

# 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

2008: Issue 11, September

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#### **CAPTAIN Staff:**

**Michael Daugherty**, Exec. Director  
**Marti Burnley**, Dir. of Program Services  
**Robin Gagnon**, Dir. of Finance

**Robin Kennedy**  
Volunteer Coordinator  
**Brad Armstrong**  
Youth Services Specialist  
**Kathie Chank**  
Comm. Outreach Dir.  
**Amanda Orcutt**  
Youth Development Coordinator  
**Robert Dixon**  
Shelter Administrator  
**Rebecca Varno**  
Marketing and Dev. Coordinator  
**John Reiner**  
Senior Youth Care Worker  
**Kit Yezzi**  
Treasure Shop Manager

email rvarno@captainyfs.org with comments

## **CAPTAIN Launches New Logo**

Over the years, the CAPTAIN Logo has evolved. Thirty-one years ago, the CAPTAIN Logo, a simple and attractive sailing yacht, was designed by a young student artist from Shenendehowa. Years later, we adopted the well-known CAPTAIN Compass. This past summer we introduced a new agency logo designed by our Coordinator of Marketing and Development, Rebecca



Varno. Our desire was to look to the future, while staying in touch with our past. You will note that our new logo still depicts a compass, reflecting the CAPTAIN commitment to helping families and youth find direction and reach for their goals, signifying purpose, design, values, hope, and charity. We know that you will like our new look as much as we do.

## **Sage Graduate Student Creates Bike Program**

CAPTAIN recently announced the creation of a new program, designed specifically to make “gently used” and new bikes available to deserving youth in Saratoga County, free of charge.

The project will focus on youth who lack access to employment, recreational, civic and social opportunities. The proposed project is a critical component of a community-wide initiative to connect the subdivisions, sporadic sidewalks and trails in the impacted community. The goal is to have low income youth bike to school, work and play and generally get services that they otherwise would not have access to.

CAPTAIN was fortunate to have Ashley Wilson, an MA candidate from Sage Graduate School, complete an internship to spearhead, organize and launch this program in August.

CAPTAIN Bike Works, which Ashley helped design and name, is unique to our area and one of only a handful in the country.



CAPTAIN Bike Works will provide safety courses; bike helmets and locks; and bike repair and maintenance classes. CAPTAIN is currently seeking donations of bikes in excellent condition, in a variety of styles and sizes for youth ages 8-18 years old. If you have a bike (or several!) just waiting for a new home, please call CAPTAIN at 371-1185 for details.

## Notes

### Summer Peace Camp in 14th Year

CAPTAIN's 14th Annual Peace Camp was held in July at Cheryl's Lodge Outreach Center in the Turf Mobile Home Community Park. Thirty-three elementary students spent three weeks learning strategies for problem solving, conflict resolution and anger management. Centered around a "Kindness to Endangered Animals" theme the children enjoyed arts and crafts, music and dance, Tae



Kwon Do and non-competitive outdoor games, as well as weekly field trips. Highlights included the three parent participation sessions, visits to camp by the Saratoga County Sheriff's K-9 officer, the Pet Professor, and our annual bottle drive to benefit soldiers overseas. A caring and trained staff, enthusiastic campers and supportive parents made this a memorable experience for everyone.

### Backpack and School Supply Drive

CAPTAIN coordinated its Annual Backpack and School Supply Drive again this year to help families provide their children with the supplies they need to return to school. Thanks to the help of The Harvest Church, State Farm Insurance and many individual contributors, we were able to help over 150 deserving children start their school year well prepared with the supplies they need to do their best in school.

### CAPTAIN Holds Volunteer Reception

On May 7, 2008, CAPTAIN invited over 350 volunteers to its annual appreciation reception. Held at the Eagle Crest Golf Course and Banquet

Hall, the night featured Italian food, good company and excellent desserts donated by JS Watkins and Saratoga Sweets! Mindy Wormuth, Halfmoon Town Supervisor, delivered remarks, saying she was "proud of the CAPTAIN volunteers for their dedication to their community" and praised CAPTAIN for its many meaningful programs. Everyone enjoyed a very special night. Our new Volunteer Coordinator, Robin Kennedy was introduced to her "troops" and spoke to them about how valuable each of them is to the community. We look forward to seeing many of you again next year!

### State Farm Garage Sale for CAPTAIN

CAPTAIN was pleased to receive a call from our friend, State Farm Agent Lee Serino in August, saying that he wanted to hold a garage sale to benefit CAPTAIN. State Farm associates banded together to get donations, staff the tables, greet the patrons, and have a great day outside, all to benefit our programs. The sale was held at the Serino State Farm office on Rt. 146 on Saturday, September 6th, and was a huge success.

