

EVERY GIFT IS
SIGNIFICANT.
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ONGOING SUPPORT

Celebrating 60 years with a Makeover



BEFORE & AFTER
Two entrance ramps



BEFORE & AFTER Cafeteria



New restroom



New hallway to offices

As we embark on our 60th year of providing services to the greater Stamford Community, we proudly announce the completion of the first two phases of a multiphase plan to upgrade our Richmond Hill facility. These first two phases have focused on accessibility and energy efficiency: removal and installation of energy efficient windows, exterior restoration, removal and installation of a ramp system to allow accessibility at both levels, and a complete overhaul of the restroom facilities and cafeteria.

The Richmond Hill facility has been home to the ARI Day Program since 1974. Since then, we have witnessed a steady increase in the number of clients attending daily programs. Over time the need to update became a priority.

Pictures say a thousand words and, as you can see, the renovations will make a positive difference in the lives of our clients.

We are planning a 60th Anniversary Celebration in September to recognize this anniversary and the completion of the first two phases of renovations. You will be invited to see the renovations and to hear about our recent accomplishments. We will also embark upon a fundraising campaign to enable us to complete the remaining phases of the renovation over the next few years.

Please feel free to contact Matthew P. Reyher, President & CEO at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3028 or email reyherm@arict.org for more information.

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



As the season of spring is upon us, we can see that the hard work done over the winter has resulted in the wonderful renovation of our day program building. The new ramps make the entrances accessible and more aesthetically pleasing. The refurbished cafeteria and kitchen are updated with new floors, appliances and a fresh coat of paint. The newly constructed restroom facilities are modern and energy-efficient. Many thanks to our construction company and vendors for making our facility a wonderful place to work, learn, and to experience the great ARI mission.

Our challenges continue to grow as “level-of-need-based” funding versus “legacy” funding impacts all of our programs. We continue to demonstrate the benefit our clients and families receive by attending our day programs. The training we offer helps them achieve their employment and other short- and long-term goals. While we can continue to provide quality services with the new rates, this transformation does have a negative impact on the fiscal resources allocated to our agency. We understand that the system cannot be sustained in its current structure, we have to plan for the future knowing fiscal pressures will rise. Commitment from our community partners and donors will have to be raised to a much higher level.

We thank you for all of your continued support and advocacy as we fulfill the ARI mission.

ARI continues to be grateful for the wonderful volunteer work provided by community-spirited corporations. Many improvement projects are planned for this spring at our residential facilities.

I'd like to take this opportunity to mention our stellar staff. I appreciate all that they continue to do for the clients whom we support. I must also thank the ARI Board of Directors for their governance, guidance and support of all the staff at ARI. They make decisions with the upmost amount of care and concern for our most vulnerable citizens, our “guys.”

Lastly, I thank you, our donors and benefactors, who make our jobs easier with your commitment and dedication to our agency. We thank you for all of your continued support and advocacy as we fulfill the ARI mission of “always reaching for independence” for all of our clients.

Don't forget to save these important dates: The Walk for Independence, Sunday, May 6; The ARI Annual Meeting Monday, June 25, The Lotstein-Martin Golf Tournament Thursday, August 16; the ARI 60th Anniversary fundraiser on Saturday, September 8; and the Comedy Night in the fall of 2012.

— Matthew P. Reyher

From the Board Chair



Last year about this time, I was cleaning the yard to get ready for the full bloom of Springtime. As I prepared to pluck some budding growth that seemed unfamiliar, my wife unceremoniously scolded me, “Don't get rid of that ... it's a flower!” Looking down at my thumbs and seeing not the slightest hint of green in either, I followed my wife's direction. Lo and behold, a month or so and some minor TLC later, a few of the most beautiful flowers grew in that patch of ground.

As we go through life, it is sometimes too easy to disregard the unfamiliar. A weed to someone may be a flower to someone else. When we disregard titles and preconceptions, a whole world of beauty can open to us.

With our clients, we are fortunate to enjoy this beauty everyday.

A smile that can be seen by just looking in the eyes. A hug that comes so innocently. A laugh that is filled with purity and joy. Examples of the human spirit can be the most moving beauty one could hope to encounter. With our clients, we are fortunate to enjoy this beauty everyday.

ARI supports individuals who strive to achieve independence and fosters the expression of their human spirit. The hope we give to our clients is invaluable. To step forward and contribute to that hope is a measure of our own human spirit.

As we enjoy the Spring weather, please take a moment to think about ARI, the beauty of our clients and the impact that you can make on their lives by contributing to our mission.

— Scott M. Wich



The start of the 2011 ARI Walk for Independence

Join us for the
6th annual
walk for
independence



Sunday, May 6, 2012

**10 am Registration, 11am Walk, 12 noon Picnic
 at Cove Island Park, Stamford**

At each of the past five Walks, 350 people in our community have participated in support of our mission. Help us surpass this number and reach our goal of raising \$50,000 this year!

There is no cost to attend! Participants who raise \$50 will receive a 2012 Walk Tee Shirt.



