

## DJF COMMUNITY PROGRAM “SEED GRANTS”

In 2009, The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation has selected a group of organizations that will receive grant awards of \$5000 or less as “seed” money to start a new endeavor or help an existing program grow. These organizations, like those in our larger grant award category, have an established record of working successfully with individuals with Autism and expertise in providing programs for their benefit. Many are located in communities in the United States where there are few programs for young adults and adults with Autism and it is our hope that these programs will inspire the development of more opportunities for those who reside there.

### Healing Strides, Inc.

The purpose of this equine therapy program is to promote wellness for people with personal challenges who can benefit from equine assisted activities conducted in a safe and supportive environment. A grant of \$4300 will be awarded to this program located in Boones Mill, Virginia to start a therapeutic riding program for young adults and adults with Autism. Healing Strides is planning to partner with local autism treatment centers and therapists in order to design an appropriate and beneficial curriculum for the participants in this program.

### Mandy’s Special Farm, Inc.

A residential care facility in a farm setting for women located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Mandy’s provides a supportive living environment for individuals with challenges that require one-on-one support. The \$3000 grant from DJF will allow for a therapist to work with the residents on behavior management so that they can participate more fully in community life outside of the farm. In addition, the staff at Mandy’s will benefit from the training that will be provided.

### Putnam County Arc (PARC) Inc.

PARC’s Regional Autism Resource Center is a much-needed project in New York’s lower Hudson Valley. Currently, there is no central place in the area that parents and professionals can turn to for state-of-the-art knowledge, a listing of local resources, and compassionate advice and support about Autism. The physical site of this resource center will be at the Mahopac Library and the \$5000 grant awarded by DJF will provide for the purchase of books and resource materials, two separate workshops for young adults and adults and a support group for each age group.



*Zabota Foundation, Inc. adult day-program participants will enjoy “Fun with Friends” to further their participation in community life.*

*...Mandy’s Special Farm is a supportive, farm setting residence for women, located in Albuquerque, NM, providing one-on-one support...*

### Zabota Foundation, Inc.

“Fun with Friends,” is the name of this program that provides community-based activities for adults with Autism on a one-on-one basis. Located in Fair Lawn, New Jersey in a daycare center for senior citizens, this program for autistic individuals is a part of an adjunct program at the center. The \$4800 grant from DJF will create the opportunity for autistic adults to experience community recreational outings while working on managing behavior challenges and enhancing social skills.

### Autism Society of Southeastern Wisconsin, Inc.

This decision-making skills training program will help enable young adults to attain the independent living skills they will need in their adult lives. A unique aspect of the program, that will receive a grant of \$2000, is that it will focus on creating understanding among the participants and their families as to what behaviors are considered appropriate or legal in the community and what may be interpreted as inappropriate and even illegal. The parents will meet separately from the participants to learn effective techniques for relating to their young adult or adult child and will benefit from the support group setting of their sessions.

### Metro West Kids Foundation, Inc.

This Clive, Iowa program called Project Teen PLACE (People, Life skills, Acceptance, Community, Encouragement) will develop a program with the input of teenagers with Asperger Syndrome in a teen youth center setting. The program will include transition planning and will develop a curriculum for improving social skills that will be funded by this \$5000 grant from DJF.

### West Tennessee Family Solutions, Inc.

This Memphis based program currently serves twelve individuals with Autism in supported living homes in the East Memphis, Midtown, Cordova and Arlington areas, and through its Adult Enrichment Center: the Good Life Center. The program will expand its services to serve 25 individuals with the \$2500 grant from DJF that will also fund a multimedia lab.

*For more information on The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation grantees, visit our website at [www.djfiddlefoundation.org](http://www.djfiddlefoundation.org).*