Have you heard the news? The Epilepsy Foundation and PRALID have merged into Epilepsy-Pralid Inc. (EPI). The common mission of helping people with epilepsy and brain injuries makes this partnership a good fit.

In joining two small agencies, EPI is better able to weather reimbursement changes under health care reform. We are also able to consolidate expenses, meaning a greater portion of your taxpayer and donor dollars are spent on services.

What haven’t changed are the same great services and staff, making the merger seamless to the 8,500 individuals and families we serve.

And two became one

Epilepsy-Pralid Inc. is the new organization formed by the Epilepsy Foundation Rochester-Syracuse-Binghamton and People Rebuilding And Living In Dignity

Thank you!

• The Merger Task Force made up of Mark Armbruster, Lisa Bianchi, Michael Burns, Christopher Cebula, JohnLangfitt, and Jonathan Sacks. You preserved the best of what each agency had to offer.

• The United Way of Greater Rochester’s Synergy Fund for providing two grants to cover merger related costs.

• YOU, our close friends and donors who have continued to support us with your gifts, your referrals, and your patience as we complete this process of becoming one agency.

See more great photos of our agency picnic at www.facebook.com/EFoRSB
Recently I had the pleasure of going on a rafting trip in Letchworth State Park. The water levels were low and the Genesee isn’t exactly known as a wild river, but nevertheless the day was full of adventure for me. This day offered me the ability to see a new agency service first hand.

For the past decades, the agency has delivered a quality overnight camp experience for children. The success of Camp EAGR has been so great that many children entering adulthood have not wanted to let go of the experience. We have invited many former campers to stay on as counselors, but not everyone had the cognitive capability to make this transition.

So this year we decided to try something different. We created a pilot young adult camp for six men, ages 18-26. It was to run concurrently with Camp EAGR and allow for an overnight camp experience, but gear activities more in line with their interests. In addition to regular camp activities, this camp was to have vocational elements, a service component, and a higher adventure offering for campers. Since this was the first time for this camp, I helped to choose and run one of the higher adventure offerings – a rafting trip.

I was hoping to have a little fun while evaluating the success of the camp. What I ended up with was one of the most memorable days I have ever had at work. The campers were excited and energized throughout the whole day and the smile on my face never left. My only regret is that I wish I had spent the entire week with the guys. After the trip as we ate our lunch, the campers and the staff all helped discuss ideas for next year.

Not only was this pilot a success for the campers, it resonated with funders too. We have received two small grants to help fund this camp next year and we should be able to at least double our participation. The success of our camps comes from the wonderful people who attend, staff, volunteer, and donate to make it possible. With all of the positive energy involved, there is no telling what we may able to do in the future.

“I was hoping to have a little fun while evaluating the success of the camp. What I ended up with was one of the most memorable days I have ever had at work.”
Thanks to the Golisano Foundation, we are building a respite suite in our newest home. Beginning in December, we will be able to provide temporary housing to people with developmental disabilities and intensive behavioral concerns who are in crisis or homeless. Ours will be the only local non-institutional option for this population.

A new home for nine men, among the last developmentally disabled population to leave institutional care.

You raised $16,000 at the Salt City Walk to support epilepsy services in Syracuse. See photos at www.facebook.com/EFoRSB

Pictured above: Team Jeanne, one of our largest teams this year. Thanks to everyone who participated!

More Camp craziness. Save the date! Camp EAGR will be August 10 – 16, 2014. Children ages 8-17 with epilepsy are eligible.

You helped Ira go to camp by supporting the Camp EAGR appeal earlier this year. In fact, over 40 scholarships were awarded with your support!

Your support of Camp EAGR gave 61 kids with epilepsy and other disabilities the camping experience of a lifetime. The kids wrote thank you notes to every one of you. They really appreciate what you do for them!
Gifts recognizing others

We are pleased to recognize the following gifts made in recognition of others.

**IN HONOR OF...**

Debbie Baker’s Birthday
Jeff Hathorn

Daniel Bayardi
Armand & Elizabeth Bayardi

Callie R. Craik
CJ Irwin Company, Inc.

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Duane & Linda Bliss
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Robert and Joanne Rowe
David and Michelle Schoellig

A gift to Epilepsy-Pralid Inc. is a way to recognize an important person in your life. Give online at www.epiny.org or call Carolyn at (585) 442-6420 x227.
A story from the field...

We all have ways to work through problems in our life. For Jose Nuñez, the outlet is poetry.

Nuñez didn’t always have a traumatic brain injury (TBI). At age 27, he woke up in the hospital with a ruptured brain aneurism. After a year of relentless headaches, fatigue, depression, short-term memory loss and blindness in his left eye, Nuñez received the news that these side effects of his brain injury were permanent.

Despite this bleak prognosis, Nuñez was determined to keep up his spirits and those of the people around him. He began receiving service coordination from Epilepsy-Pralid Inc. staff member Donna Masters. Masters knew Nuñez needed more than just poetry to help him adjust to his new life and worked with him to identify other activities that matched his personality and would help him achieve his goal to remain positive.

Now, in addition to writing poetry, Nuñez facilitates a TBI support group. Remembering how alone he felt when he first had to grapple with the realities of his own TBI, Nuñez helps others as they struggle to accept their brain injuries. Nuñez recalled, “It took me about three years to accept it.” Reflecting on his support group, Nuñez said, “I can see people grow and relax; grow and accept their TBIs… We are working together, not alone.”

Jose’s wife Rose spoke of noticeable improvements in her husband and happily announced, “He now stops and listens.” This was a particularly significant statement, as the couple had just finished discussing a time when Jose was blaming others, including Rose, for his forgetfulness.

Nuñez agreed to share his story with you, so you can see the inspiring people who rebuild their lives with the able assistance of our staff and with your generous support.

I’m Like You by Jose Nuñez

People like us,
We have no need to be last on the bus.
We may seem different to you,
But our heart’s like yours, ain’t that true.
When you see me in front or back or around,
Just remember, I’m like you and I’m standing on the same ground.
Calling all Good Samaritans!
Small gifts can make someone’s day

Many of the people we serve are on fixed incomes that only cover the most basic needs. We’re looking for a few Good Samaritans to provide the little extras that can make someone’s day. If you’d like to purchase one of our wish list items, please call Debbie Baker at (585) 442-6420 x286.

Not long ago, I heard something that warmed my heart and made my week. Someone had made a generous donation to Epilepsy-Pralid, Inc.!

Our organization couldn’t do the things that we do without gifts like this. Our Day Program has group and individual activities to offer its participants daily and your gift helps a lot.

Thank you!

- Rebecca, front desk staff and Day Program participant

Wish List

- Magazine subscriptions – call for the list
- Book club books
- Movie tickets to Regal Henrietta and Movies 10
- Sporting Event Tickets – Thanks Mike for the Frontier Field tickets!
- C-Mac Tickets and concert tickets
- Restaurant gift cards for chain restaurants