



## ROCHESTER VIEW APARTMENTS OPENING

### *DePaul Celebrates Completion of Rochester View Apartments*

DePaul joined with city, state, public and private partners to celebrate the opening of the DePaul Rochester View Apartments at an October open house and presentation for the 61-unit community in Henrietta, New York serving income-eligible tenants. The DePaul Rochester View Apartments (RVA) are New York State's first apartment community to offer enhanced supports that accommodate income-eligible tenants who may be Deaf, hard of hearing and those using American Sign Language (ASL). Approximately 200 construction jobs and 30 long-term positions were created as a result of the DePaul Rochester View Apartments.

The project features state-of-the-art communication equipment and high-contrast visual design. There are open floor plans with handrails, an elevator accessible from the common area, lighting for high visibility, adaptive equipment, bedrooms wired to allow for bed shakers in case of fire or other emergencies, hard-wired strobe lighting for CO2 and fire alarms, lighted door alarms, video phone and video conferencing capability, controlled secure access, security cameras throughout the campus, signage with Braille markings and an on-site manager fluent in ASL.

Each one- and two-bedroom apartment features a fully-equipped kitchen with a range, refrigerator and microwave, and

a wall-mounted flat screen TV including cable service and closed captioning. Heat, hot water and electric are included in the rent and community laundry facilities are available at no cost. There is also individually-controlled heat and air conditioning as well as off-street parking. Tenants have access to a community room, activity room, terrace, sun room and computer room.

The Rochester View Apartments are Wi-Fi accessible. There is a secure storage area for each tenant, and fitness equipment is available. The building is 100 percent smoke-free. Optional on-site case management is available. Income and occupancy requirements apply.

Partners involved in the project included Christa Construction, DePaul, First Sterling, Monroe County, National Technical Institute for the Deaf, New York State Homes and Community Renewal (NYSHCR), New York State Office of Mental Health (NYSOMH), Rochester View Apartments Advisory Board of Professionals, SWBR Architects, P.C., Betts Housing Partners and The Community Preservation Corporation.

"DePaul is pleased to be a community partner providing quality affordable housing options for people in need along with supports that can accommodate persons who may be Deaf, hard of hearing and those using ASL," said DePaul President Mark H. Fuller. "The DePaul Rochester View Apartments are the first of



*Photo by Janet Cruz*

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their kind in the state and we are so proud to be a part of this pivotal project that will bring so much to this community. The DePaul Rochester View Apartments are an example of progress and partnership in action.”

“Our substantial role in the DePaul Rochester View Apartments is a prime example of Governor Andrew Cuomo’s mandate to expand affordable housing opportunities for New Yorkers across the State,” said HCR Commissioner/CEO James S. Rubin. “By working in a true collaborative sense with colleagues in government, private and not-for-profit sectors, this new development is enhancing the quality of life for the persons who may be Deaf, hard of hearing or use American Sign Language

who call this place home. An added benefit to the larger community is the economic boost through construction jobs and local purchases that were associated with the project.”

“Rochester View Apartments are a wonderful addition to our community. Their enhanced supports provide tenants with the accommodations they need to live independently at an affordable cost,” said New York State Assembly Majority Leader Joseph D. Morelle, 136th District. “Thank you to DePaul for their continued commitment to creating a more inclusive society and helping people live the stable, productive lives they deserve.”

“New Yorkers living with disabilities deserve the same quality of life and rights as everyone else,” said New York State Assemblymember Harry Bronson, 138th District. “The opening of the Rochester View Apartments is an important step toward removing unnecessary barriers that impact the day-to-day lives of many of our neighbors,



Rochester View Apartment speakers: Tad Mack, Director of Community Relations for New York State Assembly Majority Leader Joseph D. Morelle; New York State Senator Catharine Young; DePaul President Mark Fuller; Anthony DiGiovanni, Member, Rochester View Apartments Advisory Board of Professionals; David Putney, Director of Community Services, Monroe County Office of Mental Health; Christopher Marcello, Coordinator of Residential and Fiscal Services, New York State Office of Mental Health Western Regional Office; New York State Assemblymember Harry Bronson; Jack Moore, Henrietta Town Supervisor; Michael Skrebutenas, Senior Vice President, The Community Preservation Corporation; Mary Dorn, Assistant Vice President, First Sterling, and Leonard Skrill, Assistant Commissioner, New York State Homes and Community Renewal.



friends and family members. I applaud the hardworking folks at DePaul for their commitment, SWBR Architects for this empowering design, my partners in government who are dedicated to improving the lives of our citizens and the families who will call the Rochester View Apartments home. You will live in a home you love that is in a safe and respectful environment. Everyone should be able to have the basic right of secure housing.”

