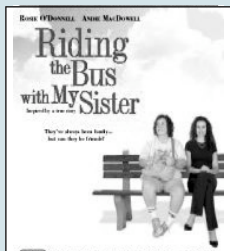


In Recognition of National Disability
Employment Awareness Month,



Riding the Bus with My Sister

by Rachel Simon

was shown at The Ferguson Library on
October 16th. Charles Hertz and his son
Mark (who is served by ARI) moderated a
moving discussion following the film.
We thank The Ferguson for hosting this
event and for its support of ARI.

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FALL 2005

EVERY GIFT IS
SIGNIFICANT.
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ONGOING SUPPORT.

CARF Accreditation: A standard of excellence

ARI of Connecticut sustained their accreditation by
the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation
Facilities for another three years. This is significant when
one considers only 20% of agencies in Connecticut are
CARF accredited.



What does it mean to be accredited?

When an ARI service or
program is CARF-accredited,
it means it has passed an in-
depth review of its services.
It is assurance to our con-
sumers and their families that
ARI meets rigorous guidelines
for service and quality—an

unquestionable endorsement that ARI conforms to nation-
ally and internationally recognized service standards and is
focused on delivering the most favorable results to those
we serve.

After ARI applies for accreditation of its services or
programs, CARF sends professionals in the field to conduct
an on-site survey to determine the degree to which the
organization meets the standards. This occurred at ARI in
June of this year. CARF surveyors also consult with staff
members and offer suggestions for improving the quality
of services.

“Being CARF accredited is a reflection of the quality
of services provided by ARI. It is also a reflection of how
seriously we view our mission of enriching the lives of the
people and their families that we serve,” commented
Cecelia Camp, Director of Professional Services.

According to CARF, ARI demonstrated that they sub-
stantially meet internationally recognized standards. Our
consumers and their families can be confident that ARI has
made a commitment to continually enhance the quality of
its services and programs and its focus on the satisfaction of
the persons served. Additionally, when an organization
receives CARF accreditation it is assured that:

- ARI's programs and services actively involve consumers
in selecting, planning, and using services.
- ARI's programs and services have met consumer-focused,
state-of-the-art national standards of performance.
- ARI's standards were developed with the involvement
and input of consumers.
- ARI is focused on assisting each consumer in achieving
his or her chosen goals and outcomes.

John Russo, whose daughter Sara is served by ARI,
feels that CARF accreditation shows a commitment to
quality, “My wife and I appreciate the work that all the
folks at ARI do. Reaching higher standards like the CARF
accreditation gives me a real feeling of security in knowing
that Sara is involved with an organization that is committed
to exceeding expectations.”

This is a time when many private providers are
choosing not to do what it takes to achieve this honor.
ARI is committed to remaining a leader in our field.
Congratulations to all the staff, board, consumers and
families for their support of and dedication to our
commitment to excellence.

Enriching the lives of people with disabilities and their families by enabling
them to achieve their fullest potential at home, at work and in the community.

A Letter from the Board of Directors

Dear Friends and Families,

Once again ARI faces an opportunity to improve our leadership strategies and strengthen our position for a challenging future. The Board of Directors has embarked upon a new direction and will be hiring a new director this year. We look forward to this process and welcome your input. Our primary focus remains our consumers—our friends and families served by ARI.

We move forward with great news: the Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), has granted ARI the highest level of competence-a three-year accreditation! This means that ARI has and will continue to meet the highest national standards in our field. We are grateful to the outstanding ARI staff who worked tirelessly to achieve a successful outcome.

After six-months of hard work and careful planning, the Board has developed a new Strategic Plan. This 3–5 year plan focuses on six critical success factors that will shape our future.

- We will encourage geographic expansion,
- We will grow in residential capacity
- We will expand the number of people we serve, with a broader range of disabilities.
- We will investigate new business initiatives to provide better and more meaningful jobs.
- We will implement new and exciting fundraising, marketing and communications plans.
- We will involve more people in this organization than ever before, which will provide us with the resources we need to succeed.

My deepest thanks to fellow board member Steve Matis, our strategic planning expert, for the many hours of volunteer work and incredible effort that brought us to this point.

At ARI, we want to provide the absolute best services and programs we can. The CARF standards indicate we are on the right path. The Board strategic plan will give us direction. We can do this with the help of our friends, families, staff and neighbors.

Thank you for your confidence and support.

Peter A. Buck
Chairperson
ARI of CT Inc.

