



The 1st Annual ARI Gospel Concert for Independence

Nearly 300 people gathered for the 1st Annual Gospel Concert for Independence fundraiser on Sunday, September 27 at the Norwalk Concert Hall. This inaugural event was conceived of and chaired by ARI board members Eric Brown, Sr., Renee Brown and Calvin Chapman. B.A.S.I.C. – Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Chris Coogan & The Good News Gospel Choir, Kevin Monroe & Devotion, Tamir Hye, Janice Smith, Jeremy Shoffner, The Vision Community Steppers, Louis Jackson, and Karl Arezzini entertained the crowd with spectacular performances.

Special thanks to our Mistress of Ceremonies, Chiquita Stephenson, for emceeding the event. Many thanks to our major sponsors: The Umbrella Club, West High Service Station, The Kiwanis Club of Stamford and Benefit Planning Services. And, heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended or otherwise sponsored this special evening.

We are already planning next year's event. For more information please contact Gerard J. Gasparino, Manager. of Development & Recreation at gasparinog@arict.org or visit us at www.arict.org.



The 20th Annual Lotstein / Martin Golf Tournament

The 20th Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament took place on Thursday, July 30 at Sterling Farms Golf Course. Despite the weather the day was a great success. Congratulations to Ed Granelli and Ken D'Andrea, who were recognized for founding the tournament and demonstrating their support ever since.



The Tournament drew over 70 golfers and was sponsored by over 55 groups, businesses and individuals. We would especially like to thank our Major Sponsors Axel Johnson Inc., KAF Manufacturing, The Umbrella Club, Stamford Hospital and West High Service Station. We also wish to thank our generous tee sponsors and everyone who supported the raffle and auction.

We look forward to the 21st Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament tentatively, scheduled for late July, 2016 at Sterling Farms.



From the President & CEO

Photo by Bernie Weiss



I hope you had a wonderful summer and are now enjoying the cooler days, the beauty of the leaves changing, and the anticipation of the upcoming holiday season!

We have been very busy at ARI in so many ways. The needs of the people we serve are ever changing and we strive to

keep up. We said goodbye to some staff, including Renee Atkins and Laura Floyd who retired from our day program after many years of service to ARI. We welcomed new staff members who have been wonderful additions to our team. We had a successful golf outing and our first gospel concert, raising much needed funds to support our programs. And, with all of this going on, we have watched with great concern and anticipation as the CT elected officials battled over tough budget decisions. The budget was passed with less than adequate funding, and a few months later the Governor announced rescissions of \$8 million to DDS.

Every day we struggle, but we continue to be inspired and driven by the people we serve and our commitment to them. Their growth and success as independent individuals keep us working hard and searching for creative ways to solve our problems. We are delighted to have a few new consumers in our day program through high school transition services, Bureau of Rehab Services, and a new high school graduate. We are looking at ways to expand in these areas, serving more individuals and families in need and bringing in new streams of revenue.

Our ARI families and friends are essential to us. You are our volunteers, donors, supporters, communicators and public relations team. We are so grateful for all that you do. The next few months will be filled with planning for our future. We are completing our annual financial audit, evaluating all of our programs and services, looking for new opportunities for programs and funding, starting work on a strategic plan, and much more. We will be turning to you over and over again for your thoughts, time and treasures and we are hopeful that you will respond each time. We need your help now in order to ensure a solid future for ARI. I am so thankful to have you on our team!

With sincere appreciation,

Susanne D. Kuligowski
President & CEO



Residential Services News

We are proud to announce that all five of our residential group homes have received 2-year licenses, the maximum given by DDS. And, we have expanded our nursing services to include two RNs and three LPNs to ensure the highest level of healthcare.

We continue to investigate ways to bolster our residential programs to ensure that consumers have the opportunity to live independently in their community. One program is the *Community Companion Home* program.

- Do you have a desire to enhance your community and spend time with an individual with special needs?
- Would you be willing to welcome a person into your home as a member of your family?
- Would you like to be rewarded for your patience, teaching and care-taking skills?

If you are saying, "yes," you may be interested in becoming a Community Companion Home Provider!

A CCH Provider is a person / family who is licensed by the state and welcomes a person with an intellectual disability into their home. The CCH licensee offers support, personal attention, sometimes physical assistance and guidance on how to live independently while building on individual skills. Financial compensation is given based on the level of need the person in the home requires.

For more information about requirements, or if you have questions about any area of the program, please contact: Doug Duford at (203) 806 8750.

For more information on our Residential program please contact Patti Scialis, Director of Residential Services at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3018 or email scialis@arict.org.

Day Services News

We continue to strive to deliver the highest quality of day services. Over the past few months we have seen growth in many of our consumers. This past June, one of our recent high school graduates gained employment in our Group Supported Employment program. Brandon joined our housekeeping crew where he helps provide janitorial services. He continues to impress us with his work. Jessie is another consumer showing great strides. She has begun volunteering at the Stamford Hospital and delivers newspapers to patients. Her work has brought much joy to those recovering in the hospital.

On the staffing side, we are happy to announce that Inna Zelenberg has joined the Day Service team as the new Manager of Day Service Options. Inna brings many years of experience to the team. Her experiences will be an asset to the program.

We continue to work with the community to develop opportunities for our consumers. From jobs to volunteer placements to social opportunities, we ask that you consider contacting ARI to assist with our mission.

For more information on our Day Services please contact Darlene Caviness, Director of Day Services at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3027 or email cavinessd@arict.org.