Walk Registration

Your Name _____

☐ I will create/join THE _____ TEAM

☐ I can't participate but wish to make a donation

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

(m) _____ Email _____

Company _____

PLEDGE \$ _____ (Over \$50 = one Tee shirt)

SIZE: CHILD ☐ Sm ☐ Med ADULT ☐ Med ☐ Large ☐ XL ☐ XXL

I will also ☐ Sponsor an ARI HOUSE TEAM ☐ Sponsor an ARI Client

☐ Be an Event Sponsor ☐ Enclosed is my matching gift form

Please make checks payable to ARI of CT and mail with

this completed form to ARI Walk for Independence,

174 Richmond Hill Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902

☐ Check \$ _____

☐ Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card Number _____ CVA _____

Name on Card _____

Exp Date ____/____/____

**Walkers and Supporters
 Register online at
www.active.com/donate/6thariwalk**

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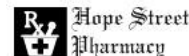
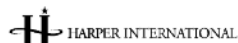
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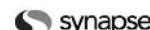
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Day Programs

In February, the Job Placement department created the ARI Job Club, designed for individuals currently working in competitive employment and those seeking competitive employment.

The club meets monthly for two hours to discuss topics related to preparing for, finding and maintaining employment. The club currently consists of 10 clients under the guidance of Cliff Beaulieu, Manager of Employment Services; Valerie Ennis, Employment Specialist; and Elaine James, Job Coach.

The club will allow clients to share their experiences as well as talk about appropriate behavior in the workplace. The Job Placement team will facilitate mock interviews, discuss how to appropriately dress and act during an interview, and appropriate behavior on the job.

The Job Placement team will be asking business leaders to help facilitate future meetings. If you are interested in hiring an ARI client or would like information on the Job Club please contact Cliff Beaulieu, Manager of Employment Services at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3035 or email beaulauc@arict.org.



Staff News – Human Resources

ARI continues to provide resources to the staff to foster a positive and safe workplace for all. The Human Resource Department works diligently to provide training sessions and forums for professional development and the creation of an exemplary work environment.

The trainings enhance staff's ability to work with clients and maintain a high level of safety. Along with the trainings mandated by the State of Connecticut, ARI offers staff the ability to participate in Harassment Prevention Training, Safe Lifting Training, Slips, Trips and Falls Training, and Defensive Driving Training. The objective of these trainings is to maintain a high level of safety for all. Trainings are provided throughout the year allowing all staff to attend. Trainings are provided throughout the year allowing all staff to attend.

The Human Resource Department also offers staff the opportunity to participate in Town Hall Meetings where they have the ability to receive updates on new initiatives in the agency and around the state from the President & CEO of ARI. These meetings allow staff members to express concerns and ask questions. The annual Employee Feedback Survey also gives staff the opportunity to voice issues and offer solutions. Their feedback is used to help strengthen the organization and to assist the agency in targeting problem areas. The feedback also helps determine agency strengths. The results are carefully taken into consideration, with the focus on improving critical areas that are identified through the responses.

The Human Resource Department continues to seek input to help create a positive and safe work environment. The hope is that employees can work with and focus upon the clients we serve while feeling protected and valued.

...provide resources to the staff to foster a positive and safe workplace for all.

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
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- ☐ Other _____
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For more information, please call 203 324-9258, ext.

Recreation and Volunteer Events

Once again, we recognize our volunteers and community partners with deep gratitude.

- The Knights of Columbus and Michael Powers Catering generously sponsored the annual Halloween, Holiday, Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day parties for over 80 ARI clients. The ARI Youth Corp, members of buildOn-Westhill High School, and others volunteered as servers.
- The Stamford Police Association and Thomson Reuters sponsored the annual Holiday Party for all ARI clients in December in the newly renovated cafeteria. Over 125 clients received gifts from Dave DeLeo, retired Police Officer (Santa Claus) and Officer John Buehler. Thomson Reuters' Ed Napolitano and his staff provided and served lunch and cake. This tradition continues because of the tireless support from the Stamford Police Association and Thomson Reuters. Kudos to buildOn-Westhill High School for wrapping all those presents, too!



- Aside from all these parties, ARI clients participate in the weekly art and aqua-aerobics groups. The Aqua-Aerobics group welcomed volunteer instructor Diana Kelly this fall.
- Volunteers from Thomson Reuters hosted 25 clients at two bowling parties over the winter. They were treated to two hours of bowling, pizza and beverages as well as great company.
- The Stamford Symphony Orchestra continues to donate tickets to their monthly concerts to ARI clients. Our clients love to attend these concerts and thoroughly enjoy the music by Mozart, Beethoven and others.

Without community support many of these would not be available. ARI continues to seek volunteers and partners to aid in the lives of our clients. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to learn more about the ARI Recreation Program please call Gerard Gasparino, Manager of Development & Recreation at 203-324-9258 ext. 3023 or email gasparinog@arict.org.

SAVE THE DATE

17th Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament

Thursday, August 16, 2012
Sterling Farms Golf Course
Afternoon Start • Awards Dinner



SAVE THE DATE

ARI of Connecticut's 60th Anniversary Celebration Open House

Saturday September 8, 2012
174 Richmond Hill Avenue,
Stamford



For information please call
(203) 324-9258 ext. 3023

www.arict.org

Donations October 1, 2011 to March 31 2012

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 your time for those we serve. You can also find more information @www.aricr.org

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On Sunday, March 11, 2012 at the Annual Knights of Columbus Communion Breakfast John Morgan, Grand Knight-Council #41 presented a check for \$10,000 to Matthew Reyher, ARI President & CEO. The Knights of Columbus' support comes through their annual Tootsie Roll Drive and Frank J. Robotti Memorial Golf Outing.

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