

ISSUE #1 ■ 2014

NEWSLETTER OF RAUCH, INC.

Behind *the* Seen

Sujeet Desai

Musician to Entertain at 2014 Imagine Awards

The Rauch Foundation and Title Sponsor Horizon Wealth Management are pleased to present 2014 Imagine Awards entertainer Sujeet Desai. An accomplished musician who was born with Down syndrome, Mr. Desai plays seven instruments: soprano and bass clarinet, alto saxophone, violin, trumpet, drums and piano. Sujeet graduated from high school with honors and completed a two-year residential post-secondary study in Music and Human Services at Berkshire Hills Music Academy in Massachusetts. Sujeet lives independently in Niagara Falls, NY.

Sujeet travels worldwide, providing inspirational solo music performances and self-advocacy workshops. Currently, he plays music in community churches, nursing homes, senior centers, and hospitals to bring joy to those living away from home and family. Sujeet started as a volunteer entertainer in 1998, and the overwhelming response he received led him to decide to make music his career. Since March 2000, he has performed in over 40 states and 13 countries, and he is a recipient of over a dozen international awards for his music and self-advocacy.

Also an accomplished athlete, Sujeet is a second degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do and has taught students as the "Sensei" at his Martial Arts school. He won gold and silver medals in the 1999 Special Olympics World Games in swimming and has numerous Special Olympics medals in alpine skiing, cross-country running and bowling.

Two documentaries have been produced on Sujeet's life, and he has been the subject of many TV and newspaper interviews. He has been featured in the *Wall Street Journal* and *New York Times*, and on "The View", "20/20", "Oprah Winfrey", and many local television news segments. Sujeet was honored by the National Down Syndrome Society as a spokesperson for Down syndrome; his story, titled "The Traveler", was published in 40 magazines nationwide to raise awareness in their campaign. In March 2010, Sujeet was selected as an Ambassador by Down Syndrome International in London.

Sujeet has worked very hard for 20 years to become the finest musician he can be, while also working to overcome the limitations of his disability. Music has helped him bridge this gap. With his musical versatility, Sujeet has become a role model and has brought inspiration and hope to individuals with disabilities, their parents, educators, and the service providers that work with them. Sujeet's family takes pride in him for all that he has brought into their lives. Sujeet has a mission to send a message across the world that, given opportunities to focus on their abilities, individuals with disabilities can "Make It Happen!" Sujeet's music is more than just entertainment. It's educational, inspirational and focused to make his **MISSION POSSIBLE!**



Sujeet has generously donated his performance at the 2014 Imagine Awards. Travel provided thanks to
Airfare Sponsor
Al Knable, MD
Associates in Dermatology



IT'S A FACT:

Employers hiring through Rauch Employment Services receive the eligible for a tax deduction of up to 40% of that employee's salary.

The Rauch Foundation is pleased to announce the 2014 Imagine Awards Honorees

Individual: **Ms. Traci Riester Hardy**



Born deaf to a hearing family, Traci Hardy sometimes felt isolated as a child. Undaunted, however, she learned to lip read and use her voice to participate in the hearing world. Inspired to help other children who are deaf, Ms. Hardy attended Ball State University, obtaining a degree in Deaf Education, and went on to get her Master's Degree at Indiana University Southeast. Through her role as a Teacher of the Deaf at Mount Tabor Elementary School, she attends summer workshops and seminars to help increase literacy comprehension in the classroom. This is especially important for deaf children whose first language is not English. Traci's passion for deaf education can be seen on a daily basis. She draws from her own experience as a deaf student growing up in a school filled with hearing students, understands the reinforcement and support her students need, and expands lesson plans to involve everyone in the educational process. Traci wants each and every deaf student to have the opportunity to achieve greatness. And with a champion like her, they are assured the foundation needed to do just that.

