



Making Strides

Fall 2008

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

Inside Making Strides

Homework Help	2
Tutoring Schedule	2
Mentoring Programs	3
High School News	4
Event Calendar	5
Community Outreach	5
North County Programs	5
Athletic Programs	6

Thanks for your support!

Thanks to continued support from the following foundations and governmental offices, Chautauqua Striders is able to provide support, guidance, and opportunities to create a better tomorrow for the youth, families, and community we serve.

- Carnahan Jackson Foundation
- Chautauqua Region Community Foundation
- Jessie Smith Darrah Fund
- Jamestown Community College GEAR UP
- Gebbie Foundation
- Holmberg Foundation
- Hultquist Foundation
- John Alfred and Oscar Johnson Memorial Trust
- Lenna Foundation
- Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation
- United Way of Southern Chautauqua County
- United Way of Northern Chautauqua County
- Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation
- City of Jamestown Youth Bureau
- Chautauqua County Youth Bureau
- The Cummins Foundation
- Judith Anderson Foundation
- U.S. Department of Education



Please support the 2008 United Way annual campaign. Along with providing operational funds, the United Way also helps organizations like Chautauqua Striders to enhance and strengthen their community impact. Please contact the United Way at 483-1561 or find out more at www.uwayscc.org.

From the Director's Desk

Deb Kathman, Executive Director

CONGRATULATIONS TO US! Striders has successfully completed its first year of a first federally funded grant for mentoring with confirmation of second year funding. Our consultant and evaluators visited with us last week and gave us a "thumbs up" along with a lot of valuable information for the program activities and long term sustainability.

Once again, this year, we found ourselves with many staffing opportunities. While we had a wonderful pool of candidates I think we have hired the best. Annette Bittorf is the new Director of Academic Programs and Special Projects; Pam Gustafson is High School Academic Coordinator and Arrick Davis is our Project REACH Coordinator. An interesting tidbit about all of them is that they were all involved with Striders at one time or another. Annette was a tutor when I first began with Striders; Pam actually ran with our Track Club and Arrick was a track club member, a Lighted Schoolhouse attendee and a Striders board member. The stars are aligned!

This is the beginning of Striders 29th year. As we look forward to the thirtieth we will be sharing with you where we have been, where we are now and where we are going. We remain committed to mentoring and guiding youth through education, advocacy and athletics. Our main office has remained on the second floor of the YMCA for the past fifteen years and we value the partnership we have with the "Y". We also value the personal support and financial commitment of local foundations, government agencies and United Way, past and present. (see sidebar)

Remember the door is open and the coffee is on, so stop in and say hello.

Meet Our New Striders Staff



Pictured (left to right) are Annette Bittorf, Director of Academic Programs, Arrick Davis, Project Reach Youth and Family Outreach Coordinator, and Pam Gustafson, High School Academic Coordinator.

Join Our Team!

Become a volunteer youth mentor with Chautauqua Striders. It only takes one hour a week to impact the life of a child. Contact our mentor recruiter, Lorraine Walker at 720-0904 for more information.

Mentor A Child

Homework Help Corner



Middle School Tutoring

Julie Dudgeon, Coordinator

Middle School Tutoring

Tutors participated in the opening day of after-school programming at Jefferson and Washington Middle Schools on September 15. In order to attend Striders, students must be registered with Advantage After School Program. Applications may be obtained by contacting the site coordinators at each school. Tutoring is available Monday through Thursday in both libraries in two (1) hour sessions and during "snack time". Students will be helped to develop organizational and study skills, as well as, reinforcing reading and math basics. Tutors will encourage critical thinking and the process necessary to complete homework independently.

Students at Persell Middle School or those who attended the Ice Arena last year can expect those programs to begin again in mid-October. Stay tuned for further details. For more information, feel free to contact Julie Dudgeon, Middle School Coordinator, at 488-2203, ext. 221.

