

Home Sweet Home

The ARI Supported Living Services program has transformed into the Individualized Home Supports program. In addition to providing services to adults living in their own apartments, ARI now provides life skills to adults living with their families. ARI is committed to the success of this strategy and plans to find new and creative ways to provide services to the over 30 clients who need a variety of skills and supports to be more independent.

The rationale behind the change has been the increasing loss of ARI client's parents and caretakers. While living at home is a great option for some folks, it often leaves them unprepared for a future by themselves. With just a few hours of support a week, these clients can gain the necessary cooking, cleaning, and money management skills they need for a more self-sufficient life.

ARI client Joe Viggiano recently lost his mother, with whom he had lived his whole life. With ARI's new Individualized Home Supports program, he has been able to live on his own with confidence. ARI works with his siblings to make sure Joe is adjusting and thriving. ARI provides these services to Joe and others like him through a grant from the United Way. With this funding, ARI can ensure that they are able to maintain a residence, socialize and live an independent life.



ARI is always seeking additional funding to provide services to more individuals who need them. Many of our clients are living with aging parents and we anticipate a greater need in the immediate future.



Please consider Joe and clients like him when you receive the ARI Annual Appeal this year. With your help, ARI will promise that he and other ARI clients have the care they need after losing a parent, and the

opportunities they deserve for a rich and independent future.

For more information about this program please contact Beverly Bonfoey, Director of Residential Services, at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3018

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



ARI has seen positive growth since our last newsletter, despite continued adverse effects from the economy. Our Day Program and High School Transition Program are thriving and seeing increases in clients served. Our Production Center (here at Richmond Hill) continues to receive jobs from our community subcontracting partners. Our Job Placement department continues to receive referrals from the CT Bureau of Rehabilitation Services. And, we began working with the Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB). We have also re-established ourselves as an employment network, working with the federal government and Social Security Administration. We now act as a referral source for clients seeking long-term employment solutions that could eventually remove them from entitlements. We have proposed innovative programs to the Veterans Affairs Administration and the CT Department of Developmental Services. Our Residential programs continue to flourish – like all of our programs – without a cost of living adjustment from our state partners, the Department of Developmental Services. We have expanded some of our residential group homes to help mitigate the increasing cost of maintaining facilities without adequate funds from the State. Our newly transformed Individualized Home Support Program finds creative solutions to the issues of increasing costs vs. needs.

Our major focus for the last quarter and for the next year will be the renovation of our Richmond Hill Facility. We have a very aggressive plan to renovate and bring our building into the 21st century.

The economy will continue to be our legislators' focus as long as deficits – currently projected at \$600 million for the current fiscal year – persist as the economy rights itself. Some signs of recovery have begun, but it will be a long road before we see positive results. Along the way, we must not lose sight of our most vulnerable citizens and our responsibility for their welfare.

ARI is ready and prepared to take whatever action necessary to maintain services at the highest level possible. We are committed to delivering the best in quality, the most effective and sustainable way we can. We will continue to meet and exceed expectations from our quality assurance program as well as the goals and objectives of our clients and families. We must continue to be advocates for our clients.

We thank you all for your commitment and continued support as we fulfill our important mission.

—Matthew Reyher

From the Board Chairperson

As your board chair it has been my focus to look to the future. As good as ARI is today, it must prepare for the challenges of tomorrow in its programming, its facilities and its financial health. October was an historic month at ARI. Three major events took place that have significant impact in building a secure future for ARI.

We introduced a brand new fundraising event called the ARI Comedy Night and it was a smashing success. The mix of three professional comedians, a relaxing venue and wonderful drinks and food made for a fun evening. The event attracted a wide variety of supporters, many new to the ARI family. This unique event has the potential to become the agency's principle fundraising endeavor. Keep a lookout, and save the date for next year's event as it will be a sellout.

For years, both staff and board members have dreamt about upgrading the facilities at Richmond Hill. Last month we saw that dream move one step closer to reality. After months of hard work by the staff and board, the first groups of renovation contracts were awarded and work will begin prior to the end of the year. Not only are we rebuilding a facility, we are rekindling a sense of pride and ownership in ARI.

The third major event was the establishment of the ARI Endowment Fund. Its goal is to build a strong financial footing for ARI. The endowment program is an excellent opportunity for individuals, families and corporations to donate to ARI, perhaps in the name of a loved one. The endowment funds will work for ARI today, tomorrow, and forever. For parents of clients, it is a promise that ARI will continue to be a vibrant organization that will always be devoted to their loved ones. For others, it is a way to leave a legacy, knowing that their bequest is a living memorial that enriches the lives of others. Whether you donate today, make a pledge for tomorrow, or leave a bequest, you'll help us build a stronger ARI.

For over fifty years, ARI has existed to promote success for its clients while easing the burden on families. As you can see, there are many positive things happening here. But, these are tough economic times for us and for the agency. For ARI to achieve its goals, we must count on you, your friends and the community to provide us much-needed resources. When you receive the annual appeal, please remember that your donation touches many lives.

