



## **Celebrating 20 Years of Service**

### **1992-2012**

#### *The First 10 Years*

*The Founding: Hope. Independence. Dignity.*

On Aug. 25, 1992, PRALID (*People Rebuilding And Living In Dignity*) started in Rochester as the state's first incorporated organization offering community based services solely to individuals with brain injuries. The Agency began with a passion for independence and the desire to help others achieve a life of personal satisfaction. Today, PRALID celebrates 20 years of providing service to individuals with disabilities through a resourceful, tailored approach to building a challenging and dignified life.

As a young man, Fred Lampey sustained a brain injury, and it was his mother's dedicated search for adequate residential and rehabilitative services that led her to spearhead the charge for New York's Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) waiver and ultimately to found PRALID. Skills trainer Renee Marzovilla speaks about her cousin, Fred, "He is the reason I became interested in working in the Human Services field. He taught me how a person with special needs should not be treated any different; (they should) be treated with respect and with dignity."

It was this attitude that became the guiding force of PRALID's mission.

#### *The Earliest Days: Building Options*

In November 1994, the TBI waiver had only recently been established in the state and formal services began at the Agency with four residents at its Pinnacle group home in Rochester.

Over the next five years, PRALID built its foundation and laid the groundwork for programs that developed into fundamental service options. In 1995, PRALID received approval to offer services through the Department of Health's Medicaid Waiver. This gave the organization the ability to provide around the clock oversight and launch the

Independent Living Skills Training (ILST) program for participants in the community. During that same year, PRALID opened the Agency's first public administrative office on Westfall Road.

In 1997, the Agency launched TBI services in Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Seneca, Livingston and Yates Counties. In June, the Residential Program opened a second group home in Mendon. And that fall PRALID's Day Habilitation Program started. By yearend, the Agency rolled forward with three additional programs for participants making it possible for them to live safely and independently at home through personalized Home and Community Support Services (HCSS); counseling services debuted with an Intensive Behavior Program; and a supportive employment program associated with VESID (*Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities*) was in the works.

By 1998, the Day Habilitation Program grew to 29 individuals who also participated in a volunteer program which placed them in the community twice a week. As a result, three participants moved on to gainful employment. Always seeking to deliver hope, independence and dignity, by 1999 the Agency served 46 individuals with 19 more participants waiting to begin.

As the decade drew to a close, PRALID continued to grow upon the roots it had successfully established in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

*Watch for part two this summer to see how the Agency transitioned into the new millennium!*

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