

EVERY GIFT IS
SIGNIFICANT.
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ONGOING SUPPORT



ARI Housekeeping and Landscaping Crews

It's time to start thinking about cutting lawns, trimming bushes and planting flowers. The spring and summer months are traditionally

the busiest times for the ARI housekeeping and landscaping crews. Both begin their day promptly at 8:30am and head into the community to complete a full day of work. The housekeeping crew provides janitorial services to both businesses and private residences. The landscaping crew provides commercial and residential landscaping services including design and planting, mowing, fertilizing, debris removal, leaf removal, weeding, hedge trimming and pruning, spring and fall clean-ups, and snow removal.

Other services provided are garage cleanup, dump runs, and painting. Some of the contracts include all ARI facilities, three US Post Offices, the Greenwich Weigh Station on I-95, Creative Pension Design and Administration, Photographic Memories and several private residences.

Like any private business, the ARI housekeeping and landscaping crews rely on outside contracts for jobs and employment.

ARI Production Services

ARI provides a complete line of mailing services including bulk mailing, bar coding, Zip + 4 coding, first class pre-sorting, collating/folding/inserting/labeling and postal discounts. We also offer small assembly

completion, heat-sealing, shrink-wrapping, warehouse storage, fulfillment and shipping services.

We proudly offer:

- Quick turnaround
- Professional services at competitive rates
- Pickup and delivery
- Loading dock
- Free estimates
- Workforce able to travel to your site
- Fulfillment for large or small jobs



Employment Services and Career Planning

We offer assistance to individuals who have been out of the workforce and would like to return to competitive employment. We are an employment resource to both employers and job seekers.

Our job placement services assist people in:

- Finding jobs in the community
- Preparing a resume, cover letter and thank you note
- Creative job development
- Learning and/or practicing interviewing skills
- Problem solving strategies/options for handling specific disability issues

For more information on hiring ARI clients and/or any of our employment services, please contact Cliff Beaulieu, Employment Services Manager at (203) 324-9258, ext. 3035, or e-mail Cliff at BeauleauC@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.

From the CEO



Just as we personally experience the effects of these severe financial conditions, we here at ARI are experiencing them as well. Statewide allocations to the Department of Developmental Services' budgets continue to be slashed as legislators and the governor struggle with deficits approaching 8 billion over the next two fiscal years. We must remind ourselves of what is at stake. State dollars enhance the lives of our most vulnerable citizens. State resources keep individuals safe in home environments such as our group homes. These resources keep individuals secure and engaged. State resources allow individuals to learn skills that transform them from tax users to taxpayers. They keep clients progressing on their life continuum through work skill training and employment building. State resources keep individuals as independent as possible through individualized home supports. We as a society must not let these fundamental supports—the ARI mission—to be altered in any way by fiscal constraints.

During these troubled times, no one really knows what is in store for the nonprofit sector. But we do know we will not sit idle while our funding is depleted.

Here are a few thoughts about our enduring goals and strategies:

- **Ensuring a voice for the less powerful by joining forces.** The less connected and less powerful must always have a say in the future of this sector. Well organized state associations can act to promote and create collaborative strategies that are a conduit for advocacy, public education, and even lobbying. State associations of similar nonprofits can lead this effort by providing training, aggregating concerns, and developing a clear call to action. Associations such as the Connecticut Association of Nonprofits have already proven that combined advocacy works.
- **Collaboration.** Nonprofits must seek new ways to collaborate with other organizations and people in their communities. It is in the give and take between unlikely partners that brilliant breakthroughs are made. Philanthropy should support but not direct these efforts.
- **Enlisting the young and our stakeholders.** Nonprofits must focus more on integrating young people into their leadership. We must give young people, and our clients, a voice in determining the future of the nonprofit sector.

Our staff and clients need our attention. They need our advocacy. Thank you in advance for your unwavering and continued support.

—Matthew Reyher

From the Board Chairperson

Despite the struggling economy, the positive energy around the ARI boardroom and throughout offices of the agency has become stronger. New strategic plans are being implemented. Financial strategies are being prepared which should help soften the impact of the severe budget cuts the Governor is proposing. So even with a looming financial crisis, the long-term prospects for ARI are extremely encouraging. We must not and we can not allow the economic downturn to hurt those we serve or reverse the gains of the last few years.

This is where you, the reader, can do your part to help. I urge each of you to contact your local legislators to let them know how concerned you are about the proposed budget cuts and their impact on the ARI community.

The Third Annual ARI Walk for Independence is Sunday, May 3. What started out as a dream three years ago has become one of the major fundraising events for ARI. This year, the Walk promises to be considerably bigger and better. Early registration is ahead of last year and our web site is totally operational. The buzz throughout the community and within the agency is very encouraging.

