



## Back to School, Back to Striders!!

By Deb Kathman, Executive Director

Each fall, we look forward to the new school year and the children we will meet and have the opportunity to work with, but this year our enthusiasm is sprinkled with some feelings of trepidation. Cuts to funding have meant a reduction in hours for many of our part-time staff, due to decreases in the number of days offered in our after school tutoring and outreach programs. We have lowered costs in areas such as insurance, supplies and special events. We have also eliminated many staff trainings and conferences which in the past helped staff keep current with the latest available information relating to their field and have provided them with new and innovative ideas, free resources, and funding opportunities.

### Chautauqua Striders Contact Information

Chautauqua Striders Main Office  
YMCA Building (second floor)  
101 East Fourth Street  
Jamestown, NY 14701  
Phone 716-488-2203  
Fax 716-487-1434  
*Tutoring Coordinators, Administration, Program Directors, Teen Center & Project Reach*

Additional program information is available online at [www.chautauqua-striders.org](http://www.chautauqua-striders.org)



*Tutor, Todel Sykes, helps Haylee with her homework assignment during Striders tutoring at the Wash Advantage Program.*

Sherman, Silver Creek, and Fredonia Schools. Outreach staff is meeting with youth and families; mentoring staff is meeting with mentors and mentees, and all are scheduling fall activities.

This October, due to a recent grant from Chautauqua Tapestry, Striders has expanded mentoring in the Jamestown area, identifying elementary students at Love, Bush and Southwestern Schools. We will also begin a **new** mentoring program in Dunkirk. Our move to Dunkirk is the next step in replicating South County programming in the North County. To help us with this expansion is new employee, Michael Myers. Mike will work with School 3 and the Dunkirk Middle School on implementing and supervising a school-based mentoring program. We look forward to this new relationship with the Dunkirk Schools and community.

Even with this somewhat dismal outlook, we are “Back to Work” and we want students “Back to Striders.” Our Lighted Schoolhouse Program (at our main office) began with a PSAT workshop and high school tutoring that which takes place after school or in the evening. Other after school academic programs have begun in Jamestown, Ripley, Westfield, Panama, and Dunkirk school districts. Within the next couple of weeks, we will add

### Inside Making Strides

Academic Programs	2
North County & Striders News	3
Outreach Programs	4
Mentoring	5
Walk United	6

### 2010-11 Fast Facts

- 1,375 students tutored
- 34,249 completed homework assignments & enrichment activities
- 39,908 tutoring contacts
- 21 tutoring and homework help programs throughout Chautauqua County
- 15 full-time and 59 part-time employees
- 14,799 outreach contacts with youth and families
- 122 youth were mentored by a caring adult
- 9 athletes qualified for the USATF National Junior Olympics in Wichita, KS.
- 347 teens participated in afternoon and evening activities in the Teen Center
- 2,177 youth enrolled in one or more Chautauqua Striders' programs

# The Lights Are Still Bright!

Middle school tutoring is in full swing at Jefferson and Washington. Currently, there are 84 students registered in both programs and all are scheduled to attend at least once per week. Enthusiastic and knowledgeable tutors at each school are setting up daily routines and also offering great educational activities designed to meet the different needs of diverse student populations. Jefferson Striders' Wall is now adorned with cutout handprints that tell interesting facts about the artists who made them. At Washington, students open tutoring with "The Question of the Day," designed to generate discussion about interesting facts or challenges facing middle school students.



"Lots of High Fives" on the Striders' Wall at Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

The original Chautauqua Striders tutoring program, Lighted Schoolhouse, is off to a strong start with 40 students benefitting from 165 sessions with tutors. We have many returning students who have made after school tutoring a part of their schedule. New students arrive daily and quickly discover the advantages of working one-on-one with a tutor. Our evening sessions offer individualized educational opportunities. Students are assisted with schoolwork of any kind-everything from A.C.T. prep to algebra, career exploration to chemistry.

Also at Lighted Schoolhouse is the addition of Lina Donisi to our team and she will be available to tutor students immediately after school. Lina recently earned her master's degree in secondary sciences and has previous tutoring experience. She will undoubtedly be very busy with earth science, biology, and chemistry students.

