



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

## Ritchie: Nearly \$500,000 To Support "Clubhouses" For Youths Struggling With Substance Abuse

JOHN FRIOT November 1, 2016



State Senator Patty Ritchie is applauding nearly \$500,000 in funding to help young people struggling with substance abuse throughout Central and Northern New York.

Two local organizations—the Seaway Valley Prevention Council in St. Lawrence County and Oswego County Opportunities in Oswego County—will receive funding for community-based “clubhouses,” which will offer support in a non-clinical setting for young people who are struggling or at risk for substance abuse. The New York State Office of Alcoholism and

Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) oversees the clubhouse program.

“We all know that being a young person has its challenges and one of the greatest challenges today’s youth face is the temptation to use drugs and alcohol,” said Senator Ritchie.

“Through this effort, we can provide our region’s young people with the guidance they need to have bright futures. I would like to thank the Governor and Commissioner González-Sánchez for recognizing how important it is to support initiatives—like the clubhouse program—that protect the health and safety of young people throughout Central and Northern New York.”

“As many youngsters and their families struggle to stay clear of alcohol and drugs, we are grateful to Senator Ritchie for helping secure funds allowing us to provide a place where youth can find a supportive environment and encouragement for living drug free lives,” said Oswego County Opportunities Executive Director Diane Cooper-Currier.

“Drug and alcohol abuse can often tear families apart, but programs like the adolescent clubhouse for teens and young adults help play a big role in giving our youth the extra support they need and provide a safe environment,” said Seaway Valley Prevention Council Board President Dawn Merz. “We want to thank Senator Ritchie for her continued support.”

The clubhouse program will help young people struggling with substance abuse in a number of ways, including through efforts to promote prevention, long-term health and recovery. In addition, other activities—like homework help and tutoring, community services opportunities, entertainment, peer mentoring, and fitness programs—will also be offered.

In recent years, Senator Ritchie has worked to protect young people throughout Central and Northern New York from the dangers of drugs and alcohol in a number of ways. Earlier this year, she announced \$70,000 in special funding, which is helping to help enhance in-school

drug prevention efforts throughout Jefferson, Oswego and St. Lawrence Counties.