



CHAUTAUQUA  
**STRIDERS**  
MENTORING & GUIDING YOUTH

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

**From the Director's Desk**  
By Deb Kathman, Executive Director

For the past several months, we have heard about cuts to school districts, cuts to communities, and cuts to government. There has been a domino effect from Washington to Albany to Jamestown and it isn't good. Chautauqua Striders, like many other not-for-profit organizations, is experiencing this harsh reality. Last year we downsized staff due to funding reductions.

This year we are again looking internally to identify other possible reductions; we are talking with supporters for guidance and suggestions, and we are communicating that information back to our board of directors, so they too, have the information necessary to help with plans for our future. The proposed decrease in funding from school districts, city and state youth bureaus, and the United Way is greater for next year. While 2011 has been a test, 2012 will be difficult.

Even though the outlook is bleak, there is some good news. Striders is maintaining its programs at the same level with help from its community friends. Individual and business donations, service club support, and other contributions have helped with the acquisition of critical program materials and supplies. We are able to operate with one main office and little overhead due to the generous donation of program space at other locations. We have staff who understand these difficult times and are willing to assume additional tasks, thus allowing us to stretch current dollars. We are over thirty years strong and we are definitely looking forward to the next thirty.

**Creating Relationships**  
By David Reinhardt Program Director

Meaningful relationships are tremendously important. At Chautauqua Striders, we encourage and promote many types of relationships. Our services range from tutoring an elementary student from Lakewood in math to helping a single mother in Jamestown find support systems during a crisis. We also help track and field athletes run a personal best time and guide high school juniors and seniors through the college exploration and selection process.

*For many of our youth, their choices seem limited, but in reality they are limitless, if they connect and form positive relationships.*

Our mentoring staff works hard to recruit and train mentors and match them with a young person in need of a caring adult. All young people need guidance. With schools cutting back on teachers and support staff, the role of mentors will become even more important. While mentoring matches meet once a week, the connection is constant. We have found in many cases, the mentoring relationship benefits the mentors as much as the mentees.

Another important connection is the relationship established between our tutors and their students. The role of a tutor is often different from a teacher. Our tutors have the ability to work one-on-one with a student. All students learn and comprehend differently. The tutoring relationship grows through desire and confidence to succeed. (continued)

**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)

**Inside Making Strides**

Academic Programs	2
Striders News	3
Outreach Programs	4
Mentoring & Athletic Programs	5
Friends of Chautauqua Striders	6



## Academic Advancements

### STUDENT ASSESSMENT RUBRICS

All academic programs implemented a new student assessment rubric this past fall which were completed on all regularly attending participants. The rubric statistically measures six personal skills: Self Management, Self Initiative, Academic Behavior, Basic Skills, Grades, and Attendance in program. Within the six personal skills measured in the rubric, there are eight areas of human development, also referred to as asset categories, as defined by the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets. We measured eight developmental assets and trained our staff to build on additional eight assets for our youth. A second assessment rubric of the same program participants is being done in April, 2011. We monitor each student's progress and reassess, as needed. Four hundred forty-five students were measured on a scale of 0 to 3 from 20 programs; students averaged 2.08 out of a possible 3.0.

### SATISFACTION SURVEYS

This year, academic coordinators are asking our afterschool Striders' students, "How are we doing?" Two hundred fifty-four students completed a satisfaction survey and 97.6% declared Striders has helped them. The surveys were completed in January 2011; students will complete the same survey in June as they exit their programs for the year.

### HOMEWORK COMPLETION

All after school tutoring sites document each student's completed assignments and participation in academic enrichment activities daily. At the end of February, students had completed 19,118 assignments and/or activities and tutors had 22,878 academic contacts with students throughout Chautauqua County. February alone had a homework/activity completion rate of 92.6%.

**SAFARI students** responded to the question, "In which areas has SAFARI been most helpful to you?"

Attendance	3	6%
Behavior	6	12%
Homework	43	86%
Motivation	16	32%
Organization	21	42%
Personal problems	7	14%
Test preparation	35	70%
Time management	12	24%
Other	5	10%

*Students could select more than one check box, so percentages may have added up to more than 100%.*



Fletcher Elementary Strider students celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday with style!

### Upcoming Events/Program

**SAT workshop in Jamestown** is being held Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:00 - 8:30pm, beginning March 21st. To register call Pam Gustafson, Academic Coordinator, 716-488-2203.

**SAT workshop in Dunkirk** is being held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30 - 8pm, beginning March 29th. To register call Michele Starwalt, North County Academic Coordinator, 716-680-2358.