New Development Director



Robert Cottle has been named Director of Development. He is responsible for fundraising, marketing and communications. Prior to joining ARI, Rob was Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving for Sacred Heart University in Fairfield. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Sacred Heart and is pursuing an MBA at Salve Regina University. He lives in Milford with his wife Cathy, two-year old daughter, Grace and their two dogs, Kane and Cooper.

“I am very excited to be a part of an organization with such a rich history but also one with wonderful dreams and aspirations for the future. It will be an honor to help make those dreams come true.”

Over the last several months, Rob, along with Donna Wiberg, Vice-Chairperson of the Board and head of the Development Committee, have been hard at work at implementing an exciting new model for raising awareness of ARI within the community and increasing the level of financial support.

“Rob brings a level of experience to the Development Department that we have not seen in a long time,” says Wiberg. “His experience, professionalism and ability to ‘think outside the box,’ will bring some new and exciting initiatives to ARI. Most impressive about Rob is his belief in and dedication to our mission, which is a very compelling one.”

The recently-approved Strategic Plan has specific goals for development. State and federal funding keeps us in business but there is a gap between mediocrity and exceeding expectations. We call this our ‘Margin of Excellence.’ To close this gap, fundraising will play a key role. Rob will make this happen!

One key initiative will be the implementation of a consistent program that will invite current donors, friends and family as well as community leaders and businesses to learn more about the organization, its plans and how it will enrich the lives of those we serve like never before.

Rob believes that mission-based fundraising allows an organization to build life-long donors. “Telling our story consistently and effectively will allow people to experience the mission of ARI. Their support really does make the difference between providing basic programs and services and achieving excellence.”

ARI Annual Meeting 2005

Peter Buck, Chair of the ARI Board of Directors, conducted the 2005 Annual Meeting in the Richmond Hill Avenue building on June 27, 2005. He proudly reported on the creation of our new Strategic Plan. This 3–5 year plan will include improvements in homes, jobs and support services.

Mr. Buck introduced the CARF Accreditation surveyors, who reflected upon their responsibilities to CARF and to ARI. Herb Start was pleased to be invited to the Annual Meeting and described the CARF process to family and friends in attendance.

Four new board members were introduced: Adriano Gatto, a consumer of ARI services; Beth Keenan, a Special Education Teacher at Turn of River Middle School; Gail Malloy, a Realtor; and Carmine Vaccaro, Past Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus, community activist and a previous ARI board member. Welcome to you all!

ARI recognized and thanked our outgoing board members: Denise Grove, Michael Kellick, Michael Maul and Deniese Pflueger.

ARI’s Michael Burle was given special recognition for his outstanding accomplishments this year. Sherri Norwood was recognized with the Noteworthy Performance award, and George Corsiglia was recognized as Volunteer of the Year for his commitment to those we serve. We gave special recognition to Jose Auson, Supervising Kitchen Manager, Meals on Wheels, Stamford.

Yvette Jones Banks, Carlette Brisseaux, Joy Henry, Judy Katzen and Deborah Krasner received longevity awards for 5 years of employment. Theresa Brown, Lashon Joyner, and Elizabeth King received longevity awards for 10 years, and Carey Jaffee received a longevity award for 15 years of service to ARI.

Peter Buck thanked all those in attendance for their ongoing support. Let us see you all year long, not just in June!

ARI Community News

Board member honored with prestigious award

Lee Combrinck-Graham, M.D., Secretary of the ARI Board of Directors, was honored by the American Family Therapy Academy, which presented their 2005 award to her in recognition of distinguished contribution to family therapy theory and practice. Dr. Combrinck-Graham, an associate clinical professor at Yale Medical School, is the author of numerous publications including four books related to families and children. Most of her professional activity is devoted to working with community child and family agencies in Fairfield County. She and her husband, Dr. Charles Hertz, also an ARI Board member, are the parents of Mark, an ARI consumer.

ARI Honoree, Ron Weiner, of RDM named Top Broker in America

Ron Weiner, CFP, President and CEO of financial advisory firm RDM Financial Group, was recognized in the June 13, 2005 issue of Barron’s as one of the top 100 brokers in America.

Ron and his team make decisions independently of large Wall Street firm influences and were compared to a good doctor who understands that the entire patient has to be treated. Weiner added that it is not enough to have experienced people on his team, “you need to have nice people who really care about one another.”

