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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Saratoga Bridges receives a grant from GlobalFoundries-Malta Foundation

Saratoga Bridges received a \$6,423.25 grant from the GlobalFoundries-Malta Foundation to purchase the necessary equipment for their new radio station **WSBR**.

Kurt Freeman, Saratoga Bridges Implementation and Information Specialist, conceptualized and brought the idea of establishing a radio station to the agency after reading an article in the NY Times in April of 2013. That story featured *Lifestyles for the Disabled*, an organization similar to Saratoga Bridges, who is allowing people who do not seem like naturals to become radio personalities.

Since then, Mr. Freeman has energized and excited participants and other staff members to meet twice a week to discuss program ideas and learn segment design, public speaking, interview planning, editing and other tech tools. The individuals record brief talk show segments and post them online as podcasts on wsbr.saratogabridges.org. As they have varied abilities, staff members are incorporating assistive technology to enable people who have limited speech, literacy issues or other barriers the chance to participate.

WSBR is giving the individuals a voice in the community. They are becoming less marginalized and more active self-advocates. Ultimately, the agency feels **WSBR** can dramatically enhance and transform their lives by supporting their mission of enhancing their dignity. Some of the many benefits include being as productive and as independent as possible, developing self-respect, building confidence, improving self-esteem, learning tangible and practical skills, becoming another public face of the agency and acting as role models to their peers.

Saratoga Bridges has been providing the highest level of programs to people with developmental disabilities and their families for more than 55 years by promoting their abilities and achievements in every aspect of community life. As one of the largest private non-profit organizations in Saratoga County, 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 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. The agency employs close to 600 conscientious people who work diligently and with great compassion in their 24/7 care of over 800 individuals. Saratoga Bridges philosophy truly is that every day is full of possibilities!