

CAPTAIN Youth and Family Services

Making Connections

To Youth and Families in Our Community

5 Municipal Plaza ~ Suite 3 • Clifton Park, NY 12065 • (518) 371-1185 • www.captainyfs.org

2009: Issue III October

CAPTAIN YOUTH SHELTER RECEIVES SUMMER FACELIFT!



The CAPTAIN Youth Home, renovated and updated during the summer of 2009

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email.rvarno@captainyfs.org with comments

Correction: The letter attributed to "Rhonda J." in our Spring Appeal was written by Kathleen Samaniuk-Hayes.

Note: When using letters or any work submitted to CAPTAIN, our policy is to change all names to protect privacy. We apologize for any confusion.

CAPTAIN is proud to unveil the renovated Homeless and Runaway Youth Shelter, thanks in large part to monies from a Senator Bruno member item and with help from Senator Roy McDonald. Renovations took place over the summer months, and included new vinyl siding, composite deck and walkways, thermal windows, and central air conditioning being added throughout the home.

These improvements helped the facility meet building and safety codes and improved the overall appeal and value of the property. A celebratory Open House was held on Oct 6th to showcase the improvements.

CAPTAIN RECEIVES STIMULUS MONEY:

CAPTAIN has been awarded federal stimulus funds, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which is earmarked to provide financial assistance to families at risk of homelessness during the current economic crisis. The funding will be used over the next 22 months to cover rental arrears; security deposits and up to five months rent to help place homeless families into permanent housing; and for help with overdue utility bills.

CAPTAIN REALLY COOKS!

We are very excited to announce that CAPTAIN Youth and Family Services is creating our own cookbook to sell throughout the community as a fundraiser for our organization. All the proceeds from the sales will be used to directly support the many programs and services CAPTAIN offers.

The idea to develop a cookbook filled with local recipes was generated by one of our own volunteers from CAPTAIN's Treasures Thrift Shop. It is our pleasure to follow through with this outstanding suggestion. The cookbook will include a collection of tasty recipes from CAPTAIN volunteers, staff, local community leaders, and longtime supporters.

The cookbook will be available for purchase during the 2009 holidays. We hope that the recipes and stories we are passing along become a part of your family tradition just as they have ours. To place an advanced order for the cookbook, please call Robin Kennedy at 371-1185 X306.

AN UNBRIDLED SUCCESS!

On July 23rd, CAPTAIN was pleased to have held an exciting fundraising event at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame. This event was held to meet the high demand for CAPTAIN services during this difficult economic time. Grassroots fundraising is vital now that State and Federal funding has been reduced. CAPTAIN is proud to announce

that several Thoroughbred racing celebrities agreed to join the festivities, all in the name of raising money for this local family service agency.

Celebrities who attended the event include Hall of Fame trainer D. Wayne Lukas, top NYS trainer Gary Contessa, jockey Fili Leon, and trainer H. James Bond. Mr. Lukas, along with Kate Veitch, of Saratoga Springs, graciously agreed to collaborate and act as Honorary Co-Chairs for the event. CAPTAIN was proud to welcome over 200 individuals and supporters from the local community, as well as many people from around the country in town for Saratoga horse racing season.

DID YOU KNOW?

CAPTAIN Staff members are available to speak at your event or meeting. We can explain our programs and talk about how your group can partner with us on any number of volunteer opportunities! Call Rebecca at 371-1185 X304.



D. Wayne Lukas and Kate Veitch, our 2009 Honorary Co-Chairs. Please "Save the Date" for Monday, July 26, 2010!

Program Notes

TEEN ACTIVITY BOARD OFFERS HALLOWEEN HAYRIDES



The CAPTAIN Teen Activity Board heads to Riverview Orchard for a Halloween Hayride! Enthused by a strong group of new youth leaders, TAB's Halloween Hayride promises cider, doughnuts and just the right amount of Haunting! An annual teen-run CAPTAIN fundraiser, this event serves primarily a 6-10 year old audience on October 23rd, 24th and 30th. Wagons will leave every half hour from 6:30-8:30. As the wagon brings Halloween lovers around Riverview Orchard, four "spooky" scenes will be played out by TAB members. Please call CAPTAIN for reservations: 371-1185. Walk-ins also welcome!

Remember...the later you come, the scarier it gets!

PEACE CAMP GOES GREEN!

CAPTAIN's 15th Annual Peace Camp was held during July and August at the Outreach Center in Turf Community Park. Centered on a "Respect the Earth" theme, thirty-five elementary school aged campers and four teenage "counselors in training" spent three weeks learning strategies for problem solving, conflict resolution, bully prevention and anger management. While participating in arts and crafts activities, music, dance and non-competitive outdoor recreation games,



the children also learned how to recycle, reduce and reuse as a way to respect and save the Earth. Tae Kwon Do, character education and weekly field trips were also included in the camp activities. Highlights of this year's camp included three parent sessions; visits from the Saratoga County K-9 officer, Shenendehowa's School Resource Officer and the Tundra Dog Team. The Camp also continued their annual bottle drive to benefit soldiers overseas. A caring and enthusiastic staff made this a memorable and educational experience for all the young people and their families that participated.



CAPTAIN
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Help Make a Holiday Wish Come True...

'Adopt' a child this holiday season during our Annual Holiday Giving Program



Individuals and businesses are welcome to sign up alone or in groups. Call CAPTAIN today, and help a child in this community feel the spirit of the holidays.



Please call with questions
or for more information: 371-1185

BIKE WORKS

A collaborative program of CAPTAIN & the Clifton Park Elks Lodge 2466, has been a huge success in its first year. Through the generosity of our community, 71 bikes have been awarded to deserving families; providing

CAPTAIN AND CLIFTON PARK ELKS
BIKE WORKS



smiles, independence, and hours of fun for local kids. In an effort to help more families next year, Bike Works is seeking volunteers to help repair donated bikes during the winter months. Bike dona-

tions are welcome all year, since applications for bikes are expected during the holiday season.

TEEN TALK

Written by Teen Talker Taylor Henderson

Teen Talk is a confidential phone line operated by teenagers with exceptional listening skills. The Teen Talk volunteers answer phone calls every day after school from 3:00pm to 8:00pm to help peers with problems such as difficult homework, bullying, peer pressure and problems at home.

Each year, approximately 50 students are invited to participate in Teen Talk. This year's volunteers attended a retreat at Camp Chingachgook on Lake George, where they took part in many different activities from group games to workshops. The 2009-2010 retreat focused on team building, responding with compassion, and listening skills as they relate to teen concerns. The "cookie machine," a popular exercise among the volunteers, required trust and group coordination. Active listening practice and issue-based workshops provided volunteers with a strong background to help teenagers cope with their problems.



CAPTAIN
Youth and Family Services

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please accept my donation of \$ _____

Check enclosed _____ OR

Please charge my Mastercard _____ Visa _____

I would like to make a pledge of \$ _____ (\$ _____ per month for _____ months)

Please charge my Mastercard _____ Visa _____

Cardholder Name: _____ Account Number: _____

Exp.Date: _____ Signature: _____ Billing Address Zip: _____

I would like to make my donation in memory of _____ in honor of _____

Please forward acknowledgement to: _____ Address: _____

Would you like information on how to remember CAPTAIN in your will? _____

Please forward to: CAPTAIN Youth and Family Services
5 Municipal Plaza, Suite 3, Clifton Park, NY 12065