

**Saratoga Bridges
Board of Directors**

David Wickerham
President

Marjorie Shaw
Vice President

William Ennis
Secretary

Steven Rowland
Treasurer

Robert Barnett
Robert DeSio
Rev. Joyce deVelder
Dr. Lawrence Fein
Karen Heggen
Rev. Richard Hoffman
Susan Kiley
Angela McDonald
Chester Piecuch

**Saratoga Bridges
Foundation
Board of Directors**

Christopher Spratt
President

Ginger Whitman
Vice President

Carol Obloy
Secretary

Jay Shupe
Treasurer

Chester Piecuch
Sole Member

Chadwick Beatty
Past President

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

**Honorary Advisory
Board**

Kimberly Adams-Russell
Robert DeSio
Charles Wait

More information:

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 9, 2014

Saratoga Bridges receives a NYSARC Trusts Recreation Grant

For the second year, The Trustees of the NYSARC Trust Services Board provided Saratoga Bridges with a \$10,000 grant to provide recreational opportunities for the people they support. Saratoga Bridges (The Saratoga County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc.) utilized this grant for several initiatives in 2014 including:

- 1) 4 widely popular dances for adults held at the Saratoga Springs Knights of Columbus with live entertainment and refreshments. Individuals who live in residences operated by local agencies and those that live on their own or with their families attended. The dances are organized by Tina Lomaestro, Saratoga Bridges Coordinator of our Social Club Program. They served close to 300 adults in 2014.
- 2) 2 sessions of children's yoga were offered again. 12 children participated and were taught by a Certified Yoga Instructor and one of their Occupational Therapy Assistants who is certified in yoga for special needs children.
- 3) Autism Movement Therapy (AMT) classes were held. The sessions were taught by one of their Medicaid Service Coordinator who is a certified Autism Movement Therapy Level II Instructor, Yoga Instructor, & Barre Instructor and had 5 children who participated. They were able to purchase large glassless mirrors that are mobile and can be moved throughout the building if needed. AMT uses the mirrors to assist children in using the mirrors to model, and imitate and to focus on themselves throughout the therapy.
- 4) Next Chapter Book Clubs were able to purchase new books. The people who engage in these Book Clubs have the opportunity at the completion of each book to purchase the book at a very low cost. This created the necessity to replenish books so that others have the opportunity of reading enjoyment.
- 5) Sibshops required a replenishment of arts and crafts supplies and materials.
- 6) During the February vacation, an art program for children ages 8-12 was held. 10 children participated and worked with their adult artists from Creative Endeavors. The children loved this activity where they created a variety of fun artwork while their artists thrived in a teaching role.

In addition, remainder grants totally \$1,660,500 were awarded to support NYSARC Guardianship programs statewide. A total of \$2,207,880 in remainder grants were awarded in 2014 to support recreation and guardianship statewide. The NYSARC Trust Services administer supplemental needs trusts that enable people with disabilities to remain in their home and community while retaining their Medicaid eligible services other government benefits. Information on how NYSARC Trust Services may be beneficial, visit their website at www.nysarctrustservices.org, call 518-439-8323 or 1-800-735-8924 or email at info@nysarctrustservices.org.

As one of the largest non-profit organizations in Saratoga County, Saratoga Bridges has been proudly providing the highest level of services and 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. Throughout their history, family members, staff and volunteers have been committed to ensuring that the individuals they serve are able to realize their goals, hopes and aspirations as they work, volunteer, socialize and recreate while leading full, productive and contributing lives. The agency employs close to 600 conscientious people who work diligently and with great compassion to be responsible for the 24/7 care of over 800 individuals. Saratoga Bridges' philosophy is that every day is full of possibilities!

- 30 -