This year the Walk carries an extra challenge. This year I must ask each of you to do more—whether it is to find corporate sponsors or have ten friends/coworkers pledge a few dollars in your support. Imagine if each walker from last year was able to enlist five to ten new walkers! A turnout of that magnitude would make front page news! A small effort on your part will have a large impact on those we care about.

If walking in the park is not your thing, hopefully a round of golf is. Thursday, June 25th is the 14th Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament. Whether you hit the links, become an event sponsor, or join us for lunch, your involvement sends a clear message that you support ARI and are concerned about the clients we serve.

Finally, the board of ARI is involved in some exciting new projects from planning the renovation of the Richmond Hill building, to more fundraising events, to overseeing the management of the agency's financial resources. The board's ability to complete these tasks is severely impacted by a shortage of board and committee members. If you or someone you know is interested in joining the board or serving on a committee, please contact Mathew Reyher or myself. The time you invest will go a long way to enrich the lives of many.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at one or more of our upcoming events.

—Allan Sussman

ARI Looks Back at 2008

Here are some of the accomplishments of 2008:

- All goals in the accessibility plan were met, except those requiring renovation on the Richmond Hill facility.
- All goals except one in the performance improvement plan were accomplished.
- ARI received a three-year accreditation, the highest accreditation, from CARF–The Rehabilitation Commission.
- All of our group homes have received the highest licensing available through the Department of Development Services (DDS) (two years).
- Our programs have dramatically improved reports for DDS' Quality Service Review.
- We have developed a risk management plan.
- We have formalized a marketing plan.
- We have developed a strategic plan, for which we received exemplary reviews from the CARF team.
- We revised the health and safety system and plan.
- A "Corporate Compliance System and Plan" was developed and implemented.
- The continuous quality improvement system was developed and implemented using utilization review, case

records review, quality service review, licensing standards and CARF international standards.

- The results of our CQI report indicate that ARI continues to move forward with its person-centered philosophy and adaptation. Goals established for individuals served have been accomplished and/or addressed.
- We offered more direct service training opportunities.
- We submitted seven applications for grants and we were awarded three. The remaining four are pending.
- Activities included "Conflict at the Cove," Stamford Harbor Parade of Lights, ARI Artists Initiative Calendar, and the Men's Wearhouse Suit Drive.
- We collaborated with Friends of ARI in facilitating the Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament, the Walk for Independence, and the Annual Appeal.
- We offered three hundred, twenty-eight recreation opportunities with over three thousand duplicated participants, two hundred, fourteen duplicated volunteers and almost eight hundred volunteer hours.
- Our board of directors volunteered one hundred, thirteen hours by attending board meetings.

save the dates!



Sunday, May 3, 2009
Cove Island Park, Stamford

Sign up online at www.arict.org
or please call 203 324-9258 x 3023

14th ANNUAL LOTSTEIN/MARTIN GOLF TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY FRIENDS OF ARI

Thursday, June 25, 2009

**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

Day Program Teams with Middle School Students in Supporting Wounded Veterans

On January 27, 2009, 18 students from Mr. Max Suthers' 7th grade class at Scofield Magnet Middle School visited the Day Program at ARI and assisted thirty-five clients in making "Valentines for Vets." This service project gave our clients a chance to take part in the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week, which takes place each year during the week of Valentine's Day. The visit was a success—clients, students, and staff all had a great time working together to make over 70 Valentines to send to the VA Medical Center in West Haven.

Staff News

WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

Nanotte Pierre, RDSW, Palermo Residence; Ebony Grant, Lotstein Residence Coordinator; Sharil Dumas, RDSW, Truglia Residence; Tammy Upchurch, RDSW, Palermo Residence; James Roan, DDSW, Day Options; Tanika Miller, RDSW, Tally Ho Residence; Kouassi Kouakou, RDSW, Individualized Home Supports; Felicia Drungo, RDSW, Palermo Residence; Ann Rabuse, RDSW, Sunrise Cottage Residence; Tracey Hudson-Harrison, RDSW, Tally Ho Residence; Vincent Grant, DDSW, Day Options; Taria Hunter, RDSW, Tally Ho Residence; Asiah Matthew, RDSW, Lotstein Residence.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THESE NEW PROMOTIONS:

Theresa Brown, from Day Direct Service Worker, Day Options to Group Leader, Individualized Home Supports; Gloria Jackson, from RDSW, Medical Dept. to DDSW, HS Transition Dept; Kislene Bosse, from RDSW—Lotstein Floater to DDSW, Day Options; Louise Medoit, from RDSW, Palermo Floater to RDSW, Palermo Residence.



