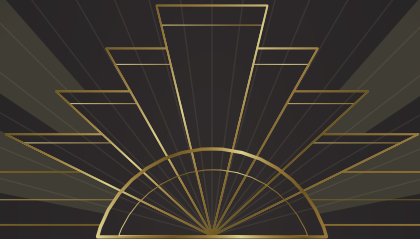


ROARING TWENTIES  
CENTENNIAL GALA

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**100** <sup>1922-2022</sup> Years  
Rochester  
Hearing & Speech  
Center



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# WELCOME - CEO BOB RUSSELL AND BOARD CHAIR MICHAEL REED



Welcome!

It gives us great pleasure to share the celebration of Rochester Hearing & Speech Center's 100th Anniversary with you this evening. Thank you for being here to share in this wonderful occasion!

As you might guess, the last few years have brought many challenges our way. Our dedicated staff and board of directors brought their best thinking to face these challenges together. We focused our efforts on our clients' needs and reached out to our community for your support. The good news is that not only did we weather the storm, but we came out of it stronger and more inspired than ever.

So, while we look back to our historic past, we also look forward with anticipation and commitment to a future filled with opportunities. You are truly our partners in these dreams and plans, and we look forward to your continued support and inspiration along the way.

In one way or another, you have all been involved in the mission and impact that RHSC has had on our community over the past century. Whatever your role has been, thank you for being a member of our "village" and our RHSC Family. Thank you for being part of this magnificent journey. Enjoy your evening!

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob".

Bob Russell  
President/CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael".

Michael Reed  
Chair, Board of Directors

*"In this bright future you can't forget your past."*

*- Bob Marley*

# A lot has changed in the last

# 100 YEARS

1 9 2 2 - 2 0 2 2

## So have we.

*I*n the past century, our community has grown. And we've grown too, alongside the individuals and families we have known for so long.

We are proud to have served our community for one hundred years. And proud that our clients have trusted us over the decades, grown with us, and allowed us to stand by them during the good and trying times.

As we celebrate the centennial anniversary of our non-profit agency, we remain dedicated to providing hearing health, educational, and clinical services you deserve. We are honored by your trust.



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# EVENING PROGRAM OVERVIEW



## **COCKTAIL RECEPTION - 6:00 pm**

- ▶ Two-hour Open Cocktail Bar, sponsored by Mutual of America Financial Group
- ▶ Spirit Toss until 7:30 pm
- ▶ Silent Auction until 8:15 pm

## **DINNER AND PROGRAM - BALLROOM - 7:30 pm**

- ▶ Opening Remarks: Master of Ceremonies: Don Alhart, 13WHAM-TV
- ▶ RHSC Board of Directors, Michael Reed, Welcome Remarks
- ▶ NYS Senator, Jeremy Cooney Proclamation Presentation
- ▶ Gala Sit-Down Dinner
- ▶ RHSC President & CEO, Bob Russell Remarks
- ▶ U.S. Congressman, Joe Morelle Remarks and Proclamation Presentation
- ▶ Monroe County Executive, Adam Bello Proclamation Presentation
- ▶ Al Sigl Community of Agencies President, Thomas O'Connor Remarks

## **SPEAKEASY - Music, Dancing, and Cash Bar**



# Audacy



# MASTER OF CEREMONIES: DON ALHART

Don Alhart began his career in broadcasting as a summer relief engineer at WROC-TV. During his college years, he was also a news reporter and DJ for WTKO Radio, in Ithaca, New York. Upon receiving his bachelor's degree from Ithaca College in 1966, Don returned to Channel 13, where he continues to work as anchor of 13WHAM News at 6.



He has been honored five times with the prestigious Edward R. Murrow Award for excellence in television news. He has received honors both for writing and for best newscast. In 2010, Don was inducted into the New York State Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame.

Don has been recognized with numerous other awards, including the VFW Award of Merit, the Humanitarian Award from the Rochester Police Rosewood Club, the Mass Media Communicator Award from SUNY-Brockport, and the Ithaca College Alumni Award. He was honored by the Salvation Army with their prestigious Others Award in 1996, and in 2002, received the Tikkun Olam award from the Jewish Community Center of Rochester, given annually to an individual who demonstrates the meaning of the words: "Repairing the World."

