



ALWAYS REACHING FOR INDEPENDENCE

WWW.ARICT.ORG

SUMMER 2008

EVERY GIFT IS
SIGNIFICANT.
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ONGOING SUPPORT

2nd Annual ARI Walk for Independence!



This year we honored teams of clients living in all of our group homes and apartments.

This year's event was an overwhelming success and ARI would like to thank everyone who helped make it happen!



We held our 2nd Annual Walk for Independence at Cove Island Park on Sunday, May 4, 2008. Close to 200 clients, families, friends, board members, volunteers, and staff walked to raise awareness for ARI. Stamford Mayor Dannel Malloy and State Rep. Gerald M. Fox, III attended and greeted the crowd along with ARI CEO Matthew Reyher and incoming Board Chairperson Allan Sussman. Jill Tomasello of Advanced Physical Therapy led the warm-up exercises before the walk. Breakfast was donated by Liz Sue Bagels and Village Bagels, and a picnic lunch was supplied by Darius Jamshidian of the West Main Street SUBWAY, Chip Cingari of Grade A Market Newfield, Inc. and Dominick Cingari of Fresh Harvest Products, Inc.

The 3rd Annual Walk for Independence is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 3, 2009—we hope to see you there!



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



Raising money for non-profits has always been tough. It is a constant battle against a relentless tide of increasing expenses. In the current financial climate this is even harder. Operating in a “zero-cost-of-living” climate puts more pressure on our industry to find alternate ways of raising funds. Traditional fundraising, of course, will always have its place. Our clients rely on the endless efforts of our founders, board, staff and volunteers. We have enjoyed many activities over the past year and look forward to our upcoming year of fundraising events. However, new and innovative ways are needed to keep pace with the changing times.

There are ways in which we must work together to overcome these challenges. The first is being recognized for the quality and quantity of our work with people with disabilities. It is critical that, with constant attention to their “Individual Plan,” our “guys” attain their goals on an annual basis. The second is to establish new initiatives in the delivery of services to clients, employers, and business enterprises. The third is to establish plans for continuing programs, systems, infrastructure and approaches to research, expansion, and development projects. As such we can continue to support for the agency’s goals and objectives and to position ourselves for continued long-term growth and change.

As with any organization our major asset is our staff. We at ARI succeed by employing staff that have unparalleled commitment and compassion for our assigned clients. We work each and every day to ensure that we continue to meet the needs and daily challenges of our clients. We continue to see a difference . . . and continue to make that positive impact on the lives individuals with disabilities.

There is much that we have accomplished, but much more to do. Our mission is to enrich the lives of people with disabilities and their families by helping them achieve their fullest potential at home, at work and in the community. This is what we do and this is who we are. Please enjoy our Summer 2008 Newsletter.

—Matthew Reyher

From the Board Chairperson

Every two years the new Chairperson and members of the Board of ARI have the opportunity to re-examine its strategic goals and objectives. Most importantly, we have to evaluate how well we have performed in helping the agency achieve its mission. Going forward we must look at “the big picture” and work to position ARI to meet whatever challenges the future may bring.

From my perspective, ARI faces the same basic problems any other business organization confronts; 1) how do we structure ourselves to best meet the challenges of a changing environment, and 2) how do we ensure that our financial and human resources are put to the best use. The State is currently changing the reimbursement procedures making them more restrictive. Simultaneously, it is eliminating from the State’s budget the cost of living increase that ARI so desperately needs. In these difficult financial times it is paramount that we find a way to balance our budget. We, as a board must look for alternative ways to bring a greater degree of financial independence to the agency.

Last year ARI made a major push to upgrade and repair its group homes. It is now time to renovate our facility at Richmond Hill. Being the focal point of the organization, its appearance has a direct impact on how the agency is perceived in the community. It also affects our ability to engage new clients. But most importantly, in its current state, it contradicts our mission statement. The place where our clients work and spend a large portion of their time should be accessible and a place of pride. The question confronting the board is how to find a way to upgrade our facilities in light of the financial constraints we are all facing.