### Academic Program Staff

#### Academic Program Director

Annette Bitorff  
Annette@chautauqua-striders.org

#### Academic Coordinators

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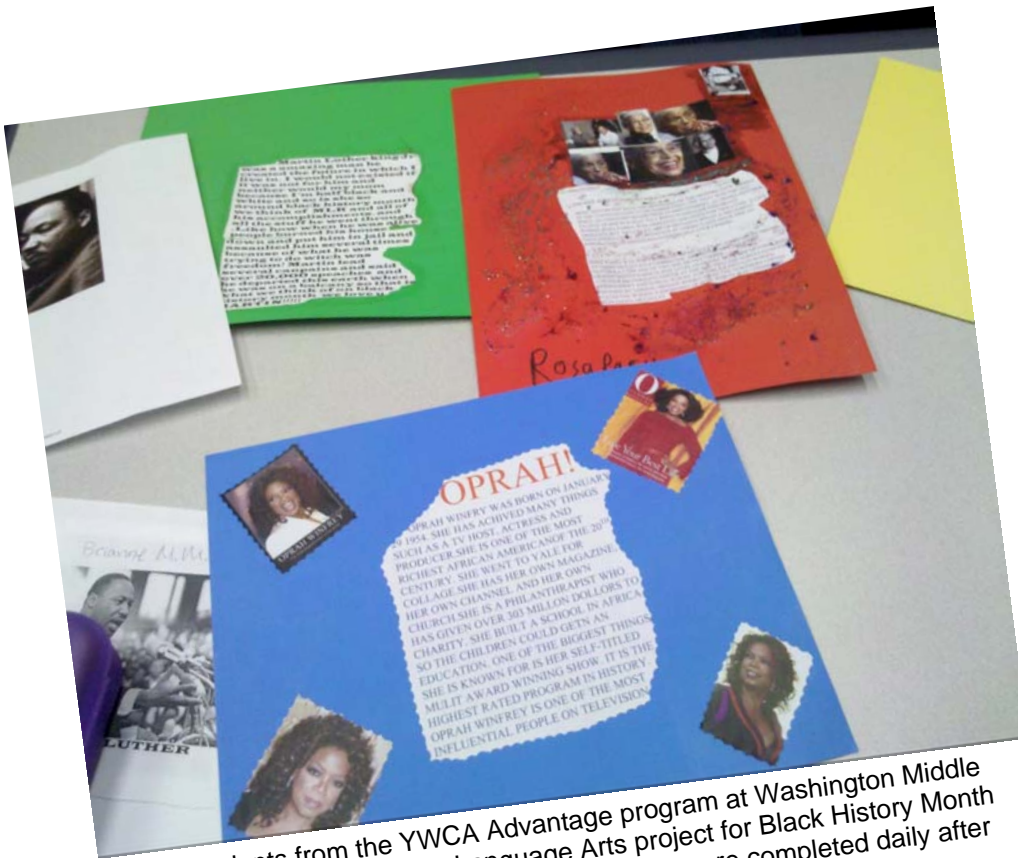
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#### North County Coordinator

Michele Starwalt  
michelestarwalt@chautauqua-striders.org

Chautauqua Striders North County Office  
Boys & Girls Club of NCC  
296 Lake Shore Drive East  
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Phone 716-680-2358  
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More news for you to use!!!



Strider students from the YWCA Advantage program at Washington Middle School worked on an English Language Arts project for Black History Month shown above. At most sites, enrichment activities are completed daily after homework and studying.

CHAUTAUQUA  
**STRIDERS**

**2011 Board Members**

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



The United Way of Southern Chautauqua County supports three Chautauqua Striders programs:

- Lighted Schoolhouse Tutoring
- Chautauqua Striders Mentoring
- Project REACH

With the continued support of our community through the United Way we are able to provide after school tutoring to students, caring mentors for young people, and guidance and support for youth and families.

Thank you United Way!!



We're on Facebook!

Be sure to "like" us!

[www.facebook.com/chautauquastriders](http://www.facebook.com/chautauquastriders)

Don't miss our updates throughout the week about:

- Events and programs
- Job openings
- Community information
- Helpful information ("Fit Tips" and "40 Asset Fridays")
- Links to Post Journal articles and other useful websites



## Constructive Use of Time

The outreach staff at Chautauqua Striders is dedicated to providing youth in our community with opportunities that will broaden their ability to learn and develop new skills.

According to the Search Institute, research indicates, "Young people who regularly spend time in sports, clubs, or other youth programs have higher self-esteem and better leadership skills."

The outreach staff fills this void by offering guidance and support. To succeed in school, students need the ability to manage time effectively. We remind students the importance of having a good night's rest and getting to school on time. These important first steps, increase the student's ability to complete homework assignments, and make deadlines for term papers.

