

## **Project Lift gets Helping Hand in Name of Saratoga Sponsor A Scholar**

Jim LaVigne and Mary Gavin present a check for \$5,000 to Kari Cushing, Executive Director of Franklin Community Center in support of its after school program for disadvantaged youth, "Project Lift". Project Lift is a free after-school prevention program for youth in grades 1-5, where children are provided with the role models and education needed to help set them on a more positive developmental path.

Project Lift University is the program's main fundraiser scheduled from 6:00PM – 9:00PM on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Longfellows. This academic-inspired evening will allow event-goers to register for "classes" with talented local professionals, who will act as "professors" by donating their time to teach a class. Attendees who sign up for classes will pay the "registration fee", but instead of paying the "professor", all proceeds will benefit Project Lift. It's a great way to sign up for a topic that interests you, while also making a difference in the lives of local kids!

This gift is being given by Jim LaVigne and Mary Gavin in the name of Saratoga Sponsor A Scholar. Saratoga Sponsor-A-Scholar ("SSAS") is a six year old nonprofit organization that assists financially-disadvantaged young men and women in Saratoga Springs successfully complete high school and college. Each year, ten high school sophomores are chosen to enter the program and SSAS provides them with needed school supplies, tutoring, PSAT and SAT training courses, study skills classes, exam fees for Advanced Placement courses and numerous college visits. SSAS also provides them with up to \$6,000 in cash stipends while in college.

Jim LaVigne is a founding Board Member of and volunteer Executive Director of Saratoga Sponsor A Scholar. "Mary and I strongly believe in giving locally and also that the best investment in our community is helping its youth flourish. The two programs are perfectly complimentary and we are proud to support both.