Elementary School Tutoring

Michelle Waterman, Elementary School Coordinator

The elementary programs are back in full swing! Tutors are available at Bush, Fletcher, Love, Ring, and Rogers schools for those enrolled in the afterschool programs. Students are scheduled into Striders tutoring by grade level. While the schedules are different at each school, third and fourth graders are scheduled for two 45-minute sessions per week at all of the schools, with opportunities for "extra help" offered throughout the week. Children are exposed a variety of life experiences by tutors that are retired teachers, new teachers, college students, and stay-at-home moms whose children are in school or grown. Those in our programs get help with homework, skill building, getting and staying organized, as well as all-around support for the everyday stresses of school. To enroll in the afterschool program, please call your respective school and ask to speak with the afterschool program coordinator. If there are circumstances that prevent you from enrolling your child in the afterschool program, call Striders at 488-2203 ext. 221 to enroll in our community-based program. For any questions or concerns regarding elementary tutoring in the afterschool programs, feel free to contact Michelle Waterman at 488-2203 ext. 232 or email 88mwaterman@jamestown.wnyric.org.

Memorial to Rich



Jefferson Middle School 2007-2008 tutors Rich Cammarata, Hallie White and Kille Johnson

On September 2, Chautauqua Striders lost one of its biggest supporters and most valued employees. Richard Cammarata, lead tutor at Jefferson Middle School, passed away unexpectedly at

the age of 58. For the past three years, he had passionately shared his knowledge, extensive life experience, and love of learning with "his" students in the after school program. Over the years, Rich became an integral part of the school by sitting in on classes, visiting teachers, guidance counselors, and principals daily, substitute teaching, and generally sharing his joy and appreciation for life. He will be remembered by those who knew him for his smile, endless good humor, bits of fatherly advice, consummate professionalism, love of immaculate cars, and stories about his yearly trips to Vegas. Rich will be dearly missed but his legacy will remain in the students he taught and by the lives he touched in and out of school.

Striders' Wish List

Please contact Michelle Waterman at 488-2203 ext 232 or 88mwaterman@jamestown.wnyric.org to make a wish list contribution.

- Lined paper (loose-leaf)
- Pencils and Dry-Erase Markers
- Batteries (all sizes)
- Personal-sized cassette players
- Headphones
- Digital camera
- Floor Stand-up globe, 3 feet or taller
- Marbles and Hula Hoops
- Digital clock
- Matchbox cars and Barbie Dolls
- Gift cards (Restaurants and Store) for families
- Gently used games and puzzles
- 3 foot by 5 foot white board
- Electric griddle

Lighted Schoolhouse Tutoring Schedule

High School Tutoring
(2nd floor of the YMCA)
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
3:30 - 5:30 pm
Tuesday and Thursday evening
6:30 - 8:30 pm

Eastside YMCA
Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday
4:00 - 6:00 pm (elementary & middle)
6:00 - 8:00 pm (high school)

SAFARI @ JHS
Monday-Friday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Boys & Girls Club of Jamestown
Tuesday 3:30 - 5:30 pm
Wednesday 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Thursday 3:30 - 5:30 pm

WASH Advantage
Washington Middle School
Monday - Thursday
3:00 - 6:00 pm

JEFF Advantage
Jefferson Middle School
Monday-Thursday
3:00 - 6:00 pm

Persell Middle School
Monday - Thursday
3:00 - 4:30 pm

Jamestown Savings Bank
Ice Arena
TBA

Bush Advantage
Monday-Thursday
3:00 - 6:00 pm

Fletcher Advantage
Monday-Thursday
3:00 - 6:00 pm

LOVE Terrific Kids—LTK
Monday-Thursday
3:00 - 6:00 pm

Ring Outstanding Kids-ROK
Monday-Thursday
3:00 - 6:00 pm

Rogers Outstanding Kids-ROK
Monday-Thursday
3:00 - 6:00 pm

Boys & Girls Club of Dunkirk
Monday - Thursday
3:00 - 5:00 pm 5:30-7 pm (Thurs)

Ripley Central Schools
After School Program
Monday-Thursday
2:30 - 5:30 pm

Silver Creek Central Schools
After School Program
Tuesday & Thursday
2:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Panama Central Schools
Monday- Thursday
2:30 - 5:00 pm

Cassadaga Central Schools
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
2:30 - 5:00 pm

Brocton Central Schools
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
2:30 - 5:00 pm

Mentoring Programs

Project Visions Community Mentoring Program



Project Visions is a community based mentoring program. What is mentoring? It is the presence of a caring adult who offers support, advice, friendship, and constructive examples for every day life. These are powerful tools to help young people reach their full potential. You, as a mentor, can bring new hope to a young person.