Teen years are both exciting and challenging. Our purpose is to help navigate a successful journey that will instill positive habits, will help with resistance to peer pressure, will improve self-confidence, and will build authentic friendships.

## Creating Relationship Continued from page 1

The relationship between a coach and athlete in track and field is unique. A coach must be a motivator, teacher, and technical advisor all at once. With each jump, toss, or dash through the finish line, a coach must find something positive about the competitor's performance, as well as, something to improve. This must be communicated in a way the athlete can comprehend and use quickly, either during the next attempt or practice.

Our outreach staff is challenged daily with the job of relationship building. Young people need to feel connected to school, home, or community. Using the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets approach is one of the tools we employ to find a young person's interests and identify their weaknesses. Our Hispanic Outreach Program specifically targets students new to our community and connects them with programs and services to help them overcome language and cultural differences. Like many of our youth, their choices seem limited, but in reality they are limitless, if they connect and form positive relationships.

There are many important factors involved in building and maintaining relationships. Respect, understanding, acceptance, kindness, honesty, loyalty, perseverance, caring, selflessness, and commitment are just a few ingredients. But each relationship calls for a different recipe. Through a variety of programs, Chautauqua Striders strives to help a wide range of young people and families throughout our community.

## Outreach Program Staff

Project REACH  
Arrick Davis, Coordinator  
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Hispanic Outreach  
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Transition Team / APP & OSS  
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Phone 716-338-3333



## Mentoring Looks at “The Bigger Picture”

Two of our staff members recently attended the 2011 National Mentoring Summit in Washington D.C. *Achieving Academic and Social Success: Supporting Youth through Mentoring*, the title and objective of the summit, united various mentoring organizations, plus state and federal leaders.



Chautauqua Striders would like to thank Hope's Windows for join our Mentoring Program as a Partnership Sponsors.

First Lady Michelle Obama delivered the keynote address, highlighting the idea of business partnerships. She discussed The Corporate Mentoring Challenge, encouraging U.S. companies to participate in the development of new mentoring programs or support and expand existing programs by providing the necessary resources to continue them. Familiar businesses such as AT&T, Bank of America, and Macy's have already jumped on board.

Initiated by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the goals and rewards of mentoring programs provide mutual outcomes, benefiting both youth AND employees. Mentees gain confidence, encouragement, and curiosity for exploring prospective educational and career goals. Company employees become volunteers in the surrounding community and more dedicated to their employers. Considering that children are our future, these participants may become potential employees to the companies involved in mentoring programs.

## Mentoring Program Staff

Project Me & Mentor Recruiter  
Lorraine Walker  
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CS Mentoring Coordinator  
Amanda Gesing  
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CS Mentoring Match Facilitator  
Alex Caldwell  
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Chautauqua Striders Mentoring Office  
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Phone 716-483-4384  
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## First Call for 2011

Chautauqua Striders is in the blocks and waiting for the start of another year. Mark your calendars with the following events and check our website for additional information and registration:

**Track & Field Club Practice**  
Strider Field  
Monday, June 6 6:00 p.m.

**Hershey's Track & Field Games**  
Strider Field  
Friday, June 10 6:00 p.m.

**Track & Field Development Program**  
Strider Field  
Registration/First Practice  
Monday, June 13 6:00 p.m.

**USATF Niagara Junior Olympics**  
Strider Field  
Saturday & Sunday, June 25-26

**Golf Scramble**  
South Hills Golf Course  
Saturday, July 23 10:00 a.m. (shotgun start)

**Daniel Feather Memorial 5K**  
Bergman Park  
Sunday, September 4 9:30 a.m.

## St. Pat's Dashes Through the Snow



In only its second year, the St. Patrick's Day Dash has become a favorite race of the running community. This year, more than 200 runners participated in the event sponsored by the Jamestown Cycle Shop. The Jamestown Savings Bank Ice Arena hosted both pre and post race activities. Next year, plans will include youth races in the arena and family activities.

Both male and female winners repeated their finishes in the second year. Travis Prejean broke his own course record by traveling the 3 mile course in 15:05. Kathy Gustafson's 21:09 performance was only a few seconds off last year's time.



Please visit our website for more information!!

Chautauqua Striders  
101 East Fourth Street  
Jamestown, NY 14701

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CHAUTAUQUA  
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**Friends of  
Chautauqua Striders  
Pledge Card**

Name

Phone Number

Address

Signature

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_representing my 2011 pledge.

I **pledge** to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Chautauqua Striders. Please send me an invoice.

**Please complete this PLEDGE CARD and send it to:  
Friends of Chautauqua Striders  
101 East Fourth Street  
Jamestown, NY 14701**