



Photos by
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Text by
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They help make
The Spa City
go 'round . . .
all year 'round!

It doesn't have to be a clear day for Lois Shapiro-Canter, J. D. to see far beyond the city limits of Saratoga Springs.

Her vision is to have a positive and permanent effect on the lives of girls and women across America and around the world.

To this end, the longtime leader in the fields of economic, environmental and civil justice has established the Saratoga Foundation for Women WorldWide, Inc.

As President & CEO of the non-profit group which is dedicated to research, education and advocacy for females around the globe, Shapiro-Canter thrives on working 10 to 16 hour days, five days a week, regardless of the season.

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Long hours and a demanding schedule are nothing new for the agency's founder.

A highly respected attorney in New York's Capital Region for more than two decades, Shapiro-Canter's practice concentrates on family, criminal, real estate, business and education. She is also an assigned NYS children's law guardian.

Since the late 1970s, she has worked with government officials and community activists to implement progressive policies that improve the lives of women, children and men.

Her experience as a senior legislative analyst, a municipal advisor, an assistant district attorney, educator and statewide women's civil rights leader allows the mother of two to bring multi-faceted talents to the world of global reform.

These days, her sights are set on meeting the goals set forth by the Saratoga Foundation for Women WorldWide.

Her duties include conducting the general operation of the organization focusing on program development, fundraising campaigns, public relations and speaking engagements as well as public education and advocacy events.

The group's Internship Program is especially popular with Skidmore College, where Shapiro-Canter previously served as an adjunct Government Department Professor.

At present there are three Skidmore graduates working as Research Fellows on behalf of the Saratoga Foundation for Women WorldWide in New York City, France and Spain. In addition, 12 Research Assistants and Research Fellows are based in India, Pakistan, England, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Bangladesh and New Zealand. (The Saratoga Foundation for Women WorldWide works in consultative status with the United Nations as a non-governmental organization.)

"It is my vision to have an effect on the lives of girls and women in this country as well as in countries around the world. I want to make it possible so that a \$200 loan given to a poor woman in a developing country (such as China or Uganda) as part of our Micro-Credit Finance Program enables her to obtain better health care for her children and send them to school.

I want to discover that a child who participates in our Kids Tobacco Watch Program here in Saratoga County learns how Tobacco companies are targeting her to start smoking by the time she is 12 years old and that it will make her sick, and for these reasons, she decides never to smoke. And I want to help today's kids in Saratoga Springs who will become tomorrow's adults learn about the importance of the environment through our Next Generation Earth Care Program which teaches about acid rain, recycling, energy conservation, global warming, chemical pollution and health risks."

Shapiro-Canter urges others to "break out of your routine and think about what you can do to help improve the quality of life of others."



Lois Shapiro-Canter

Her vision is better than 20/20 when it comes to seeing needs of women and girls WorldWide

The Saratoga Foundation for Women WorldWide, Inc. welcomes volunteers and contributions.

"Not enough people are aware of the serious issues which confront women and girls in the US and around the world," says Shapiro-Canter.

"I understand perfectly well that everyone is busy, but this excuse doesn't wash anymore. I have two small children and have a very hectic life and believe it is each person's responsibility to take notice of others who live under challenging circumstances."

Researchers, writers, advisors, fundraisers and advocates are especially needed.

If you really have no extra time, Shapiro-Canter asks that you consider making a cash contribution to the foundation's programs to help make the lives of girls and women healthier and better here in Saratoga -- and around the world.

Once you stop to take a REALLY good look at the state of affairs around you, Shapiro-Canter is convinced you'll want to help . . . and may even want to get your neighbors involved as well.

It really does "take a whole village" to improve a global community.

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For more information, please call 518-583-4990 or visit www.saratogafoundation.org.