“DePaul has long been an important community partner, providing much-needed services and housing to many,” said Senator Patrick Gallivan, New York State Senate, 59th District. “We congratulate DePaul and all of the project partners on the opening of the Rochester View Apartments, a project that is making the community and region stronger. It is gratifying to see the addition of quality, affordable apartments that will enrich the quality of life for our citizens.”

New York State Senator Catharine Young, 57th District said, “Having safe, accessible and affordable housing is paramount to helping people make their homes in a community. But a house can only truly become a home if it meets someone’s unique needs.

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## Dawn Tomasino ... a Whole New World at RVA

With a radiant smile and an effervescent manner, Dawn Tomasino, 47, excitedly used American Sign Language (ASL) to describe the journey that led to her becoming one of the first residents of the DePaul Rochester View Apartments (RVA). Dawn, a native of Rochester, is Deaf and has cerebral palsy. A graduate of the Rochester School for the Deaf, she had lived in a variety of settings with other providers prior to RVA including a community residence and assisted living. Dawn craved a more independent environment, one where she had more space and could clearly communicate with others using ASL.

"I was sometimes stressed about not being able to communicate with staff or being able to make friends because people didn't know ASL," said Dawn.

Several years ago, Dawn and her parents, Kathy and Gene Tomasino, learned of the plans to develop RVA and immediately expressed their interest in the project.

"Dawn always wanted to be like her brother and sister but at times felt her life was at a standstill," said Gene. "She wanted her independence and we realize as her parents we are not going to be here forever. We wanted that, too."



"Consider this," said Dawn's mother, Kathy. "Dawn had never before been in a place where she had a neighbor who she could talk to, something we take for granted."

Dawn is looking forward to expanding her world and circle of friends at RVA. She works packaging spices, a job she's enjoyed for 18 years, and now that she's settled in, has decorated her new place to the hilt, with dolls, seasonal décor, all things Disney and lovely flower arrangements, a talent she once used professionally as a certified floral designer.

"I am very, very happy," said Dawn. "I love it! I feel so good here. I like being on my own and independent. They have Deaf individuals living here, so it is really nice for me to be able to chat with other Deaf residents. I am not so lonely and I am making new friends at RVA. This is home and there's no place like home!"

"This is the move we've been looking for," said Gene. "We think RVA is going to be a forever home for Dawn. She has enough room, independence, and a lifestyle where she's not just functioning but where she can contribute."

"This has been a long time coming," echoed Kathy. "We couldn't be happier and we believe Dawn's world will get bigger where she'll go out, meet people, have visitors. I've been hearing Dawn giggle and she does that when she's very happy. I hadn't heard that in a long time."

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DePaul's use of innovative design and technology is an exciting breakthrough in providing affordable, accommodative housing that enhances independence for those who are Deaf and hard of hearing. I applaud its investment in our community and am pleased that New York State could play a pivotal role in helping this project come to fruition."

"The Monroe County Office of Mental Health congratulates DePaul on the completion and grand opening of this wonderful apartment community, Rochester View, which will offer high quality living opportunities for individuals in their community of choice and will assist in furthering the quality of life for so many," stated David Putney, Director of Community Services, Monroe County Office of Mental Health.

"At CPC we believe that quality housing can offer people with special needs an enriching environment that acts as a foundation for stability and independence," said Rafael E. Cestero, President and CEO of the Community Preservation Corporation. "We are proud to be a partner in financing the DePaul Rochester View Apartments. With enhanced supports to accommodate the communication needs of those who may be Deaf or hard of hearing, the tenants of Rochester View will be able to live comfortably and safely in their new homes. My thanks to DePaul, our partners at New York State

HCR and OMH, SONYMA, as well as our state and local elected officials for their dedication to serving the unique housing needs of our communities."

