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Empower to honor nine at annual luncheon

Niagara Falls, N.Y., Oct. 18, 2018 – Empower, the not-for-profit organization formerly known as Niagara Cerebral Palsy, will hold its third annual Living the Values Awards Luncheon at noon on Friday, October 26 at Four Points by Sheraton, 7001 Buffalo Ave. Tickets are \$35, and may be reserved at (716) 297-0798, x120, or kdaloise@empower-wny.org.

Santino Bax will receive the People Power Award because of the strides he has made by participating in Empower's programs. Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) Regional Director Kirk Maurer and Regional Deputy Director Kevin Penberthy will receive the Dr. Salvatore M. Passanese Leadership Award. The Faithful Funder Award will be presented to Elks Lockport Lodge #41, Elks Niagara Falls Lodge #346, Niagara County Central Rotary Club, and Sertoma Club of Niagara Falls. Riester Physical Therapy will receive the Priceless Partner Award. The Conference & Event Center Niagara Falls will receive the Exceptional Employer Award.

Each year, Empower helps 1,000 people with and without disabilities through a variety of programs and services. With 300 employees and a \$14 million budget, Empower is one of Western New York's 60 largest nonprofit organizations. The administrative offices, preschool and community clinic are located on Lockport Road in the Town of Niagara. The job training and day programs division is based in the Town of Niagara and in the Town of Wheatfield, while residential facilities are located throughout Niagara County. Licensed by the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities and the New York State Education Department, Empower is an affiliate of the Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State. Empower earned a three-year quality assurance accreditation from the Council on Quality and Leadership in 2018.

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