

The premier community resource for people with disabilities and their families

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**Albany Marriott Hotel receives Local Award
during National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

The Capital Region Employment Alliance and Partners and ACCESS-VR held a breakfast for their Annual Employer Recognition Awards on October 19th at the Italian American Community Center in Albany. Each year businesses and organizations are recognized during October in conjunction with National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). This year's theme was *A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?*

Saratoga Bridges nominated the Albany Marriott Hotel for a business that employs 100-499 people. The Albany Marriott was the recipient of a Local Award for their efforts made to hire qualified applicants and for demonstrating a high level of commitment in providing accommodations, innovations and career advancement opportunities. Robin Jackson, the Controller at the hotel, accepted the award on behalf of her employer. The goal of the month is to increase the public's awareness of the contributions and skills of American workers with disabilities.

Alpha Career Options is Saratoga Bridges' Supported Employment Program. They presently assist 100 employees in securing competitive employment positions with on-site training, making suggestions for suitable adaptations and accommodations with innovative outreach approaches.

The agency applauds the following businesses for employing people with disabilities:

AC Moore	Lowe's
Albany Marriott Hotel	Maplewood Manor
Ballston Area Community Center	McDonald's
Ballston Journal	NYRA
Bon Ton	Panera Bread
Burnt Hills School District1	PJ's Bar-B-QSA
Byron's IGA Market	Price Chopper
Chartwells	Rehabilitation Support Services
Cracker Barrel	Saratoga Casino and Raceway
CVS	Saratoga Hilton
Dunkin Donuts	Saratoga Springs Public Library
Faldoni's Deli	Saratoga State Park
Fifty South Diner	Service Solutions
Fillpoint	Stewart's Shops
Gold's Gym	Saratoga Strike Zone
Grand Union Family Markets	Target
Hannaford Supermarkets	TJ Maxx
Home Depot	Town of Milton Department of Public Works
JC Penney	Walmart
KFC	Wesley Health Care Center
Lakeside Farms	

Background:

In 1945, Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week" to educate the American public about issues related to disability and employment. In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."

As one of the largest non-profit organizations in Saratoga County, Saratoga Bridges has been providing the highest level of services and programs to 800 people with developmental disabilities and their families for more than 55 years by promoting their abilities and achievements. Throughout their history, they have been committed to ensuring that the individuals they serve are able to realize their goals, hopes and dreams as they work, shop, play, and volunteer throughout their communities while leading full, productive and contributing lives. This voluntary service provider believes that the care they give increases immeasurably the quality of life for every citizen. Saratoga Bridges' philosophy is that every day is full of possibilities!

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Saratoga Bridges, NYSARC, Inc. Saratoga County Chapter

