



# St. Lawrence NYSARC News

## Agency Awarded Grants to Further Services

The Potsdam High School Youth Philanthropy Club, in association with the Northern NY Community Foundation, granted \$1,250 to St. Lawrence NYSARC's Transitions program. This service seeks to guide students and young adults as they move from school into the next phase of adulthood. Transitions is the first program of its kind in St. Lawrence County and operates locations in Canton and Potsdam. The Potsdam Market Square Mall site opened this Autumn thanks in large part to the support of the grant. The funds were used to purchase furniture and appliances, including a table, chairs, hot plates for accessible cooking, a toaster oven, a microwave, utensils, and other essential kitchen items.



Seventeen youth with developmental disabilities now benefit from the new apartment-style location where they learn daily living skills, such as managing finances, cooking, shopping, and traveling; and more youth have begun the enrollment process. Youth in St. Lawrence NYSARC's Transitions program gain independence by becoming active community members. The opening of this new program location doubled the number of people served.

St. Lawrence NYSARC was also given a significant grant to further recreational options for more than 100 people. The Trustees of the NYSARC Trust awarded the Agency with a \$10,000 grant that was used for several vacations including trips to Albany, Cooperstown, and Syracuse.

The NYSARC Trust Grant provided funds that made it possible for 12 people to take an overnight trip to Albany for NYSARC, Inc.'s 65th Anniversary celebration. The event included a march to the Capitol steps with representation from NYSARC Chapters throughout the state. Proceedings at the Capitol included addresses from Assembly members Angelo Santabarbara and John McDonald, Senator Cecilia Tkaczyk, and Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan. Celebrants also enjoyed a performance by the band Flame.

In the fall, 14 people spent the weekend in Cooperstown visiting the Baseball Hall of Fame, Farmers' Museum, and a Tractor Festival. The travelers also toured a cider mill, enjoyed a theatrical train ride, as well as plenty of great food and relaxation. Other St. Lawrence NYSARC Vacations funded by the Grant included: Syracuse University football game, WWE wrestling in Syracuse, Water Safari, The Wild Center, Aqua Zoo, Thunder Island, and a variety of fairs and festivals.

Inside this issue:		
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## Message from the CEO/Executive Director

We are pleased to report that this issue of the Contributor Newsletter is dedicated to the “Power of Membership!” In the spring of every year, NYSARC, Inc. kicks off the annual membership campaign which concludes in September. In 2014, NYSARC reached the goal of 100,000+ members from all across New York State. In St. Lawrence County, we reported 2,085 members, falling short of our 2014 goal of 3,000. We need to do better this year!

Every chapter of NYSARC, Inc. is different, BUT there is one value that is core to all 100,000 members, and that is advocacy! The Power of Membership becomes more critical every year. It certainly makes a difference when we promote budget restorations and trends BUT even more critical is the strength membership gives to our grassroots advocacy efforts! We are confronting a time when many of the core values that were formed and fought for by our founders are in danger of not only being challenged, but eliminated! Specifically, the freeze on residential development and closure of sheltered workshops.

There has been a wonderful response to these critical issues by the membership of our Chapter. Many of you spoke out and told your representatives that these are vital services for people with developmental disabilities. Your concerns have been heard – the challenge now is to keep speaking out. Use the power of this Chapter’s membership to let people know that we need you to join us in our fundamental, grassroots efforts to reverse the position on closure of sheltered workshops and the freeze on residential development for people with intellectual disabilities!!

St. Lawrence NYSARC is proud of the many options available through our residential and employment programs. Since our beginning, we have been committed to supporting people to attain their highest level of personal achievement – a road to independence. Whether it is moving from a sheltered workshop into the competitive job market or leaving an ARC home to move into an apartment, options have always been available and we support keeping it that way!

Thank you!

  
President

  
CEO/Executive Director

### Seeking Nominations for Community Spirit Award

The Community Spirit Award is given in recognition of an individual's or an entity's commitment to full integration for people with disabilities. By leading the way through their efforts, award recipients inspire others to make our community better. As the Agency has become more diversified we realize there are many individuals and/or groups, businesses, etc. who not only understand inclusion but demonstrate the true meaning through their actions.

We are seeking nominations from our membership for this award. The information below outlines the criteria that a person or business/organization must achieve to be considered for the Award. Please email me (dpickert@slnysarc.org) the name of someone who embodies “Community Spirit” with an explanation of how the person has proven success in the three areas noted below. Nominations will be kept on file until the next award is given out.

Criteria: Those nominated for this acknowledgement must have proven success in these areas:

1. Commitment to offering and/or participating in valuable community experiences for employment, volunteerism, civic responsibility, etc.
2. Commitment to offering and/or participating in community opportunities that are fully inclusive.
3. Commitment to offering and/or participating in community activities that are inclusive and reflective of personal outcomes.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful recommendations!

