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## ***For immediate release***

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## **Strides walk attracts 200, raises \$5K**

CORNING | They walked. They rolled. They raised money for a good cause.

Approximately 200 people participated Saturday in AIM Independent Living Center's second annual Strides for Independence Walk to promote disability awareness. Under sunny skies at Denison Park in Corning, the walkers and rollers raised approximately \$5,000, which will be invested locally to help individuals with disabilities.

Some of the walk's proceeds have already been allocated. At the beginning of the event, AIM presented Kelly Sidari with a \$500 grant for her Music and Movement program, which is an integrated playgroup that uses music, instruments and stories to promote cognitive, emotional, social, physical and language development.

Members of Corning Inc.'s Abled and DisAbled Partnering Together (ADAPT) team attended the walk. Group President Dr. Melissann Ashton-Patton said ADAPT was proud to help the cause.

"What I've learned since I've entered the world of disabilities is about the partnerships – partnerships with families, partnerships with employees and partnerships with communities," Ashton-Patton said. "The more we come together and the more we work together, the more we can accomplish."

Joe Sempolinski, U.S. Rep. Tom Reed's district director, recognized AIM and the participants with a congressional certificate of appreciation, and state Sen. Tom O'Mara, R-Big Flats, thanked the walkers for supporting the cause.

"I want to thank AIM for all the great work the organization does for those with disabilities," O'Mara said. "This year, in the tough fiscal times our state is facing, the governor wanted to make significant cuts to the Office of People with Developmental Disabilities. We got the cuts restored so individuals can have success and so they can live as independently as possible."

**AIM Independent Living Center**, more commonly known as **AIM**, is a non-profit organization dedicated to people with disabilities, their families, friends, the businesses that serve them, and those with an interest in disabilities.

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### **AIM-CHEMUNG**

**Independent Living Center**  
650 Baldwin Street  
Elmira, NY 14901

### **AIM OUTREACH OFFICES**

117 East Steuben Street  
Bath, NY 14810

370 Sawyer Street, Bldg 3  
Hornell, NY 14843

84 Schuyler Street  
Belmont, NY 14813

323 Owego Street  
Montour Falls, NY 14865

***AIM Independent Living Center is missioned to support an individual's ability to make independent choices through education, advocacy, information and referral.***