Thank you for all of your support, large and small,

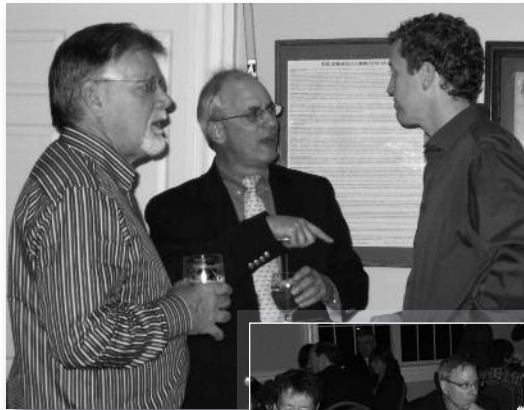
— Allan Sussman

Laughter fills the room at the 1st Annual ARI Comedy Night

Over 100 people gathered on Saturday, October 24th for a night of dinner, drinks and laughs at the 1st Annual ARI Comedy Night. This unique fundraising event was held at the Hibernian Hall in Stamford. The evening featured nationally-acclaimed comedians Rob Falcone, Rich Ramirez, and Richie Byrne – provided by Treehouse Comedy Productions – and a live and silent auction.

A big round of applause to our attendees along with our Board, donors, and major sponsors: Benefit Planning Services, Creative Pension Design & Administration and Lee Combrinck-Graham.

ARI gives a standing ovation to co-chairs Peter Buck and Gerard Gasparino – and their wonderful committee – for a fantastic event.



Please support the 2009 ARI Annual Appeal!!

Just fill out and mail this form to ARI of CT, 174 Richmond Hill Avenue. Stamford CT 06902.

Thank you!

- Benefactor \$2,500 +
- Leader \$1,000–\$2,500
- Supporter \$500–\$999
- Contributor \$250–\$499
- Friend \$100–\$249
- Donor \$25 +
- Other _____
- Enclosed is my check payable to ARI of Connecticut, Inc.
- In honor/memory of _____

Mr / Mrs / Ms Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel: (H) _____

Cell _____

Email: _____

For more information, please call 203.324.9258, ext. 3023

- Please let me know about your endowment and other giving opportunities.
- Enclosed is a completed form from my employer's matching gift program.

High Ridge Park Recycling Program

On Monday, October 26th, the ARI Day Service Options began a collaborative recycling program at High Ridge Park Corporate Center in Stamford.

Teams of ARI clients collect, clean and sort cans from each of the five building complexes at High Ridge Park. The money they redeem is directed back to the Day Options programs. While helping the environment and raising money for program expenses, clients learn valuable team-building and social skills.

High Ridge Park is the only true corporate campus setting within Fairfield County. The 40-acre park consists of six office buildings designed by famed architect Victor Bisharat. The recent multi-million dollar renovation has transformed the campus into a truly magnificent "Office in a Park" with a setting that is unparalleled.

We thank Jodi Gutierrez at High Ridge Park for initiating the program. She feels this is a way for the tenants to "give back" to a non-profit organization. The participants at High Ridge Park and ARI are excited about working together on this win-win collaboration.

IN MEMORIAM

Deborah Magarian

Debbie Magarian passed away in September, 2009. She was served by ARI for 12 years, lived in one of our residential facilities and attended the ARI Day Program. She participated in many activities such as bowling, friendly shopping, and our cooking class. She will be missed by all at ARI.



Staff News

WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

Tiajuana Fogle, *Skills Instructor, Day Options*

Claudia Davis, *LPN, Medical Department*

Sha'Kenya Whittaker, *Residential Manager, Individualized Home Supports*

Lawrence Stoler, *Rehabilitation Intern*

GE Volunteers Paint Lotstein CLA



Over 50 GE Asset Management employees, led by Danette Melchionne and Pamela Westmoreland, painted bedrooms at the Lotstein Home last July. Each Lotstein resident was able to choose the colors for his or her room and all were ecstatic with the results!

GE Asset Management's emphasis on volunteerism reflects the larger GE mission of supporting volunteer activities that improve life in the communities where GE people live and work. The ARI Lotstein project is just one example of the efforts employees undertake on an ongoing basis in pursuit of this goal. As demand for assistance within the community has grown, GEAM has committed to an enhanced emphasis on volunteerism through large and small efforts involving members at all levels of the organization.

ARI is indebted to GEAM and thanks them for choosing to support us and our mission.

ANNOUNCING THE ARI BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

A new ARI Business Advisory Council (BAC) is being formed to help ARI collaborate with local businesses and potential employers. The BAC will help ARI publicize the advantages of hiring people with disabilities and, in turn, understand more about employer needs.

The BAC will first meet at ARI in February, 2010 and quarterly thereafter.

If you are interested, or know of anyone who would like to be involved with this council, please contact Larry Stoler at (203) 324-9258, ext 3036.