Despite the concerns I have outlined above, the agency is fundamentally strong with an excellent reputation throughout the state. It continues to provide quality services to over 180 individuals daily. At all levels, it is staffed by truly dedicated employees. If we do our part and provide guidance and planning, we can ensure that ARI will be a vibrant force in the social service field for decades to come. I encourage any reader who wishes to express an opinion, comment or offer a solution to contact me at sussmana@arict.org.

—Allan Sussman

Thank you for thinking of ARI as you plan your charitable contributions.

We are always available to discuss your investment in our mission.

You *can* make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.

Visit www.arict.org or call Gerard Gasparino at 203 324 9258, ext 3023.

ARI Annual Meeting

ARI of Connecticut, Inc. held its 56th Annual Meeting on Monday June 30, 2008 at the Knights of Columbus in Stamford, CT. Over 120 individuals involved with the agency—staff, board members, clients, and other community leaders—attended this meeting in celebration of the past years accomplishments.



Mario Musilli, outgoing Chairperson, handed the gavel over to the newly-elected Chairperson, Allan Sussman. The new slate of officers and incoming board members was announced. Joining Allan Sussman on the Executive Committee

are John Russo, Chairperson-elect; Charles Hertz, M.D.; Vice Chairperson; Kamallesh Banerjee, Treasurer; and John Downing, Secretary. New board members are Matthew Tackman and Marcia Staines. Welcome all!

Matthew Reyher presented recognition plaques to the major sponsors and special volunteers at the 2nd Annual Walk for Independence. The following received awards: Sergeant Andrew Gallagher, Stamford Police; Peter Buck, Creative Pension Design and Administration; Bruce Weksler, Bruce Supply Co.; Charles Wieseahn, Professional Photographer; Lisa Wolfe, Hope Street Pharmacy. Others receiving recognition were Jill Tomasello of Advanced Physical Therapy, Thomson Reuters, Mayor Dannel Malloy, Representative Gerald M. Fox, III; J&A Mechanical, LLC, 95.9 Fox; The Stamford Advocate; UST, Inc.; SUBWAY of West Main Street; Village Bagels; Liz Sue Bagels; Wings of Nature-Fresh Harvest Products, Inc.; Grade A Market Newfield, Inc.; The Russo Family; The Downing Family; The Banerjee Family; Lee Combrinck-Graham, M.D. and Charles Hertz, M.D.; Chandan and Sara Banerjee; Joan and Jim McFadden; Finn O'Connor; Lord & Taylor.

We also recognize the following for their support of the Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament: West High Service Station; The Umbrella Club; Liberty Mechanical Contractors, LLC.; G.A. Fleet Associates Inc.; HPC Food Services; Henry Quentzel Plumbing Supply Co. Inc.; Mario & Lisa Musilli; Lee Combrinck-Graham, M.D. and Charles Hertz,

M.D.; First County Bank; Benefit Planning; Jackson Lewis; Atlantic Business; Bradford Renaissance Portraits; Eric S. Glasband, Smith Barney; and Matthew Reyher.

The annual ARI Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Charles Wieseahn. Charles has taught the ARI Artists' Initiative Art Classes for the past 4 years and taken photos at several ARI events including both Walks for Independence.

The annual Employer of the Year Award was presented to Bonnie Mausolf from OdysseyRe of Stamford. Bonnie has been integral in the hiring of two ARI clients.



Matthew Reyher, Holly Bosley, Charles Wieseahn, Bonnie Mausolf and Carla Wright.

The following staff longevity and merit awards were also presented:

5 years of service—Marvin Lewis

10 years of service—Tracey Smith

10 years of service—Caston Lowe

15 years of service—Carey Jaffee

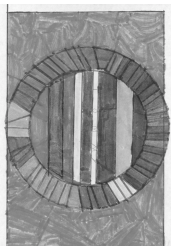
Rookie of the Year Award—Roberto Sanchez

Heart of the Agency Award—Sherri Norwood

Always Reaching for Independence Award—Veola Flemming



Carey Jaffee, Veola Flemming, Sherri Norwood, Roberto Sanchez, Tracey Smith, Caston Lowe, and Matthew Reyher



Coming Soon!