Don has been a volunteer with the ARC of Monroe for nearly 40 years and received its Community Partner Award in 1982. He received the Community Service Award from the New York State United Cerebral Palsy Association in 1986. He has been an active member of the Rochester Rotary Club since 1976, serving as president from 1987 to 1988. He was also honored with the 60th Annual Rochester Rotary Award, the oldest major civic award in the community, which is presented each year to a citizen who has made a significant contribution to the business, professional, cultural, or civic life of the community. Don and his wife, Mary raised their three children in Penfield and currently reside in Pittsford.

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them.

# AUCTIONEER: JOE LOMONACO



Joe has been a part of Rochester's media landscape for over 25 years. You hear him most weekday afternoons from 5 - 6 pm as co-anchor of the 5 O'clock News Hour on NewsRadio WHAM 1180.

Joe's voice is also heard on radio and TV commercials in Rochester and across the country on iHeart Radio stations and the iHeart Radio App.



Congratulations to **Rochester Hearing & Speech Center**, celebrating 100 years strong!

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# 2022 AWARD HONOREES



**Christian Kulak**

*James J. DeCaro Leadership Award*

**David Pitcher**

*President's Award*



**Justin Vigdor**

*Building a Sound Community Award*

**Larry Medwetsky, Ph.D.**

*Peter Hixson Communication  
for Life Award*



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# *Congratulations*

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## **CHRISTIAN KULAK**

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Your dedication to the Rochester Hearing & Speech Center is an inspiration to us all. Thank you for supporting the place we call home.

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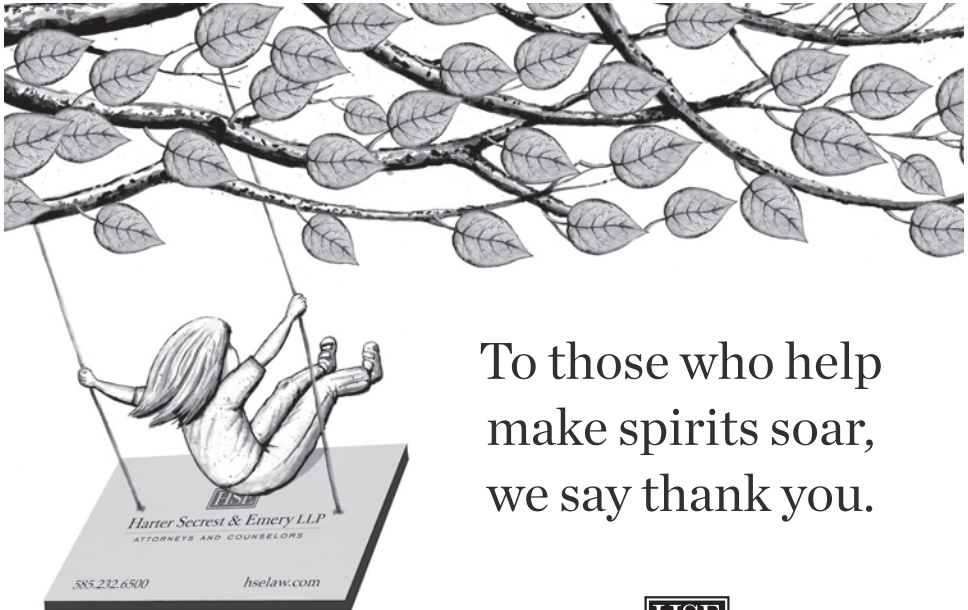
# CHRISTIAN KULAK

James J. DeCaro Leadership Award

Christian is a strategic planning expert who helps organizations improve performance and realize their visions for the future. He is a seasoned executive with over 20 years of experience using a data-driven approach to solving problems and driving positive change. Currently, he works at Excellus BCBS in a strategic planning capacity. Prior to that he worked at various consulting organizations in the healthcare space including Harris Interactive, PricewaterhouseCoopers, & McKesson.



Originally from Detroit, he currently lives in the Rochester area with his wife, three kids and rescue dog, Levi. Christian appreciates the opportunity to serve as a volunteer for local non-profits where he has applied his skills and abilities to help them better serve the community.



