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Buffalo, N.Y. – SABAH, Skating Athletes Bold At Heart, has received a generous grant award from The Children’s Guild Foundation of \$40,000 for the School Day Adaptive Ice Skating Program (SDAIS) which serves 350 students challenged by disabilities in the Western New York area.

“SABAH is increasing our scope from a therapeutic recreational program to a program which aligns itself with New York State standards for physical education for students with disabilities,” said Sheila O’Brien, Executive Director. “We are very grateful to The Children’s Guild Foundation for the incredible support they have provided SABAH, our special athletes and our School Day Program. These funds will enable us to continue to develop this program as a distinctive model, capable of being replicated nationally, which provides optimal benefits for children with disabilities,” commented O’Brien.

The School Day Adaptive Ice Skating Program, which began in 1994, continues to be the largest program offered by SABAH and is provided free of charge to participating schools. 63% of these students are from minority populations and nearly 80% of the students are from low-income households. As the only program of its type in the United States, student’s individual developmental goals are achieved through the use of adaptive equipment and specialized instructional strategies. Most of these students would not have access to weekly physical education if they did not participate in SDAIS.

“For over the last several years, The Children’s Guild Foundation has supported SABAH in its work with special needs children and their families,” said James A. Bourne, Board Chair of the Foundation. “Through this partnership, we have sought to be a catalyst of demonstrable change for these children by funding opportunities that will allow them to achieve their highest potential. We are pleased to be able to provide this financial support,” he added.

Incorporated in 1910 and celebrating their 100th anniversary this year, The Children’s Guild Foundation is a private operating foundation which funds non-profit organizations within the eight counties of Western New York who provide programs and services for special needs children in the areas of healthcare, research, education and therapeutic recreation. The Foundation also seeks to effect change, provide opportunities, and promote inclusion & diversity for children with special needs and their families by advocating on their behalf.

SABAH, a 501© (3) charity, provides recreational education through therapeutic ice-skating for local individuals of all ages, challenged by physical, mental, and emotional disabilities. Through SABAH’s programs, individuals with special needs develop critical skills that enable them to succeed in everyday life. The organization offers programs throughout Erie and Niagara Counties seven days a week at five different rinks. In addition, SABAH provides the School Day Adaptive Ice Skating Program free of charge for local students facing both disabilities and low socio-economics.