The Eastside Family YMCA tutoring programs began this week with much anticipation. It was hard to tell who was more excited, the students or the tutors! We have a new room, a new schedule, and high hopes for another great year.

Each fall Striders holds a workshop to help students prepare for the P.S.A.T. exams. Attendance is open to all high school sophomores and juniors who are beginning their college access journey. Students benefit from exposure to the test, review of test-taking skills, and a lot of practice.

Next week, program will begin at the Boys & Girls Club of Jamestown. "Striders at the Club" will be available to middle and high school students three afternoons a week immediately after school. We are anticipating that our fourth year at the club will be our best year ever.

## Academic Program Staff

**Academic Program Director**  
Annette Bittorf  
annette@chautauqua-striders.org

**Academic Coordinators**  
Pam Gustafson  
pam@chautauqua-striders.org

Julie Dudgeon  
88jdudgeon@jamestown.wnyric.org

Michelle Waterman  
88mwaterman@jamestown.wnyric.org

Chautauqua Striders Main Office  
YMCA Building (second floor)  
101 East Fourth Street  
Jamestown, NY 14701  
Phone 716-488-2203  
Fax 716-487-1434

**North County Coordinator**  
Michele Starwalt  
michelestarwalt@chautauqua-striders.org

Chautauqua Striders North County Office  
Boys & Girls Club of NCC  
296 Lake Shore Drive East  
Dunkirk, NY 14048  
Phone 716-467-4860  
Fax 716-366-2418

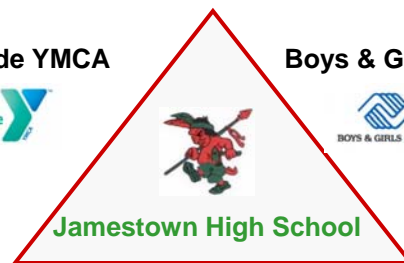
## McKinney Vento Grant

Chautauqua Striders has partnered with Chautauqua County Homeless Coalition to provide academic mentoring to many area school districts. Through this grant, we are able to continue tutoring at Ripley Central School and Silver Creek Central School. The McKinney Vento Grant will allow for academic mentoring in the following districts: Chautauqua Lake Central School, Fredonia Central School, Sherman Central School, Silver Creek Central Schools, and Ripley Central School.

Eastside YMCA



Boys & Girls Club



Jamestown High School



High School  
Tutoring Triad

# Summer Success North County Style



*Gravity and buoyancy science experiment during Summer Academic Enrichment Program.*

Career Explorer field trips, science experiments, a talent show, and immense fun were all part of the Summer Academic Enrichment Program conducted by Striders at the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Chautauqua County. Students experimented with buoyancy, gravity, and water pressure; sorted the fat molecules in milk; and during a trip on a sailboat to the Buffalo Outdoor Urban Education Program, learned about Lake Erie aquatic life. The annual talent show was held in August and featured singing, joke telling, dancing, and poetry. North County programming is in full swing. We welcome back all of our terrific students and their families and look forward to one of the best tutoring years ever!

## 2011 Board Members

Kathy Bradshaw  
Susan Churchill  
Steve Deyo  
Ellen Ditonto  
Rich Dixon  
Michael Engdahl  
Connie Evans  
David Hedberg  
Rosary Kolivas  
Jeff Kresge  
Dan Lausterer  
Rob Liebers  
Jim Pullan, Jr.  
Tim Shults  
Daryl Wadsworth  
Karl Wiggins  
John Zabrodsky



*Career Explorers trip to The Buffalo News funded by a grant from the United Way of Northern Chautauqua County.*

## 2 Striders Earn All-American Honors at USATF National Junior Olympics



*McKenna Maycock scored personal bests in four out of the five Pentathlon events in Kansas.*

Two members of the Chautauqua Striders Track & Field Club beat the heat and earned All-American honors at the 2011 USATF National Junior Olympics in Wichita, Kansas. McKenna Maycock (pictured) finished seventh in the Youth Girls Pentathlon while Craig Howard also finished seventh in the Young Men's Decathlon.

