



Camp Abilities Saratoga



Photo: August 2019

*Thank You to Our Sponsors & Donors
For Your Continued Support !!*

Camp Abilities Saratoga Went Virtual for the 2021 Camp

Toward the end of February, the president of Camp Abilities Saratoga (CAS), along with our Camp Director, Tiffany Suppes, received the unfortunate news from Skidmore College, the campus where the camp is normally held each summer, that they had made the decision to cancel all residential camps for the summer of 2021 due to the COVID pandemic.

As in the previous year, the Board went into action and worked up a revised budget and Tiffany along with the Camp Assistant Director, Jeff Yellen, got to work with their coaches to put together an exciting virtual experience for the campers. And an exciting experience and year it again proved to be!

Under Tiffany's direction, the Board purchased equipment that was sent home in kits for the campers

to use and keep. In addition, iPads were lent out to those campers who had the technology need in order to participate.

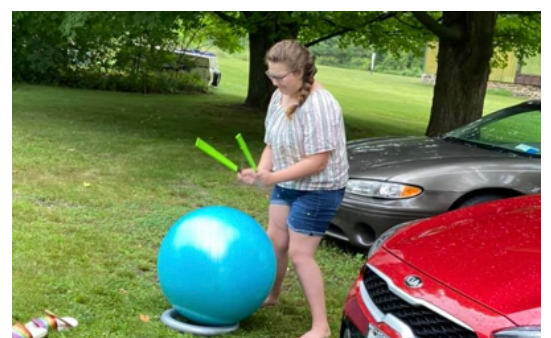
One mom shared on Facebook, "Ethan is very happy that he is able to participate in another virtual camp this week. We are going to have a lot of fun at Camp Abilities of Saratoga! He was so excited he wouldn't go to sleep last night. He finally fell asleep at 5:00 am this morning."

As of now, we are looking forward to an in-person camp July 31 - August 6, 2022. In addition, several Saturday morning mini-camps are being scheduled.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook for more updates!
www.Facebook.com/CampAbilitiesSaratoga



Equipment that was sent home for campers to use and keep.



CAS FALL OPEN HOUSE

On the last Saturday in September, Camp Abilities Saratoga held an Open House at the wonderful new Lions Den facility at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds.

The purpose of the open house was to give everyone that was interested in attending an opportunity to learn more about what we do and to meet our talented and dedicated Camp Director, Tiffany, and specialists who demonstrated adaptive sports equipment that is used throughout our camp along with opportunities to try it firsthand.

It was a great success and was well attended by Lions from other clubs, interested camper families, and members of the general public.



Follow the CAS YouTube Channel

Did you know CAS has a YouTube Channel?? You can search "Camp Abilities Saratoga" at www.youtube.com or use the link below

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfCpwuq0xHOVy1Yvuu0zdEQ>

You will find a great video on our 2021 Virtual Camp at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CAAHk41kJG4>

ABOVE & BEYOND AWARD

Camp Abilities Saratoga is pleased to announce that its Above and Beyond award for 2021 has been awarded to Ed and Liz Stano of the Town of Greenfield Lions. This award is given to a person, organization, or company who goes "above and beyond" for the benefit of Camp Abilities Saratoga.

When Camp Abilities Saratoga went virtual for its 2020 and 2021 camps, Lions Ed and Liz took on the monumental task of assembling and shipping many boxes of sports equipment to campers and staff. In addition to this 'Above and Beyond' effort, Camp Abilities Saratoga has benefitted from the talents and dedication of these Town of Greenfield Lions since its inception in 2014.



MEET ELIZABETH...



Pictured L-R: John McDonald (CAS & Lions Eye Institute Board Member), Rick and Priscilla Laurin (Chazy Lions & Lions Eye Institute Board Members), Elizabeth, Phil Klein (CAS & Lions Eye Institute Board Member), and Elizabeth's mom Tina.

This year the experience of one camper, Elizabeth, now 11 years old, of Mooers, NY, demonstrated the real impact that both the Lions and Camp Abilities Saratoga can make in a child's life.

Elizabeth, at the age of 10, began receiving support from the Chazy Lions Club and the Lions Eye Institute at Albany with respect to her rapidly changing and deteriorating vision.

Despite her not being legally blind....yet, a member of the Chazy Lions Club contacted one of our CAS board members about her attending the camp. Our camp director Tiffany spoke with Elizabeth's mom and learned that Elizabeth is losing her sight at a drastic pace and was frightened by the challenges that her future would entail. Elizabeth was invited to attend the virtual camp held this past August.

Though quite shy, she had an amazing experience during that week. This was something her mom shared...

"Today Elizabeth asked a question about Braille. If things go as planned, she will be learning Braille in this coming school year. The entire camp spoke up about the different types of Braille, whether it's easy or hard to learn, some of the kids shared their own experiences, and one of the counselors spoke up to let Elizabeth know that she has her entire camp family for support!"

Elizabeth hopes to attend the in-person camp next year.

QUILT RAFFLE TO BENEFIT CAS



1 Ticket for \$10 or 3 Tickets for \$25

You can purchase tickets for the raffle by contacting John McDonald at jmcdonald33@nycap.rr.com or 518-763-9262.

Drawing to be held on June 17, 2022.

*Quilt generously donated by Chazy Lions
Rick and Priscilla Laurin.*

Keep up with the CAS latest news with our email mailing list.

Visit: www.CampAbilitiesSaratoga.org/contact-us

And click on 'Signup for the "Keep Up With CAS" Mailing List'

Camp Abilites Saratoga

Camp Abilities Saratoga is a one-week educational sports camp for children and teens who are blind, visually impaired and deafblind and is a project of the Saratoga Springs Lions.

Camp Abilities Saratoga started in 2014 after gaining inspiration from the Camp Abilities at SUNY Brockport, founded by Dr. Lauren Lieberman. The primary objective of Camp Abilities Saratoga is to empower children and teens who are visually and hearing impaired to be physically active by way of a series of sports activities that have been professionally adapted to their abilities. Another objective of the camp is to provide "real life" hands-on experience for undergraduate and graduate students pursuing the field of physical education, as well as active teaching professionals from the field of adaptive sports.

The Board of Directors and all those involved in Camp Abilities Saratoga thank all of our sponsors, donors and volunteers for helping to make this camp a reality!

For more information or to make a donation, please visit:

www.CampAbilitiesSaratoga.org

or you may reach us at:

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