

# Connections

## Retreat Center For People & Dogs



### **Describe your business**

“At Connections we rescue dogs and bring veterans, seniors and any and all folks up to commune with the dogs and enjoy our wonderful setting in the heart of the Finger Lakes. We are "dog people" with a purpose. We have known intuitively how powerful the relationships between dogs and people can be. When thoroughly cultivated, this connection helps in healing and regaining a balanced perspective, especially after trauma, but also as part of living a happy, healthier life.

We are a dedicated group of caring individuals who have come together to create a charitable nonprofit organization which will build upon our intuitive understanding of how powerful the relationships between people and dogs can be. We are a registered New York State corporation and IRS 501c3 public

charity.

We’ve been working on this project for a handful of years, but it is only now that we’re in a position to begin offering free overnights and mini-vacations on our property with our amazing dogs to those in need. A significant component of our upcoming capital campaign is to help accrue the funding necessary to build out our amazing property for free use by our guests.”

### **Tell us your story**

“Rich was driving from Ithaca to Chicago on a business trip with three of his dogs a while back, trying to get to Route 86/17, and happened upon a ‘for sale’ sign in the hills of Burdett. He asked the dogs if they would mind if they stopped in to say ‘hi’ to the owners and investigate the property, and three hours later they had placed a down payment on the property. There the vision for Connections was born! Rich had always dreamed of running a dog rescue, and the idea of combining that dream with the opportunity to help people in need became completely real with the purchase of the beautiful property in Burdett. Keri was working in Corning when she and Rich met five years ago, and decided to team up for the adventure of a lifetime. Currently, Keri sits on the Board of Directors at Cornell Cooperative Extension, and Rich sits on the board for the Watkins Glen/Montour Falls Rotary Club and Community Development Corporation. And of course we’re both very active on the Board at Connections. This keeps us very busy, but we still find ample time to enjoy the great wine and beer found in the region! “

### **What has helped you succeed and gain experience?**

“We’ve both been extremely blessed with fantastic parents and siblings, and have been equally fortunate in our careers. We’ve seen our share of both success and challenges, and that keeps us completely grounded. We truly appreciate how much we have. Keri is an accountant by trade and Rich has spent the majority of his business career in commercial lighting. We both continue to learn every step along the way. “

### **What inspires you?**

“Knowing that every day we have the ability to help people and dogs who have been dealt some very challenging hands in life. Our family and friends all play a huge role in helping us do the best we can every day. “

## **What keeps you up at night? What are your challenges?**

“Knowing how many people and dogs need help certainly keeps us thinking each night. How we can best serve the various communities that we cater to gives us real reason to study on the possibilities right in front of us.”

## **What is your favorite local activity?**

“Hiking the Finger Lakes National Forest is definitely one of our favorite activities. Next would come enjoying the great wineries, breweries, and eateries in the region. And lastly, but equally important, walking the grounds of Connections with friends and rollicking with the dogs!”

## **Is there anything else we should know about you?**

“Just that we are driven by what Connections offers to our community and beyond. We are about to embark on our first capital campaign, which will allow us to truly enhance the facilities and serve more people in need and dogs at risk. Please keep an eye out for information on the capital campaign in the coming weeks, and if you can lend your support financially, with in-kind donations, or by volunteering, please don’t hesitate to contact us at any time!

## **Contact Information**

For more information about Rich and Keri Greenberger, or their non-profit organization Connections, please reach out to them:

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