

Good Works



A new youth activity program for Ellenville students has made its home at the **Infinite Strength Tae Kwon Do's** Market Street location. The program, begun by Harriette McKissic – after a comment from a Middle School student that there needs to be something to “keep us off the streets” – has been a success since its beginning about a month ago. McKissic encourages the students to come in to play board games, listen to music, and have hot dogs and snacks. Parents stop in to volunteer to chaperone and to join the students, playing games with them.

Shown above, with some of the students attending on March 27th, are McKissic (seated) and adult volunteers (involved since the inception of the program) Chandra Brown, Teri Sheeley, William Young Sr., and Mary Maloy. The program is a voluntary one. Attending on Saturday from 7 PM to 10:30 PM, students must sign in and cannot return that night if they leave early. They must be picked up by an adult or are driven home by volunteers. Donations (games, food) and volunteers are welcome. Call 647-6299.

Disability Awareness Team Seeking Nominees to Honor

The Ulster County Disability Education Awareness Team (UDEAT) is a combination of State, County, public & private agencies dedicated to enhancing the opportunities of disabled job-seekers and recognizing the employers who hire them. In most cases the employers may not be aware they have hired an individual who has a disability; in other cases the employer may have made some special adjustments to accommodate a person with a disability.

Whatever the case, UDEAT wishes to remind both the public and business community that there are people with disabilities working daily and businesses benefiting from these dedicated hardworking employees. Recognizing the businesses is an important factor. A company that makes that special effort at accommodation or just simply hires a qualified person who has a disability is going to be recognized by our Team and by the community.

“We are recognizing employers who are hiring and are supportive of people with disabilities. There are many who deserve recognition and that recognition sends a message that improves the image and dispels the myths about disabled workers,” said Ron Stonitsch, Employer Services Representative of the NYS Department of Labor. “We will have awards to businesses on a regular basis and actually this will be taking place in all the counties in the Hudson Valley. We welcome nominations from any source. We also welcome and invite any inquiry by businesses that may be interested in the tax credits, training money and other resources available. Hiring motivated people is good for all involved.”

The Ulster County Disability Education Awareness Team is a resource for the business community and is also actively seeking nominees of businesses that have made the effort to hire people with disabilities. If you have a nominee or would like some more information, please contact the Chairpersons, Brian Bentley at bbentley@mail.nysed.gov or Ron Stonitsch at usdrs1@labor.state.ny.us

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