

About The Center for Discovery®

Harris, NY | Rock Hill, NY | New York, NY | Rochester, NY



The Center for Discovery®, Inc. is a non-profit, nationally known provider of comprehensive healthcare services for 1,200 children and adults with complex conditions, medical frailties, and Autism Spectrum Disorders. The Center offers innovative educational, medical, clinical, residential, nutritional, creative arts, and recreational experiences designed to enrich individuals' lives through personal accomplishment. What happens here, matters everywhere.

Services Provided and Individuals Served

The Center is located on a multi-campus setting in the Catskill Mountains of Sullivan County just 90 miles northwest of New York City. Deeply focused on an individual's personal potential and abilities, TCFD strives to create transformative care and opportunities, through the following programs:

Pediatric Center of Excellence

The Center is the largest provider in New York State for children with complex conditions, such as autism. With 164 residential students and 136 day students, The Center provides special education services to a total of 300 school age children (ages 5-21). The Pediatric Program includes beautiful, universally designed residences; an integrative nature-based special educational program; medical and clinical services; advanced rehabilitation technology; adaptive physical education; music and art-based therapies; and other innovative programs. In addition, The Center's daycare program for children of its staff serves 170 children.

Adult Program

The Center's Adult Program features a continuum of residential opportunities for 181 adults, from age 21 to senior citizens, with complex disabilities, medical frailties, and a variety of aging issues. Our adult options range from 24-hour nursing residences, to five-bed homes on our renowned Thanksgiving Farm, as well as homes within our local communities. The Center's adult programs are designed to facilitate the independence and self-reliance of our residents to the greatest degree possible. We strive to emphasize personal progression, individual preferences, and community participation through a range of enriching and therapeutic experiences.

Health & Clinical Services

The Center provides comprehensive medical and clinical services, including primary, specialty, and dental care. The Center's interdisciplinary healthcare team includes a Medical Director, physicians, nurse practitioners, psychologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, audiologists, and 100 registered nurses (RNs) and 30 licensed practical nurses (LPNs). The Center also operates the Discovery Health Center, a 27,000 square foot NYS Department of Health certified Article 28 clinic that offers residents and community members a broad range of outpatient services. It is the first healthcare facility in the country to be registered with the U.S. Green Building Council and a recipient of the USGBC's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification.



Featured Programs

Food, Farming, and Nourishment Arts

The Center for Discovery's Department of Nourishment Arts®, or DNA®, is a living model of our Food is Medicine® principle. DNA recognizes that nutrient dense, clean, whole food is fundamental to realizing true health through optimal nutrition. We bring together farmers, chefs, and nutritionists to ensure the food we provide, and its nutrition values, are maximized at every point along the food chain. Our main focus is to harness the therapeutic power of food to create an internal environment for all bodies and brains to thrive. Our Thanksgiving Farm® encompasses over 300 certified organic and biodynamic acres, providing both quality food and meaningful work opportunities for students and residents.

Technology and Innovation

For over 30 years, The Center's Assistive Technology Department has been working hand-in-hand with clinical, educational, and residential teams to provide low and high-tech interventions that aid in development, improve health, increase function, and improve quality of life for people with disabilities. These interventions range from the identification of appropriate commercially available equipment, to the custom design and fabrication of new equipment. Some notable examples of this include the FlexTable®, a highly adaptable mealtime and classroom table that enables individuals of different heights and varying needs to come together. Another example is the indieGo®, an easy to use power mobility device that converts almost any manual wheelchair into a powered chair without the use of tools.

The Integrated Arts

The Integrated Arts Department brings together therapists and specialists in the areas of outdoor recreation, adaptive sports, horticulture, music, dance, and theatre. Our team designs enriching experiences that unlock potential and encourage participants to explore, learn, and grow. Observed benefits of these experiences include a notable increase in happiness and engagement, better health, and an emerging sense of identity through personal achievement. These programs also provide a seamless bridge to connect and integrate with the surrounding community.



A Healthy Community Model

The Center's Healthy Community Model, located in the hamlet of Hurleyville, NY is a comprehensive effort to reimagine what it means to be a fully inclusive and sustainable community. This pedestrian-friendly and vibrant Main Street provides access to a variety of new business ventures, job opportunities, creative outlets, and other ways to learn and connect. Throughout the last decade, The Center has developed major partnerships with local government, the Open Space Institute, the State University of New York system, and private foundations and philanthropists, to transform Hurleyville into a fully integrated and thriving Main Street.



The Vision of Discovery

The Children's Specialty Hospital

In a groundbreaking development for the state of New York, The Center for Discovery will open a first-of-its-kind Children's Specialty Hospital that will transform the standard of care for children and adolescents with complex conditions. The hospital, scheduled to open in 2023, will provide specialized, short-term care for children with complex disabilities, along with support and training for their families, caregivers, and school districts. The Specialty Hospital's intensive, integrated treatment model will enable each child to transition back to their home – and into their communities – which will reduce the need for long-term residential care. The hospital is expected to save New York State millions of dollars each year, with the goal of replicating this model throughout the state and the nation.

The Research Institute for Brain and Body Health

The Children's Specialty Hospital at The Center for Discovery® will also support a new Research Institute for Brain and Body Health. In partnership with researchers and scientists from major universities across the country, The Research Institute will facilitate pioneering studies related to brain and body health, including studies designed to improve and empirically validate a variety of supports for complex conditions. These studies will inform interventions, techniques, and tools for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders, complex medical frailties, Alzheimer's and dementia, and more.



For additional information, contact:

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The Center for Discovery

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The Center for Discovery® is proud to be designated as a Center of Excellence by the New York State Department of Health and OPWDD.