Spectrum because we offer a spectrum of options across a lifetime.

360 because we address the whole person, not just the disability.
To meet the needs of the children and adults we serve, it’s essential that Spectrum360 does not become complacent; to that end, we periodically assess our physical facilities, programs, and services. In 2017-18, this assessment was a priority. It has always been our model that planning follows the needs of our students and adults. As a result, we determined that Academy360 Upper School needed to expand by 20,000 square feet. The expansion will include a regulation-size gymnasium to provide the physical education our students require, eight additional classrooms to provide space to bring over the ninth graders from Academy360 Lower School and to accommodate the increasing young adult program for 18-to-21-year-olds, additional therapeutic space, a larger film studio, additional offices for related services, and conference rooms. We have since broken ground on a new wing.

We also began developing plans to secure a new facility for Academy360 Lower School. This will provide larger classrooms to accommodate the increasing number of staff required, enlarged and additional therapy areas, a regulation-size gymnasium, additional parking, and the creation of multi-sensory rooms.

At Independence360, our current space has become overcrowded. Additional space is required for our current population and to accommodate Academy360 Upper School graduates and other adults on the waiting list. We have met with the owner of the building who is open to renting additional space. This expansion and renovation will require a capital campaign. To provide our Academy360 students and Independence360 adults with increased opportunities to integrate into their communities and access work sites, we also identified the need for more school buses and vans.

In both schools, we determined the need to initiate a STEAM-Learning program. Designed for students at, near, or above grade level, it taps into strengths in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. Additionally, to ensure that classrooms use research-based best practices, we have engaged the nationally known Pyramid Educational Consultants, Inc., to provide training and consultation to staff in setting up model classrooms in both schools. At the Upper School and at Independence360, we have engaged the services of consultants from ViaQuest, Inc., (who are now staff at NEXT for Autism) to enhance our work experience program and assist young adults and adults in securing employment with the supports they require for success.

FilmAcademy360 and CulinaryAcademy360 have identified the need to expand programs and provide opportunities for more adolescents and young adults to acquire skills in these areas.

Our Board of Directors has made it a priority to establish an endowment to supplement public funds received, which, in certain instances, are becoming more restrictive and limited. This move will ensure that we can sustain our current programs and continue to expand to meet future needs.

Spectrum360 remains committed to the continual development of our programs, providing our students and adults with options across a lifetime. Helping them to become successful and productive adults remains the ultimate goal. Based on the generous donations of time and resources from all the members of our supportive community, we are confident of our continued success.
2017-18 Organizational and Programmatic Accomplishments Highlights

It’s been a busy year! Here are just a few of the accomplishments from around Spectrum360:

Helping More Students
- Started a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) initiative at Academy360 Lower School and Upper School specifically designed for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who are near, at, or above grade level and underachieving in their current placement due to bullying, anxiety, disengagement, and deficits in self-regulation and executive functioning.
- Began physical expansion of Academy360 Upper School to allow us to serve a growing population of students. The new wing will provide additional classrooms, a full-size gym, enlarged therapy area, and new video studio.

Meeting Each Student’s Learning Needs
- This year, one classroom in Academy360 Upper School and two classrooms in Academy360 Lower School received Pyramid Approach Certification, bringing the total to four certified classrooms. Our goal is to certify all classrooms where it is appropriate. The Pyramid approach provides an integrated framework that focuses on teaching the team how to meet students’ individual learning needs by combining a unique blend of broad spectrum applied behavior analytic, evidence-based strategies with a special emphasis on methods for promoting functional communication, academic, and social skills. There are nine elements to the program and certification is granted once the classroom demonstrates inclusion of all components.

