

## #GivingTuesday

Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving (in the U.S.) and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving.

*This November 29th, join the movement and give - whether it's some of your time, a donation, gift or the power of your voice in your local community.*

Reaching out to communities, individuals, and corporations to partner with Opengate, #GivingTuesday kicks off our funding project drive to remodel Grasso House.

We invite you to take a gratifying part in our project through gifts of time, expertise, donations, or materials to bring Grasso House up to date.

*Continued on back page...*



## Caught Doing Something Good!

Opengate is proud of our exceptional staff members. We received the following letter from a local mother complimenting two of them who were on an outing with a group:



Dear Mrs. Randi Rios-Castro,

*I am writing this letter to inform you of a wonderful interaction I observed between two staff and some of your individuals. On October 3, 2016, I had the pleasure of having the day off and spending time with my 5-year-old son at Camarda Park. As we were playing on the playground, I noticed that your individuals were enjoying the beautiful day as well. I was so overjoyed to watch and observe two of your employees; Algafar Ameen and Elijah Reid engage in such a positive manner with the individuals, that I was touched to go over and introduce myself.*

*As I tried to explain to my son, that I was just going to go over and introduce myself to some people, he stated: "Mommy, they are having a party and we were not invited." I then asked him: "Why do you think they are having a party?" And he stated "because they are laughing and having a good time." I went over and introduced myself and my son to Algafar Ameen and was immediately impressed by his professionalism and his response: "That we are just enjoying this beautiful day and having fun as well."*

*It was so refreshing to give my son a beautiful and positive experience with all people that live in our community.*

Sincerely,

*Sheila Barry*

Thank you, Ms. Barry, for taking the time out of your busy day to write to us. It's nice to know that when they are out in the public, they can get caught doing something good. 🐾



## CEO's Message

Dear Friends of Opengate,

The best feeling in the world is knowing that you made a difference in someone's life. This is the feeling you will have when you donate to Opengate. Each time you contribute, you are *improving the quality of life for the individuals we serve.*

Your donation will be used to provide enriched activities for our residents. These activities include apple picking, trips to the zoo, attending major league baseball games, and holiday parties. These activities provide hours of enjoyment, bolster community inclusion and assist our individuals in becoming valued members of society.

Your support also enables our staff and residents to utilize technological advances. Tablets and other devices are enjoyed by many of our residents. The new technology has truly improved the quality of everyone's life – including our residents.

As we head into a new and yet another incredible year, you can join us in expanding our donor base. You may ask: "How can I do that?" *Simply start speaking to people you know about being an Opengate contributor and let them know the satisfaction it brings.*

You have helped us jump through several hurdles this year. We are exceptionally grateful to have you on board with our mission, which is to *embrace the worth and dignity of each individual we serve.*

Sincerely,

Brian Hulten, LCSW  
Chief Executive Officer

**P.S.** *Personally, and with sincere gratitude,  
I wish you all a happy, healthy and  
prosperous New Year.*

## DONOR WALL

*Thank you* to all our supporters for your generous donations. You make things happen at Opengate!

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### Bronze Donors (up to \$250)

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# OCTOBER



Photos From Octoberfest held at the Pinnacle

Each month Opengate plans improvements, additions, or modifications to our infrastructure as well as purchases items for our individuals' use, such as computers, greenhouse tools, etc.

Your donations make our work possible!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER AMOUNT

I prefer that my donation remain anonymous.

*Please mail tax deductible contribution to the address below.*



**Opengate**  
A pathway beyond disabilities

PO Box 419 · Armonk, NY 10504

Opt-in Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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*By signing here, you agree to receive occasional emails from Opengate.*





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## #GivingTuesday

*Continued from front page...*

Spread the word through your contacts in the community and be a voice for Opengate and the residents of Grasso House!

Visit our website at [OpengateInc.Org](http://OpengateInc.Org) for full details of our #GivingTuesday for Grasso House updates and how you can specifically become involved.

### PROJECT LIST

Replace dining room flooring.

Reface kitchen cabinets.

Remodel staff office and laundry room.

Replace heating baseboards throughout house.

Masonry repair.



## Wish List

Our Individuals appreciate continued donations of new or used:

- Tablets
- DVDs
- xBox
- Playstation
- Sensory items

*Thank you to all those who gave*