

The premier community resource for people with disabilities and their families

**Saratoga Bridges  
Board of Directors**

David Wickerham  
*President*

Marjorie Shaw  
*Vice President*

William Ennis  
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Robert Barnett  
Robert DeSio  
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Robert DeSio  
Charles Wait

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 2014

**Saratoga Bridges held a Ribbon Cutting for their new Memorial Garden**

Saratoga Bridges held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for their new Memorial Garden on Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> with more than 125 people in attendance. Located on their Administrative campus at 16 Saratoga Bridges Boulevard in Ballston Spa, Congressman Paul Tonko's Field Representative Diana Bennett, Senator Hugh Farley, Assemblyman Jim Tedisco, Town of Malta Deputy Supervisor Craig Warner, Deputy Chief of Staff for Senator Kathleen Marchione Tom Lewis, Saratoga Springs Supervisor Matthew Veitch, volunteers, donors and Board Members participated in the event. Saratoga Bridges hosted their Annual Meeting and Election of Officers (listed below) following the ceremony. Creative Endeavors displayed some of their artwork and the radio station WSBR provided the music.

About Saratoga Bridges Memorial Garden

In 2011, they started the next phase of development at their Administrative campus. Their long-term goal was to create a Memorial Garden that would become a living tribute to remember, recognize and acknowledge individuals, family members, board members and employees who have passed away or to honor businesses and individuals for our support and dedication.

This dream is now being realized! It is only possible due to the generous lead gift from Price Chopper's Golub Foundation and of the contributions by their 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. As a result, the garden is just what we envisioned and hoped it would be!

The Memorial Garden demonstrates our commitment of promoting better health. The design incorporates an orchard concept into the landscaping, seating and walkways. These components will directly enhance our individuals, family members, staff and visitors lives. The raised flower beds allow people to easily access, plant and tend to them. Many benches have been installed which will give everyone a peaceful, tranquil place to relax, experience nature, promote contemplation and inevitably relieve stress.

Another aspect is that it is a non-intimidating, outdoor learning environment. People will be able to learn about a variety of plants, flowers and wild life. Additionally, the Memorial Garden offers opportunities and benefits for their individuals including:

- advancing skill development
- planning new projects and activities
- 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 our success
- and achieving a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment

At the Annual Meeting, Saratoga Bridges elected the following:

**Board of Directors**

**President -- David Wickerham**

**Vice President -- Marjorie Shaw**

**Secretary -- William Ennis**

**Treasurer -- Steven Rowland**

**Robert Barnett, Robert DeSio, Rev. Joyce de Velder, Dr. Lawrence Fein, Karen Heggen, Rev. Richard Hoffman  
Susan Kiley, Angela McDonald, Chester Piecuch**

**Foundation Board of Directors**

**President -- Christopher Spratt**

**Vice President -- Ginger Whitman**

**Secretary -- Carol Obloy**

**Treasurer -- Jay Shupe**

**Sole Member -- Chester Piecuch**

**Past President -- Chadwick Beatty**

**Robert Camoin, Karin Hyman, Kara Lais, Esq., Elaine Sillery, David Tarella, Ana Maria Young**

*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!*

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