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A Red Carpet Affair



The ARI of Connecticut Self Advocacy Group is excited about hosting the 2016 ARI Formal, "A Red Carpet Affair," on Friday, September 30, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., at The Waters Edge at Giovanni's.

Latoya H., Chairperson of ARI's Self Advocacy Group, along with Amber S., Jessie E., Mariah P., Neftali S., Rickey D., Anthony H., Christelle H., Vanessa R., and Kevin C. have been

planning this special event for months. Their new advisor, Tiajuana F., will be assisting them with the last minute details. It will be a formal dinner with music, dancing and lots of fun. Latoya stated that it makes her very happy to see how excited her friends are about the planning of this event. Even though it has been a lot of planning, the committee feels empowered by having a voice and being able to see the results of their hard work.

To help keep the cost of the event to a minimum we ask for your support. Please consider sponsoring one or more consumers for \$50 per person, or \$500 for an entire table. If you are interested in sponsoring one or more consumers, please contact Gerard Gasparino at gasparinog@arict.org or call (203) 324-9258 ext. 3023. Your generous help will make this a special night everyone who can attend.

21st Lotstein / Martin Golf Tournament



The 21st Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament took place on Thursday, July 28 at Sterling Farms Golf Course. Over 100 people joined us for golf and/or the dinner. Two ARI consumers played the full 18 holes and three consumers assisted at registration.

The Tournament was sponsored by over fifty groups, businesses and individuals. We would specifically like to thank our major sponsors: Axel Johnson Inc.; KAF Manufacturing; PFK O'Connor Davies; The Umbrella Club; Stamford Hospital; and West High Service Station. We also wish to thank our generous tee sponsors and those who supported the raffle and auction.

Thank you to all the golfers, volunteers and dinner guests for making this year's tournament one of the most successful yet. We look forward to the 22nd Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament, tentatively scheduled for July 27, 2017 at Sterling Farms.

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 President & CEO

Photo by Bernie Weiss



I hope you have enjoyed your summer and have found many opportunities to spend quality time with your family and friends. That has certainly been the focus of the ARI family this summer! We have been busy reconnecting with old friends, making new friends, and deepening our relationships with existing friends. The

ARI Family is growing! Our “family” consists of our consumers, their family members, and our many staff, volunteers, and supporters.

Many of our consumers have enjoyed reconnecting with old friends at summer camp and taking trips with friends or spending time with family, making wonderful vacation memories. Many of our staff have also taken some time away to rest up and come back to work refreshed and reenergized to face the new season of activities and challenges ahead.

While we continue to be very mindful of the financial challenges we face, and concerns regarding the likelihood of additional state budget cuts, we start the new fiscal year feeling positive and hopeful about our future and plan new events and activities to enrich the lives of the people we serve. Our consumers, staff and family members enjoyed two Bridgeport Bluefish games this summer, an amazing time at the Olympics Party hosted by Ridgefield Sunrise Cottage, and tons of fun at our Day Service “Luau” picnic on August 24. We are looking forward to our “Red Carpet Affair” formal on September 30. (*See more info on the front page*) And, the traditional fall activities will be starting up soon as well.

None of these activities would be possible without your support. The ARI Family is made up of many thoughtful, generous people and I am so thankful for every one of you. Most of all, I am thankful for the most important members of our ARI Family, our consumers. I am so grateful for each of them and for the opportunity to work with them. They inspire me to be the best I can be and to ensure we have the best staff possible to support them in all that they do.

Thank you for being an essential part of our ARI Family!

With sincere appreciation,
Susanne D. Kuligowski



State of the Agency

On June 9, 2016 over 50 ARI family members and friends gathered for a presentation on the “State of the Agency.” President and CEO, Susanne Kuligowski provided a detailed overview of ARI’s current programmatic and financial position – the factors that brought us to this point, and where the organization is headed.

There have been many challenges on the program side. A great deal of time and effort has been spent focusing on this. We have seen many improvements as evidenced by CT State quality service reviews and licensing inspections. However, there is a great deal more that we can do and we work to continue to improve each day.

The financial challenges have been much greater than, and have contributed to, the programmatic challenges. State funding cuts, loss of some program revenue, and increasing expenses have been very difficult to manage over the past decade. The past year has been more encouraging and we are operating much more efficiently than in prior years. We still anticipate a deficit this year, but it is significantly smaller than last year.

We have made many changes and have seen positive results. We know that there are many opportunities for ARI to take advantage of in order to continue to improve our current services as well as expand services to others in the future. We are planning for more changes to come, while at the same time we remain concerned about continued state funding cuts and other changes on the national, state and local level that can have negative impacts on our funding and program quality.

