



Transforming lives of people with disabilities

IMPACT OF COVID ON STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES & THEIR FAMILIES

Mary Cariola....a compassionate visionary who was well ahead of her time.



**“Every child has potential,
regardless of disability.”**



Founded 1949...26 years before federal legislation required schools to provide an education to students with disabilities



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Mary Cariola Center Today

- Independent, non-profit agency operating school and six group homes.
- School located in 5 buildings on 3 campuses.
- Group homes located throughout Monroe County





By The Numbers

- Nearly 450 school students
- Just under 50 school districts
- Students come from over 10 counties surrounding Rochester
- 44 people call Mary Cariola residences home
- Approximately 700 staff members



- Designed for 3-5 year old children
- Half-day and full-day depending on evaluations
- Student's abilities and developmental delays vary and could include autism, medical needs, behavioral challenges and other learning needs.
- Community based diagnostic evaluation services are offered.
- Students referred through County Health Department.
- 50% graduation rate back to district.





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School Age



- Each classroom operates as an interdisciplinary team combining special education with a variety of clinical and therapeutic services appropriate for individual students.
- Each student assigned a social worker to act as liaison.
- School age serves students 5-21.
- Students are accepted into school if their home school district conducts evaluations and determined placement



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Specialty Services

Psychiatric Consultation
Neurological Consultation
Pediatric Podiatry Care
Dental Care ~ Smilemobile
Nutritional Consultation
Assistive Technology
Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics
Therapy Dog Program
Adaptive Equipment Workshop



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Community Services



- Operate 6 residential homes across Monroe County where residents receive 24-care from expert direct care and clinical staff
- All residents attend school or, if over age 21, adult day program
- Staff focus on life skill development and assisting residents in experiencing all that life has to offer



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Impact of COVID on students with disabilities & their families

Courtney Liggett
Mary Cariola Principal



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Students



- Very quick change in routine and schedule
- Access to education
- Access to typical services – respite, medical, ABA, therapy
- Group homes
- Transitioning back to school



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Parents

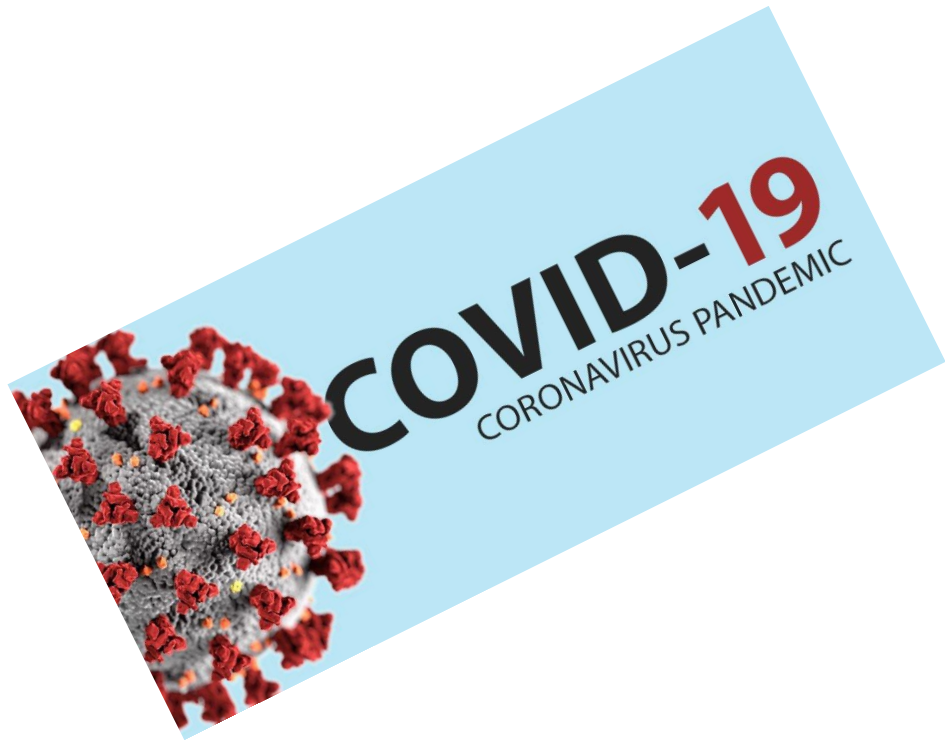
- Very quick change in routine and schedule
- Fear of the unknown
- Ability to work
- Decreased community supports
- Decreased family supports
- Inability to see children – group homes
- Increased virtual supports
- Access to technology
- Still need to get through the normal day to day





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Stories

- Homelessness – Daniel
- Difficulties with technology and engagement – Jonathan