## Strider Claus Scheduled for December

Each December, Chautauqua Striders provides a holiday shopping adventure, Strider Claus, for many of the children in our programs. Strider Claus is our version of a one-stop holiday store where children can select gifts (at no cost) for family members, have them wrapped, and then take them home so they, too, can experience the gift of giving. Each year, this event gets bigger and better. We would like to request your help with this project. First, a monetary donation would go a long way in purchasing gifts for Strider Claus. Donations of holiday gift bags, labels, scotch tape, and tissue paper would also be most appreciated. We have found gift bags to be more useful than decorative paper, since wrapping can be time consuming and the children each select several family gifts. We were fortunate last year to have two women, Edie and Denise, volunteer to do all of the shopping for us, thus allowing our staff to keep working in their programs. Your participation would be most appreciated. Please help us bring the magic of Christmas to those who otherwise may not be as fortunate. Contact Chautauqua Striders at 488-2203 for more information.



# Outreach in Fall Stride

A major part of the job as an outreach coordinator is to help youth in our community overcome the challenges of personal problems, family issues, or other unfortunate circumstances in their lives. It is imperative young people start the school year in full stride and on the right track so they have a successful year.

Sharon Matson, Transition Coordinator, is busy welcoming the new freshman class to Jamestown High School. There are over 350 ninth graders and they are making the adjustment from the middle school atmosphere to the high school environment. Sharon along with trusty sidekick, Wayne Stewart, is also involved with the Alternative Placement and Out of School Programs.

Currently, Arrick Davis, Project REACH Coordinator, works with JHS varsity football players by targeting character development. Head coach, Tom Langworthy, and assistant coaches, Dave Munella, Ryan Calkins, and Richie Jolly, all recognize the importance of having positive character traits both on and off the football field. Players learn valuable principles to help them attain academic success, while representing Jamestown High School with integrity and being a positive role model in our community. Knowing how to handle or respond to problems creates an opportunity in which character, courage, and creativity are developed.

"The Ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in the moment of comfort and convenience, but where he stands in time of challenge and controversy." Martin Luther King

# Hispanic Outreach Program Helps New Students

As a new school year approaches, the Hispanic outreach staff are busy facilitating translations, providing guidance, and advocacy to new and established Hispanic families. We see familiar faces and encounter new challenges. In collaboration with Jamestown Public Schools, the program has registered 41 new students – a number that could increase at any moment. The Hispanic Outreach coordinator is currently working on registering these and returning students for tutoring and after school programs. During this process, home visits have played a key role. The Hispanic outreach office at Washington Middle School continues to be a reference point for the Hispanic community in Jamestown.



From left to right, ESL Divas: Nahaylee Ruiz, Brenda L. Medina, Gilda Melendez, Hispanic Outreach Coordinator, Mrs. Karisse Y. Rotger-Gonzalez, Greicha Bales, and ESL teacher, Mrs. Linda Smith, striking a pose with their putters on a Divas Night Out.

## Outreach Program Staff

### Project REACH

Arrick Davis, Coordinator  
arrick@chautauqua-striders.org  
Chautauqua Striders Main Office  
YMCA Building (second floor)  
101 East Fourth Street  
Jamestown, NY 14701  
Phone 716-488-2203  
Fax 716-487-1434

### Hispanic Outreach

Karisse Rotger-Gonzalez  
88krotger@jamestown.wnyric.org  
Washington Middle School  
159 Buffalo Street  
Jamestown, NY 14701  
Phone: 716-483-4413  
Fax: 716-483-4268

### Transition Team

Sharon Matson  
88smatson@jamestown.wnyric.org

### Middle School APP & OSS

Wayne Stewart  
88wstewart@jamestown.wnyric.org

Transition Team / APP & OSS  
Jamestown High School  
350 East Second Street  
Jamestown, NY 14701



