

## Park Place

The right place to turn young lives around

### Park Place Residence

122 Park Avenue  
Schenectady, NY 12304  
518.346.2387

#### Kim Cummins

Chief Officer  
Residential and Foster Care Services  
518.426.2725  
Kim.Cummins@nrfs.org

#### Erin Pinchbeck

Senior Director  
Residential Services  
518.346.2387, ext. 4428  
Erin.Pinchbeck@nrfs.org

#### Carisa Huble

Program Manager  
Residential Services  
518.346.2387, ext. 4305  
Carisa.Huble@nrfs.org

#### Kenneth DeLong

Manager, Recreation & Activities  
Residential Services  
518.346.2387, ext. 4460  
Kenneth.Delong@nrfs.org

#### Lisa Casella-Thiele

Intake Coordinator  
Residential Services  
Office, 518.346.2387, ext. 4509  
Mobile, 518.337.0926  
Lisa.Casella-Thiele@nrfs.org

#### William Marszalek, LMFT

Executive Clinical Director  
Residential and Foster Care Services  
518.346.4251, ext. 7532  
William.Marszalek@nrfs.org

#### Colleen Vogel, MSW

Senior Program Director  
Foster Care Services  
518.857.8027  
Colleen.Vogel@nrfs.org

#### Star Gregory

Director  
Foster Parent Recruitment & Retention  
518.337.3789  
Star-Lynne.Gregory@nrfs.org

Northern Rivers' Park Place is a 24-bed hard-to-place group residence program with units designed to deliver care to abused, neglected, emotionally disturbed, and behaviorally troubled youth ages 12–21. The facility also houses the Schaffer Children's Program, an 8-bed short-term residential diagnostic and stabilization unit for young children, ages 5–12. The Park Place residential building is located on 11 acres at 122 Park Avenue in Schenectady.



Today the 56,000-sq.-ft. Children's Home is home to 32 youth, most of whom attend the School at Northeast.

Staff help residents and their families stabilize and learn skills for youth to safely return to their families and communities.

- ✓ Each resident receives a comprehensive child and family assessment resulting in an individualized treatment plan developed by a multidisciplinary team led by a master's level clinician. The program works with residents and their families on coping skills and social skills, as well as transitional and independent living skills.
- ✓ The program provides specialized care to work with youth presenting with fire-setting issues or sexual behavior problems.

### Staffing

- ✓ Each youth and family is assigned a clinician and a case manager. They are supported on their living units by a dedicated team of youth care counselors. The multidisciplinary team includes clinicians, psychiatric and psychological consultants, nursing, case managers, a recreation specialist as well as administrative, management, support services, and kitchen staff.
- ✓ All dorms maintain a minimum 1:3 staff-to-child ratio.
- ✓ The facility is open and staffed 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

### Education and Recreation

- ✓ Residents attend the School at Northeast, a New York state licensed 853 special education school, or local public schools.
- ✓ Residents participate in internal and external recreational activities including community events, many volunteer in the community, and some hold part-time jobs.



View of the original 39,000-sq.-ft. Children's Home built in 1956 and opened in 1959.

### Referrals

The local county Department of Social Services, Department of Probation, Family Courts, and local school districts' Committee on Special Education can make referrals to the program.

# Park Place History

The current Park Place was built in 2009, replacing the older 1956 building, but Northern Rivers' history in Schenectady goes back to 1888 when a group of ladies met to discuss doing "something for the homeless children of our city." In April 1888, the Home for Destitute Children (soon renamed the Children's Home of Schenectady) opened its doors to serve destitute children ages 2–18. Separately, the Women's Club of Schenectady established the Schenectady County Humane Society, and shortly after, they hired an investigator to pursue reports of child and animal abuse.

- 1875 First Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children was formed, hiring a special agent to investigate reports of abuse.
- 1888 The Home for Destitute Children founded, and later changed the name to Children's Home of Schenectady.**
- 1893 New quarters created to house 24 children, ages 2–18, and would serve the agency for the next 63 years.
- 1902 Schenectady County Humane Society formed.
- 1904 Schenectady Society and the Mohawk and Hudson River Society merged to protect both children and animals.
- 1916 The Humane Society opened a children's shelter, housing children awaiting disposition of criminal charges and later added children who could not remain at home because of abuse, neglect, family problems, fire, runaways, abandonment, or destitute mothers with children.**
- 1953 The Humane Society no longer houses delinquent youth, limiting services to dependent and neglected children.
- 1956 New Park Avenue location built to accommodate the expanding needs of the children in the community.**
- 1977–1983 Variety of services began at Children's Home, including Therapeutic Afterschool Program, Independent Living for Teens, and Vocational Exploration Program.
- 1983 Northeast Parent and Child Society formed (uniting Children's Home of Schenectady and Schenectady Humane Society).
- 1985–1996 More programs continue to open at Northeast including special education co-ed school, Sexual treatment Program, Girls unit opens on RTC, Therapeutic Foster Family Program opens, Respite Program, outreach services, Schenectady County Child Guidance Clinic and **Schaffer Children's Shelter.**
- 2009 New Children's Home opens.**
- 2020 Children's Home rededicated as Park Place.**