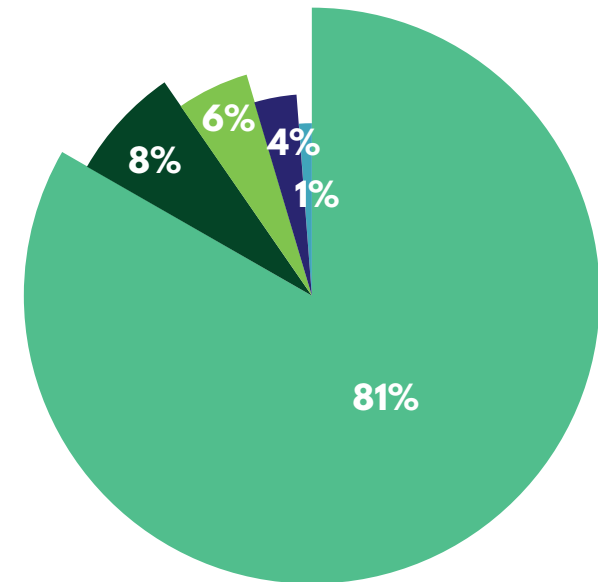


# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## Agency Revenue



## Agency Expenses





# FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

This year, Cantalician Center for Learning and the Cantalician Foundation that supports the organization raised \$236,778. We would like to thank our exceptional sponsors and donors who have contributed to our organization. We could not have provided services to the many people we serve without your generous support!

## The Cantalician Celebration (2018)

The Cantalician Foundation, Inc. hosted its annual Celebration on May 31, 2018 at Tewksbury Lodge in Buffalo, New York. The event was attended by 251 people and included cocktails, raffles, and auctions, as well as an awards presentation that recognized Tri-Main Development President Matt Wolfe. Its Cantalician Center's largest fundraising event of the year that allows the organization to raise money used to fill gaps in funding.

## Fall Beeraiser (2018)

The Cantalician Foundation hosted its second annual Fall Beeraiser on November 8, 2018 at Magruder's in Depew, New York. The event was attended by more than 110 people and included beer, cocktails, food, raffles, and fun. The event continues to be a success each year!

## 2018 Annual Appeal

The Cantalician Foundation's 2018 Annual Appeal began on Giving Tuesday (November 27, 2018). The fundraiser was the organization's annual holiday giving campaign with a major focus on raising funds to fill gaps in funding across the organization. In 2019, we plan to raise funds for a number of new initiatives that will expand upon the exceptional services we have been providing for nearly 65 years.

## Grants (2018)

### Catholic Charities - \$5,000

Cantalician Center received a Human Development Grant from Catholic Charities for its Employment Services Division to purchase a new pallet jack and new tape machine to continue successful training efforts and employment opportunities.

### The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation - \$47,600

Cantalician Center received a Technology Initiative Grant from The Tower Foundation to perform a technology assessment of our organization.

### The Morgan Stanley Foundation, KaBoom & The United Way of Buffalo and Erie County - Imagination Playground

Cantalician Center received a KaBoom Imagination Playground through partnership with the Morgan Stanley Foundation, KaBoom, and The United Way of Buffalo and Erie County. The innovative and educational playset is being utilized during Adapted Physical Education classes and during community events.

### The Russell J. Salvatore Foundation - \$200,000

Cantalician Center received a grant from the Russell J. Salvatore Foundation to turn its courtyard into a safer, secure space that accommodates the varying level of students we serve and is accessible for our students that use adaptive equipment to ambulate.

### Dormitory Authority of New York State (DASNY) - \$100,000

Cantalician Center received a DASNY Economic Development Grant through Senator Tim Kennedy's office in the amount of \$100,000 to prepare the courtyard before esthetic renovations can be completed.



# CORPORATE & COMMUNITY DONORS

## PLATINUM LEVEL DONORS (\$10,000 OR MORE)

The Cordova Caravan Corp.  
The Dormitory Authority of New York through the office of Senator Tim Kennedy  
The Russell J. Salvatore Foundation  
The Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation

## GOLD LEVEL DONORS (\$2,500 - \$9,999)

Michael and Rosellen Del Prince  
The Diocese of Buffalo  
Evans Bank  
Felician Sisters of North America  
The Gruszka Family  
Independent Health  
M&T Bank  
Tom Ulbrich  
Wegmans

## SILVER LEVEL DONORS (\$1,000 - \$1,500)

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## BRONZE LEVEL DONORS (\$500 - \$999)

Actuarial Consulting Services Inc.  
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## ADDITIONAL DONATIONS FROM COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Broadway Collision  
Chompers!  
KaBOOM  
Kiwanis International  
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management  
Quick Cut Gasket & Rubber Corp  
Seal & Design, Inc.  
Skybridge Americas, Inc.  
Summer Street Capital Partners  
The Teacher's Desk  
United Way of Buffalo & Erie County  
Weaver Metal & Roofing, LLC.  
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## MATCHING GIFTS FROM COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Bank of America  
National Fuel Gas Company Foundation  
Network for Good



# INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Mary Maylin Albert  
 Nancy J. Anderson - In honor of Dawn Gruszka  
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 Paul & Barbara Anderson - In memory of Francis X. Blersch  
 Donna Anderson, Treasurer - In memory of Linda Ann Krug  
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 Jim & Rosemary Biddle  
 John Blersch - In memory of Francis X. Blersch  
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 Jeanne Dorn  
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 Felician Sisters - In memory of Scott Baczkowski  
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 Mary Ann Forsyth - In memory of Leonard Zakowiak  
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 Leon Nowicki - In memory of Joyce Nowicki  
 Deborah O'Brien  
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 Ed Pogowicz  
 Mr. & Mrs. E. Poltowicz  
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 Ryn Rider - In memory of Robert Napierski  
 Tina & Charles Riley - In memory of John Spisiak  
 Dave & Mary Lou Rogers  
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 Christine Smyntek  
 Patricia Sneck - In memory of Francis X. Blersch  
 Paul Spranger - In memory of John Spranger Sr.  
 Dolores H. Szaflarski - In memory of Richard Szaflarski  
 Jeanette M Tackett  
 Ihor & Susan Trojan  
 Wendy A. Truesdale - In memory of Linda Ann Krug  
 Mary E. Virginia  
 Peter T. vom Scheidt  
 Lisa Wardynski - In memory of Darlene Michalak  
 Chris Whalley - In memory of Edward Michael "Buzzy" Flynn

## IN MEMORIAM

Francis X. Blersch  
 Peter J. Graziano  
 Linda Ann Krug  
 Louis J. Malkiewicz  
 Michael McCall

Dr. Darleen A. Michalak  
 Alexander Napierski  
 Robert Napierski  
 John Spranger Sr.



# WAYS TO GIVE

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**PAY ONLINE:** [www.CantalicianCenter.org/donate](http://www.CantalicianCenter.org/donate)

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:** The Cantalician Foundation, Inc.

**MAIL CHECKS TO:** Cantalician Center for Learning  
Attn: Ashley Hirtzel  
2049 George Urban Blvd.  
Depew, NY 14043

**ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

# CONNECT WITH US

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[www.CantalicianCenter.org](http://www.CantalicianCenter.org)

