

## Important Information For North East Families

Dear North East Participants and Families:

As you may know, North East has converted the majority of our programs to hourly waiver respite programs funded through Medicaid. This conversion has been imposed on our agency by [OPWDD](#) (Office for People with Developmental Disabilities) due to the budget issues in New York State.

Under Medicaid regulations, we are only able to charge fees for a portion of the expenses incurred by our agency. This mandate has benefited families since program fees for most programs are much less than in the past. The bad news for us is that we are no longer reimbursed for the majority of our expenses. We have lost significant revenue.

Since 2010, this revenue shortage has resulted in us not filling the vacant Recreation Therapist position, some additional trimming of our budget and the need to increase our fundraising and grant writing effort. We have put a few fundraising events in place to help us make up the shortfall. We are hopeful that our families and friends will continue to support our gala, our golf outing and some of the new initiatives that we have put in place.

Please see "[Champions for North East](#)" for information about our annual campaign. The program functions like a booster club. We have three levels of giving and benefits associated with each level. Participation in North East programs is not contingent on your involvement in this campaign; however the future of North East may, in part, be determined by the success of this campaign. All contributions are tax deductible and you will receive a thank you letter to use for IRS purposes. Please encourage your family and friends to be supporters as well.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this letter. I am hopeful that we will weather this storm and emerge more successful than before. I do believe, however, that we all need to be vigilant in our efforts to direct funds to North East and support the fundraising events in place to enhance their performance.

Sincerely,

Janet Riley  
Executive Director