Award-Winning Staff and Programs
- Sally Curci, Physical Education and Health teacher at Academy360 Upper School, received an award as the ASAH Regional I Finalist for Educator of the Year.
- FilmAcademy360 won the 2018 National Association of Special Education Programs 2018 Award for Leadership & Innovation in Special Education for demonstrating positive results for students through data collection, research, and documented change, and which resulted in new methods for program operations.
- Thanks to the leadership of director David Dilanni, FilmAcademy360 was awarded an $8,000 contract from the Department of VSA and Accessibility at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and the Rosemary Kennedy Initiative to complete a cross-curricular digital storytelling program with A360 and FA360 students.
- Academy360 Lower School received the NJDOE/ASAH 2018 Innovative Award for our FitBit Program encouraging students, staff, and families to work toward better health through exercise and diet.
Preventing for Employment
• A partnership with ViaQuest, Inc. was established to provide Independence360 and Academy360 US with vocational training for job coaches, transition coordinators, and students. Consultants have been collaborating with and training vocational staff and job coaches to open doors to new relationships and places of employment.
• As a result of changes to Independence360’s pre-vocational program, 15 clients were placed in competitive employment during the year.
• Academy360 Lower School officially turned its in-house jobs program into a registered TREP$ (enTREPreneural) program site, which teaches middle schoolers how to start their own businesses. TREP$ is a national program being used by many public schools.
• Bergen County Community College and FilmAcademy360 have a dual enrollment class where students will earn three college credits.
• CulinaryAcademy360 completed its third successful year providing late afternoon programs at Independence360 and Academy360 Upper School, with 25 students attending the three-block eight-week course. Five students from the general community also attended the vocationally focused classes.

Supporting Recreation and Health
• Academy360 Lower School registered and started Boy Scout Troop 360. This troop joins our long-standing Girl Scout troop which also added a group for elementary-aged girls this year.
• Independence360 hosted seven respite opportunities, allowing all 110 adults in the program to participate in a one-to two-night experience, which included age-appropriate experiences. Excursions included activities such as tubing down the Delaware, visiting a casino, attending a Broadway show, going out to dinner, going to a Red Bulls game, etc.
• CulinaryAcademy360’s day classes at Academy360 Upper School and Independence360 had well over 100 students and clients participate. These classes, all 100% from-scratch cooking and baking, have a two-pronged approach: incorporating life skills and pre-vocational training. Classes have been successful in opening students palettes to more diverse tastes and textures and their minds to new cultures and cuisines.

Educating the Community and Promoting Acceptance
• FilmAcademy360 students completed production of a web sitcom mini-series with the full cast comprised of actors with ASD. The project will be used as a public high-level autism awareness campaign and will raise the visibility of FA360 to a wider audience.
• FilmAcademy360’s 4th Annual Film Festival played to a standing room only crowd of over 200 attendees to whom it previewed 15 original student videos. These videos showed great diversity and illustrated the wide array of talents our video students possess.
• Spectrum360’s Spectrum of Options free-and-open-to-the-community seminar series held five seminars during the year, educating over 400 parents, caregivers, and professionals about wide-ranging topics related to autism.
• Spectrum360’s 2nd Annual Meeting, featuring guest speaker Kerry Magro and celebrating our community partners, staff, students, and donors, was attended by almost 300 supporters.
We Love Our Community Partners

Through leisure, work, and volunteer opportunities, our partners expand our reach and provide invaluable interactions with the larger community, enriching our students' and adults' understanding of the world around them and helping to promote autism acceptance.

**Academy360 Lower School**

**After School Program and Clubs:**
- Eagle Rock Lands
- Green Hill Nursing Home
- Livingston Heritage Middle School Program
- NJ Rock Gym
- Sky Zone

**Student Interns/Volunteers:**
- College of St. Elizabeth
- Golda Och Academy
- Montclair Kimberley Academy
- Montclair State University
- Seton Hall University
- Verona High School Capstone Program

**Community Experience:**
- Bright and Beautiful Pet Therapy
- Essex County Environmental Center
- Foodtown (Cedar Grove)
- Girl Scouts
- Montclair Fire Department
- Verona Fire Department
- Verona PBA

**Volunteer/Donation Opportunities:**
- 4-H
- Bear Hugs for the Holidays (St. Barnabas Medical Center)
- Big Dog Rescue Project
- Novartis
- Operation Homefront
- Operation Santa Paws
- Pajama Program for the Holidays
- Susan G. Komen Foundation
- Toni's Kitchen Food Pantry
- Toys for Tots

**Academy360 Upper School**

**After School Program:**
- Academy of St. Elizabeth
- Montclair Kimberley Academy
- Mount Saint Dominic Academy
- Seton Hall Preparatory School

**Community-Based Work Experience Program:**
- The Bethwood
- Board and Brush
- Calabria Restaurant and Pizzeria
- Caldwell Pediatric Therapy Center
- Caldwell Public Library
- CVS
- Essex County Prosecutor's Office
- Franco's Restaurant
- Franklin Steakhouse
- Godfather Pizzeria
- Goodwill Industries
- Hackensack UMC/Mountainside Hospital
- Home Goods (East Hanover)
- Kings Supermarket (Verona)
- Kohl’s (Woodland Park)
- Marshalls (Totowa, West Caldwell, East Hanover)
- New World Manga Comics
- Olive Garden (Livingston)
- Petco
- Pups @ Play
- Regent Street Cafe
- Saint Barnabas Ambulatory Care Center
- Shoprite
- St. Hubert's Animal Welfare
- TGI Fridays
- TJ Maxx
- Walgreens

