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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **HATTIE'S™ 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Mardi Gras Raises \$26,000 for Saratoga Sponsor a Scholar**

(SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK) – January 31, 2012. **Hattie's™ Restaurant** and **Hattie's™ Chicken Shack** located on 45 Phila Street in **Saratoga Springs** and 3057 Route 50 **Wilton NY**, raises \$26,000 for local charity Saratoga Sponsor a Scholar.

Hattie's Mardi Gras creator, Beth Alexander, delivers a \$26,000 check to Saratoga Sponsor A Scholar's Volunteer Executive Director, Jim LaVigne, as students in the Sponsor A Scholar program look on.

Hattie's annual Mardi Gras was held on January 14<sup>th</sup> in the Canfield Casino. Each year for the past 11 years, Jasper and Beth Alexander, the owners of Hattie's restaurant, have held the annual Mardi Gras event and donated the entire proceeds of the event to a local not for profit organization, to date they have raised over \$200,000 for various non for profit organizations.

This year's recipient organization was Saratoga Sponsor A Scholar, a four-year-old nonprofit organization that helps financially disadvantaged Saratoga Springs students prepare for and get accepted into college. The program currently has 38 students including 8 who graduated last year and all of whom were admitted to college, including two with full four-year scholarships.

"This program makes a dramatic and direct difference in the lives of these students. I cannot express how incredible a gift this is for the students in our program. It represents over 25% of the yearly budget required to continue to allow 10 new students into our program each year, said LaVigne." "Jasper and Beth represent the very best of Saratoga Springs commitment to community service. We are honored to have been chosen to participate in this great annual event."

"This year was very special," states Elizabeth Alexander. "It was so wonderful meeting the kids and support staff from Saratoga Sponsor a Scholar. It's heartwarming to know that the kids will benefit directly from the money we raised"

**Hattie's™** has been a Saratoga institution since 1938, "people have enjoyed the finest fried chicken in the Capital district for over 75 years, we are proud to have kept the legacy alive" says Jasper Alexander. Five years ago **Hattie's™** opened a spot at the Saratoga Race Course, **Hattie's™ Track Shack**, where the now famous Fried Chicken Sandwich was born. Last November the Alexander's launched their new quick service restaurant, **Hattie's™ Chicken Shack**, in Wilton New York.

**Hattie's™ Restaurant** was featured on "Throwdown! with Bobby Flay" back in the summer of 2006. The Food Network filmed at the restaurant on Phila Street with Chef Jasper and his staff under the impression they were being featured on another Food Network show. The actual "Throwdown" took place inside the Saratoga Race Course. Three celebrity judges unanimously chose Hattie's Fried Chicken as the winner of the Throwdown.

**Hattie's™ Restaurant** is open 7 days a week 5pm-10pm. **Hattie's™ Chicken Shack** in Wilton is open 7 days a week 11am-10pm  
[www.hattiesrestaurant.com](http://www.hattiesrestaurant.com) and [www.hattieschickenshacks.com](http://www.hattieschickenshacks.com)

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