Bea Grabell, Finance Manager, celebrates 30 Years with ARI. Pictured are Elizabeth King, John Gorcynski, Bea Grabell, President & CEO Matthew Reyher, Maxine Mereigh, and Gloria Clark

ARI Votes for Change



The 2008 ARI Mock Presidential Election was facilitated by Arleana Adams of the Life Skills Group/Day Services Options department. In the months leading up to the election, staff assisted interested clients in gathering information about both

the Republican and the Democratic presidential candidates. They shared their findings and talked about what they liked and disliked about each party.

After Sen. John McCain and Sen. Barack Obama were nominated, the group started planning a mock election—printing out pictures of each candidate, setting up a registration table, making a ballot box and creating campaign flyers.

On Election Day, November 4, 2008 DSO clients presented their IDs and cast their votes. The polls opened at 9:00am and closed at 2:00pm. Before we knew it the mock election was agency-wide—both staff and clients from all other departments wanted to participate. Everyone who voted received an "I Voted Today" sticker and felt very important about casting their vote.

Barack Obama won *our* mock election, with a count of forty-four to four.

—Submitted by Latoya Hunter and Darlene Caviness

IN MEMORIUM

DR. CHARLES HERTZ

Dr. Charles Hertz, vice-chairperson of ARI's Board of Directors, passed away after a brave battle with cancer. He was the husband of board member Lee Combrinck-Graham and father of Mark Combrinck-Hertz, resident of Lotstein House.

STEPHEN GROVE

Stephen Grove passed away on November 25, 2008. Stephen lived in his own apartment through the Supported Living Program and worked at Goodwill. In his spare time Stephen enjoyed ARI Parties, Special Olympics and was a member of the ARI Boy Scout troop. Stephen also was a manager of the Stamford High School football team.

Recreation and Volunteers

Participants in the ARI Recreation Program have attended several Stamford Symphony performances at the Palace Theater and two Bridgeport Sound Tigers hockey games, along with our regularly scheduled programs: dance class at the Ballet School of Stamford (see photo below), basketball night at the Yerwood Center, the ARI Artists' Initiative art class, cooking class, arts & crafts, and bowling.



• • •

On December 13th, we had a holiday cookie decorating party in the ARI Cafeteria. Nine clients were joined by a dozen high school volunteers from the Stamford High School National Honor Society and buildOn (formerly Building with Books), an after-school service program. The cookies turned out beautifully and were served for dessert at the Annual ARI Holiday Party at the Knights of Columbus on December 15th.

Holiday festivities continued with another holiday party in the ARI Cafeteria on Monday, December 22nd. Volunteers from Thomson Reuters donated and helped

to serve lunch to seventy-eight clients. Afterward, Officer John "Cowboy" Farrell from the Stamford Police Department distributed gifts to our clients. In all, over one hundred gifts were purchased and distributed to ARI clients, thanks to a generous donation from the Stamford Police Union.



• • •

The annual ARI Valentine's Day Party was held on February 9th at the Knights of Columbus. A group of high school volunteers from buildOn helped to create a festive mood by decorating the tables with hand-made Valentine's Day cards. At the end of the party, each client received his or her own Valentine to bring home.



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If you are interested in volunteering with ARI of Connecticut, Inc., please contact Holly Bosley, Coordinator of Recreation and Volunteers, at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3036, or bosleyh@arict.org.

Volunteer Center Recognizes ARI Volunteer

This past December the Volunteer Center of Southwestern Connecticut recognized ARI Volunteer, Paul Mangieri, as its 2008 Outstanding Established Male Adult Volunteer. Paul Mangieri has been a volunteer at ARI for the past three years. During this time Paul has been a regular volunteer at the weekly aqua-aerobics class, serving at many of the ARI parties, and much more. We are fortunate and thankful to have a volunteer as committed, caring, and giving as Paul. Congratulations!

Family Advisory Group Looking for Family Members

ARI seeks family members to help us continue to provide services that are relevant to our clients. As family members, you know the needs, desires and preferences of your son, daughter, sister or brother.

The first 2009 Family Advisory Group meeting will be held on April 23 from 6:30–7:30 pm at 174 Richmond Hill. At the first meeting we will review and define the purpose of the group, review ARI's 2008 Continuous Quality Improvement report, and develop an action plan for 2009. All parents are urged to attend. Please call Dr. Bob DiDomenico at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3014 if you can attend.

Donations November 1, 2008 to February 28, 2009

Thank you to the following individuals, businesses and organizations for their 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. You can also find more information at aricr.org.

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Kenny D'Andrea and Carmine Vaccaro, board members of ARI and The Knights of Columbus, presented a check for over \$10,000 to ARI President and CEO, Matthew Reyher and Board Chair Allan Sussman at their Annual Communion Breakfast on Sunday, March 1, 2009.



ARI of Connecticut, Inc. was the proud recipient of ten IBM Desktop Computers through the IBM Technology Donation Program. Grants from this program are made through a partnership with the United Way of Western Connecticut. The computers will be used in the ARI computer lab to aid in skill development.

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