



Corporate Compliance has a New Mascot!

Near the end of 2016, the Corporate Compliance Office of St. Lawrence NYSARC held a competition for designing a new mascot to become the new symbol for Corporate Compliance Office. After reviewing many good entries, the committee narrowed the list down to three finalists. The three finalists were put online for a public vote and Megan MacDonald took first place with her submission of “Superhero”, shown right.

Josie Clary, Corporate Compliance Officer of St. Lawrence NYSARC, says “it gives me great pleasure to announce the winner of the Compliance Mascot Contest. Please join me in congratulating Megan MacDonald for her submission of ‘Superhero.’ The votes came in by December 15th, and we now have our new Corporate Compliance Mascot, and that mascot follows three “C’s”: Conscientious, Caring, and Compassionate!

Jenny Zhang was the winner of Most Original/Creative for her submission of “Gears” (image on the right.) Angel Phelix was honored for her submission of “Cardinal” (shown on the far right.) “A sincere thank you to all who submitted and to all who voted!” says Josie.



St. Lawrence NYSARC Receives \$12,500 Grant

Great news! The Agency received a \$12,500 grant to increase recreational options. The funds were used to give 75 people with Developmental Disabilities educational and fun choices for leisure activities.

Individuals in the Transitions program took a trip to Albany and Lake George for a summer excursion. They went to the Albany Concourse, toured the Capitol building, visited Six Flags Great Escape, shopped at the mall in Plattsburgh, and stayed in two different hotels.

The Saturday Club utilized the recreational grant funds for two separate groups and traveled to Thompson Park Zoo, Watertown Arcade, Behlings Orchards, and Lowville Cream Cheese Festival. People also went to the Adirondacks to take a gondola ride on White Face Mountain, tour The Wild Center, and see “Shrek the Musical.”



Both groups took full advantage of local recreational activities in the north county including beaches, restaurants, haunted hay rides, hockey, swimming, bowling, snow shoeing, sledding, movies, etc.

An additional 20 actors and dancers with developmental disabilities performed in “A Night of Culture and Creativity,” thanks in large part to the NYSARC Recreational Grant. The event featured a variety of family-friendly acts including dramatic and comedic scenes, as well as a dance showcase.

Christmas Cheer from 2016

Compassion at Transitions

Seth Ferro, (front, center) led the Transitions family in a discussion of compassion during the holiday season. Seth talked with the group about the Meals On Wheels program in St. Lawrence County. Seth asked that Transitions assist him with decorating paper bags to bring holiday spirit to those who receive Meals On Wheels. Seth contacted the program and set up the arrangements for this activity.



Dog Toy Donations

Team NYSARC members recently made dog toys that were donated to the Massena Humane Society. Shown are team members Jody Butchino, John Babcock, Nick George, Massena Humane Society Director Heidi Bradish, Stacy Crump and Eleanor "Tina" Robinson.



Scarves and a Christmas Tree

Team NYSARC recently volunteered at St. Regis Nursing home in Massena where they assisted the Residents with making scarves. Team NYSARC volunteers had a great time and made some amazing new friends. Photo on the left.



Pictured right, The Afterschool Program recently decorated a Christmas Tree for Canton's Holiday of Lights Celebration. Pictured are Owen Hines and Danielle Arquitt. The decorations on the tree were created by the Afterschool Program and the Community Arts Program. The Tree can be seen at NBT Bank.

It's Better to Give than to Receive

Keeping spirits bright, people at Norwood Day Hab gave so much in the Spirit of Christmas, showing the North Country that spreading holiday cheer makes all the difference. The individuals and staff at Norwood Day Hab shared holiday cheer with Service Members.

"We participated in 'Holiday Mail for Heroes', sending 64 holiday cards sent to Service Members through Senator Ritchie's Office" Said Beth Turner, Director of Norwood Day Hab. "We have done this for five years now. We have several members who have been in the military or have family members in the military. It's our 'thank you' to our Service Members."

"We also provided several gifts to the Norwood-Norfolk Outreach Giving Tree, facilitated by Lisa Gravlin." The first giving tree in Norwood was organized back in 1999 and has become an annual tradition.

Individuals and Staff at Norwood Day Hab created ornaments for delivery with Meals on Wheels. Roger M. was one of many who crafted some of the ornaments. "When people are happy [it makes] me happy too!" Roger said smiling. Glen C., who delivered the ornaments said "I just wanted to make people happy."

It's great to see so many of our staff and individuals in good spirits, giving to our community and spreading the good vibes they bring with them. Beth's grandmother had a saying that she follows: "The best way to feel better yourself is to do something for someone else." Beth follows this motto, and the smiles it's put on faces and the spirit and holiday cheer it's brought is proof that it truly is better to give than it is to receive.