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# DAVID PITCHER

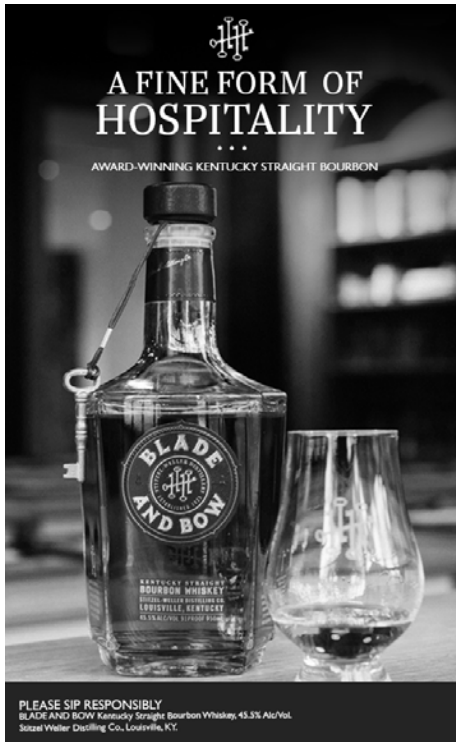
## President's Award



David Pitcher is a shareholder in the Davie Kaplan, CPA, P.C. Audit and Accounting Department. He also directs the firm's Litigation and Wealth Management Services. A graduate of McQuaid Jesuit High School and St. John Fisher University, he's an active volunteer in his profession as a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Peer Review Board and the New York State Society of CPAs Peer Review Board, the latter for 25 years.



Dave is also an active community volunteer including his service to RHSC as a long-time board member, the current Finance Committee Chair, and former Board Chair. His additional community commitments include Nativity Preparatory Academy of Rochester, Catholic Family Center, St. John Bosco Schools, and McQuaid Jesuit High School.



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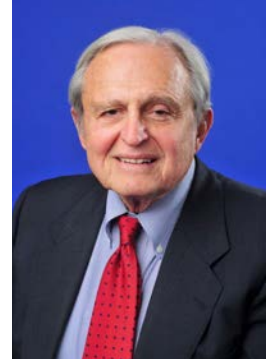
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# JUSTIN VIGDOR

## Building a Sound Community Award

Civic leadership has been a hallmark of Mr. Vigdor's career. The long list of organizations includes both local corporations and nonprofit agencies. Highlights include his 10-year role as Chairman of the Board of Rochester Fringe Festival, Inc., a festival of performing and visual arts celebrated in September of each year. He was a founder and first President of the AI Sigl Community of Agencies and serves as an ex officio member of its Board of Governors. He is currently a Director of the Alzheimer's Association of Rochester & the Finger Lakes.



He is a founding trustee of the Ames-Amzalak Memorial Trust. He has served on the boards of the Jewish Community Foundation, and the Rochester Area Community Foundation. He served as Past Chair of both the Foundation of the Monroe County Bar and the New York Bar Foundation and is also Counsel to the Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation.

Justin and his wife Louise have four children, two of whom are in Rochester, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren

making a  
difference  
together

*Wegmans*



# LARRY MEDWETSKY

## Peter Hixson Communication for Life Award



Growing up in Montreal Canada, Larry lost hearing in both ears at the age of four as a result of scarlet fever. However, he did not obtain hearing aids until 13 years of age, and at that point his life was changed when the world of sound opened up to him.

He chose audiology as a career and earned a Master's degree from McGill University. Five years later he obtained a Ph.D. in Hearing and Speech Sciences at City University of New York.

While still a Ph.D. student, he was contacted by Dr. Peter Hixson who was then the Executive Director at RHSC. He joined the agency as an audiologist in 1992. Over the next 20 years he served in various roles including Director of Audiology, Director of Research, Vice President of Clinical Services, and Director of Quality Assurance.

As a professor in the Doctoral Audiology program at Gallaudet University, Larry has published and presented on many different topics with a special focus on the underlying speech processes and deficits in both individuals with normal hearing and hearing loss. He is also a founding board member of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association.



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# AUCTIONS AND PADDLE CALL

## Silent Auction

Support RHSC by bidding high and often on the wonderful items in our auction.  
The auction closes at 8:15 pm tonight.

**To access the auction online:** <https://www.biddingowl.com/RochesterHearingandSpeech>  
*QR Codes are also available to scan with a mobile device in the Speakeasy Area.*

## Live Auction

### The Bills Make Me Want to Shout

Signed Josh Allen and Stefon Diggs mini helmets and home game tickets vs NY Jets (12/11) @ 1:00 pm



### He's A Juke Box Hero

Signed guitar by Lou Gramm (Foreigner)



Courtesy of [www.classicrockmusicwriter.com](http://www.classicrockmusicwriter.com)

### Patrick Kane Hat Trick

Signed hockey stick, game tickets, and limited-edition figurine.