Ms. Kuligowski concluded her presentation with a reminder that what makes ARI special and unique is the importance of FAMILY:

- It’s our FOUNDATION: *ARI was founded by a group of families in 1952.*
- It’s our MISSION: *“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.”*
- It’s our CULTURE: *In our “small” organization, everyone knows everyone. We are all (staff, consumers, family members, supporters) members of the ARI Family.*
- It’s our PASSION: *By enriching the lives of our consumers, we also enrich the lives of their family members.*
- It’s our FUTURE: *We all need to work together to ensure that the ARI family grows and prospers.*

For a copy of the “State of the Agency” presentation, or for more information about how you can help, please contact Susanne Kuligowski at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3028 or kuligowskis@arict.org.

Recreation and Volunteers



In June, eight consumers participated in the **Special Olympics Summer Games** at Southern Connecticut State University. They competed in bicycling, swimming, and tennis. These individuals also won several medals competing with the Darien Lions Olympic Program.

Twenty consumers participate in the **Challenged People in Motion Golf Program**. This program has offered weekly golf instruction to people with disabilities for over twenty years at no cost and is 100% volunteer based. Each year participants in the program, based on ability, are able to play in the annual program golf tournament fundraiser. This year four ARI consumers played.

On July 18 and August 29, nearly 70 consumers and staff attended a **Bridgeport Bluefish** baseball game. The tickets were provided by Dot Generation, as part of the Monday Bluefish promotion.



Many of these events cannot happen without the support of the several dozen volunteers at ARI. We thank all of these volunteers who assisted with the recreation program, as well as the **21st Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament**.

Grants and Community Support

ARI received \$7,500 from the **First County Bank Foundation** to fund the I.H.S./Residential Emergency program, which helps individuals with unforeseen expenses.



Rick Zaremski (left) and Mark Rosenbloom (right) present a donation from the First County Bank Foundation to Susanne Kuligowski.

ARI received \$10,000 from **Fairfield County's Community Foundation** and \$5,000 from the **Pitney Bowes Foundation** for use in the Day Program's Life Skills and Career Development Training Program. Funds will be used to purchase computers and software to assist with life skills and employment goals for each consumer.

Thirty **Deloitte** employees, with the assistance of **HomeFront, Inc.**, painted bedrooms, stained the back deck, planted flowers and cleaned up the back yard at the Truglia Residence on Friday, June 10. This is the first time Deloitte has participated in a project at ARI, and we hope to have them back again next year.

A group from the **US Federal Support Court Program** painted hallways, planted flowers, and cleaned up the grounds at the Palermo Residence on June 22 and 29. The group included federal probation officers, attorneys, the Federal Judge, and individuals serving court mandated community service.

If you are interested in volunteering or supporting ARI with a grant or volunteer project, please contact Gerard Gasparino, Manager of Development & Recreation at gasparinog@arict.org or call (203) 324-9258 ext. 3023.

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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- ☐ Donor \$25-\$99
- ☐ Other _____

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For more information, please go to www.arict.org or call 203 324-9258, ext. 3023

Summer Fun at the Olympics Party



... and Luau Picnic



Staff News

New Hires

Jaye Bendolph, *Residential Counselor, Floater*

Sabrina Cunningham, *Residential Counselor, Palermo & Truglia Residences*

Alison Dent, *Residential Counselor, Lotstein Residence*

Jasmine Loyd, *Residential Counselor, Tally Ho Residence*

Latasia Robertson, *Residential Counselor, Lotstein Residence*

AmazonSmile



Click on the AmazonSmile logo on the ARI homepage and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to ARI. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know – same products, same prices, same service.



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 Gasparino, Manager of Development & Recreation at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3023 or email gasparinog@arict.org.

Sponsor the ARI Artists' Initiative

- ☐ Annual ARI Artists' Initiative Sponsor \$10,000
- ☐ Art Class Sponsor \$5,000
- ☐ Class supplies \$2,500
- ☐ Special projects, printing of greeting cards, and the calendar \$2,500

Upcoming Event Title Sponsors

- ☐ 11th Annual Walk for Independence, May 2017 \$5,000
- ☐ 22nd Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament, Summer 2017, \$5,000
- ☐ 2nd Annual Gospel Concert for Independence, Fall 2016, \$5,000

In-Kind Donations and Volunteer Opportunities

- ☐ Vehicles
- ☐ 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
- ☐ ARI Website Redesign
- ☐ Fundraising Database entry and updating
- ☐ Computers that meet the Windows 7 system requirements
- ☐ Lead activities and parties in group homes

ARI of Connecticut, Inc. • Established 1952

Susanne D. Kuligowski
PRESIDENT & CEO

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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 funded by DDS.