### Teen Talk Silver Bay Training

Since the program began in 1987, Teen Talk youth volunteers have gone through an intensive workshop of training and team building at the YMCA's Silver Bay facility on Lake George. This year's training weekend was August 22nd through 24th. Teen volunteers received training in active listening and crisis intervention, along with in-depth information on issues related to teen drinking, drug use, bullying, and other challenges facing our youth today. After receiving a grant from State Farm to address problem gambling among youth, our teens were



also trained to identify and help teens who may have a problem with gambling. This year's group boasts 58 peer-nominated high school students from Shenendehowa, Ballston Spa, and Christian Brothers Academy. With 32 graduating seniors, we look forward to training a group of mostly fresh faces this year.

### **CAPTAIN Congratulates Matt Duclos**

Matt Duclos, a long time CAPTAIN Volunteer and a past student member of our Board of Directors, was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout by the Boy Scouts of America. This honor of distinction is awarded to very few. To reach scouting's highest achievement, Matt committed himself to many service projects, including the maintenance and restoration of the playground and patio at our Outreach Center, Cheryl's Lodge.

Matt was also the President of the Tri-M Music Honor Society at Shenendehowa, and a member of the Teen Talk/Phone Friend Hotline here at CAPTAIN. Matt is currently pursuing a degree in Music Education at the Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. Everyone here at CAPTAIN is proud of Matt and we extend our congratulations to Matt and his family.

### **Thanks to After-Prom Supporters**

Another successful After-Prom Event was held for Shenendehowa's Junior and Senior classes. CAPTAIN continues to be a proud sponsor of this safe alternative activity to help Juniors and Seniors celebrate their proms. We thank the many volunteers who worked through the planning phases with us, and then arrived in the middle of the night (literally) to help us make the event a success! A HUGE thanks to the following businesses who generously donated their time and great food this year:

**TGIFriday's**  
**Giffy's BBQ**  
**Cusato's Pizza**

### **Thanks to FotoMagic**

We are very grateful to Joe Rossi, Jr. and his dad, for donating their time and supplies to help make this year's Junior After Prom a success. With their Fantasy Fotos, they photographed our teens partying on a beach in Hawaii, celebrating the New Year in Times Square, starring on the cover of Sports Illustrated, dressed as gangsters from the 1930's and more. Teens were treated to free magnets with their

### **Shen High School Class Designs Signs**

Sallie Way's Graphic Design class at Shen High School held a contest to design new signs for the CAPTAIN vans. The winning student, Matt Minardi (holding the sign), and the entire class are pictured below. The winning tag line is "Helping Hands for Our Community," and it features the students' own hands holding up the sign. Look for these signs on our vans in the coming year.



photos to hang on the refrigerator or in their locker. The set up and take down of equipment and the three hours of non-stop picture taking was no easy task. CAPTAIN thanks Joe Jr., a member of the CAPTAIN Board of Directors, and his dad for all they do for us.

### **St. Mary's Church Recognizes CAPTAIN's Treasures**

CAPTAIN's Treasures Thrift Shop was the proud recipient of the 2008 Stewardship Ministry Award from St. Mary's Church, Crescent, NY. The church congregation donated \$500 to CAPTAIN's Treasures to use towards improving the next-to-new clothing and household goods store. Several of St. Mary's members have been active volunteers for CAPTAIN for many years, and they have long supported our Holiday Giving Programs, and Family Assistance Program, which provide assistance for local families in crisis.

### **Elks Generosity**

The Clifton Park Elks BPO #2466 have a history of helping CAPTAIN and the community. Once again, their charitable giving from the "Special Bell Jar" has delivered \$400 to CAPTAIN to help with the transportation needs of the past summers's Peace Camp (see Peace Camp article on page 2).

### **Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter Receives Grants**

CAPTAIN is pleased to announce we were awarded two grants for the Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter in Malta. In conjunction with the Homeless Youth Coalition, CAPTAIN was awarded a \$188,000 per-year, for three years Basic Centers Program grant from the U.S Dept. of Health and Human Services-Administration on Children, Youth and Families. Additionally, the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance also awarded CAPTAIN a \$186,549 per-year for two years Emergency Shelters Program grant.

### **Upon Retirement, Senator Joseph Bruno Recognizes CAPTAIN**

All of us here at CAPTAIN were absolutely thrilled to have received notice of an award of \$50,000 from Senator Bruno on his last day in office. Senator Bruno has been very generous to CAPTAIN over the years, helping to support the cost of two vans, and significant renovations at the CAPTAIN Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter. In addition to the recent award of \$50,000, the Senator was able to secure \$95,000 this past year to help renovate our aging Youth Shelter.

