

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

Life Changes. We are here to help. School to Life Transition Services

ARI's School to Life Transition Services ensure that all students with disabilities receive the appropriate academic, social and vocational skills needed to be as independent and successful as possible after graduation from high school.

ARI's comprehensive transition planning begins early and incorporates the student's strengths into a vision for his or her future. This may include, but need not be limited to, post-secondary education, job or vocational training, employment, independent living, social, leisure, and recreational activities in the community. The team includes the student, family members, school personnel, and an adult service provider.

Each student benefits from an individualized service plan, focusing on their own personal vision. Transitioning students participate in ARI's programs and services in order to meet their goals. These include:

- Independent Living Skills
- Career Planning
- Job Training
- Community Integration

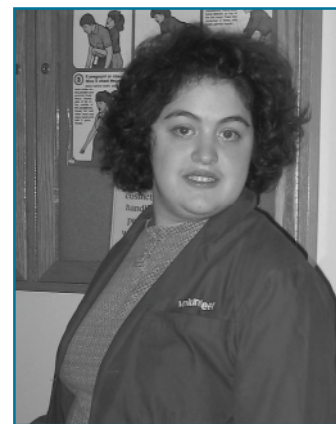
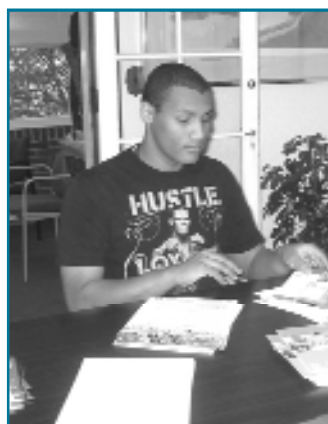


"I had been in a classroom for a while. It was okay because I learned to read and stuff. Now ARI is teaching me things that will help me be on my own. I can't wait to get my driver's license and my own apartment!"

I also like that I'm earning money while I'm getting real job experience."

—Jonathon Cubillos

ARI Transition Student



For more information about this exciting program please call Nicole Smart-Young, ARI Transition Manager, at 203 324 9258, ext 3035 or SmartN@arict.org

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.



Several years ago, there was a television commercial that asked, “Are all aspirin really alike?” The answer was “no” and the commercial proceeded to explain what made them different. There are some who say that same question could be applied to service providers for people with developmental disabilities in our state. There are many agencies out

there providing similar services to ours. So what is the difference? What makes one organization different from another?

For us, it is the belief in total focus on our clients. From the moment a person and family selects ARI of Connecticut as their service provider, our staff works with the individual, their family and DDS (Department of Developmental Services) case managers to ensure that an IP (Individual Plan) provides that individual the greatest opportunities for success and independence.

Once an IP is created, the people on the front lines—our staff—become the torchbearers of the plan’s goals and aspirations. They provide dependable services while guaranteeing that success and well being are achieved at all levels.

We do not look at what we do as “care giving,” but rather, as being there for each of our clients in every way—providing complete and essential services and advocating for his or her basic rights and happiness. Some might think that this is only semantics. For us, it is a way of life—honoring individual rights and choices, promoting independence, and treating everyone with the respect and dignity they undeniably deserve.

We bring a wealth of experience to the table. We trace our roots back to 1952, meaning that we have over 55 years of experience in delivering personalized service to support an individual’s quest to live, work, and participate in their community. Our strategy has not changed much over the years. We are all about delivering the best jobs, homes and services in the business. Simply stated, there is no substitute for experience.

Are we—like an aspirin—really just like all the others? We think not!

Over the last six months many exciting events have taken place at ARI. Last fall the ARI Artists’ Initiative was featured at the Norwalk Community College Art Gallery. Under the tutelage of Mr. Donald Axelroad, this wonderful artwork was on display for the month of

September. This led to our participation in the second annual Stamford Harbor Parade of Lights at the end of November. The Stamford community saw what our artists’ can do on land and sea! Then, the first ARI Artists’ Initiative Calendar was created and produced. Each month highlighted a piece of art and a bio of the artist along with a sidebar about an ARI program or service. This publication illustrates our mission in action.

The year ended with holiday parties and festivities, hosted by the Knights of Columbus and the Police Department. We are deeply grateful to them and all of our volunteers who give their time and resources to ARI all year round.

The New Year began with many fresh challenges to overcome. We experience the need, on a daily basis, for additional resources to meet the ever-rising costs of living. In addition, the mid-year DDS Budget proposal for 2009 currently provides for a zero percent cost of living increase for private providers like us. Our fundraising strategy will focus on bridging this “gap.” Our ability to market ourselves to new prospective clients and families will also determine our survival and success.

We look forward to enhancing and modernizing our facilities to become a more efficient and effective. We also look forward to participating in a CARF (Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) review this spring, whereby our programs and facilities are evaluated to ensure compliance with the highest standards of services.

With your support we all look forward to answering the challenges of our future. Thank you for helping us reach our mission.

We do not look at what we do as “care giving,” but rather, as being there for each of our clients in every way—providing complete and essential services and advocating for his or her basic rights and happiness.