Beyond caring for his clients, Ron believes that supporting community based organizations is important and he has supported ARI over the years. “ARI’s level of caring for their consumers is near and dear to my heart. The need for this kind of organization is extraordinary, but not easy. The folks at ARI do it with great passion and efficiency.” Thanks and congratulations, Ron!

A MARGIN OF EXCELLENCE

There is a gap between mediocrity and exceeding expectations which we call the “Margin of Excellence.” Your continued support is critical to help us close this gap. State and federal funding keeps us in business; but, we rely on the generous support of you, our friends and families, to help us excel.



Our goal is to build and sustain lifelong donors who believe in the mission of ARI. A gift to ARI supports our ever-increasing desire to provide the highest quality of services to people who are always reaching for independence.

**Every gift is significant.
Thank you for your generous support!**

For your convenience, please utilize the enclosed donor envelope or make a secure gift online at:

www.arict.org/donationform.asp

ARI honors Founding Families at 10th Annual Golf Tournament



Thelma Martin and Louis Lotstein

ARI recently celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament. The tournament is held in honor of ARI's founders, Louis Lotstein and Thelma Martin. This year we honored the legacy of our founders and presented a special award in appreciation of the continued support of their extended families. The Lotstein family was represented by Ralph Lotstein, Louis' brother. Gladys Martin Cohen, Thelma's daughter, represented the Martin families.

We were thrilled to be able to honor the people who have carried on the vision of our founders. These families have helped shape the continued success of ARI. Their original goals and missions remain alive and well through their continued involvement and support.

The foursome of George Boccuzzi, David Lucier, Greg Policastro and Jeff Yates took first place for the men's team and the foursome of Kay Pfaff, Karen Murphy, Kathy Murphy and Ginger Smith had the low score for the women's team. Mixed Team low score winners were Bucky Fisher, Lauren Quinn, Joe Samela, Jr, and Mike Uptagraw.

The tournament was held at Sterling Farms Golf Course, followed by a luncheon at the Italian Center of Stamford. In attendance were business leaders, friends and family of the organization. Net proceeds of the tournament reached nearly \$24,000, the highest amount in the tournament's history.



Ralph Lotstein

Ed Granelli remarked, "Over the years, the Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament has been a wonderful way to enjoy a great day of golf while, supporting a worthy cause at the same time."

Thanks, again, to co-chairs Ed Granelli and Ken D'Andrea, as well as to Jerry Bosak, for their leadership and support.

Elizabeth (Libby) Ryan Still Collecting Medals

"I'm a busy lady," remarked Elizabeth (Libby) Ryan, smiling her ready Irish impish grin, when she was reminded of her swimming practice and upcoming weekend swim meet.

Libby has been on the go since her mother dropped her off at the ARI Nursery School, then located at the Jewish Center on Strawberry Hill, when she was three.

Recently Libby participated in the 2005 Summer Olympics in New Haven. She won 2 silver medals (50 and 25 yard free style) and a 5th place ribbon. In fact, her dresser is loaded with dozens of medals. Swimming, golf, bocce, even beating Palermo staff at the game of Trouble . . . Libby loves competition!

"We never kept her from anything. We encouraged her to do whatever she wanted" says Mrs. Ryan. Both mother and daughter are especially proud of the medals Libby won at the International Olympics in Michigan in 1975 when Libby was 14. Libby beat 40,000 other swimmers from around the globe to win the gold in the 25 yard freestyle. She also earned a silver medal in the 100 yard freestyle relay.

The water wasn't always smooth for Libby, however. When Libby was five a piano toppled onto her and dislocated her neck, keeping Libby in traction for months. Additional surgeries and months of rehabilitation didn't deter her spirits. Old photos always show Libby with that little grin. It was at the Newington's Children's Hospital that a caring nurse gave Libby her nickname.

Swimming made Libby stronger. At age 15 she taught youngsters at Camp Jaycee to swim. Even when Libby had open heart surgery at age 22, she was in the pool two weeks later. Carpel tunnel syndrome? After the stitches for surgery were removed Libby was bowling again.

Libby transitioned from home into Palermo House a year ago, along with her childhood friend Mark (Woody) Woodhall. There she continues with many of the activities she did with her family—cooking, baking, watering the plants.



Photo by Chris Prevolos, The Advocate, 2005 Southern Connecticut Newspapers Inc. Reprinted with permission.



Gerard and Chris Mack

New Recreation Coordinator on board and ready to go!