According to Anthony DiGiovanni of the Rochester View Apartments Advisory Board of Professionals, "DePaul has paved the way toward providing the Deaf community with much-needed affordable housing. This process represents a long road for Deaf community members since this topic has surfaced from time to time for more than 25 years. The spirit of a successful collaboration between DePaul and the Deaf community is what brought RVA to Rochester. I cannot express enough gratitude toward DePaul for their leadership in bringing the Rochester View Apartments to fruition."

DePaul partnered with local artists as well as the National Technical Institute for the Deaf to display artwork in the building. The Rochester View Apartments showcase a stained glass piece created by Jacqueline Schertz, a local stained glass artist who is Deaf. Randy Dunham, a local artist who is Deaf, painted abstract art which is displayed in the building. American sculptor Susan Ferrari Rowley created the sculpture which is featured in the lobby. The DePaul Rochester View Apartments also display photography by professional photographer Janet Cruz. The Deaf Quilt Club generously donated a handmade quilt now displayed at DePaul's Rochester View Apartments which welcomes all visitors and residents.



Seneca Park Zoo Society Community Outreach Coordinator Tim Fowler places a butterfly on NOTA resident Heather M.'s hand prior to releasing it.

DePaul's Neighborhood of the Arts (NOTA) Apartments in Rochester, New York is now home to a butterfly habitat thanks to a partnership with the Seneca Park Zoo and the Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation Butterfly Beltway Program. Residents and staff helped to plant perennials such as Kickin' Lilac Blue aster, Orange Perfection phlox, purple coneflower and goldenrod in an effort to aid the monarch butterfly population which is on the decline.

# NOTA

## Butterfly Project



NOTA Residential Counselor II Megan Thull works with resident Gary Z. to prepare the ground for a butterfly habitat.

"Our residents were engaged and fascinated about the butterfly habitats, structure, and what they could do to protect them," said NOTA Assistant Manager Samantha MacDonald.

See more photos and video of the garden installation and a butterfly release, the culmination of this project, on the DePaul Blog at <http://blog.depaul.org/>.



## Deaf Quilt Club Donation

A huge thank you to the Deaf Quilt Club for their donation of DePaul's beautiful handmade artwork now displayed at the Rochester View Apartments (RVA) in Henrietta, New York. Thank you to club members Linda Hamilton, Bonnie Locke, Debbie Maloney, Marilyn Percey, Joyce Hannold, Kathy Greenawalt, Antonia Hamilton, Cheri Wagner and Joyce Furnham for sharing their talents with DePaul and all the visitors and residents of RVA.

## Third Annual Black and White Ball



DePaul's City Center was transformed into a beautiful ballroom complete with a masquerade theme for the third annual Black & White Ball held in June. Residents sampled hors d'oeuvres and punch as they danced the night away! Prizes were awarded for best dressed male and female as well as best dancers. Pictured here is Cat R. from Ridgeview Commons.

Thank you to all the sites who participated and the staff who helped to make this year's event one of the best yet!

# Development Updates

It has been an exciting, progress-filled year as DePaul continues to expand its opportunities to serve people in need. Stay apprised of these and other developments by following DePaul on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/depaul.org](http://www.facebook.com/depaul.org).

## Joseph L. Allen Apartments

DePaul's three-story, 52,500 square foot Joseph L. Allen Apartments in Schenectady, New York for income-eligible tenants is progressing. DePaul has been working with officials from the City of Schenectady, Schenectady County, the Schenectady County Metroplex Development Authority, the Schenectady Community Action Program (SCAP), neighborhood leaders, business owners and community organizers to design the 51 apartments on Albany Street which will contribute to the revitalization of the surrounding neighborhood. Demolition of existing structures is expected to begin later in the fall.



## Ebenezer Square

Ebenezer Square, a new 100-unit apartment building for income-eligible tenants, is now taking shape on Seneca Street in West Seneca, New York. A former vacant big box store was razed to accommodate the three-story, 103,000 square foot building which incorporates the latest in energy-saving solar technology. A 150kw solar array consisting of about 500 solar modules will be utilized and is expected to generate 172,000 kilowatts annually, supplying about 75 percent of the building's electrical usage. This will result in an annual reduction of 123 tons of carbon dioxide.