Grants

ARI received \$68,160 from the **Stamford Community Development Block Grant** for the replacement of four HVAC units at the Richmond Hill Avenue facility.

ARI Received \$7,500 from the **First County Bank Foundation** to fund the Individualized Home Supports (I.H.S.) Emergency program. This program gives aid for unforeseen expenses to individuals living independently.



ARI received \$3,500 from the **Community Fund of Darien** for the I.H.S. program.

ARI received \$12,746 in funding from the **United Way of Western Connecticut** for the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year for the I.H.S. program.



Ernst & Young helped out at the Palermo Residence on Friday, September, 25, 2015. Fifteen volunteers painted, power washed and landscaped at the home as part of the EY Connect Day.

Fairfield County Bank painted the basement at the Ridgefield Sunrise Cottage on Wednesday, June 3, 2015, as part of the United Way Day of Action. Thirteen employees from the bank assisted with this project.

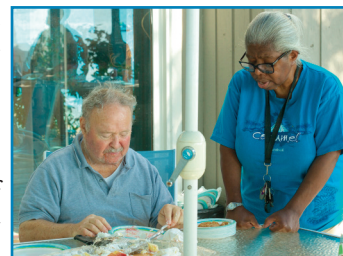
Several community volunteers coordinated by **Rebuilding Together Fairfield County** painted at the Richmond Hill Day Program on Saturday, June 20, 2015.

United Rentals worked at the Truglia Residence on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 as part of the **United Way Day of Action**. Fifteen employees painted and landscaped at the home.



Recreation & Volunteers

On Saturday, August 1, Donald Axleroad, former Board Member and founder/supporter of the ARI Artists' Initiative, hosted his annual summer gathering at his home. Over fifty consumers, staff and board members enjoyed a day of food and entertainment.



The Artist Initiative meets Thursdays from 3:00 to 5:00pm at the Richmond Hill Facility. We would like to thank Mr. Axleroad for his support of the 2015 – 2016 art program.

Aqua-Aerobics meets at the Darien YMCA on Wednesday evenings from 6:15 – 7:15pm. We would like to thank the YMCA for donating the pool to our program and our volunteers for their dedication to this program.

Over the summer 20 consumers participated in the Challenged People in Motion Golf Program. At the annual end-of-the-year dinner, Rickey Denes was recognized as the “Most Dedicated Golfer,” and Joe Viggiano was recognized as the “Most Improved Golfer.” ARI would like to thank Peggy Hagan and the volunteers at Challenged People in Motion for their dedication to this free program.

These events and activities would not happen without the support of our ARI volunteers. Over the last several months we have had a record number of volunteers help run the recreation programs as well as the Annual Walk for Independence, the Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament, and the Gospel Concert. We thank each volunteer for the support they provide for ARI and the people we serve.



If you are interested in volunteering or would like to learn more about the ARI Recreation Program please contact Gerard J. Gasparino, Manager of Development & Recreation at gasparinog@arict.org.

Thank you for Supporting ARI of Connecticut!!
Just fill out and mail this form to ARI of CT, 174 Richmond Hill Avenue, Stamford CT 06902.

- Benefactor \$2,500 +
- Leader \$1,000–\$2,499
- Supporter \$500–\$999
- Contributor \$250–\$499
- Friend \$100–\$249
- Donor \$25–\$99
- Other _____
- Enclosed is a completed form from my employer's matching gift program.

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 Name on Card: _____
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For more information, please go to www.arict.org or call 203 324-9258, ext. 3023

ARI Wish List – YOU CAN HELP!

Want to help but don't know where to start? Here is a list of opportunities to support our programs and services. You can make a real difference in the lives of our consumers by making a donation or giving your time and expertise. If you are interested in donating or assisting with any of these needs please contact Gerard J. Gasparino, Manager of Development & Recreation at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3023 or email gasparinog@arict.org.

Upcoming Event Title Sponsors

- ❑ 21st Annual Golf Tournament, July, 2016 \$5,000
- ❑ 2nd Annual Gospel Concert, September 2016 \$5,000
- ❑ 10th Annual Walk for Independence, May 2016 \$5,000

In-Kind Donations and Volunteer Opportunities

- ❑ Refrigerator (like new) for the new ARI Snack Bar
- ❑ Painting (interior and exterior)
- ❑ Landscaping at Group Homes
- ❑ ARI Committees and Events Volunteers
- ❑ Aqua-Aerobics Instructor
- ❑ Art Class Teacher / Assistant
- ❑ Fundraising Database entry and updating
- ❑ Lead activities and parties in group homes

IN MEMORY OF

Michael Anthony DeBartolomeo, 59, passed away August 31, 2015. Michael was involved with ARI for most of his life; a long-time Boy Scout; and a Special Olympics athlete. He worked at the ARI "Sheltered Workshop" He was also a member of the ARI Heart & Soul Band, where he played bass guitar.

Staff News

Welcome to these new hires:

Thashia Bentley, Residential Manager, Palermo Residence
Thomas Carney, Registered Nurse
Shelia Dixon, Residential Counselor
Juan Tavaréz Espinal, Residential Counselor
Tyeisha King, Residential Counselor
Sabrina Onorato, Licensed Nurse Practitioner
Angelina Williams, Residential Counselor
Inna Zelenberg, Manager of Day Service Options

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Save the dates

21st Annual Golf Tournament, July, 2016
2nd Annual Gospel Concert, September, 2016
10th Annual Walk for Independence, May, 2016

ARI of Connecticut, Inc. • Established 1952

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