

thank you!



always reaching for independence

ARI of Connecticut, Inc. Annual Report 2017

ARI President & CEO

Photo by Bernie Weiss



The 2017 fiscal year was filled with ups and downs. Changes in CT State and federal requirements that legislate what we do and how we do it kept us on our toes. The state fiscal crisis was and is an ongoing concern. Through it all, we remained focused on our mission and on meeting the ever-changing needs of the individuals we support.

This year we were able to replace seven old vehicles with the help of two very charitable donors. We upgraded all of the hardware and software in our computer lab with grants from Fairfield County's Community Foundation, Pitney Bowes, and Staples. The new software/curriculum primarily focuses on life skills and employment skills. We also were the beneficiary of a generous bequest which helped cover the losses from state budget cuts.

In our Day Program, we were able to expand our services and support additional individuals in new models. We renewed our focus on career development and employment opportunities, resulting in new jobs for a few individuals, and laying the groundwork for additional placements. We also planned for the closing of our pre-vocational program next year, due to federal mandates. This program has been a part of ARI's array of services for over forty years!

In our residential program we completed the licensing process for all of our homes and received the maximum two-year license in each home. This demonstrates significant improvement in the quality of our services over the past several years. We continue to provide recreational and social activities to enrich the lives of the individuals we support.

I am grateful for the leadership of our Board of Directors and the hard work and dedication of our staff. These two groups help ensure that we are achieving both individual and organizational goals. I appreciate our many volunteers who dedicate their time supporting programs and events that enrich the lives of individuals and for those who complete much needed painting, repairing and yard work at our facilities. Without your time and talents, our work would be so much more difficult to accomplish. Finally, I am so thankful to the many donors, grantors and sponsors who generously support our work. Without you, it would be impossible to do all that we do.

I look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead to ensure the continued success of ARI and those whom we support.

Susanne D. Kuligowski, President & CEO



ARI Accomplishments 2016 – 2017

RECREATION

Over one hundred individuals, staff, family members and friends attended each of four holiday parties hosted by the Knights of Columbus and Celebrations by Lina and Terry. The Stamford Police Association hosted its annual Holiday Party and purchased a gift for each individual. Board member Renee Brown donated the lunch and DJ Jeff Stroffolino provided the dance music.



Eighteen individuals participated in Special Olympics, in the areas of Bocce, Bowling, Figure Skating, Speed Skating, Snow Shoeing, Bicycling, Swimming, Track & Field, Tennis and Weight Lifting. Over 100 individuals and community members attended ARI recreation activities including art, aqua-aerobics, parties, bingo, social nights, golf, dinner outings, bowling, picnics and much more. Thanks to the Stamford Symphony, WWE, Bridgeport Bluefish, and Sound Tigers for donating tickets.

VOLUNTEERS

Eighteen volunteers from Ernst & Young completed yard work and painting at Palermo House in September. Ten volunteers from Cartus painted common areas and bathrooms at Ridgefield Sunrise Cottage in June. Over seventy volunteers from The Synapse Group painted bedrooms and common areas and completed yard work at the Lotstein House in May.

Donald Axleroad, founder of the ARI Artists Initiative and past board member was named Stamford Volunteer of the Year.

Over 200 volunteers donated over 2,000 hours at ARI activities. Volunteer groups included Future 5, The United Way, Ernst & Young, Cartus, Synapse Group, and many individual volunteers. Volunteers assisted with programs and fundraising events including Aqua Aerobics, Art Class, Bingo, parties, the 21st and 22nd Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament, the 11th Annual Walk for Independence and more.



FUNDRAISING



The First County Bank Foundation continued to support the I.H.S. and Residential program by awarding a \$7,500 grant to provide financial support and continued independence for individuals.

Fairfield County's Community Foundation, Pitney Bowes, and Staples awarded grants totaling \$16,000 (\$10,000, \$5,000 and \$1,000 respectively) to purchase computers, software and other equipment for our Computer Lab to enhance learning in the areas of Life Skills and Career Development Training.

The Knights of Columbus Council #41 awarded \$13,000 from their annual golf tournament and Tootsie Roll Drive. Council #583 awarded ARI \$600 from their annual Tootsie Roll Drive.

A \$100,000 anonymous donation was received to assist with vehicle purchases and general needs.

A \$50,000 anonymous donation was received to assist with vehicle purchases.

