



**Contact:**

Jay Ackroyd

Easter Seals New York

o (212) 220-2290

m (917) 856 0633

[hackroyd@EasterSealsNY.org](mailto:hackroyd@EasterSealsNY.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**VETERANS COUNT NEW YORK**

Community Leaders Commit to a 12-month, \$200,000 effort

**Albany, NY - April 27, 2015**—Leaders of Capital District financial Institutions committed to a \$200,000 fundraising drive to set up a sustainable Veterans program focused on retraining and jobs in the Capital District, to be operated by Easter Seals New York. Funding will take place via Easter Seals New York's Veterans Count program, which currently provides transitional housing and job support in New York City, Syracuse, Long Island and Rochester. The Albany program will follow the model Easter Seals originated in Syracuse, with private fundraising creating the program, and then seeking Federal support for the program once its viability has been proven.

Playing key leadership roles, Michael FitzGibbon and Mike Ward of Ward Financial Management organized a luncheon earlier this month to gather support for the cause. Eric Scheele, Director of Development for Easter Seals in the Western Region said "We are thrilled to have a commitment large enough to sustain a veterans program well in advance of any government support. Our veterans deserve as much as we can do for them, and we are grateful on their behalf for this initiative."

Jennifer MacPhee, Market President Bank of America and Managing Director Merrill Lynch affirmed BoA's commitment. "Bank of America's support for the nation's military is strong and long-standing, and focused on helping these brave men and women transition from military service to civilian life through employment, housing, education and wellness."

Next up is a series of fundraising and networking events to create a Capital District community dedicated to the needs of local veterans. See [VetsCountNY.org](http://VetsCountNY.org) for further information.

**About Easter Seals New York**

Easter Seals New York has been at the forefront of providing outstanding services for individuals with autism, developmental disabilities, physical disabilities and services to veterans and other adults with vocational and housing transition issues. Through therapy, training, education and support services, Easter Seals New York creates life-changing solutions so that people can live, learn, work and play in their communities. In 2014, Easter Seals New York directly touched the lives of more than 25,000 individuals in New York State. Learn more at [www.eastersealsny.org](http://www.eastersealsny.org).

###