Project Visions currently has 28 caring adults who mentor young people ages ten to sixteen in the greater Jamestown area. These matches spend time together doing such things as attending a child's football or baseball game, going out for a meal, showing the child how to garden or cook, doing homework, or just having fun. More mentors are needed, as there are several children waiting for one. Won't you join us? Contact Loretta Smith at 488-2203 ext 229 for more information.

Project JAM Records Great First Year

After a great beginning, JAM staff, mentors, and students are gearing up for a new school year. Students and mentors stayed in touch over the summer by writing letters to each other and participating in summer lunch activities at the Striders office. Students participated in many summer activities that included blueberry picking, a visit to Niagara Aquarium and Falls, and just recently to see Cirque de Soleil.



Mentoring at Persell and Jefferson has been added as students move up to middle school. Currently, JAM has 30 mentors meeting with students at five Jamestown City Schools. JAM anticipates having 40 mentors matched with students by October.

JAM mentees had opportunities this summer to explore the Niagara Falls Aquarium and pick fresh fruit and vegetables at Aber's Acres.



Project ME

It's going to be a great year of mentoring in Gear Up Project ME. JHS students and mentors are in their fourth year of mentoring (WOW)!

In addition to best performance academically and socially in school, this year's focus is to help one another and to put forth a unified effort to help improve our community.

Please join us! To learn more about mentoring, call Lorraine Walker (483-4384 ext. 8504) or email (88walker@jamestown.wnyric.org).



New mentoring room at JHS



SAFARI

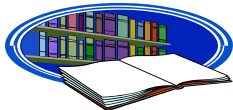
By Galena Duba



SAFARI, a tutoring and mentoring program located at Jamestown High School, is designed to offer students academic assistance during the school day and after school. We provide a caring and supportive environment in which we

"SAFARI plays a vital role in easing the transition from eighth to ninth grade."

help students identify areas of difficulty, offer subject tutoring and test preparation, and help them to prioritize, organize, and develop other crucial study habits. As a member of the JHS Transition Team, we serve many ninth grade students. We currently have 69 students, 28 of whom are freshmen. SAFARI plays a vital role in easing the transition from eighth to ninth grade and facilitating the adjustment to the high school environment. We are excited about this new school year as we help our students build a strong foundation of effective skills, establish positive goals, and realize their potential to excel. Students who are interested in participating in the program should contact their guidance counselors.



News from the Bookshelf

Pam Gustafson, High School Coordinator

It's time for new adventures. The high school tutoring program is changing and growing. As the new coordinator, I have been a part of developing a new tutoring site at the Boys & Girls Club of Jamestown. Beginning in mid October, services will be available to students ages 13-18 after school and evenings. The Eastside YMCA tutoring program has grown to include teens while continuing to serve elementary and middle school students. Program times will be after school for our younger students and evenings for our teens.

The Lighted School House will begin this year with its regular hours, and also by offering S.A.T. and P.S.A.T. review. In addition, we will be partnering with the Y Teen Center to provide homework help and tutoring services.

After eleven years as a classroom teacher, I am thrilled to be a part of Striders and look forward to a successful year for our organization and most importantly, our students. For more information regarding any of these programs, please call 488-2203 ext.223

Northern Lights

By Michele D. Starwalt, North County Coordinator



Welcome back to our aspiring students, talented educators, and dedicated parents. While many Striders students took a well deserved break over the summer, the members of the Boys & Girls Club in Dunkirk participated once again in the Striders Summer Enrichment Program. Basic and sometimes boring math facts came alive and became fascinating activities and creations under the direction of tutor, Jennifer Kopelman, pictured. Multiplication Jeopardy, three dimensional isosceles triangles, and discovering the quickest way to transport a gumdrop with a balloon proved to intrigue the students and offer them a hands on opportunity to better understand mathematical functions.

"Trust building activities, science experiments, cooking, and journal writing were all a part of this dynamic, fast paced, and entertaining summer program."

