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More information:  
Ms. Pamela Polacsek  
ppolacsek@saratogabridges.org  
(518) 587-0723 ext. 1255

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Saratoga Bridges to hold a Ribbon Cutting for their new Memorial Garden**

Saratoga Bridges will be holding a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for their new Memorial Garden on Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm. The Memorial Garden is located on their Administrative campus at 16 Saratoga Bridges Boulevard in Ballston Spa. Congressman Paul Tonko's Field Representative Diana Bennett, Senator Hugh Farley, Senator Kathleen Marchione, Assemblyman Jim Tedisco, Assemblyman John McDonald, Town of Malta Deputy Supervisor Craig Warner, donors and Board Members will be participating in the event. Saratoga Bridges will host their Annual Meeting and Election of Officers immediately following the ceremony.

**About Saratoga Bridges Memorial Garden**

In 2011, Saratoga Bridges started the next phase of development at their Administrative campus which was to create a Memorial Garden as a living tribute to recognize individuals, family members, board members and employees who have passed away or to honor businesses and individuals for their support and dedication.

This long-term dream is now being realized! It was only possible due to the generous lead gifts from Price Chopper's Golub Foundation, contributions from families, volunteers, staff, loyal donors and the conceptual vision from The LA Group and Brookside Nursery. They have all helped the agency raise the funds for a sustainable, beautiful addition to this site.

The Memorial Garden demonstrates Saratoga Bridges intention and commitment of promoting better health for their individuals, family members, employees, community and environment. It will provide enormous benefits and ensure that they continue to offer the highest level of quality programs for 825 people with developmental disabilities and their families they serve every day in Saratoga County.

## Features

The design and plans incorporate an orchard concept into the landscaping, outdoor seating and walkways. These components will directly enhance the lives individuals, family members, staff and visitors by providing many newfound opportunities. The Memorial Garden is designed to contain raised flower and vegetable beds for people to easily access, plant and tend to them. Many benches have been installed which will give everyone a place to relax, experience nature and promote contemplation.

Another feature is the non-intimidating, outdoor learning environment. People will be able to learn about the many varieties of plants, flowers, weather and wild life. It will provide a peaceful, tranquil atmosphere that is less stimulating and one that will inevitably relieve stress. Additionally, the Memorial Garden will offer many outlets to focus on positive activities. It will allow increased programming that emphasizes exercising and advanced fine and gross motor skill development.

## Benefits

Some of the many benefits to the individuals they serve include:

- advancing skill development
- planning new projects
- creating newfound abilities by enriching techniques and decision making methods
- encouraging, promoting and showcasing creativity
- improving vocabulary and communication skills by learning new terms and concepts
- gaining an appreciation of nature
- increasing stimulation of sensory perceptions
- improving self-confidence, self-image and self-esteem
- having pride in their success
- achieving a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment

*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. Saratoga Bridges' philosophy is that every day is full of possibilities!*