

## 250 participate in 3rd Annual ARI Walk for Independence!



The 3rd Annual ARI Walk for Independence took place on Sunday, May 3, 2009 at Cove Island Park in Stamford.

Despite the rain, ARI raised more funds and had more participants than the first 2 years.

Matthew Reyher, ARI President and CEO, and Allan Sussman, Chairperson welcomed everyone, including Stamford Mayor, Dannel Malloy. Jill Tomasello, of Advanced Physical Therapy led the warm-up exercises. The 95.9 The Fox Street Team inspired us with music throughout the morning.

Following the 2-mile walk we enjoyed a healthful lunch generously provided by Darius Jamshidian, owner of the SUBWAY on West Main Street in Stamford. An assortment of fresh fruit was provided by Chip Cingari from Grade A Market Newfield Inc., and bagels were provided for breakfast by Liz Sue Bagels.



This wonderful event gives us the unique opportunity to gather together ARI clients, staff, family and board members, donors, volunteers and community leaders. While promoting health and wellness, we fundraise for important and promising services and programs at ARI.

We thank you all, our individual and business supporters, for helping make this a fun-filled and successful event.

**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



Many wonderful events have occurred at ARI since our last newsletter. The Artists' Initiative Art Class had an art show and opening reception at the New Haven Free Public Library in April. Our 3rd annual Walk for Independence in May was very successful and inspiring. The 14th Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament

was held in June, on the first nice day in a month of rain. Kudos to everyone who sponsored and/or participated in these terrific events.

Several of our community partners joined forces to provide much needed manpower and support for our residential programs. Synapse and AmeriCares, and Kiwanis of Stamford and Rebuilding Together cleaned, painted and did some landscaping at our Lotstein and Palermo Residences.

The 57th ARI Annual Meeting was held at the end of June. Clearly, the vision, inspiration and determination of our founding members has stood the test of time. We continue to have that "can do" attitude and do not accept the "status quo." At this meeting, we welcomed nine new board members, all of whom are committed to providing our agency with governance and direction. These directors have a wealth of knowledge and commitment to providing continued quality and quantity services to people with disabilities.

We are hopeful that we will have a definitive and acceptable operating budget in the foreseeable future from our state partner, the Department of Developmental Services. With our Continuous Quality Improvement Plan in place, we will continue to improve our quality *and* quantity of services within the confines of a "zero" cost of living increase. We are very fortunate to employ a unique group of people with steadfast commitment and talent. Each and every staff member has my sincere thanks for a job well done!!

We have accomplished and achieved much, but more remains undone. Together – our board, staff, and community partners – we will continue to "do more with less." We thank you for your help in our endeavors, and look forward to your continued commitment to our organization.

– Matthew P. Reyher

## From the Board Chairperson



Even in the heat of the summer, ARI Board Members, including nine newly-elected directors, are starting their new terms with great excitement and energy.

New Board Member Orientation is about to commence. It starts with our July board meeting and is followed by an informal get together. Training sessions will be offered throughout the summer including visits to our facilities and residences.

Despite the challenging economy, this year's line up of events was one of the best ever. Revenues, sponsors and participants were up. The Events Committee is already working on next year's events, including the first annual ARI Comedy Night, a special fun-filled evening that has the potential to become one of the best fundraisers the agency has ever hosted. Besides raising money, the evening should be entertaining and relaxing. Look for details in our newsletters and emails.

The Facility Committee is also hard at work this summer. Planning the renovation of Richmond Hill is a daunting task. The committee is coordinating the work of our engineers, architects, project consultants and ARI staff to meet the needs and safety of ARI clients. Final plans are being approved and budgets are being developed and scrutinized. By this fall, a finalized design and financial plan should be in place.

The Finance Committee is actively working to finalize an Operating and Capital Budget for the fiscal year which began July 1, 2009. With much uncertainty in the state budget, this year's effort is even more challenging, as there is so much to do with fewer resources readily available.

During these summer months ARI's staff continues to provide quality services and the board looks to improve the governance of the agency. The work of the board ensures that the mission of the agency is achieved not only today but tomorrow as well. For all this to be accomplished, a lot of people are putting in a lot of time. I want to thank them for their dedication to ARI and hopefully we will continue this rewarding path together for years to come.

– 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](http://www.arict.org) or call Gerard Gasparino at 203 324 9258, ext 3023.

## Congressman Jim Himes Delivers Keynote Address at the 57th Annual Meeting of ARI of CT



Congressman Jim Himes, Matthew Reyher, Samantha Downing and Allan Sussman. Sam presented Himes with an original drawing.

ARI of Connecticut, Inc. held its 57th Annual Meeting on Monday June 29, 2009 at the Knights of Columbus in Stamford, CT. Over 120 people were in attendance, including staff, board members, clients, and other community leaders. Congressman Jim Himes delivered the keynote address, stressing the importance of non-profit work and thanking the employees and board of ARI for their dedication and support.

