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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 23, 2015

Saratoga Bridges received a NYSARC Trusts Recreation Grant

For the 3rd year, The Trustees of the NYSARC Trust approved a remainder fund grant of \$8,000 per chapter to provide recreational opportunities for the people they support. In 2015, Saratoga Bridges (Saratoga County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc.) offered several initiatives with this grant including:

- 1) 5 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 their Social Club Program. They served close to 350 adults in 2015.
- 2) 5 sessions of children's yoga were offered again. 10 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) 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.
- 4) During February school vacation, a creative arts program was held for children with special needs ages 8-15. 10 children participated in a variety of fun-filled activities including arts & crafts, music, photography, dance, Autism Movement Therapy and 2 educational programs presented by the Saratoga Children's Museum.

In addition, remainder grants totaling \$1,466,000 were awarded to support NYSARC Guardianship programs statewide. A total of \$1,874,000 in remainder grants was awarded in 2015 to support recreation and guardianship statewide. 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 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 830 individuals. Saratoga Bridges' philosophy is that every day is full of possibilities!

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