A \$136,833 donation was received from the estate of Denise Grove. Mrs. Grove was a past ARI board member, the mother of two individuals served by ARI and a lifetime volunteer and supporter.

The 21st and 22nd Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournaments and 11th Annual Walk for Independence were all successful in raising awareness and funds to benefit the agency. Over 300 people attended the Walk for Independence with a total of 50 businesses joining as sponsors. Over 200 people attended the two golf tournaments.

ARI was the beneficiary of "The Rat Pack, A Tribute to Frank, Sammy and Dean" fundraiser held in June.

ARI received support from over 500 individuals, families, foundations and corporations.

RESIDENTIAL

Thirty-two individuals reside in our five Community Living Arrangements (group homes). All five group homes have received a two-year license by the Department of Developmental Services—the maximum license a home can receive.

Eighteen individuals reside in their own apartments and receive supports through our Individualized Home Support program to ensure their continued success living independently in the community.

The Residential program continues to support each person based on their individual abilities and goals with a focus toward increasing each person's level of independence. In addition to continuing to improve daily living skills including budgeting and shopping, self-care, and social skills, the most important focus is on improving the quality of life through building relationship and offering enrichment activities at home and in the community. This year Residential Managers coordinated vacations for eight individuals allowing them to enjoy a break and visit family across the country.

Healthcare oversight was provided for all fifty individuals. The medical department included two full time R.N.s, two L.P.N.s and one Medical Coordinator. The Medical Department coordinates all medical appointments and care, and ensures compliance with countless state regulations.



DAY SERVICES

Fifty-seven individuals took part in the Day Service Options program, developing life skills and experiencing and contributing to our local community. Activities focused on building skills include self-advocacy, social skills, cooking, arts & crafts, music, computer lab, recycling, cultural awareness, and much more. Participants attend the senior center, library, museums, parks and other cultural venues. Volunteer opportunities enable individuals to give back to their community. Twelve individuals volunteered at different organizations in the Stamford community, including the Stamford Hospital, Salvation Army, Person to Person in Darien, Tully Health Center, New Covenant Center, and First Congregational Church Thrift Shop. Twenty-two individuals were employed in our Group Supported Employment program. These individuals work as part of the Landscaping and Cleaning crews. The crews are responsible for six outside contracts plus the maintenance of the ARI facilities. Fifteen individuals were employed and supported by a job coach through the Individualized Supported Employment program at Stop & Shop, Whole Foods Market, Ferguson Library, Zody's 19th Hole, Target, Sterling Farms Golf Course, First County Bank, Odyssey Re, and more! Eight individuals were employed in Pre-Vocational Services, developing work skills while completing mailing and assembly-type contracted work for local businesses. Several individuals received Individualized Day Program-Non Vocational services. They addressed their goals, completed work assessments and completed on-the-job training.

Day Services was awarded grants from the Staples Foundation, Pitney Bowes and Fairfield County's Community Foundation for the purchase of computer software and other technology to update the educational curriculum. New materials will assist with the teaching of skills to foster the independence of each individual.

ARI OF CONNECTICUT, INC

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John D. Russo, Treasurer
Lee Combrinck-Graham, M.D., Secretary

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Sussman, Richard E. Taber, Francis White*,
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*deceased

ARI Staff

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 Jaye Bendolph
 Thashia Bentley
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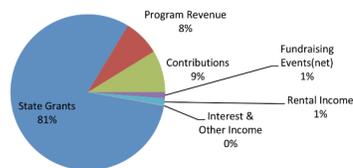
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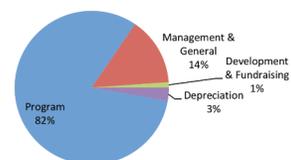
Audited Financials

AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT 2016 – 2017

FY 2017 Revenue



FY 2017 Expense



REVENUE

State Grants	\$5,308,034	81%
Program Revenue	\$499,125	8%
Contributions	\$571,474	9%
Fundraising Events(net)	\$83,806	1%
Rental Income	\$95,150	1%
Interest & Other Income	\$4,911	0%
Total	\$6,562,500	100%

EXPENSE

Program	\$5,510,271	82%
Management & General	\$967,371	14%
Development & Fundraising	\$75,391	1%
Depreciation	\$188,950	3%
Total	\$6,741,983	100%