Courtesy of [www.nhpa.com](http://www.nhpa.com)

### Golf's Field of Dreams

18 holes of golf at Oak Hill Country Club



Courtesy of Hager Productions | <https://youtube.com/LvHuo8vlyQ8>

### Life is Better at The Lake

One-week stay at Conesus Lakeside Cottage



## Paddle Call

### Become a Founder of RHSC's Financial Aid Fund!

As health care costs rise, individuals and families throughout our community are struggling to afford the care they need. At RHSC that includes children who need more educational and clinical services than their benefits will cover. For others, the cost of hearing aids prevents them from obtaining the technology that will help them communicate with those around them.

RHSC is committed to establishing an initial fund of \$100,000 in honor of our 100th Anniversary to help clients afford the care they need. Two generous donors have started the fund with gifts totaling \$21,000.

Tonight you have the opportunity to change a life by raising your paddle and making your own commitment to this fund. Join us in helping those who need us most!



# Congratulations on providing a century of sound and voice.

We salute the Rochester Hearing and Speech Center on 100 years of essential work helping people hear and communicate better.

**Mutual of America Financial Group is proud to sponsor  
the Roaring Twenties Centennial Gala.**



# 100 YEARS OF HISTORY

Rochester Hearing and Speech Center began in **1922** when Alice Howe Hatton, a lip-reading teacher, organized the first meeting of the League of the Hard of Hearing. The League provided education, recreational and vocational assistance to hearing impaired adults and children.

## Also in Rochester in 1922...

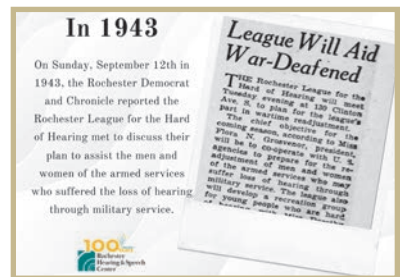
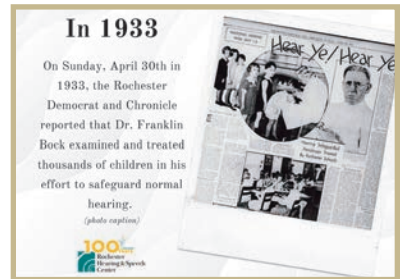
- Eastman Theatre & School of Music opens to the Public.
- First stop and go traffic lights installed in Rochester.
- City's first commercial radio station WHQ (later WHEC) gets 26th broadcasting license issued in the U.S. and goes on the air.



## ORGANIZATION TIMELINE



- ▶ **1928:** The League for the Hard of Hearing was incorporated as the Rochester League for the Hard of Hearing, Inc. First Offices were located at 91 Monroe Avenue.
- ▶ **1929:** The League became a member of the American Hearing Society, paying dues of \$1.00 to the society for every \$3.00 which came into the League.
- ▶ **1930:** The Rochester League for the Hard of Hearing developed close ties to the Rochester City School District to identify and help hearing impaired children in the community.
  - 1930's saw the League evolve into a social service agency, emphasizing diagnosis and treatment of speech and hearing problems while still offering community education.
- ▶ **1946:** A committee called the "Council for the Study of Post-War Problems in Rochester" recommended that there be an agency developed to treat both speech and hearing problems of area residents, especially returning war veterans.
- ▶ **1952:** The Board of Directors of the Rochester League for the Hard of Hearing voted to expand services to those with speech problems. The League became the Rochester Hearing and Speech Society, Inc., officially expanding their purpose and array of services to include speech and language services.
- ▶ **1957:** The Society officially adopted a new name: the Hearing and Speech Center of Rochester. The number of clients served increased from 500 to 1000 for the growing agency.
- ▶ **1968:** As a result of the community's dreams of a unique way for rehabilitation agencies to share space, the Al Sigl Center opened its doors at the original Elmwood Campus, with the



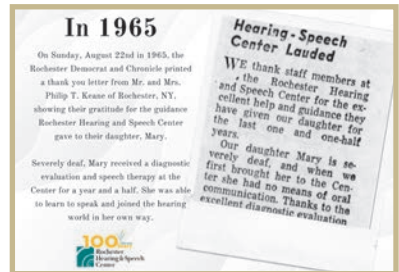
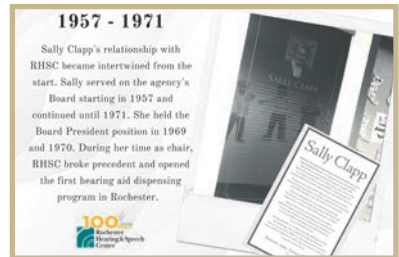


# 100 YEARS OF HISTORY CONT.



Hearing and Speech Center of Rochester relocating here, as a proud member of the Al Sigl Community of Agencies since its founding.

