

Press Release

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Contact Person: Jim Kruidenier

Phone: 413.256.0473, ext. 220

E-mail: jkruidenier@stavros.org

Celebrating the Promise

This summer marks the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act! To celebrate, Stavros will hold a “Celebrating the Promise” festival on July 24th from 11am-4 pm on the Amherst Town Common.

“The Americans with Disabilities Act is not only extraordinarily important for persons with disabilities, it is one of the most significant pieces of civil rights legislation in American history,” said Jim Kruidenier, Executive Director. “All those wheelchair ramps you see around, all those curb cuts, all those persons with disabilities who are living the lives they choose up and down the Pioneer Valley – most of this is because of the ADA.”

“We want to recognize this event by celebrating the wonderful diversity and strength of persons with disabilities in our communities,” said Janet Shaw, Director of Independent Living Services at Stavros. Ms. Shaw said there will be entertainment all day long, featuring the Chris Burke Band (“Corky” from “Life Goes On” is all grown up and making great music) and Los Ciegros del Barrio (The Blind Boys from the ‘hood) will bring their distinctive brand of Latin music from New York City. “We’re really excited about bringing all this wonderful music to our celebration,” Shaw said. She noted that there will be American Sign Language interpreters for all the entertainment and events.

The festival will include activities for children (and adults too) and educational exhibits, as well as artists and craftspersons with disabilities. “We’re always happy to welcome more,” Shaw said. “Persons with disabilities who are interested in displaying their art or craft should contact me at Stavros at 413.256.0473.”

With so many things going on, Stavros is still looking for volunteers to help out with the day’s events. Interested individuals should call Stavros at 413.256.0473.

Stavros, a member agency of the United Way of Hampshire County, serves and advocates for more than 6,000 persons with disabilities in the Pioneer Valley each year.