Trust building activities, science experiments, cooking, and journal writing were all a part of this dynamic, fast paced, and entertaining summer program. Students were also transported into the world of authors and illustrators as they "published" their very own books. These new literary creations included the titles, "My Trip to the Dominican Republic," "The Lake Adventure," and "Sunsets at Night," among many others. Lead tutor, Carmen Andrews, taught the students Hispanic lyrics to "God Bless the USA," which was proudly sung at the Striders Annual Talent Show. Performances included poems, dances, rap songs and dance, and small group presentations.

North County Striders is looking forward to once again working with the Silver Creek, Brocton, Ripley, and Cassadaga Valley School Districts. A tremendous thank you to all of these educational establishments, their superintendents, principals, teachers, guidance counselors, and staff. We greatly appreciate your time, commitment, and interaction with Striders.

UN NUEVO AÑO

By Ignacio Parra, Hispanic Outreach Coordinator

Here we go again the excitement of a new year is upon us! New challenges come for the Hispanic Outreach office but we are ready for them. Around this time, new families and new students are common in our offices and our schools. Latino families come to our area looking for a better education, better opportunities, and an all around better life. Sometimes we forget that as the students go through a mind-changing process of adjustment, the parents go through it too. For this new year, the key word is EMBRACE. This is the message the Hispanic Outreach office will be passing on to everyone. For the established community, embrace the new families and students and for the Latino families, embrace the school district and Striders as places where the students can succeed.

Some of the challenges the Hispanic Outreach program will continue to pursue are:

- Closing the communication gap between Spanish speaking families and the school's staff personal (teachers, principals, administration etc) ongoing.
- Encouraging students to enroll in after school programs and Striders tutoring.
- College visits.
- Making referrals to appropriate agencies.

Remember please contact me at (716) 483-4405 Ext: 7518 (Office at Love) and cell: (716) 640-5934 or via e-mail: 88iparra@jamestown.wnyric.org.



Project Reach

By Arrick Davis, Project Reach Coordinator

We at Chautauqua Striders are excited to welcome back our youth and families to participate in our Project REACH Program. Our main goal is Reaching Every Adult and Child in need of Help. We believe that building lasting relationships is the first step in this process.

Arrick Davis, Family Outreach Coordinator, facilitates and connects families and students with local community services that seek to improve the quality of their lives. Referrals into the program are received from school counselors, teachers, pastors, and other service agencies.

Project REACH is available to assist in the following areas, just to name a few:

- Advocate between schools, parents, and students
- Job readiness/Resumes/Applications
- Education/Athletics/Career
- Goal setting/Life skills
- Referrals to social service and legal counseling

Mark your calendars!!

December 22	Strider Claus
January 22	Thank Your Mentor Day
May 17	2009 Golf Scramble
May 26-27	2009 Strider Field Days
September 6	2009 Dan Feather Memorial 5 K



On Track

Congratulations to the following Chautauqua Striders' athletes:

Vince Liuzzo
2008 Dan Feather Memorial Scholarship

Matt LaMancuso
Ron Graham & Nancy Carlson Scholarship

Nicole Emborski
Female Athlete of the Year

Savantuay Boyette
Male Athlete of the Year

Track results from all of our track competitions and Strider Field events on our website:
www.chautauqua-striders.org

Thank You CRCF

After more than 15 years of almost daily use, the old fax machine was on its "last legs." The new fax and other office equipment greatly enhance the efficiency of office operations and transfer of information to a variety of agencies and individuals. The Chautauqua Region Community Foundation's continuing generous support is very much appreciated.

New Outreach Program Helps Students Get Back on Track

By Vicki Duba

Wayne Stewart and Vicki Duba have begun work with the after school Alternative Placement Program at Jamestown High School. Vicki will work with high school students and Wayne with middle school students. Both liaisons will meet with students during evening program time. They will make home visits to assess the needs of each student and family and make referrals when necessary. Liaisons will coordinate with the student's home school administrators, guidance counselors, and teachers to create a plan for re-entry when APP time is completed. Referrals to organized after school programs will be part of the student's plan. The program goal is to improve APP students' attendance and academic achievement as well as to avoid reentry into the program.



Danielle Anderson soars onto national HJ scene.



Chautauqua Striders, Inc.
101 East Fourth Street
Jamestown, New York 14701

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Jamestown, NY
14701
Permit # 220



A GREAT 2008!!!

