

## DRAFT PRESS RELEASE FOR REVIEW BY THE CHILDREN'S GUILD FOUNDATION

The ReHabilitation Center's Children's Learning Center [CLC] provided services and purchased needed equipment with a \$7,800 grant awarded by The Children's Guild Foundation.

CLC hosted four early intervention screenings for children whose parents had concerns about their development at no charge thanks to this generous award. The screenings, hosted for children in Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties and on the Seneca Nation, were attended by dozens of children and their parents. Approximately 10 percent of the children screened through the process were referred on for further evaluation, according to ReHab Center general manager for education Nancy Wonderling.

"We followed up with those families that were referred on to make sure they were comfortable with the process and with the options they were being given," Nancy said. "Overall, the service was well received by everybody. The parents were very positive."

Beyond the screenings, the grant helped fund the purchase of additional testing materials which will allow CLC to expand their focus on social and emotional screenings as they continue to offer regular screenings. CLC also purchased child-sized furniture and toys for the waiting room to convey a more inviting and relaxing atmosphere for the children waiting to be screened.

Additionally, the grant provided the means for CLC to host the conference *Managing Children with Emotional / Behavior Disorders in the Classroom*, featuring expert Dr. Benjamin Smith, for area educators. Dr. Benjamin Smith, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, from the Community Consultation Program of the Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities, a division of Neurodevelopmental and Behavioral Pediatrics provided training to approximately 60 educators and service providers in the Olean area. The training was highly praised by all who attended. The conference attendees requested that we provide additional trainings by Dr. Smith.

The Children's Guild Foundation is dedicated, through funding support and advocacy programs, to improving the lives of children with special needs with a focus on the eight counties of Western New York. Their focus areas are healthcare, research, education and therapeutic recreation.