**Independence360**

**Volunteers:**
- Holiday Express
- Wells Fargo Bank
- Withum

**Volunteer Opportunities:**
- A360 Lower School
- CAU Auto
- Community Food Bank of NJ
- Garden Terrace
- Great Swamp Nursery
- Habitat for Humanity (Morris County)
- Harmony House (Newark)
- Home for Good Dogs
- New Eyes for the Needy (Milburn)
- Novartis
- PSE&G
- S360 Business Office
- St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center
- Sunrise Assisted Living
- SWK Computerized Financial Services Inc.

**Employment:**
- Bed Bath and Beyond
- Central Physical Therapy
- Cody Arena
- Comprehensive Cardiovascular Consultants
- David Mitchell Fine Event Design
- Delaware North Food Services
- FTC FBO
- Jersey Mike’s
- Lenny’s Pizza
- Maplecrest Ford
- McGiveney & Kluger
- Nicole’s Broadway Dance Center
- Regal Drapes
- Rollercoaster Productions
- Sketcher’s
- Tenna
- TJ Maxx
- Unex
- Unifirst
- Westminster Hotel
- YMCA

**Fitness:**
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Lodi and Millburn
- Capelli of New York
- Retro Fitness
- Sheridan Hotel of Parsippany

**CulinaryAcademy360**

SKW Computerized Financial Services Inc.

**FilmAcademy360**

Bergen County Community College
- Exceptional Minds
- JP Morgan Chase
- Mandy.com
- Montclair Film
- New Jersey Film School
- Pfizer
- VSA Rose Kennedy Foundation
PSO360

Our Parent-Staff Organization (PSO) is composed of volunteers who work tirelessly to help provide enhanced social experiences for all Academy360 Lower School and Upper School students and their families, as well as provide support for A360 families and staff. Through these activities, members of the PSO are an active and vital part of our school community.

As usual, this year our PSO360 raised funds for and organized dances at our schools, conducted monthly family movie outings and other family activities, and purchased the annual Academy360 Spirit and Field Day T-shirts. Of special note was the funding of the Academy360 Upper School prom. Working with staff, they created an incredible night to remember for the students. They also sponsored an end-of-the-year bounce house party for the Academy360 Lower School pre-k/elementary students. And the annual Academy360 Lower School holiday shop they sponsor gave students the chance to view and purchase (at a nominal cost) donated gifts gathered by the PSO360 members. Staffed by volunteer parents, this experience provided our students the opportunity to practice their shopping skills and enjoy a sense of independence while finding presents for loved ones.

And as they do each year, PSO360 parent volunteers generously recognized staff by sponsoring and serving at the A360 Upper and Lower School Staff Appreciation Luncheons.
Development Department

Our Development Department works to increase S360's ability to provide options across a lifetime that are affordable for all families. Monies raised help fund Academy360 after-school activities, overnight respites, scouting, horticulture and our FilmAcademy360 and CulinaryAcademy360 programs, as well as other activities not funded through tuition. As public funding does not cover the full costs of adult services offered by Independence360, donations also help to ensure the continued high quality of this program.

This year, through grants, special events, monthly contributions, and much more, generous individuals, foundations, corporations, and community partners invested nearly $800,000 in the students, clients, and staff of Spectrum360.

Our Fore the Kids Golf Tournament at Somerset Hills Country Club raised over $100,000, bringing the mission and message of Spectrum360 onto the golf course and into the minds and hearts of our participants. Our Hall of Fame Dinner honored Charles Pascarella of Benjamin F. Edwards and S360 board member and parent, Kristen Olson, for their major contributions in advancing our vision. The event raised over $75,000 and brought together the S360 community of staff, volunteers, parents, students, clients and vendors. In the spring, our Walk for a Lifetime raised more than $100,000 from the extended S360 family and brought together over 500 participants in Verona Park for a fun day of walking, fundraising, and friendship.