### **State Farm Grant –Youth Driving Safety Workshop**

CAPTAIN is pleased to announce a partnership between State Farm, and our local State Farm Agent, Lee Serino, to fund an interactive workshop for student drivers at Shenendehowa, designed to educate teens about the things they typically don't hear about in Driver Education. The workshop covers instructions on how to install wiper blades, properly inflate tires, check fluid levels, change a flat tire, what to do if an accident occurs, why it's important to not leave a pet in a car in the summer and other helpful tips that can keep teens (and their pets) safe. The workshop will take place during National Teen Driver Safety Week in October. To enroll your teen call 371-1185. There is a limit of 20 teen drivers.

### **A Special Thanks!**

The Board of Directors, Staff and volunteers of CAPTAIN extend our gratitude to those members of our community who answered our recent special request for help. The Spring Appeal letter was met with gracious giving by many of you, and those donations will go to support all of our programs, which are especially taxed during these difficult times. Please keep CAPTAIN in mind this fall and support our regular Fall Appeal, which will be mailed in November.

### **The Hawley Foundation – Funding Received For Teen Talk**

Thank you to The Hawley Foundation for providing \$2,000 to help expand the CAPTAIN Teen Helpline to other school districts in the region. Teen Talk helps youth who may be experiencing trouble at home, with academic pressures, bullying, or who may be using or thinking about experimenting with drugs, alcohol or sex. Teen Talk is staffed by over 50 High School teen volunteers from the Shenendehowa, Christian Brothers Academy and Ballston Spa Central School Districts.

### **Ballston Spa Honor Society Donates to CAPTAIN**

At the end of the school year, CAPTAIN was presented with a check from the Ballston Spa National Honor Society. Michael Daugherty, Executive Director of CAPTAIN is pictured here with fourteen smiling friends of CAPTAIN.

\$600 was raised as a result of many long hours of work on the part of the students and CAPTAIN is so very appreciative of the Ballston Spa High School National Honor Society for its efforts.



From left to right:  
Back row:  
Mike Venturiello,  
Rebecca Slocum,  
Jessica Lawlor, Nate  
Heckman, Michael  
Daugherty, David  
Leavitt, Kristie Gratto,  
Matt Pastore, Harry  
Shore. Front row:  
Amelia Reynolds,  
Ryann Rossi, Stefanie  
Gentilli, Kristen  
Kinstrey, Jen Williams,  
Maria Hetz.

### **The 28th Annual WGY Christmas Wish Campaign Awards CAPTAIN \$2,000**

CAPTAIN has gratefully received a grant from the WGY Christmas Wish fund to support the CAPTAIN Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter. Funds will go to pay for recreational activities, health care and survival aid for street youth.

### **Fit For Life Helps The CAPTAIN Youth Shelter**

This past spring Fit For Life, a local Wellness Center, had a fundraising event, “Shopping For A Cause”. The event was designed to raise awareness about local domestic violence programs. As a result, Fit For Life was able to provide a gift of \$200 to the CAPTAIN Youth Shelter.

### **Stewart’s Holiday Match Donates \$7,000 to Support Job Assist and Teen Talk Programs**

Stewart’s Shops has awarded CAPTAIN funds to help the CAPTAIN Teen Talk Helpline and Job Assist. Job Assist matches youth in need of jobs with employers looking for capable and willing workers. Most youth are from low-income families and jobs are critical in helping build self-esteem, personal vision, helping families to cope economically and often saving for college.

### **Saratoga County Sheriffs PBA Golf Tournament Raises \$3,500**

We are exceedingly grateful to the Saratoga County Sheriff’s PBA for donating the proceeds of their 2008 summer golf tournament to CAPTAIN. The Officers who participated in the event showed their support through their generosity, enthusiasm and recognition of the CAPTAIN organization and our programs.



### **Ballston Spa Student Senate Donates to CAPTAIN**

The Student Senate of Ballston Spa High School presented CAPTAIN with a check for \$500 they raised from a school fundraising event. We are honored to be chosen as the recipient of their time and effort.



This spring, you may have noticed the bright pink canisters that were placed in local businesses. The “Support Your CAPTAIN” raised over \$1800, which went directly towards supporting the important work CAPTAIN does for this community everyday.

We would like to thank the local businesses that supported CAPTAIN by displaying one of our canisters in their place of business and encouraging their customers to donate to us. Their names are listed in the canister to the right.