Community Leader: **Ms. Jana Kixmiller**



Jana Kixmiller, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, has spent most of her career providing treatment to people with some of the most debilitating mental illnesses in our community. Currently the Senior Vice President of Clinical Services at LifeSpring Health Systems, Ms. Kixmiller works to ensure smooth and speedy treatment to those in need. She also helps develop excellence in others, providing training and public education in trauma, mental illness, substance abuse, and other issues. Jana has worked to quickly address recent tragedies such as the Newtown shootings, providing community education resources to minimize trauma and ensure appropriate responses. Jana led a team of clinical staff to provide psychological first aid to the residents impacted by the March 2, 2012 tornadoes in Henryville, Indiana. In addition to her many contributions at her workplace, Ms. Kixmiller is involved in a variety of community initiatives and activities, such as the Kent School of Social Work Advisory Council, Norton Young Survivors Support Group, Kentucky Center for the Arts, and the Indiana Council for Community Mental Health Centers. To Jana, supporting and treating individuals with disabilities isn't just a job - it's her life's work. She is a leader and champion at the state and local level, and LifeSpring clients and our community are better thanks to her efforts.

Organization: **Center on Developmental Disabilities**

With a vision of a society that includes, values, and empowers children, youth, and adults with developmental disabilities, the Council on Developmental Disabilities has advocated for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities throughout the region for over 60 years. The agency was instrumental in starting the first educational programs, employment programs, day programs, and residential programs for this population in the Louisville Metro area. The Council has provided education and training for Direct Support Professionals serving people with disabilities; outreach and support for individuals, parents, and families seeking information and services; events at which families can have fun with their members with disabilities; and an art gallery to celebrate the talents of people with disabilities. Through community relationships and collaboration, the Council has worked to build a dynamic, accepting community that values a diverse range of citizens - including people with all types of disabilities. The Council stands for HOPE, VISION, and VOICE for people with disabilities - for them, they VOICE the HOPE and the VISION for a beautiful life that all humanity shares.



Thank you 2014 Imagine Awards Judges

Dr. Al Knable
Associates in Dermatology

Judge Susan Orth
Floyd County Superior Court

Allison Riester
Gap, Inc.

Geradine Schultze
*New Albany-Floyd County
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2014 Imagine Awards Title Sponsor



2014 Imagine Awards Gold Sponsors



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benefit of prequalified, prescreened candidates. They also may be
For more info, contact Johnny Fussell: 812-542-3077.

Imagine Awards Tickets on Sale Now

Interested in attending the Imagine Awards? We've planned an entertaining and inspirational evening. Join us March 1st to celebrate the amazing accomplishments of people with disabilities and those who give of themselves to benefit them. We've selected an delicious menu, arranged an exciting auction, and are honoring the three incredible individuals highlighted in this newsletter.

Tickets and sponsorships are still available. For more information, visit www.imagineawards.org or contact the Development Office at 812-981-4411.

THANK YOU

The support Rauch receives from local businesses and grant makers makes our work to support individuals with disabilities possible. We are very grateful for contributions of all types and amounts. These are just a few highlights of the support that made our holidays very merry.

Tetrafab stopped by for a tour and brought along a VERY generous Christmas present. THANK YOU, Tetrafab!



The Humana Foundation brought us a check for \$2,500. The grant will help fund the (desperately needed) new flooring which was recently installed at Rauch Industries.



If you purchased a beverage from the New Albanian Brewing Company at one of the summer concerts in Bicentennial Park or another community event this past year, you'll be pleased to know you were also supporting Rauch. In December, we received a very generous contribution from their special event proceeds. Thank you to everyone at NABC for your long-time love of Rauch and those we serve.



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It all began with a dream... and the support of people like you.

On December 17th, we hosted an open house at Rauch's Hawthorn Glen housing development. Tours of the clubhouse and the soon-to-be completed Phase IV homes were provided. As the eagerly anticipated move-in date for the next twelve residents approached, many people from our community paid us a visit to see the beautiful community that Rauch has been able to build there thanks to our many partners.

Over and over again, we heard our visitors delight in the beauty and quality of the residences. Of course this made us very proud. However, even more wonderful was something a parent of one of our current residents said:

*"When I first walked into the house, I broke down crying.
I never thought she could live somewhere this nice on her own, without me."*

For over sixty years, supporters like you have made it possible for people with disabilities to achieve more than their loved ones ever hoped or imagined. It all began with the dream of an education and what it would mean to the many children in our community who deserved a chance... it advanced to the hope of a workplace where self-worth and financial benefit could be achieved... the relief of a program where a loved one could be safe and nurtured... and has manifested itself in so many other meaningful ways.