—Matthew P. Reyher

ARI Artists' Initiative Celebrated at the Harbor Parade of Lights

The ARI Artists' Initiative latest work was showcased at the Second Annual Stamford Harbor Parade of Lights on Saturday November 24, 2007. Sailing Specialties decorated their 40' motorboat in honor of ARI and displayed the ARI Artists' Initiative artwork in their gazebo on the boardwalk. The first annual Artists' Initiative Calendar was debuted and sold to benefit the program.

Donald Axleroad, founder of the ARI Artists' Initiative, made the connection between ARI, Sailing Specialties and the Parade. Since its inception, he has guided these artists to produce exceptional work in a variety of mediums. Weekly classes are taught, pro bono, by dedicated and talented artists Charles Weisshahn and Carol Lyngholm under Don's fine direction.

Rick Allen and Jacqui Brindley, of Sailing Specialties and Avalon on Stamford Harbor, masterminded the inclusion of ARI in this special city-wide event. They donated and decorated their boat for the evening, hosted a viewing area and a post-parade reception for ARI. Their company, Sailing Specialties, runs the Harbor Marina for Avalon as well as sells boats.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this such a successful event. See you next year!

Staff News

Welcome New Staff Members:

Tammy Cates, RDSW-SLS Department; Marie Sistrunk, RDSW-Sunrise Cottage Residence; Cindy Griffith, RDSW-Sunrise Cottage Residence; Thaddeus Cuffee, RDSW-Lotstein Residence; Carol Pottinger, RDSW-Truglia Residence; Jennifer Edouard, RDSW-SLS Department; Tammy Smith-Reid, RDSW-Truglia Residence; Molly Robotti, Residential Manager-Lotstein Residence; Wayne Reid, RDSW-Lotstein Residence; Nicola Palmer-Bygrave, RDSW-Truglia Residence; Toneichia Bolden, DDSW-HS Transition Department; Rowena Peart, RDSW-Palermo Residence; Katrina Robinson, RDSW-Palermo Residence; Wendy Aldershof, Residential Manager-Sunrise Cottage Residence; Tysha Smith, Group Leader-Tally Ho Residence.

Congratulations on these Promotions:

Carla Wright, from RDSW to Group Leader-Job Placement; Myia Walters, from RDSW to Group Leader-Lotstein Residence; Carl Lewis, from DDSW-Day Options to Group Leader-Employment Services; Gerard Gasparino, from Recreational Coordinator to Manager of Development & Recreation.

Recreation and Volunteers

ARI hosted its annual Halloween and Christmas Parties at the Knights of Columbus. Over 100 clients, staff, and volunteers came to both events. Over 15 volunteers helped serve dinner and danced with clients. Volunteers came from Westhill High School's chapter Building with Books, the ARI Youth Corp, and the CVIA group. Thanks to them all, and to Michael Powers for graciously catering our parties every year.



The Special Olympics Fall Games were a huge success for ARI athletes. Several individuals from ARI competed in Sailing and Bocce. The ARI Bocce team, coached by volunteer Christian Upright, brought home several gold medals. The team members were Sheryl Lotstein, Anne Marie Joyce, Marie Kerr, Francine McMillian, Fred Frese, Elizabeth Ryan, Tim Walsh along with unified partners Donna and Donald Ryan and local (non ARI) athletes Jim Goldsmith and Maggie Fiore. Adriano Gatto won a gold medal in the sailing competition as well competing with the Darien Lions.



Challenged People in Motion dedicated a bench in memory of Michael Burl at Sterling Farms Golf Course on the 15th hole tee box. Michael Burl, who was served by ARI and who passed away last year, also belonged to Challenged People in Motion. Mary Jane Hagen, who runs this inclusive golf program, dedicated the bench.

The entire Wednesday Golf Group—individuals from all over Fairfield County—attended the ceremony. In addition, Challenged People in Motion named two awards after Michael. The first was given to volunteer Michael Mitten for going above and beyond the scope of the program. The second award was given to Glenn Ingram, a talented golfer in the program.



Sunday, May 4, 2008
Cove Island Park, Stamford

Sign up online at www.arict.org

or please call 203 324-9258 x 3023

13th ANNUAL
LOTSTEIN/MARTIN
GOLF
TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY FRIENDS OF ARI

Thursday, June 26, 2008

STERLING FARMS GOLF COURSE
STAMFORD

7AM REGISTRATION

7:45AM TEE OFF

To sign up and/or be a sponsor
please call 203 324-9258 x 3023

Donations July 1, 2007 to January 31, 2008

Thank you to the following individuals, businesses and organizations for your kind generosity. Please call us at (203) 324-9258, ext. 3023 to find out how you can help by making a donation to ARI or volunteering your time for those we serve. You can also find more information at www.arict.org.

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The Knights of Columbus presented a check for \$10,500 to ARI of Connecticut on Sunday, February 10, 2008. This annual gift is a result of the Knight's Tootsie Roll Drive that raises funds to support people with developmental disabilities. Special thanks to Knights Carmine Vaccaro and Ken D'Andrea who serve on the ARI Board and Golf Outing Committee, respectively.

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