In addition, Koda Middle School held an “inter-class” competition, and the winning classroom was Mrs. Naftzger’s (pictured above) whose students raised \$191.50! The entire school raised over \$800. Mrs. Naftzger’s class was treated to a pizza, cookie and juice party as thanks for their efforts.

The Teen Activity Board (TAB) students walked door-to-door in teams of two and raised \$500. The highest winning team, made up of Shenendehowa High School 10th grader Alanna Kindler and 11th grader Allison Feit, collected \$100. Live Nation generously donated four lawn tickets for summer concerts at SPAC which were awarded to the winning students.



## Support Your CAPTAIN!

Thank you to our BUSINESS SUPPORTERS:

- |                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| M&T Bank                 | J.S. Watkin’s              |
| Key Bank                 | Sorrentino’s Deli          |
| First Niagara Bank       | Giffy’s BBQ                |
| Persnickety’s            | Clifton Park Driving Range |
| Venezia Pizza            | Clifton Park Pizza         |
| Halfmoon Diner           | Quality Cleaners           |
| Hewitt’s                 | Party Warehouse            |
| Big League Haircuts      | Clifton Cleaners           |
| Ben’s Garden Center      | Jonesville Country Store   |
| Salty’s Bistro and Pub   | Hair & Body Essentials     |
| Grecian Gardens          | MochaLisa Café             |
| Halfmoon Sandwich Shoppe | Sonny’s Pizza              |
| Snyder’s Restaurant      | Malta Diner                |
| Lindsey’s Restaurant     |                            |
| Green Grocer             |                            |

# Staff Matters

## Robert Dixon Shelter Administrator

Robert Dixon was recently promoted to Shelter Administrator for the CAPTAIN Youth Home. Bobby has a BA in Business Administration and ten years experience in human service and counseling programs. He brings tremendous dedication and enthusiasm to this very challenging position.

## Misti Rivers Case Manager

Misti Rivers recently joined the CAPTAIN Homeless and Runaway Youth Shelter as our Case Manager. Misti earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Elmira College in 2005. She has several years experience in providing case management services to high-risk youth and their families and is very familiar with human service agencies in Saratoga County and the Albany area.

## Robin Kennedy Volunteer Coordinator

Robin Kennedy has worked for not-for-profits in both Colorado and New York over the past twenty-five years and now joins CAPTAIN as the volunteer coordinator. She has lived in the Clifton Park community since 1990 with her husband, three daughters and her dog, Sammie. Please feel free to contact Robin with any questions regarding volunteer opportunities at CAPTAIN.

## Robin Gagnon Director of Finance

In July, Robin Gagnon was promoted from Finance Assistant to Director of Finance for CAPTAIN. Robin, a 12 year resident of Clifton Park, has a degree in Business Administration from St. Rose, and has children who attend school at Shenendehowa Schools. Robin looks forward to working with the various Program Administrators.

## John Reiner Senior Youth Care Worker

John Reiner has recently been promoted at the CAPTAIN Youth Home to the Senior Youth Care Worker position. He has been a Youth Care Worker at the shelter prior to the promotion and has other relevant experience working with high-risk youth. John will be receiving his Bachelor of Science degree from SUNY Albany in Psychology at the end of August.

Pictured left to right: front row, Misti Rivers, Robin Kennedy, Robin Gagnon. Back row, John Reiner and Bobby Dixon.



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 \_\_\_\_\_ AmEx \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month for \_\_\_\_\_ months)  
Please charge my Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ AmEx \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

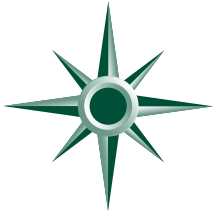
Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Address Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**KEEP VISITING WWW.CAPTAIN.ORG! THIS WINTER WE LAUNCH A WHOLE NEW SITE!**



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Youth and Family Services

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**Executive Director**

Michael Daugherty

**Director of Program Services**

Marti Burnley

**Director of Finance**

Robin Gagnon

**CAPTAIN Board of Directors 2008**

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Patty Kilgore - Vice President  
William Long - Vice President  
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Joseph L. Gentile - Treasurer  
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Joseph Rossi  
Gail Ziegler  
Sue Malinowski  
Rev. Roscoe Lilly

**Funding Sources**

The Town of Clifton Park  
The Town of Halfmoon  
The Town of Malta  
Saratoga County Youth Bureau  
NYS Office of Children & Family Services  
NYS Office of Temporary & Disability Assistance  
NYS Department of Education

US Department of Education  
US Department of Health & Human Services  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Shenendehowa Central School District  
Washington, Saratoga, Warren,  
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**Clifton Park, New York 12065**

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