There were many successes this year, but a few stand out as special highlights. Thanks to a very generous matching gift challenge from an anonymous donor, our Board of Directors collectively donated $50,000 to our endowment fund. Coupled with the match, we were able to raise over $100,000 for the fund. These gifts demonstrate our commitment to ensuring the success of the organization well into the future, despite the increasingly restricted and unpredictable nature of public funding. We are also incredibly thankful for a grant from The Hyde and Watson Foundation of New Jersey, which enabled us to purchase a van for Independence360, which allows our clients to participate in more community activities and vocational training opportunities.

Our programs are made possible by the generosity of foundations, corporations, and individual donors. We thank the following organizations and individuals for their donations this year in excess of $15,000.

- Charles Pascarella
- The Conti Group
- Gregg Cuvin
- The Hyde and Watson Foundation

We apologize for any errors or omissions and welcome the opportunity to correct them. Please email Lindsay Bevan at lbevan@spectrum360.org.

In an effort to reduce costs and as part of our Green Initiative, our full donor list can be found at www.spectrum360.org/donors.
Here are some of the extras YOUR generosity helped US provide in 2017-18.

A360 Lower School and Upper School students enjoyed 28 different afterschool programs

A360 Girl Scouts were active members of the troop

new van purchased for I360 allowing for increased community vocational and recreational opportunities

under-desk body cycles to help keep A360 LS students engaged and focused while learning

I360 clients & A360 students participated in weekend respite opportunities

A360 US Cougars basketball practice and games played at Hoop Heaven
Our Programs and Services

**Academy360** includes two NJ State Board of Education Approved Private Schools for students on the autism spectrum and with behavioral and related disabilities, ages 3-21. The programs include early education, comprehensive evidence-based academic instruction based on Differentiated Instruction, Universal Design and Discrete Trial Learning, life skills, career development, and instruction in special areas including art, music, and video production.

**Academy360 Lower School** offers education for students in Pre-school, Elementary, Middle School, and 9th grade.

**Academy360 Upper School** offers education for students from 10th grade through 12th grade and a Young Adult Program for individuals from 18-21.

**Independence360** is an approved vendor for the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities offering a Day Program, Vocational Program, Behavioral Supports and Counseling, Community-based Instruction, Respite, and more for adults with autism and related developmental disabilities. I360 is also approved by the NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services to provide Pre-placement and time-limited Supported Employment.

**FilmAcademy360** open to ages 16 and older, is a unique hands-on educational environment designed to help diverse learners explore and learn through filmmaking, video editing, game creation, and graphic arts. Classes are offered after school, weekends, and summers, and are open to students and adults in the community.

**CulinaryAcademy360** provides instruction by professional chefs who teach “from scratch” culinary skills to diverse learners in the community, ages 14 and older. Participants learn in supportive hands-on classes in professional-grade kitchens, with options to expand their cooking skills for fun, independence, or vocational exploration. Classes are offered after school, evenings, and weekends, and are open to students and adults in the community.

Available programs and services include:

- Individual, Group Counseling, and Social Skills Training provided by social workers, counselors, and psychologists
- Psychiatric Consultation
- Parent Training and Support provided by certified, trained mental health professionals
- Applied Behavioral Analysis provided by BCBAs
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Medical Services provided by a certified school nurse and school physician
- Comprehensive and Assistive Technology
- Visual Arts
- Music
- Drama
- Yoga
- Video Production
- Culinary Arts
- Horticulture
- Physical Education & Intramural Sports
- Life Skills Instruction
- Community-Based Instruction
- Community-Based Work Experience
- Vocational Assessment, Training, and Support
- Extra-curricular Activities, including:
  - Respite Program
  - After-school Programs
  - Adult Enrichment Program
  - Integrated Activities with neurotypical peers
  - Scouting
  - Community Education
Administration
Spectrum360

Executive Director/Superintendent
Bruce Ettinger, Ed.D.

Development Office
Kerry Guzman — Director of Development

Business Office
Stacy Sara CPA, PSA — Business Manager

Public Information Officer/Family Liaison
Jennifer Lezak Miller, MSW

Spectrum360 and its programs are members of the following organizations:

National Association of Private Special Education Centers (NAPSEC)
ASAH
The Alliance of Private Special Education Schools of North Jersey
Autism New Jersey
New Jersey Educational Computing Cooperative
Center for Non-Profits – NJ
Northern New Jersey Day Treatment Program Coalition
New Jersey Business and Industry Association

Spectrum360 programs are approved by:

NJ State Board of Education
NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities
NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Medicaid

2017-18
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