Chairperson Allan Sussman and President & CEO Matthew Reyher both noted the accomplishments of the past year, including a 3-year accreditation from CARF International; the creation and implementation of a new Strategic Plan; the establishment of the ARI Endowment Program, and much more.

John Downing, presented the new slate of officers and incoming board members. Joining Chairperson Allan Sussman on the Executive Committee are Christopher Foxall, Chairperson-elect; Gail Malloy, Vice Chairperson; Kamalsh Banerjee, Treasurer; and John Downing, Secretary. We welcome the following new board members: Clare Liberis, Bonnie Kim Campbell, Peter LaForte, Neftali Soto, Scott Wich, Dara Rosenbaum, Vernetta Gallop, Amy Grabowski, and Candy Knott.

Matthew Reyher, President/CEO, presented recognition plaques to the major sponsors and supporters of the 3rd Annual Walk for Independence. Among those receiving these awards were Peter Buck of Creative Pension Design and Administration and Ed Napolitano of Thomson-Reuters.

ARI awarded its Annual Volunteer of the Year Award to members of the ARI Youth Corp and BuildOn (formerly Building with Books) for their continued support to the ARI Recreation Program.

ARI awarded its Annual Employer of the Year award to Stop & Shop for their continued support in employing ARI

clients. Currently Stop & Shop employs 10 ARI clients. Michael Lauro from Stop & Shop accepted the award.

ARI then presented the annual staff awards. The following employees were honored:

- *5 Years of Service* – Carline Archer; Matt Whyte; Maxine Mereigh; Lisa Anderson; Renee Atkins; Carla Wright; Marjorie Mair-Riley; Deborah Cameron; Pauline Rafalco; Veola Flemming; Karen McIntosh; Laura Floyd
- *10 Years of Service* – Cynthia Lowe; Octavia Pollard; Paulette Wilson
- *15 Years of Service* – Tammy DeLeo and Darlene Caviness



Cynthia Lowe and Robin Dimmock accept their Team Award from Matthew Reyher.

- *30 Years of Service* – Beatrice Grabell
- *Rookie of the Year* – Ebony Grant
- *Heart of the Agency* – Carlette Brisseaux
- *Always Reaching for Independence* – Tysha Smith
- *ARI Team Award* – Day Services Basic Skills – Cynthia Lowe and Robin Dimmock

Bea Grabell was recognized and honored with proclamations from Mayor Dannel Malloy and State Treasurer Denise Napier in celebration of her 30 years of service to the ARI Finance Department. We are proud to have such a dedicated employee and friend.



Bea Grabell (center) celebrates her 30th Anniversary at ARI with John Gorcynski, Controller; Paul Macari and Peter Buck, Friends of ARI; Matthew Reyher and Allan Sussman, ARI Chairperson.

ERIK LIONEL HENDERSON, an ARI client, affectionately known as “Clebbie,” passed away on May 5, 2009. He won many awards as a Special Olympics participant. He loved his family and friends, especially the staff of ARI, who helped to enrich his life and achieve many milestones. His passions were playing his harmonica, reading the newspaper, playing cards, swimming, bowling and traveling. He had a warm smile and was a unique communicator.



save the date

join us for the

# ARI COMEDY NIGHT

drinks, dinner, & laughs

Saturday, October 24, 2009  
at the  
Hibernian Hall, Stamford

with auctions to benefit  
programs and services at  
ARI of CT

For more information please call  
Gerard Gasparino, Manager of Development  
and Recreation at 203.324.9258 ext. 3023  
or email [gasparinog@arict.org](mailto:gasparinog@arict.org)



## Staff News

### WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

DeKenya Bell, *Residential Counselor, Palermo Residence*  
 Andy Dayes, *Residential Counselor, Palermo Residence*  
 Christina Gallegos, *LPN, Sunrise Cottage*  
 Solange Jacques, *Residential Counselor, Truglia Residence*  
 Yolanda Morales, *Residential Counselor, Tally Ho Residence*  
 Emily Piatak, *RN, Medical Department*  
 Tahjna Scott, *High School Intern, Finance Department*  
 Hector Torres, *Skills Instructor, Day Options*

### CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS NEW PROMOTION:

Sheldon Morrison was promoted from Day Direct Service Worker, Day Options to Systems Administrator.

## Family Advisory Committee

The next Family Advisory Committee meetings will be held in the board room in the administrative building on Wednesday, August 12 at 6:30 pm and Saturday, August 15 at 10:00 am. RSVP to Dr. Bob DiDomenico at (203) 324-9258, ext. 3014 or e-mail him at [didomenicor@arict.org](mailto:didomenicor@arict.org). There must be a minimum of 5 people at each meeting. Please leave your telephone number or e-mail address for Dr. Bob to contact you. Siblings are urged to attend.

## Recreation and Volunteers



A trip to the Beardsley Zoo.