Ebenezer Square will offer affordable housing opportunities as well as on-site case management support services.



## Trolley Station

Construction has begun on Trolley Station, a 48-unit apartment community for income-eligible tenants in Canandaigua, New York. It will feature one- and two-bedroom apartments and on-site supportive housing case management. Site work including parking lots and sidewalks are complete. The structure should be enclosed by winter with the new community slated to open in the summer of 2016.



## Rolling Ridge and the Villas at Rolling Ridge



In senior living news, renovations are nearing completion on Rolling Ridge, a DePaul Senior Living Community in Newton Grove, North Carolina, as well as on a new addition. A total of 19 assisted living beds are being added to the existing community.

The Villas at Rolling Ridge, DePaul Independent Senior Apartments, are under construction and will be ready to welcome new tenants this fall. The



eight spacious one-bedroom, single-level apartments will include fully-equipped kitchens, trash removal, laundry hook-up, 24-hour emergency maintenance and will be pet-friendly.

## Stew Beecher Recognized

W. Stewart Beecher, M.D., Chairman of the DePaul Group Board and a DePaul Board Member for 31 years, received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Eighth Annual Patients First Awards Luncheon, a benefit for Jordan Health. The award honors a local advocate who has made significant contributions in the areas of community medicine, public health, and/or community development, reflecting the legacy of Dr. Anthony L. Jordan and the mission of the Anthony L. Jordan Health Corporation.

Dr. Beecher, or “Dr. B” as he’s often called, was recognized for 34 years of service as a family doctor beloved by multiple generations of patients, a physician with quiet passion for care, a shining light who tirelessly meets the challenges of delivering care with the utmost dignity and respect for those he serves at Jordan at Woodward Center, as well as in volunteer roles in the community.

DePaul is proud to have Dr. Beecher as a tireless advocate who has so enriched life for those at DePaul.



## “Capital for a Day” Brings State Officials to DePaul

DePaul was among a number of stops on New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo’s “Capital for a Day” initiative aimed at bringing his cabinet to different locations around the state to foster greater cooperation between state and local governments. Cuomo’s top aides and agency commissioners visited Rochester in July.

Pictured here (left to right) during a tour of DePaul’s Carriage Factory Apartments are New York State Homes and Community Renewal Assistant Commissioner Leonard Skrill, Community Preservation Corporation Senior Vice President Michael Skrebutenas, Betts Housing Partners LLC President Christopher Betts, Commissioner/CEO New York State Homes and Community Renewal James S. Rubin, DePaul Chief Financial Officer James Whalen and Senior President of Multifamily Programs for New York State Homes and Community Renewal Bret Garwood.

Also part of the “Capital for a Day” initiative, DePaul’s National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-Rochester Area (NCADD-RA) hosted the Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) Listening Forum, facilitated by Commissioner Arlene Gonzalez-Sanchez, pictured here on left with NCADD-RA Director Jennifer Faringer. Leaders and community members discussed and gathered feedback regarding the new public messaging focused on prevention and raising awareness about addiction, the heroin and prescription opioid epidemic, and strategies to reach the Rochester and Finger Lakes communities.



## WorkGuide Grant

DePaul will help more individuals with disabilities in finding and retaining gainful employment thanks to a grant from First Niagara. DePaul WorkGuide provides comprehensive vocational assessment, career coaching and development, resume preparation, interviewing skills, job development for volunteer placement and paid employment, vocational groups that help consumers manage everyday challenges in the work environment, job coaching and long-term, follow-along services.

Thank you to First Niagara for supporting DePaul’s efforts to help individuals with disabilities gain independence while surmounting potential barriers to employment. Pictured here on the right, Vice President of Commercial Real Estate for First Niagara John Berry presents a grant to DePaul President Mark Fuller for WorkGuide in Rochester, New York.



Mike Griffin



Samantha MacDonald



Sheree Howell



Deb White



Rebecca Greene

## A Sign of the Times

DePaul has provided housing and services for Rochester's Deaf population since the 1980s in various locations including the newly-opened Rochester View Apartments.

Staff have been learning American Sign Language (ASL) through classes offered by DePaul's Training and Development Department. Nearly 70 employees have completed ASL training since 2010. There are currently 56 employees enrolled in ASL classes through DePaul.