## Status “Go” for Youth Mentoring Programs

Chautauqua Striders Mentoring staff is proud to announce its expansion into the Jamestown Public School and Southwestern Central School districts, as well as, the North County. Welcomed aboard is newest employee, Michael Myers, who will function as the Mentor Coordinator/Recruiter in his hometown of Dunkirk. He is enthusiastic about working closely with his community by helping to lay the foundation for a mentoring program in Dunkirk middle and elementary schools. Michael is a graduate of both SUNY Fredonia and SUNY Potsdam, earning a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology and Social Studies Adolescent Education. Further, Michael is an AmeriCorps alumnus who spent one year with the Boys & Girls Club as the Outdoor Education Coordinator in Pasco, Washington. Continuing his service, Michael helped recruit and retain VISTA volunteers for non-profit organizations throughout the city of Buffalo, and lead various school renovation projects there, as well.

Previously established mentoring programs are still going strong! Currently, 84 matches in the elementary, middle, and high school. Thanks to a recent grant and support from schools and principals, Chautauqua Striders increased its match numbers by teaming up with Bush, Love, and Southwestern Elementary Schools. The primary focus of this mentoring grant is to begin building positive and productive relationships. All in all, Chautauqua Striders Mentoring program staff looks forward to growth and development in new and existing programs!

## Mentoring Program Staff

CS Mentoring Coordinator/Mentor Recruiter  
Lorraine Walker  
88lwalker@jamestown.wnyric.org

CS Mentoring Coordinator  
Amanda Gesing  
88agesing@jamestown.wnyric.org

CS Mentoring Match Facilitator  
Alex Caldwell  
88acaldwell@jamestown.wnyric.org

Chautauqua Striders Mentoring Office  
Raymond Fashano Technology Academy  
200 East Fourth Street  
Jamestown, NY 14701  
Phone 716-483-4384  
Fax 716-483-7110

North County Mentoring Coordinator  
Mike Myers  
mike@chautauqua-striders.org

Chautauqua Striders North County Office  
Boys & Girls Club of NCC  
296 Lake Shore Drive East  
Dunkirk, NY 14048  
Phone 716-467-4860  
Fax 716-366-2418



## Winners & Losers

By David Reinhardt, Program Director

At the end of a football game the scoreboard displays the final score. The team with the most points is the winner and the team with fewer points is referred to as the loser. In a road race with hundreds runners there can only be one male and one female crossing the finish line first. But is everyone else in the race a loser? Everybody wants to be the on the winning team, to have the best score or jump the highest, but what is more important is the effort, determination, and the ability to improve upon a previous performance.



This obsession with winning is not limited to sports world. A popular trend in television programming is reality talent shows. However, many of the shows feature many courageous people who can’t sing, dance, or perform rather simple tasks under extreme pressure. The fight of the underdog more than the unique talents of a few is what keeps viewers coming back each week.

The business world is driven by sales and profit margins. For example, the top regional floor mop sales person is presented a monthly award or an incentive. However, sales from the “top mop” generally don’t keep the company’s door open. The sum of their collective sales team is what makes the bottom line, and floors, looking good.

In the political arena candidates debate the issues. They want to educate the public on their views and hopefully, win their support. Soon after the debate, television “talking heads” declare victory for one candidate over another. Their opinions are often concluded based on the candidate’s ability to avoid the difficult question or to appeal to the undecided voter. As campaigns get longer and debates more irrelevant, elections are all we have to truly decide the winners. While not a perfect system, it does allow for discussion and different voices to be heard.

This summer Chautauqua Striders had nine athletes qualify for the USATF National Junior Olympics in Kansas. Two of those athletes, Craig Howard & McKenna Maycock, can home with a medal and earned All-American honors. They didn’t win, but did their best, against the best athletes in the U.S. What is more important is to get into the game and give it your all! Be the best dad, friend, student, athlete, mentor, leader, co-worker, trainer, coach, tutor, or mop sales-person you can be.

Chautauqua Striders  
101 East Fourth Street  
Jamestown, NY 14701

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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



**WALKING UNITED**  
Several community members joined United Way partner agencies on Thursday, September, 28, for the third annual "Walk United." The walk organized each year by Chautauqua Striders and held at the Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena. This year, walkers raised just over \$1,100 to help support the 2011 United Way Campaign.