ARI recently hired Gerard Gasparino as the new Recreation Coordinator. Prior to joining ARI, Gerard worked for Host Communications, a sports marketing firm in Dallas, Texas. He was an event assistant on the NASCAR circuit for three years.

He is excited about his new opportunity in providing outstanding programs for our consumers.

"It is my goal to energize the recreation department. I plan to provide choices to the consumers by offering several activities a week. My long term goal is to offer more than one activity a day."

Gerard plans to provide individualized recreation. These activities will be customized to each and every individual. "My plan is to establish activities that will not only create fun and camaraderie but also stretch the limits and serve as teaching/exercise tools. I will do this by focusing on what each consumer would like to try, not what they

Staff News

Judy Katzen, Director of New Initiatives, has agreed to serve as a mentor for students enrolled at the University of Massachusetts, Institute for Community Inclusion. UMass / ICI has received a grant from the federal Rehabilitation Services Administration to provide training to employment specialists throughout New England. The program is offered through the Graduate Rehabilitation Counseling Department at UMass Boston.

Judy has also been invited to participate on the conference planning committee for the 2006 National APSE (Association for Persons in Supported Employment) Conference to be held in Boston in June 2006. Judy is President and founder of the CT APSE Chapter.

ARI Awarded Two More USPS Maintenance Contracts

The ARI housekeeping department successfully won two new cleaning contracts with Stamford Post Offices. In addition to the West Avenue Post Office, the cleaning crew is responsible for the daily cleaning of the Ridgeway Post Office and the Glenbrook Post office. The crew, under the leadership of Rosie Jones, continues to maintain their other weekly community commitments as well.

The development of housekeeping skills has been an area of interest to ARI's consumers. We will now be able to graduate from in-house cleaning opportunities to more jobs in a competitive market.

can't do."

A strong recreation department depends on volunteers. Along with creating programs and activities it is a necessity to create a volunteer program. Gerard will focus on creating a pool of volunteers in order to aid our consumers. "Recreation is non-stop and unpredictable. An opportunity may arise and unless there are good people in the wings to give a hand our consumers may miss out", says Gasparino.

Over the next few months, Gerard has several activities planned. Although the calendar is always being improved, there are numerous programs in place or under development including basketball, bowling, park games, bingo, poker, karaoke, movies, and dance class as well as professional sporting events like baseball, football, basketball and hockey.

Paresa Ioannidis, Director of Residential Services comments on the hiring of Gerard, "I am happy that Gerard is on board. His ideas on enhancing recreation activities for our consumers is music to my ears"

If you are interested in getting involved and becoming a volunteer, please contact Gerard Gasparino at 203-324-9258 x 3023 (email gasparinog@arict.org)

ARI also provides Volunteer Service to our Community


People served by ARI love to give back to the community by volunteering their time to "Meals on Wheels" and "Friendly Visitor/Friendly Shoppers," two programs designed to help the elderly.

The Executive Director of "Meals on Wheels," Grace Mall states "The services provided by ARI's consumers are greatly appreciated . . . not only by me but by the individuals who receive the meals." ARI Volunteers and staff pick up and deliver meals to people who are homebound. ARI has been providing this service for over 12 years, growing from 1 to 6 routes a week!

Mall noted that "ARI has wonderful staff working with the consumers. It's nice to see our agencies working together providing an important service really needed by the community." She also noted that the recipients of the meals really look forward to seeing our consumers.

ARI has also been providing volunteer services for the "Friendly Visitor/Friendly Shoppers" program for 6 years! With the assistance of ARI staff, volunteers go to an individual's home to visit, obtain a grocery list and money, shop for the individual and deliver the items.

Mrs. Deirdre Virvo, director of the program says; "I am very pleased with the services that ARI is providing, as are the recipients of the services. We look forward to seeing the ARI volunteers! I have nothing but positive things to say about the consumers and staff."



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To help ARI, simply call 1-866-PETRO-4-U. If you join Petro, we'll also give you a special thank-you incentive. And you'll get the price protection stability and 24-hour service that comes with Petro.



Come home to Petro. Call 1-866-PETRO-4-U and mention ARI

ARI of Connecticut Donations January 1 to June 30, 2005

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Mr. Jeffrey Yates
Mrs. Kathleen M. Young
Mr. Alan Ziskin
Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Zitter

Grants

The Allstate Foundation
Knights of Columbus, Council #41
Knights of Columbus, Council #5833
The Young Women’s League of New Canaan

We apologize for any inadvertent omissions.