CONTRIBUTIONS: October 1 - December 31, 2013

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George & Rita Renn

Catherine "Tinny" Tinius

In Memory of Murph Tinius

The Family of Murph Tinius

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Koetter Northgate Properties

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Steve & Trina Grace

In Memory of Robert L. Ritz

Martha Ritz

In Memory of Vicki L. Whitaker

Arnold & Norma Whitaker

In Honor of Ruth Ann Yingling

Anonymous

Rauch recently lost two good friends. As the world bid farewell to 2013, we parted ways with Diane Ritchie, who touched our lives at Rauch on and off for the past fifty years, and ADA/ACCESS staff member Ron Coleman, whose life was dedicated to individuals with disabilities.



Diane, only child of Virginia and Ottis Ritchie, received preschool services from Rauch. She later attended public school at Mt. Tabor. During her elementary years, Diane enjoyed activities like other children her age even though she was born with Down Syndrome. She had many dear friends, especially the girls in Girl Scouts with her. Diane had a lovely voice and took voice lessons. Usually soft-spoken, if a favorite song was played she quickly and loudly joined in. For over 10 years, Diane was a participating artist at "A Place To Create", Rauch's art studio in downtown New Albany. She made "Friendship Pins" and whenever a guest would come in, Diane would immediately present one of her pins to them. She particularly liked to decorate "Talking Sticks" and helped to assemble other collages. In 2010, Diane moved into her new home in Hawthorn Glen subdivision. She resided there with two roommates and thrived with the support of her staff and guardians.



Ron had an amazing belief in those we serve, and wrote many beautiful passages about his experiences. This excerpt is from his thoughts on "Learning from the Gifted": "Inside every gifted person is a creative genius, ready to come out if given the chance. I've learned to deeply appreciate being a part of Rauch, a 'special needs agency', in which I work part-time. Rauch explores the genius within each of its participants, and has historically worked hard at finding ways to express it. They express it through art, music, hobbies, group and individual activities, community involvement and various other experiences. The participants through these experiences not only enhance their self-confidence and well-being, but bless all of us with their contributions."

*denotes in-kind gift

Rauch Interpreting Services Launches New Services

On January 11, 2014, Rauch Interpreting Services began offering **Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)**. VRI is a video-telecommunication service that uses devices such as web cameras with your computer or videophones to provide sign language interpreting services.

When providing communication access to the Deaf community, there is no “one size fits all” answer. Client choice of whether to have an on-site interpreter or use VRI is of the greatest importance to insure individuals receive equitable and adequate language access.

At Rauch Interpreting Services, we offer both on-site interpreters and VRI services. We believe in offering choice to the clients we serve. We also believe in supporting our local community by “BUYING LOCAL”. Why should Kentucky pay VRI providers from New York, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles, when Rauch VRI is right here in New Albany?

Rauch VRI Provides:

- Emergency, short-term interpreting
- Tool for instant access to communication
- Per minute billing basis
- Available 24/7, 365 days a year
- Rauch VRI software is FREE (download from our website)
- User Guide to start your VRI experience

Our Philosophy is “High Tech and High Touch.” Rauch Interpreting Services is here to meet the interpreting needs of the Deaf community, hospitals, businesses, educational institutions, and the courts. Rauch VRI is a technology tool offered as one interpreting choice.

Rauch VRI is not a replacement for an on-site interpreter, but can be appropriately used in emergency rooms, rural communities with no immediate access to certified interpreters, and/or until an on-site interpreter can arrive. The type of interpreting selected should be determined by the client. That decision should be respected.



Rauch is also excited to announce the new position and services of a **Deaf Case Manager**. Rauch Interpreting Services' Deaf Case Manager, Darin Souder, works to assist individuals in our community who are deaf and hard of hearing live complete, fulfilling, and healthy lives by counseling them and connecting them with resources. Darin is available for consult at Rauch on Spring or a location in the community. Counties served by the Deaf Case Manager are Clark, Crawford, Floyd, Harrison, Orange, Perry, Scott, and Washington Counties in Indiana.