The ARI Artists' Initiative
2nd Annual Calendar

Available in the fall
of 2008!

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day



On Thursday April 24, 2008 ARI participated in the National Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day. This year's theme was "Making Choices for a Better World." Seven children, ages 8 to 17, shadowed their mentors for about 5 hours, learning about what they do on a daily basis. They also participated in activities such as the "Going Green Pledge" in which they learned how to "go green," and signed a pledge to make changes in the next year. They played "The World is In Our Hands," a matching quiz where they worked in teams to define and match terms and words like endangered species and global warming. They participated in the "Conversation Café," where they talked about what they thought their parents did at the beginning of the day and compared that to what they subsequently learned as the day progressed! They were treated to breakfast and a wonderful pizza lunch. Each child received a gift bag that contained flower seeds, a clay planting pot, an ARI Walk for Independence T-shirt, ARI stickers, pens and candy. We feel that the kids left ARI with a new understanding of ARI and how to make the world a better place.

Staff News

WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

Tionaya Jackson, DDSW–Day Options; Joann Weatherford, RDSW–Tally Ho Residence; Kislene Bosse, RDSW–Floater, Lotstein Residence; Jessica Jean, RDSW – Tally Ho Residence; Holly Bosley, Coordinator of Recreation and Volunteers; Elsa Richardson, RDSW–SLS Department; Carolyn Brown, RDSW–SLS Department; Regina Glover, SLS Department; Armando Azana, Assistant Maintenance Technician; Rosie Jones, RDSW – SLS Department; Pam Nugent, RDSW – SLS Department; Virginia Foldoe, RDSW – Sunrise Cottage; Dr. Robert DiDomenico, Manager of Quality Assurance and Compliance; Wade Oliphant, RDSW – Lotstein Residence; Elaine James, RDSW – Palermo Residence.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THESE NEW PROMOTIONS:

Carla Wright, from Group Leader of Job Placement to Job Placement Supervisor; Cindy Griffith, from RDSW at Sunrise Cottage to Residential Manager of the Supported Living Services Department.

Recreation and Volunteers

Clients Go on Cruise to Bermuda



On June 14, 2008 Paula Psheck, Patricia Healy, Libby Ryan, Latoya Hunter, Mark Combrinck-Hertz, Neftali Soto, Darlene Caviness and Octavia Pollard had an awesome opportunity to go on a 5-night/6-day cruise to Bermuda. This was the first cruise these clients have taken. The group participated in pool parties, "Name that Tune," swimming, shopping, sight-seeing, and much more. Everyone had a wonderful time and, in fact, several wanted to stay in Bermuda! This was a great experience for everyone.

• • •

The Knights of Columbus hosted the annual Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day parties. Over 100 clients, staff, and volunteers danced and enjoyed themselves. ARI thanks Michael Powers, the Knights of Columbus, and all the ARI Youth Corp and corporate volunteers who helped make each party successful.

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ARI of Connecticut, Inc. welcomes Holly Bosley as the new Coordinator of Recreation and Volunteers. Holly is excited about joining ARI and looks forward to working with clients and volunteers to expand the recreational opportunities. If you are interested in volunteering at ARI you can contact Holly at ext. 3036 or email her at bosleyh@arict.org.

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The annual Special Olympics Torch Run took place on Friday, June 6th. Special Olympians from ARI helped run the torch down Tresser Boulevard with the Stamford Police escort. ARI clients and staff cheered them on as the torch passed the Richmond Hill building. A special thanks goes out to Sergeant Andrew Gallagher for inviting ARI to be a part of this special event.



13th Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Outing



The 13th Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament was held on Thursday, June 26th at Sterling Farms Golf Course.

The tournament was immediately followed by a Awards Luncheon at the Italian Center.

We would specifically like to thank our major sponsors West High Service Station and the Umbrella Club for their continued involvement. We also wish to thank our generous tee sponsors and those of you who supported the raffle, the auction and the art sale.

Congratulations to all the winners, especially the first place foursome that included incoming Board Member Matthew Tackman, Robert McDonald, Peter Shanazu, Jr., and ARI Youth Corp member Craig Tobin.