Recreation and Volunteers



- Several ARI clients participated in the Challenged People in Motion Golf program, which allows people with disabilities the opportunity to learn and play golf. Six ARI clients participated with non-disabled partners in their Annual Golf Tournament, where the Annual Michael Burl Award was given to Graphic Sport and Design for their continued support to the program. At the awards dinner, ARI client Francine McMillian was awarded the Most Improved Player trophy.
- Aqua-aerobics began in September. This program allows ARI clients to enjoy the pool while exercising and being with friends.
- The ARI Artists' Initiative also resumed in September, with 15 clients. The annual ARI Artists' Initiative Calendar is in production. Plans are underway for an art show sometime in the winter or early spring.
- ARI clients continue to participate in cooking groups, Saturday bowling, men's and women's nights out, and much more.
- ARI held its annual Halloween Party on October 27th. Close to 85 clients attended with staff and volunteers.

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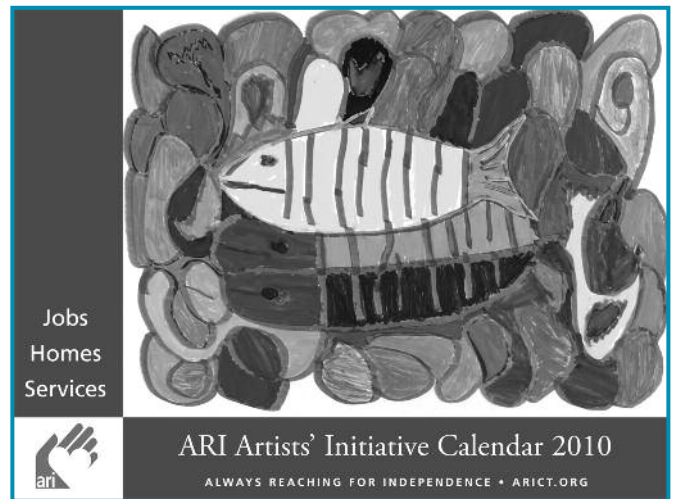
ARI is grateful for the dozens of volunteers who have helped us at recreation outings over the past months. In September, the ARI recreation department brought in two interns from Norwalk Community College to help. Both Woodley Lamounery and Krystal O'Connor have been instrumental in providing recreation opportunities to clients. Both interns are studying Human Services at NCC. And, once again, the BuildOn group at Westhill High School did a marvelous job serving at the Halloween Party.

ARI Artists' Initiative Calendar

The 3rd ARI Artists' Initiative Calendar, featuring artwork from the class, is being assembled. The class of 15 artists meets each week, fostering the creation of new and imaginative avenues of expression. The art will not only be featured in the calendar, but also at art shows throughout the year.

The Initiative was founded and taught by Donald Axleroad. Charles Wieseahn, Julian Judge, and Carol Lyngholm also teach. ARI is grateful for their talent and time.

Calendars will be available for \$10. All proceeds help fund the program. For more information about purchasing a calendar please contact Gerard Gasparino, Manager of Development and Recreation at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3023.



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United Way Change Donation

Through the United Way of Western Connecticut, ARI was the recipient of change donated into the Stamford Shopping Center fountain. So far ARI has received over \$1,000 from this program. Money received will benefit the Day Program.

We thank the United Way and the Stamford Shopping Center for considering ARI as the beneficiary of this money.

ARI wishes everyone
a Joyous
Holiday Season!

Donations July 1, 2009 to October 31, 2009

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. You can also find more information at arict.org.

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Mr. Charles Arestia
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Mr. Robert Zitter

save the dates!



COME SEE THE
ARI ARTISTS' INITIATIVE
ART EXHIBIT
AT THE
STAMFORD HARBOR
PARADE OF LIGHTS

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2009
AT THE
CRABSHELL SEAFOOD RESTAURANT
46 SOUTHFIELD AVENUE
BEGINNING AT 5:30 PM



4th
annual
ari walk for
independence



Sunday, May 2, 2010
Cove Island Park, Stamford

15th ANNUAL

Lotstein/Martin
Golf
Tournament

June 2010

STERLING FARMS
GOLF COURSE,
STAMFORD

INTERNATIONAL

sibling
CONFERENCE

PRESENTED BY ARI OF CONNECTICUT, THE SIBLING
LEADERSHIP NETWORK, & THE KENNEDY CENTER

An International Conference for Siblings
of Children and Adults with Disabilities
August 6 and 7, 2010
Hyatt Regency Hotel in Greenwich, CT.

To attend, sponsor and support,
please contact Dr. Robert DiDomenico,
Conference Coordinator,
at (203) 324-9528 ext. 3014
or e-mail: didomenicor@arict.org.

To sign up and/or be a sponsor please call 203 324-9258 x 3023

THANK YOU!



Once again, ARI of CT received over 200 men's suits, sports jackets, and other accessories from the **The Men's Wearhouse Suit Drive**. The clothing will be used by ARI clients and other at-risk Stamford men transitioning into the workforce. Liberation Programs and CTE also received suits from this drive. We are truly thankful for being part of this wonderful initiative.

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