

ARI of Connecticut, Inc. Annual Report June 30, 2020

#### **Board of Directors 2019-2020**

# EXECUTIVE OFFICERS Peter Buck, Chairperson John D. Russo, Treasurer Lee Combrinck-Graham, M.D., Secretary

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jane Arestia
Eric Brown, Sr.
Renee Brown
Calvin Chapman
Rickey Denes
Lynne Fife
Latoya Hunter
Lily Kober
Jane F. Norgren
Gimbels Pon

#### **CHAIRPERSONS EMERITI**

Peter Buck, Barbara Aronica-Buck, Henry Brenner, Ph.D.\*, Arlene O. DuBiago, Christopher M. Foxall, Edward Granelli, Jr., Sari Jaffe, Esq., Louis Lotstein\*, Paul G. Macari, Thelma V. Martin\*, Philip Molstre, Dennis Murphy\*, Mario Musilli, Esq., Frank D. Rich, III, Richard W. Saunders\*, Allan Sussman. Richard E. Taber, Francis White\*, Scott M. Wich, Esq. \*Deceased

#### **RESIDENTIAL SERVICES & SUPPORTS**

- Supported twenty-four individuals in four group homes in Stamford.
- All homes currently have two-year licenses (maximum allowable) from the State of Connecticut.
  - Supported nineteen individuals to live in their own apartments throughout Stamford.
- Provided enhanced medical services for individuals in the IHS program to help ensure the highest level of health & safety services, even while funding for these services is unavailable to us at this time. This was especially critical this year during the pandemic.
- Adjusted services and supports based on the needs of each individual, including helping seven individuals to move from apartments they had lived in for many years to new apartments closer to downtown and their friends.
- Decreased the levels of support when new skills are learned leading to greater levels of independence.
  - Increased the levels of support when individuals are experiencing declines in medical or psychiatric condition.
- Continued to focus on improving independence and daily living skills such as budgeting, shopping, self-care, cooking and social skills.
- Enhanced focus on improving quality of life and social skills through enrichment activities in the community and beyond.
- Increased supports to focus on health management beginning in March through the pandemic.

#### DAY & VOCATIONAL SERVICES & SUPPORTS

- Continued to support nearly 100 individuals in a variety of day program options including non-work/skill development programs, pre-vocational training, and employment services programs.
- Managed a shutdown of our Adult Day Program building from March-July by developing remote programming on Zoom and via conference call, and developing remote day program sites in our group homes.
- Successfully re-opened our day program in July and, through aggressive cleaning and disinfecting protocols, have kept the program open daily since July, though number of individuals is fewer and groups are smaller.
- Maintained contact with all volunteer placement programs with a plan to re-start the individuals in their volunteer placements when it is safe to do so.
  - Supported twenty-one individuals in Group Supported Employment on the cleaning and landscaping crews. In addition to maintaining ARI facilities, they are responsible for eight outside contracts (we added two new contracts this year).
  - Supported nine individuals to continue their jobs in community-based employment sites. Three never stopped working. The remaining six stopped for varying amounts of time. During that time we continued to meet with them to maintain their job skills and then successfully transitioned them back to work as their employers re-opened.
- Continued Individualized Day Services for two individuals. These services are geared to supporting individuals with more intensive needs, who are unable to successfully participate in group programs. Activities are tailored to each individual's interests and needs and address their personal goals.
- Completed work assessments and career plans for two individuals in order to plan for their goal of competitive employment in the coming year.
  - Continued to employ a Peer Mentor consultant (an individual with both intellectual and physical disabilities) to train and motivate the individuals we support, in order for them to recognize and realize their full potential (this was made possible by a grant from Pitney Bowes).

#### **RECREATIONAL & SOCIAL SERVICES & SUPPORTS**

- Hosted live in-person recreation from July, 2019 to March, 2020 including a
  weekly aqua-aerobics class, weekly art class, annual Holiday Party sponsored by
  the Stamford Police Association, Holiday Party at the Knights of Columbus and
  Valentine's Party at the Knights of Columbus.
- Hosted virtual recreation from March, 2020 to June, 2020 including ZOOM art classes, Bingo and other social gatherings during the pandemic.
  - Over 100 individuals from ARI and the community attended the in-person activities and over 50 individuals participated in the ZOOM activities.
- 15 individuals participated in Special Olympics, competing in Bocce, Bowling, Figure Skating, Speed Skating, Snow Shoeing, and Weight Lifting.

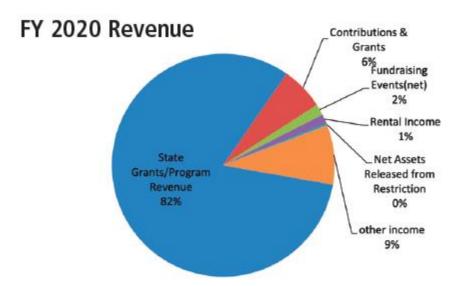
#### Volunteers

Over 100 people volunteered at an ARI sponsored activity donating over 2,000 hours of their time. Volunteer groups include Future 5, Ernst & Young, The Richman Group, and many individuals. Volunteers served on our Board of Directors, assisted with programs and fundraising events including Aqua Aerobics, Art Class, parties, the 14th Annual Walk for Independence, the Fall Ball Gala and much more.

#### **Development**

- Planned and executed two successful events including the 14th Annual Walk for Independence and Annual Fall Ball. The Fall Ball was a live in-person event with the Walk as a virtual event. The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament was postponed until FY 2021. A total of over 250 people attended the Fall Ball inperson and over 100 people participated in the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Independence virtually raising over \$150,000.
- Completed construction of a new ramp at 129 Fairfield Avenue with block grant funding received from the City of Stamford.
  - Received an anonymous gift of \$100,000.
  - Received a grant from Friends of ARI for \$200,000 to assist with COVID expenses including PPE items.
    - Received other grants totaling \$12,720 for programs.

### **Financials**



## FY 2020 Expenses

