

Singing for Smiles



In the photo:
Paul Poirier

It's not easy for most people to stand up in front of an audience to sing, but Paul Poirier, from Massena's Team NYSARC's, enjoys sharing his voice with people at St. Regis Nursing Home.

Massena's Team NYSARC makes visits to the nursing home monthly to volunteer and assist in any way they can. In this case, Paul teamed up with Blue Horizon performer to sing a karaoke-style song. "Paul is an active member of Team NYSARC," stated Don LaBarge, Community Programming Associate. "He doesn't hesitate to volunteer his time and singing talents in our local community."

Shop at GOAL



In the photo above: Todd Neal shows off his "Little Lamb." Check out what GOAL on Main Street in Canton, 8AM-4PM Monday-Friday. Photo credit: Gabrielle LaBarge

Staff Suggestion Box

Do you have a suggestion for Executive Director, Howie Ganter? Go to slnysarc.org, scroll to the bottom of the main page and click on "Suggestion Box." Additional instructions online will walk you through the steps. Answers will be printed in future newsletters. The following is the first suggestion received and Howie's response.

Suggestion: I would suggest a relaxing of the degree requirements for promotion within the agency. Many of us have jobs in this field despite obtaining degrees in other fields; and many of us feel it is unfair that we do not have the same chance to move up the ranks. Can I and others like me please have the same upward mobility as everyone else? We work just as hard. Thanks for your time.

Response: We want to provide everyone who wishes to advance and who has demonstrated commitment and a good work ethic to the organization the opportunity to do so. Certain positions require degrees and this is based on the competencies required to perform the job. We will be evaluating all positions and job descriptions to determine if they are applicable still. We also will look at developing a process for people who are interested and have good work skills the opportunity to develop a career path with tuition assistance if indicated for college or related coursework. We have developed an internal agency training at Jefferson that can be taken in lieu of a college degree. This will all be part of our analysis and due diligence over the next three to four months. There are some distinct differences in how Jefferson and St. Lawrence operate and we are trying to determine the best practice and change policy and procedure to better meet the needs of the operation and ultimately those we support. – Howie



UPCOMING AGENCY EVENTS

SLNYSARC Memorial Service
Thursday, March 8th – 10:30AM
SLU's Gunnison Chapel

File Your Taxes Now
Due April 15th
Print Tax Docs. from KRONOS

SLNYSARC Annual Dinner
Friday, May 4th – 5:30PM
SLU's Eben Holden

Community Arts Annual Show
Saturday May 12th - 7:00PM
SUNY Potsdam PAC

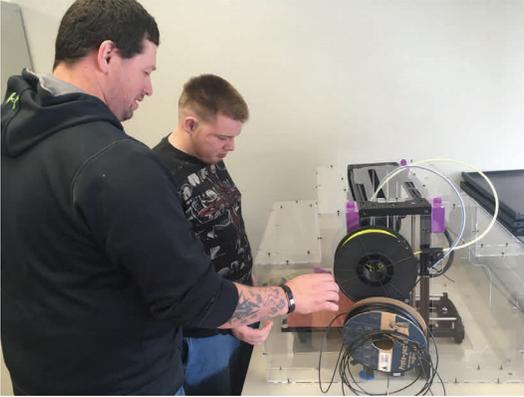
Call for News!

We are looking for program news, staff news, letters to the editor, and photos! Send your stories to Kolby Weaver by email at kweaver@slnysarc.org



Transitions Visits Assistive Technology Expo

Assistive technology for people with disabilities is starting to become more common to help people in a variety of ways. The Transitions program recently went to an Assistive Technology Expo in Tupper Lake where they met with Lisa Tebo, Clarkson University's Director of Assistive Technology Resource and Education.



In the Photo: Mike Meunier & Brady Miller

Lisa invited Transitions to test a variety of different gadgets, where the 3D printer seemed to be the favorite among the group. The 3D printer is shown below by Brady who is testing out the machine with Transitions staff member, Mike Meunier.

"I thought the 3D printer was pretty cool" Paige said. "I thought the stabilizing silverware would be great for people who have limitations with their hands."

After visiting the Tupper Lake Assistive Technology Expo, and Meeting Lisa Tebo, Lisa invited the Transitions Group to Clarkson University to work more with the 3D Printer.

Night Out at Wrestling

World Wrestling Entertainment, came to Syracuse as part of their annual holiday tour and individuals in Family Support Services took a trip to see the show.



In the Photo: Family Support Services

"Everybody was torn from the beginning on who to root for until the main event," Mike Borrelli said. "During the main event, they cheered for Seth Rollins and Dean Ambrose." During the event, the group cheered for their favorites, and "BOOed" the villains all while making unforgettable memories with friends.

Letter to the Editor:

Lights On The River Thanks SLNYSARC for Holiday Display

It is with heartfelt appreciation that Lights On The River thanks you. Through our combined efforts we donated \$1,200 and over 9 boxes of food to each of our 15 sponsored food pantries. It is humbling to think of such generosity in our North Country. Thank you for making our event the success it is, helping us grow.

PS - Thank you so much for your display at our December event. We heard over and over that this year's displays were the best to date. We appreciate your efforts as we couldn't do this without continued community supports.

-Becky Buckingham, Lights On The River

Chilling with Santa



Family Support Service held a Christmas Dance in December, and had a surprise visit from Santa Clause. Pictured from left to right are Terry McBroom, Santa Clause, and Joe McBroom. FSS dances are the first Friday of every month.



In the Photo: 2017 Lights on the River Display