



ALWAYS REACHING FOR INDEPENDENCE ...THANKS TO YOU!

An update for our donors & supporters

Winter, 2022

YOU MADE **LATOYA'S JOURNEY** POSSIBLE

We celebrated our 70th Anniversary this year. We could not have made it this far without YOU! Throughout the years, YOUR donations and support for our Walks, Galas, Golf Tournaments, Fashion Shows, raffles and other events has enabled Latoya, and so many other ARI individuals, to reach their fullest potential.



This year, Latoya was our Always Reaching for Independence award recipient at the Annual Fall Ball. Thanks to YOUR support, Latoya has become a strong advocate for her own needs as well as those of her peers and has made a positive change in her community. The founder and leader of the ARI Self-Advocacy Group, Latoya loves helping individuals with disabilities learn to speak up for themselves, make good choices,

and work on ways to make a difference in the community. Latoya lives in an ARI group home and continues to learn and grow. She is a poet and an artist. She keeps up on current events. She enjoys swimming. This is only possible because of YOUR support. YOUR support enriches the lives of Latoya and others allowing them the opportunity to live, learn and work as independently as possible and to participate in a variety of social and recreational activities.



YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR 2022
EVENTS RAISED OVER \$200,000!

16th Annual Walk for Independence



27th Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament



Fall Ball-Grooving for Independence



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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

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BECAUSE OF YOU!

This past year, YOU supported us at record levels and the impact it has made is tremendous! YOUR generous donations along with grants from Friends of ARI, First County Bank, Pitney Bowes, the Stamford Rotary Club, and the City of Stamford Community Development Block Grant enriches and improves lives every day.

Because of YOU, our Peer Mentor, Luiggi, continues to work with individuals to gain the skills needed to work in the community. Individuals continue to complete work readiness classes, work assessments and training in order to accomplish their goal of working in the community. Thanks to Pitney Bowes for supporting our Peer Mentor Program.



Because of YOU, we made improvements to our facilities. We renovated bathrooms at our group homes to ensure that they are accessible for all; installed siding and a roof at our administration building; repaved driveways at Lotstein and Palermo; renovated the kitchen at Lotstein; and much more. We are especially thankful to Friends of ARI for their generosity!

Because of YOU, we helped ARI individuals live as independently as possible. YOUR support combined with grants assisted individuals with paying medical and living expenses, allowing individuals to upgrade their homes with new furnishings. Special thanks to the First County Bank and Stamford Rotary Club Foundations for these grants.



Because of YOU, we continued to enrich the lives of individuals at ARI through YOUR support as volunteers, leading recreational activities such as Aqua-Aerobics, parties, one on one get togethers, small discussion groups and much more. Without your time, commitment, and talents these activities would not occur.

LEAVING A LEGACY

This past year, ARI was the recipient of over \$115,000 from the estate of Rosemarie Molinari. Ms. Molinari was a homebound Stamford resident that relied on individuals from ARI's Day Program to assist with her grocery shopping. Through a partnership with Silver Source's Friendly Shopping program, ARI consumers shopped for Ms. Molinari and other homebound seniors. This relationship meant so much to Ms. Molinari that she included us in her end of life plans.

Because of her generosity, ARI has created the Rosemarie L. Molinari Employee Recognition Award, to be given annually to a staff member who exemplifies the mission and values of ARI and who demonstrates extraordinary service to ARI by bridging gaps and making a difference in the lives of a member or members of the Stamford Community.

Shekkiah Davis was presented with the inaugural award for her dedication to ARI. Shekkiah is the advisor of the ARI Self-Advocacy Group and facilitator of many activities, forging relationships between ARI consumers and the community.



THANK YOU

As another year draws to a close
We thank those far and near
Helping all of those we serve
And look forward to another year
May this joyous season
Bring to the world love
And praise and blessings
From our God above.

-George Kaminsky-



IN MEMORY OF ...



Since 2020, four incredible people passed away. All four were members of the ARI family for decades. We will miss Michael Maul, Kevin Pirro, Rita Wolfson and Debra Krasner. All four were truly enriched by ARI and lived fulfilling lives because of YOUR support. Michael worked on the ARI landscaping crew for many years and lived in his own apartment. He enjoyed the ARI parties and was a talented artist. Kevin worked at Keough's Hardware in Ridgefield and was part of their team for many years. He swam and snow shod in the Special Olympics. Rita was the longest member of the ARI family, being with ARI for over 60 years. She enjoyed collecting handbags and jewelry. She swam, played golf and danced. Debra was a part of ARI for her entire adult life. She was the receptionist, answering calls and greeting visitors. She loved dancing, singing, traveling and arts & crafts. Debbie was a member of the ARI Heart & Soul Band as their lead singer. We will miss each of them.



BECAUSE OF YOU!



Our numbers say it all:

- 25 individuals live in our four group homes
- 18 individuals live independently in the community with staff support
- 62 individuals attend the day program daily learning life skills
- 20 individuals work on our house keeping crew
- 10 individuals work competitively in the community
- 76 individuals participate in recreational activities

Thank YOU for helping us reach our goals and achieve our dreams!

**WISHING YOU A HAPPY
HOLIDAY SEASON &
A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR!**