

**Chautauqua Striders is dedicated to the mentoring & guidance of youth through education, advocacy, & athletics.**

## **FAST FACTS**

Celebrated 30 years in 2009

Offered 19,759 tutoring sessions 2009-10 school year

Coordinated 21 tutoring programs throughout Chautauqua County

Supported 135 school & community Mentoring Matches

Provided 955 outreach contacts & service referrals in 2009

### **Financial Support for Programs**

35% Jamestown Public Schools

23% Local foundations

14% Contracts with agencies/school districts

12% Fundraising

12% Government

4% United Way

All programs are free of charge, except for our athletic programs, where scholarships are available.

Over 200 athletes (ages 18 and younger) participate annually

108 USATF All-Americans

18 National Champions

Established Running & Walking Club for adults in 2008.

Chautauqua Striders  
101 East Fourth Street  
Jamestown, NY 14701  
716-488-2203

[www.chautauqua-striders.org](http://www.chautauqua-striders.org)



# CHAUTAUQUA STRIDERS

MENTORING & GUIDING YOUTH

## ACADEMICS

**After school tutoring has become the largest and most comprehensive component of Chautauqua Striders' programming and encompasses all age groups from kindergarten through high school at no charge to students or families.**

### **High School**

Since 1981, Chautauqua Striders has offered tutoring for all high school students in Chautauqua County. Flexible hours and nearly one-on-one tutoring with highly qualified, friendly, and experienced tutors makes this program ideal for students at all ends of the academic spectrum. In addition to assisting with daily homework assignments and helping students study for examinations in specific subjects, New York State Regents test review is provided. PSAT and SAT preparation courses are available in the fall and spring for any college-bound student.

### **SAFARI (Students Attaining Future Aspiration, Respect, and Inspiration)**

For a variety of reasons, the move to senior high school can sometimes be a daunting one, since not all students are well-prepared or equipped to accept the added personal and academic responsibilities expected. SAFARI is a tutoring and mentoring program at Jamestown High School specifically designed to offer students academic assistance in a caring and a supportive atmosphere. Students are scheduled into SAFARI during the day and can also attend after school.

### **Elementary & Middle School**

Striders has partnered with other agencies through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers and Advantage After School grants, and the Lighted Schoolhouse to furnish tutoring for middle school students throughout the county. These programs are geared towards students in 5th through 8th grades with a focus on homework help, organization and study skills, and test-taking tips.



## ATHLETICS

**Since its inception 30 years ago, Striders has encouraged young people to channel their energies into physical activity and to persevere in pursuit of their goals.**

While the track and field team has produced athletes of national and Olympic caliber, the most notable achievements of the program can be measured by personal achievements and an increase in self-esteem experienced by participants at every level.

Chautauqua Striders also encourages and promotes participation in the sport of track and field through USA Track and Field youth programs for athletes between the ages of 4 and 18 years old. In addition to honing their skills, athletes are mentored by coaches who help them gain confidence and motivate them to realize their potential. Former athletes attest to the impact the track and field team has made in their lives because it has taught them the value of hard work, discipline, and education.



## MENTORING

**By definition, a mentor is a member of the community willing to volunteer time with a young person to assist in achieving academic, career, and personal goals. A mentor is a role model and guide who provides support and encouragement, offers friendship, listens, shares life experiences, and gives caring advice. The mentoring component of Chautauqua Striders has become an increasingly important part of the organization.**

### **Chautauqua Striders Mentoring**

This program has provided mentoring to middle and high school youth in the greater Jamestown area since 1993, when we received a three year grant from the Cummins Foundation. This program offers both school and community-based mentoring. Community-based mentoring pairs usually meet in settings outside of school and participate together in many service-oriented and social activities. The school-based mentoring matches are usually scheduled during lunch periods, where time is provided to talk, to play games, and to build friendships in a familiar environment.

### **GearUp/Project ME**

New York Gear Up (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is aimed at promoting early college awareness. In 2005, the entire cohort of seventh grade students in Jamestown Public Schools was chosen to participate in this program with 30 students specifically identified for mentoring. These youth have been given a number of "mentoring experiences" through Project ME, with graduation and college entrance being the ultimate goals.

*When mentors and mentees meet regularly and develop trust and friendship, the benefits are tremendous.*

### **Project REACH (Reaching Each Adult and Child in Need of Help)**

Project REACH is specifically targeted for families in crisis. The outreach coordinator focuses on the needs of both individual students and their immediate families to help them improve the quality of their everyday lives. The goal is to provide links to available community services and resources, as well as, advocacy when working with appropriate agencies and schools. Clothing, food, shelter, health services, and legal counseling are just some of the resources provided during times of extreme difficulty.

### **Transition Team and APP Center**

Transition Team is designed to support students as they begin their careers at Jamestown High School. Chautauqua Striders' outreach coordinator offers assistance to individuals and their families by scheduling home visits, evaluating the needs of each particular situation, and making appropriate agency referrals. Teachers are contacted regularly to assess student progress. Students in middle school and senior high who are unable to adapt to the expectations of the regular school day for a variety of personal reasons may be asked to attend night school. Chautauqua Striders provides a personal contact for these individuals, their families, and the school community. The liaison meets with the APP students, makes home visits and appropriate agency referrals, and encourages participation in other programs designed to help students make healthy choices. In addition, re-acclimation plans are designed to help ensure their return to the regular school environment is successful.

### **Hispanic Outreach**

Chautauqua Striders works closely with the Jamestown Public Schools to offer assistance to children and families in the Hispanic community. For many, the language barrier, differences in schools and educational expectations, and differences in climate and culture are overwhelming. Chautauqua Striders' outreach coordinator helps with written and oral translations, makes agency referrals, and generally assists in bridging the communication gap wherever it exists. Bilingual tutoring is available at Washington Middle School, Jamestown High School, and the Eastside YMCA.

## OUTREACH