Technology Deployment Manager Mike Griffin has found that learning ASL has allowed him to better communicate with staff at various sites on technical issues.

"This training has made communicating with residents and staff easier and my job more rewarding knowing I can communicate back to an extent," said Griffin. "The Deaf community appreciates the efforts in breaking down communication barriers as well."

Samantha MacDonald, Assistant Resident Manager at DePaul's Neighborhood of the Arts Treatment Apartments in Rochester, New York, said learning ASL to assist in communicating with Deaf residents has been fun and engaging, while at the same time challenging. Taking ASL has not only increased her respect and awareness for the cultural differences between Deaf and hearing populations, MacDonald said it has helped solidify her working relationships with Deaf residents.

"At the start of my training, I had difficulty communicating with

a Deaf resident," she said. "As I learned more signs and talked with the resident more for practice, the

resident began to joke that I talked too much."

Taking ASL has helped increase Residence Supervisor Sheree Howell's confidence in communicating with Deaf consumers.

"Communication is key to running any agency," she said. "I'm attending ASL classes because I have a strong desire to communicate with our Deaf population and to ensure they're receiving the services and care that they need."

American Sign Language 101 has taught Howell how to sign the days of the week, her name, numbers and words like "help, emergency and sick."

Program Director III Deb White said ASL is a great skill to learn.

"Learning ASL has been extremely useful in my job because now I don't have to use a pen and paper or wait for an interpreter to communicate with Deaf residents or staff members," said White.

Resident Services Coordinator Rebecca Greene has completed ASL 1, 2 and 3 to assist with her job working with 15 Deaf residents and staff at Halstead Square, a DePaul Single Room Occupancy Program in Rochester, New York.

"Being able to communicate with a Deaf resident or staff members gives me the opportunity to provide quality care and service to the best of my ability in their first language," she said.

## AmazonSmile

Did you know you can support DePaul when you shop online using AmazonSmile? When you shop through smile.amazon.com, a portion of your purchase can be donated to DePaul.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. On your first visit, set the Vincent DePaul Foundation as your preferred charity and help raise awareness while shopping from the comfort of your home or mobile phone.

Products will be marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. You can use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, wish list, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

## DePaul Seeks Holiday Helpers

You can make a difference for a DePaul client in need this holiday season by becoming a Holiday Helper! Sign up and you'll be matched with a holiday wish that includes the individual's gender, age and size if appropriate. You can also donate generic items such as adult hats, gloves, scarves and socks, or personal care items. Past wish lists have included requests as simple as a piece of chocolate cake, cat toys or socks. For more information about how you, your family, place of worship, club or workplace can adopt someone in need, contact Amy Cavalier at (585) 719-3102 or [acavalier@depaul.org](mailto:acavalier@depaul.org).





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Our agency has now grown to serve some 5,000 people annually in programs that encompass mental health residential and treatment services, senior living residential services, addiction prevention and support programs, vocational programs and affordable housing. In all of our endeavors, we are proud to help people go beyond what they once thought possible. When you receive the DePaul Annual Giving Appeal later this year, we ask that you consider a gift that will help us continue caring for those we serve. Every time we make a difference, every life we change for the better, every achievement great or small is a triumph. We invite you to be a vital part of making a difference. For more information on making a donation, contact Marcia Dlutek at (585) 426-8000 or [mdlutek@depaul.org](mailto:mdlutek@depaul.org).

## We're Hiring!

Help us find talented people who want to make a difference! DePaul is hiring committed, caring staff members. A variety of positions are available in several locations. Whether you're just beginning your career or seeking something new, consider DePaul. Please visit <http://www.depaul.org/employment.aspx> to learn more.

Mark H. Fuller – President  
Marcia Dlutek – Editor

Amy Cavalier – Copywriter  
Kathi Stolte – Design

DePaul is a not-for-profit organization that provides senior living residential services, mental health residential and treatment programs, addiction prevention and support services, vocational services and affordable housing. To receive DePaul Details electronically, please provide your name and e-mail address to Lynette Wilson-Cox at [lcx@depaul.org](mailto:lcx@depaul.org) in DePaul's Communications Department.

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