This position was made possible by a grant from the Increasing Independence Program through the Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, and Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services.

Please call 812-945-4063 or visit www.rauchinc.org/vri for all of your interpreting and translation needs.

Help Rauch Serve Our Community for the Next 60 Years

A charitable bequest is one of the easiest ways you can leave a lasting impact on Rauch. A bequest may be made in your will or trust directing a gift to Rauch, Inc. or the Rauch Foundation. Gifts to the Rauch Foundation (which is also the beneficiary of the Imagine Awards) are invested for long-term growth. A portion of the Foundation's earnings each year help address agency needs.

Making a bequest has several benefits to you, as well as Rauch. You may receive an estate tax charitable deduction, it may lessen the burden of taxes on your family, and it enables you to leave a lasting legacy. How do you make a bequest? With the help of an advisor, you can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift to be made to family, friends or Rauch as part of your estate plan. A bequest may be made in several ways. You can gift a percentage of your estate, a specific dollar amount or asset, or from the balance or residue of your estate.

A retirement asset, such as an IRA account, also makes an excellent bequest to Rauch. If the IRA were given to your family, much of the value may be lost through estate and income taxes. By designating Rauch as the beneficiary of all or part of your IRA (using a beneficiary designation form provided by your custodian), the full value of the gift is transferred tax-free at your death and your estate receives an estate tax charitable deduction.

Sample bequest language is available at www.rauchinc.org/giftplanning.

The Holidays at Rauch

The holidays are a special time at Rauch. Our program participants look forward to the festivities and food year round. This year the fun lived up to expectations - and then some!

Each year, our ADA and ACCESS programs gather to celebrate the holidays with a pot luck lunch, a visit from Santa, some carols, and a few gifts. Loved ones of those we serve graciously make this special day possible with contributions to purchase food and gifts, and many bring a dish to share.

After enjoying a delicious meal, Santa appeared! An extra special part of this year's event was that the actual Santa Claus (who was busy at the North Pole) delegated his responsibility to Branden, a Rauch client who participates in our ACCESS program and works at Rauch Industries. Branden was honored to have the role and did a wonderful job providing gifts to the many deserving attendees.

Later in the month, a dance for all Rauch program participants was held at Rauch Industries. Santa made another appearance with more treasures, a photo booth captured some fun smiles, and lots of great tunes were heard. We are especially grateful to Louie 104.3 WLUE - Louisville's Greatest Hits for bringing the tunes, our Facebook fans and donors for bringing the gifts, Falls Cities SERTOMA Club for donating the soft drinks and their time, several other incredible volunteers, and everyone else who made it possible!



Thank you!



Rauch's Mission

To support people with disabilities and their families while encouraging a community that acknowledges the value and contribution of all people.

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Lindsay Fouts has generously designated that 25% of her Lia Sophia sales until February 10th will benefit Rauch! Contact Lindsay at lindsayfouts@yahoo.com or 502-475-6896 to place an order or for more information.

Help Make the 2014 Imagine Awards Auctions a Success!

The silent & live auction at the 2013 Imagine Awards alone raised nearly \$19,000. Help us generate even more funds to support vital programs and services this year by **donating an item or gift certificate**. It's a great way to promote your business to 400+ attendees while benefiting others. Popular items include: wine/liquor, jewelry, hotel stays, art, memorabilia, catering, pet supplies, office equipment/electronics, fishing/hunting items, & more.

Contact Lindsey Davis for more information at 812.981.4411 or ldavis@rauchinc.org. You can also visit www.rauchinc.org/imagine for a donation form or more information. Donations must be received by February 14th.



Thank you to readers of the News & Tribune, who voted Rauch Floyd County's **best**

- Nonprofit
- Social Services
- Employment Agency



We are thrilled to still be #1 in our community after **over 60** years of service. On behalf of the over **1,000** children and adults Rauch serves yearly, thank you for your support & confidence.



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Visit www.rauchinc.org for a list of current job openings and upcoming events or to sign-up to receive E-MAGINE, our monthly e-newsletter.