



STARS Intergen Corporation Annual Report 2013 - 2014



*Our mission:
To enrich the lives of students and older adults through quality programs
such as tutoring and mentoring that benefit all participants
and the community as a whole.*

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share information about the continuing progress, activities and successes of the STARS Intergen program during the 2013-2014 school year. What started as a modest program in one school building approximately 17 years ago has developed into a program that now exists in two elementary schools, a middle school and a high school and in the RCS Community.

In this report you will read about tutoring programs in the elementary schools, community programs in a local senior housing facility with middle school students, high school mentoring activities, and a number of programs in the community including the Matthew Project, the Linda Civill Community Gardens and the Field Foundation grant to assist needy seniors who benefit from items that enhance their quality of life.

Thirty-three volunteers gave 2,261 hours with 16 elementary school teachers, one middle school teacher, and five high school teachers, along with community members and business: they are all part of our success story.

We are also pleased to announce that our website, starsintergen.org, is in the process of being updated and will contain useful information about the organization, its activities, and ways in which you can become involved.

All these experiences have one thing in common: they are designed to enrich the lives of students and older adults through quality programs such as tutoring and mentoring that benefit all participants and the community as a whole and provide participants with a link to the past and a hand to the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Schwartz". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

William Schwartz, President
Board of Directors, STARS Intergen Corporation

>> *For more information*<<

If you're a teacher looking for help in the classroom, or a senior looking for a great place to share your knowledge, contact:

**Linda S. Bruno, executive director
(518) 756-7389 / starsintergen@gmail.com**

Who are our STARS?

>> *Seniors Teaching and Reaching Out to Students* <<

The Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central School District (RCS) collaborates with STARS Intergen Corporation, which provides opportunities for senior citizens in the the Capital District to enhance the educational experience for RCS students. This unique partnership brings the generations together and allows them to better understand and appreciate one another.

STARS and STARS Helpers programs have proven since 1997 that the needs of retirees, students, and the school district create a mutually beneficial partnership by creating opportunities for:

- Retirees of all ages to stay active and contribute to their community;
- Students to make academic, social and emotional gains with the help of STARS volunteers;
- The school district to tap into an experienced pool of volunteers from all walks of life who serve as mentors and enhance classroom learning; and
- Interactions between children and retirees who might otherwise be isolated from one another.



STARS programs throughout the year:

The Matthew Project:

This community-based project began five years ago to meet the nutritional needs of children in the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk school district during the summer months. It concentrates on Coeymans, Ravena and trailer parks in the northern part of the Town of Coeymans.

5,043 lunches were prepared and delivered by volunteers. STARS recruited four adults and nine youth to work with other adults and youth, donating 93 hours during July and August.

A Stewart's grant was received and set aside for community-based projects. These helped defray the cost of supplies for this project..

Linda Civill Community Garden:

This project was a startup for a community garden in Faith Plaza in Ravena. The site made it easily accessible for residents to use. All supplies and labor were donated by area businesses, not-for-profits and charitable organizations. STARS was a sponsoring organization. The remainder of the Stewart's grant will be used for expansion of the raised beds and a watering system for the coming season.

Produce from the gardens helps provide fresh vegetables for community members and is distributed by Helping Harvest at Faith Plaza.

The Field Foundation Grant:

The Field Foundation Grant provides funding for residents 65 years up who live in Albany County and are eligible for food stamps or Medicaid. Funding is applied for annually and is "for the purpose of providing such persons with some utilitarian item such as a television set, radio, bed or similar items so that their lives may be somewhat brightened and made cheerful."

47 seniors were served, with 10% of the total grant allowed for administrative purposes.

In order to serve seniors and be true to the mission of STARS, a subcommittee was formed in 2013 using community members, students and teachers from the RCS school district. Meetings are held during the school year to research items and for the subcommittee to assist in delivering them to residents.

The Kaltenborn Grant:

A donation from Stan and Marilyn Kaltenborn may be used for the needs of area high school students whose needs could not be met by traditional assistance programs. This grant was utilized by 11 students for a variety of needs:

- ✓ Three students; fees were paid for NYS Learners' Permits;
- ✓ A student received a University in the High School Course fee;
- ✓ Four students were given uniform shirts for Job Shadowing at a local business;
- ✓ Three students were provided transportation to take part in an intergenerational project providing gifts to senior citizens.

Referrals for this grant are provided through social workers, teachers, guidance department members and administrators.



Current volunteer STARS' hours:

33 STAR volunteers donated 2,261 hours throughout 2013-14.

Participation of RCS teachers and staff:

16 Elementary School teachers
5 High School teachers
1 Middle School teacher
1 Middle School nurse
After School Activities Program (a private not-for-profit organization housed at Becker)

Funding Sources, 2013-14

Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk School District
Field Foundation
Greater Ravena Area Lions Club
Kaltenborn Grant
Selkirk Cogen Partners
Selkirk Community Fund (Sabic)
State Employee Federated Appeal
William Schwartz
Stewart Foundation

As a private 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, we are dependent on grants, contributions and donations to help us meet our goals.

STARS Board Members

Bill Schwartz, President

Retired Superintendent, Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk School District

Veronica Mitchell, Vice President

Retired Kindergarten Teacher, A.W. Becker Elementary School

John Parker, Treasurer

Retired (now substitute) teacher at RCS; published author

Susan Kurp, Communications

Editor at CL King & Associates; former communications specialist, RCS School District

Linda S. Bruno

Executive Director, STARS Intergen Corporation

Brian Bailey

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, RCS School District

Brendan Baynes

Founder, Baynes Law Firm PLLC, Ravena, NY

Marcia Clash

Retired Supervisor, Office of School Improvement, NYS Education Department

Sally Downes

Retired Social Worker, RCS School District

Chuck Engelhardt

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Michelle Hueth

Controller, Carver Companies, Coeymans, NY

Rick Rieth

Stolz Insurance Agency, Ravena, NY