- ▶ **1969:** Hearing and Speech Center of Rochester's services expanded to provide on-site services to day care centers, in order to reach children in their preschool settings.
- ▶ **1973:** The first Mobile Unit vehicle was acquired. The Mobile Unit Program began its mobile hearing services, providing hearing conservation programs to local industries, and later expanded to serving rural communities, group home residents and nursing home residents.
- ▶ **1975:** RHSC purchased the area's first clinical Auditory Brainstem Response instrument for testing infants and newborns. This instrument directly supported the Infant Hearing Alert Program soon to be established in Monroe County.
- ▶ **1977:** The Center opened the Northeast Division, its first satellite center, to serve residents in the northeast side of the city and provide speech support for several daycare centers in the area.
- ▶ **1978:** The Hearing Aid Dispensing Program began. It was the first program in the state to be approved by the Department of Social Services and the NUS Department of Health, improving services to clients by allowing RHSC to not only evaluate hearing and identify hearing loss, but also treat hearing loss by fitting hearing aids.
- ▶ **1984:** The "Reaching Out" program began. "Reaching Out" provided comprehensive audiological services to seniors in the Monroe County Office of the Aging and Nutrition Center programs. The program also provided financial assistance for hearing testing and hearing aids with the sponsorship of Telephone Pioneers of America and Medical Motor Service.
- ▶ **1986:** The Early Childhood Class for Expressive Language and Speech, ECCELS, classroom opened in response to the need for intensive speech-language services for children 2½-5 years of age. To accommodate increasing demand, a second classroom opened in 1989 and a third in 1992.
- ▶ **1989:** The Assistive Device Demonstration Program, a free community service program, was initiated. The program offered clients the ability to try and borrow assistive listening devices other than hearing aids, such as TV listeners, telephone amplifiers and area amplifiers that would help them in certain listening situations.





# 100 YEARS OF HISTORY CONT.

- ▶ **1990:** The Telephone Evaluation and Demonstration (Tel-ED) program began, in collaboration with Rochester Telephone, to offer free telephone consultation and hands-on trials to people needing amplified telephones.
- ▶ **1993:** The Teaching Age-Appropriate Language for Kids (TAALK) program began in the spring, a center-based program to teach families how to help their toddler use language. This unique program included parents and caregivers, teaching them techniques to use with children at home to support their speech and language development.
- ▶ **1993:** The Hearing and Speech Center of Rochester changed its name to the Rochester Hearing and Speech Center, a strategy to maintain community awareness and the years of leadership serving children and adults in Rochester and surrounding areas.
- ▶ **1995:** RHSC expanded to the west side and opened our first Greece location, on Latona Road.
- ▶ **1996:** In a collaboration with The University Otolaryngology Associates resulted in RHSC opening an office in the Highland Physician's Office Building. This collaboration allowed seamless treatment for individuals needing both Otolaryngology (Ear, Nose and Throat doctor) services and Doctor of Audiology services.
- ▶ **2007:** RHSC expanded to the east side and opened its location on Ridge Road in Webster.
- ▶ **2008:** The Latona Road office was relocated to West Ridge Road in Greece, improving access for clients.
- ▶ **2008:** We also renewed our long term relationship with the Al Sigl Center with execution of a newly adopted Membership Agreement and continued to benefit from the support of the United Way of Greater Rochester; aligning speech and audiology services with United Way Blueprints for Change.
- ▶ **2009:** We celebrated Tawn Feeney's receipt of a Career Achievement Award from the Rochester Business Journal/United Way. Tawn Feeney, after being a long time, 30+ year employee of RHSC as a Speech-Language Pathologist, remains an avid and strong supporter.
- ▶ **2011:** RHSC initiated actions to allow for the addition of occupational and physical therapy to our service array by adding these services to our Operating Certificate.
- ▶ **2012:** We celebrated our 90th anniversary with a 1920s themed dinner gathering at Oak Hill Country Club; we also celebrated our membership in the Al Sigl Family of Agencies as

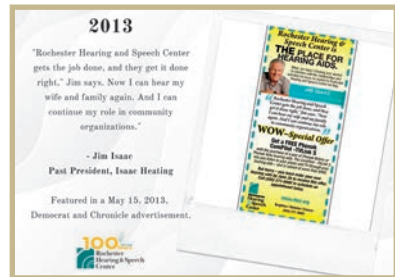


# 100 YEARS OF HISTORY CONT.

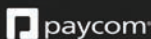


they celebrated their 50th anniversary.

