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The premier community resource for people with disabilities and their families

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 30, 2013

Saratoga Bridges receives a NYSARC Trusts Recreation Grant

**Saratoga Bridges
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The Trustees of the NYSARC Trusts provided Saratoga Bridges (Saratoga County Chapter) with a \$6,000 grant to support recreational opportunities for their individuals. Saratoga Bridges utilized this grant to fund several programs. First, they hosted 2 widely popular dances for adults who reside in their community-based homes, live at home with their families or in their own apartments. Tina Lomaestro, Coordinator of At-Home Services, organized the dances at the Saratoga Knights of Columbus. In addition, they offered a children's Yoga Program which 6 children and their parents participated in. A certified Yoga Instructor and their Occupational Therapy Assistant, Wendy Ashe who is certified in Yoga for the Special Child, facilitated the 6-week session. Also, they presented an Autism Movement Therapy (AMT) program for adults and children. Their Speech and Language Therapist Diane Graviano and Service Coordinator Kristy Cox attended a 2 day training to become certified for this wonderful activity. They held a 6 week AMT program for children ages 8-12 in the fall with 10 children participating. The Instructors provided the same program for adults who attend one of their Day Services and utilized a local gym to ensure it was integrated in the community. Additionally, they offered a new activity for children with special needs during a school vacation. These 11 children had 2 days of enjoyable activities that included making their own art taught by Lena Benvenuto their Art Coordinator. Several adults from their Day Services joined in on the fun by assisting the children with their art projects. It truly was a very successful endeavor!

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The NYSARC Trusts administer supplemental needs trusts that enable people who have disabilities to remain in their home and community while retaining their eligibility for Medicaid funded services. The Trustees use remainder funds to benefit other individuals with disabilities including unfunded Guardianship Programs as provided by statute. In addition to the recreation grant, the Trustees awarded \$1,225,500 throughout New York State to support Guardianship Programs. Information on how to benefit from a NYSARC Trust is available by calling 518-439-8323 or 1-800-735-8924 or at info@nysarctrustservices.org.

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!

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Saratoga Bridges, NYSARC, Inc. Saratoga County Chapter