**Contributor Corner**

Thank you on behalf of the constituents who benefit from the support from our Members. Donations are used to support arts programs, vacations at Dodge Pond, travel, and horseback riding. Any contribution, large or small, is appreciated and directly benefits services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Donors and new Lifetime Memberships will be recognized in future Contributor newsletters.

**Contributors**

- Association of Former New York State Troopers
- Deborah Baldino
- Patricia Campanella
- Canton Community Foundation
- Patricia Davis
- Joanne Dodge
- Dr. and Mrs. Charles Duncan
- Betty and William Gillette
- William Gregory
- Shirley Jackson
- Kiwanis Club of Norwood
- Dr. John Kowalczyk
- Ted and Phyllis Lawrence
- Lynda and Maurice Lemieux
- Wallace McDonald
- Cyril Paige
- Marian Pickert
- Price Chopper Golub Foundation
- Ruth Ridgway
- Catherine Rizos
- Ron Rogers
- Ann Root
- Kathleen Russell
- Jackie Sauter
- M. Scholtz
- Phyllis Shimmel
- Paul Snodgrass
- Marlene Wells
- Elaine White
- Frederick and Barbara Wilder
- Deborah Williams
- Barbara Zappia

**Donations in Memory of:**

- Linda Brady
- Helen Calnon
- Robert Perrin
- Chuck Wells

**Donations in Honor of:**

- Gary Hitchman

**New Lifetime Members**

- Karen Bogart
- Nicholas and Jennifer Gardner
- Rick and Rae Hitchman

**I Want to Help**

- Lifetime Member for \$100.00.  
(If a duplicate Lifetime Membership is purchased, the funds will be accepted as a donation.)
- Annual Membership or Renewal for \$5.00.
  - Membership for \_\_\_\_\_ years at \$5.00 annually for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.
- Gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ in support of St. Lawrence NYSARC.
  - My gift is made in memory/honor (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_ . (Optional)  
(Memorial gifts will be acknowledged in future newsletters.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to:**  
**St. Lawrence NYSARC**  
**6 Commerce Lane**  
**Canton, N.Y. 13617**  
**For more information:**  
**(315) 379-9531**

Please help us update our database. Are you related to an individual we serve as:

- Parent
- Guardian
- Sibling
- Other Family Member
- Family Care Provider

- I would like to buy gift membership(s) for \$5.00 each. (Please list gift member's names/addresses on extra page.)
- Please send me details on volunteer opportunities and Team NYSARC.
- I would like information on planned giving options.





6 Commerce Lane  
Canton, NY 13617

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 54  
Canton, NY 13617  
Non-Profit Org.

For additional information about programs or services, please contact Daphne Pickert at (315) 379-9531, [dpickert@slnysarc.org](mailto:dpickert@slnysarc.org), log on to [www.slnysarc.org](http://www.slnysarc.org), or find us on Facebook!

### 7th Autism Awareness Walk Raises \$20,150

St. Lawrence NYSARC's annual Walk to raise awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorders earned a profit of \$20,150. The event was hosted by WWNY-TV's Jeff Cole and Rose and Kiernan provided presenting sponsorship. Additional sponsors included 95.3 The Wolf, Pepsi-Cola Ogdensburg Bottlers, Sullivan's Office Supply/Season's Gift Shop, nice n easy, Olympia Sports, Ogdensburg Command Performances, The First Presbyterian Church on the Park in Canton, and Bella's Bottles and Beverages.

# Autism Awareness Walk

Attendees enjoyed bounce houses provided by Friot's Bounce House Rentals, refreshments, a flag contest and live broadcasting from 95.3 The Wolf.

St. Lawrence NYSARC's Children and Youth Program provides individualized services for people with developmental disabilities from three to 22 years old with a specialization in Autism Spectrum Disorders. Students participate in a variety of skill development activities addressing social, daily living, and academic skills using principles and procedures of Applied Behavior Analysis. Additionally, services are offered in the child's home, in the community, and occasionally in their local school district. For more information, contact Nancy Davis at (315) 379-9531 or email [ndavis@slnysarc.org](mailto:ndavis@slnysarc.org).

#### Save the Date!

- ◆ The Annual Fund Raiser Drawing will take place at 3:00 p.m. on June 6th at Canton's Village Green on Main Street. Join us after the Dairy Princess Parade!
- ◆ Autism Awareness Walk is scheduled for September 12th at the Village Green in Canton. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the Walk starts at 10:00 a.m. WWYTV news anchor, Jeff Cole will host once again.