- ▶ **2013:** With the addition of occupational and physical therapy to our service array, we expanded our Speech-Language Department to become the Educational and Clinical Services Department, allowing us to provide a more comprehensive package of services to meet the needs of our clients.
- ▶ **2021:** We received our 14th Rochester's Choice Award as Rochester's best hearing aid center.
- ▶ **2021:** We are celebrating our 99th year as the premier non-for-profit provider of hearing, speech language, educational and developmental services in the Greater Rochester area, and we continue to help people connect and engage, through "Communication for Life". Here For You — Not-For-Profit!
- ▶ **2022:** Celebrating 100 years of serving the Greater Rochester Community and surrounding areas.
- ▶ **2022:** Monroe County Department of Public Health and Rochester Hearing and Speech Center Kick Off Year-Long Collaboration



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**Congratulations** to RHSC on 100 years of helping children & adults *Communicate for Life*.

As a founding member of our collaborative, we celebrate your service to our community.



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A black and white photograph of a young woman with long hair, wearing a dark top and a name tag that says "NAZARETH COLLEGE". She is smiling and looking towards an older woman with short, light-colored hair who is seen in profile. The background is slightly blurred.

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# GALA DONATIONS

The Gifts That Keep on Giving!

Whether you already donated, attended the Gala, or purchased a live or silent auction item, YOU helped us reach those goals and work toward our mission of helping all people live their best lives. For this, we thank you.

Our 100th Anniversary Celebration is a year-long campaign. Gifts are accepted and welcome throughout the year. Thank you for sharing who we are, how we impact our community, and why you love us with your family and friends.



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## Happy 100th Anniversary to Rochester Hearing and Speech Center!

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# IF IT WERE NOT FOR YOU ...

We want to extend a most wholehearted thank you to everyone who has been a pivotal part of making our Centennial Anniversary an engaging celebration this year. We would not be where we are today without each and every one of our incredible supporters, partners, board members, and staff.

Despite the challenges faced over the years, especially in the last two, our community never wavered in their support of our clients and families.

It is indeed a great honor and pleasure to have all of our Roaring Twenties Centennial Gala guests in attendance tonight. The theme of our Gala highlights how we ROARED with passion for the past 100 years to bring vital educational, clinical, and audiology services to our community. Not to mention, it was in 1922 when Rochester Hearing and Speech Center began our Centennial Journey.

To all of our volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make tonight's celebration a success — Thanks for all that you do! Your willingness to give freely of your time and talent is greatly appreciated, and your efforts made a difference.



  
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# 2022 RHSC BOARD MEMBERS



- ▶ **Michael Reed**, (Marketing Technology MGR, Paychex) - **Board Chair**
- ▶ **Brian Sauers**, CPA, P.C. (Partner, Davie Kaplan) - **Board Vice Chair**
- ▶ **Kristie Beach**, CPA (EFPR Group) - **Board Secretary**
  
- ▶ **James Anderson**, MPA (RHSC Client and Retired, Former Business Development Coordinator, RIT)
- ▶ **Paula Maureen Brown**, Ph.D. (Professor Emeritus, Communication and Sciences Disorder, Nazareth College)
- ▶ **Jeffrey Calabrese**, Esq. (Partner, Harter Secrest Emery, LLP)
- ▶ **Michael Gallagher**, (President, Benefits Management, Inc)
- ▶ **Marianne Gustafson**, (Retired Associate Dean, RIT/NTID)
- ▶ **Lisa Elsemore Hiley**, Ph.D., CCC-SLP (Assistant Professor, Nazareth College)
- ▶ **David Pitcher**, CPA, P.C. (Partner, Davie Kaplan)
- ▶ **Beth Rabinowitz** (Director of Development, Jewish Senior Life Foundation – Retired)
- ▶ **Joseph Talbot**, CPCU, ARM, AU, CIC, CRM (Vice President, Commercial Insurance, USI Insurance Services)
- ▶ **Alison Taylor** (VP, Corporate Marketing, First American Equipment Finance)
  
- ▶ **Bob Russell** (President/CEO, Rochester Hearing and Speech Center)
- ▶ **Kevin Kommer** (Controller, Rochester Hearing and Speech Center)



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