Thank you to all the golfers, volunteers and participants. We look forward to the 14th Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament next year.



MasterCard Volunteers visit ARI



This summer, MasterCard Worldwide, in collaboration with Rebuilding Together Stamford/Greenwich, participated in a volunteer day at our Stamford group homes.

On Friday June 6th, a team of 55 staff members, coordinated by Program Leader Katie Franklin, came to Palermo House on Newfield Avenue to landscape, paint, clean, and build picnic benches for our residents.

On Monday June 9th, a team of 45 staff members lead by Business Leader Craig Roberts, came to Tally Ho House to paint interior rooms and stain the deck. Each resident was asked to choose a color for his or her own room.

Much thanks to MasterCard Worldwide and Rebuilding Together Stamford/Greenwich for volunteering to help spruce up our homes!

Finance Report

The Finance Department at ARI is proud to share this unaudited financial report for your perusal.

The Finance Department's primary goal is to manage and safeguard the public's and consumer's financial resources. We are the "Custodian of Public Funds." Additionally, we strive to provide prompt and courteous service to our staff, our clients, and the public.

In order to do this, we have set up a number of procedures and controls to ensure that this is being done. To this end, we have an annual audit done each year by an independent accounting firm, we perform bank reconciliations monthly, internal audits are performed throughout the year, two signatures are required on all checks, all payments to vendors have proper backup prior to making payment, financial statements are presented to the Board monthly, and an annual budget is completed each year.

ARI of Connecticut, Inc. UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT 2007-2008

SUPPORT & REVENUE	
Fees	\$6,578,565
Workshop Contracts	\$152,666
Grants	\$60,002
Misc. Income	\$108,612
Investment Income	\$42,212
TOTAL REVENUE	\$6,942,057
EXPENSES	
Administration	\$1,015,858
Day Programs	\$1,800,415
Residential Programs	\$2,625,529
Supportive Living Services	\$1,135,835
Other	\$152,541
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,730,178
NET PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER	
EXPENSES BEFORE DEPRECIATION	\$211,879
Depreciation	\$171,428
NET PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER EXPENSES AFTER DEPRECIATION	\$40,451

The financial report presented is an unaudited report. The audit for the fiscal year 2008 will be completed by October 15, 2008.

Donations February 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008

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.aric.org.

Advanced Physical Therapy Center of Stamford, LLC
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Anquillare, Ruocco, Traester and Company
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In honor of Gladys & Mort Cohen
In memory of Frank A. Macari, Sr.
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Diane Cifuentes
MJ Cleary
Anne Cochran
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Donations February 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008, continued

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ARI of CT received an \$8,400 grant from the Fairfield County Community Foundation's (FCCF) Sternbach Fund for People with Disabilities. This grant supports respite care programs serving caregivers of adults with disabilities. The grant will support ARI's respite program for up to 15 families in need.



Sharon Jennings, Program Manager, ARI of CT; Yolanda Caldera-Durant, Program Director of Fairfield County Community Foundation; and Matthew Reyher, CEO of ARI of CT.

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ARI of CT also received \$5,000 grant from the First County Bank Foundation. This grant will be used to offset costs incurred by our supported living clients that they would not otherwise be able to afford to pay.

We are truly thankful for the continued support of these two important foundations.

ARI of Connecticut, Inc. is a non-profit organization under IRS code 501(c)(3). The ARI News is published for the members, board of directors, family members, people served, staff and friends of ARI of Connecticut, Inc. Edited and designed by Barbara C. Aronica-Buck. Published by ARI of Connecticut, Inc., 174 Richmond Hill Avenue, Stamford, Connecticut, 06902-5696. (203) 324-9258. Fax (203) 324-3949. Email: www.arict.org. ARI of Connecticut, Inc. supports equal opportunity without regard to race, color, sex, marital status, age, disability, religion, ancestry, national origin, citizenship or sexual orientation. ARI of Connecticut, Inc. is accredited by CARF and funded by DDS.

ARI of Connecticut, Inc.

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