Here are some highlights from our Spring events:

- On March 10th, 27 clients attended a bowling party sponsored by Thomson Reuters.
- Our annual St. Patrick's Day party was held on March 16 at the Knights of Columbus.
- On April 2, ARI was invited to attend a community service day at The King School in Stamford. Six clients from Day Service Options completed an art project with a group of King upper-school students.
- An opening reception was held at the New Haven Free Public Library on Saturday, April 25, for 7 ARI Artists' Initiative artists. They had a unique opportunity to display their artwork in a public forum and talk to visitors about their work.
- Ten clients took a day trip to the Mystic Aquarium on Saturday, May 16.
- Four ARI clients participated in the Special Olympics Torch Run on Friday, June 5. During the Torch Run, the athletes carried the torch and ran alongside runners from Stamford Law Enforcement. (see photos below)

Over the past 4 months alone, over 100 individuals volunteered at various events. Over 30 individuals volunteered at the Walk for Independence and 15 individuals volunteered at the 14th Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament. We thank our devoted volunteers for their time, support and help in making our programs and events so successful.



ARI athletes with Stamford police at the Special Olympics Torch Run.



## 14th Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Outing



ARI client golfers Mark Combrinck-Hertz and David D'Andrea played with Gerard Gasparino, Manager of Development & Recreation, and Carmine Longo.

The 14th Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament was held on Thursday, June, 25th at Sterling Farms Golf Course. An awards luncheon and program followed immediately.

The Tournament drew 98 golfers and was sponsored by over 35 groups, businesses and individuals. We would specifically like to thank our Major Sponsor West High Service Station for their continued involvement. (see photo below) We also wish to thank our generous tee sponsors and those who supported the raffle and auction.

Congratulations to all of the winners, specifically the Fisher Group, for low foursome.

Thank you to all the golfers, volunteers and lunch guests. We look forward to the 15th Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament next year.



Donnie Chiappetta, Paul Montanero, Jeff Calorossi, and Chris Calorossi of West High Service Station.

## Synapse & AmeriCares Volunteers visit ARI

On Thursday, May 7th a team of over 60 employees from the Synapse Group, Inc. came to the Lotstein Residence on First Street to landscape, paint and clean. Led by Paul Rivenburg and Sarah Orlando, the group worked tirelessly to give the home a much needed face lift.



The team from Synapse Group at Lotstein Residence.

This is the 3rd year that the Synapse Group, Inc. has partnered with AmeriCares in an effort to give back to the local community and provide an opportunity for its employees both to volunteer and bond with fellow co-workers outside of the office. This is a very rewarding experience for all involved and Synapse looks forward to joining with AmeriCares again next year.

Synapse Group Inc., a division of Time Inc., is a cross-channel marketing company and the largest marketer of magazine subscriptions in the U.S. Synapse, based in Stamford, Connecticut, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Time Inc. and was twice named to the list of the top 25 "Best Medium Sized Companies to Work for in America."

ARI is grateful for both Synapse and AmeriCares for choosing the Lotstein Residence for this project.

## Kiwanis & Rebuilding Together Volunteers visit ARI

On Saturday, April 4th a team of over 30 members from the Kiwanis Club of Stamford, in collaboration with Rebuilding Together Fairfield County, came to the Palermo Residence on Newfield Avenue to paint each resident's bedroom.

Led by Christopher Tasik, the group worked tirelessly to personalize each bedroom, painting it a special color chosen by each resident.

ARI is grateful for both the Kiwanis Club of Stamford and Rebuilding Together Fairfield County for choosing the Palermo Residence for this project.



Peter Rathman and Chris Tasik of Kiwanis at Palermo Residence.



## Day Programs



The Community Experience II group, staffed by Jacque Richeme and Tionaya Jackson, initiated a project to decorate the walls of their classroom. The project, began with a collage

of hands and names titled "Expression." ( see above)

On an adjacent wall, staff painted the Statue of Liberty and Twin Towers, with the caption "9-11, We Will Never Forget." While working on the project, staff asked group members what the Statue of Liberty meant to them. Two resounding answers, "Justice" and "Freedom" were then incorporated in the piece.

The project integrated art, social awareness, and history. Staff and clients are proud of this creative collaboration.

## Finance Department

### ARI Of Connecticut, Inc. UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT 2008-2009

<b>REVENUE</b>	
Fees	\$6,213,682
Contracts	\$151,436
Grants	\$29,446
Contributions	\$101,442
Investment Income	\$12,009
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$6,508,105</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Administration	\$985,144
Day Programs	\$1,754,610
Residential Programs	\$3,809,780
Other	\$211,265
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$6,760,799</b>
NET PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE OVER EXPENSES AFTER DEPRECIATION	<b>(\$252,694)</b>

The financial report presented is an unaudited report. The audit for the fiscal year 2009 will be completed by October 15, 2009.

Our sincere thanks to Charles Wieseahn for his time and professional photography. His photos of ARI events can be seen in this newsletter as well as other publications and the 2009 ARI Artist's Initiative Calendar.

## Donations March 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009

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*In Memory of Robert Gallagher III*

## Donations March 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009, continued

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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 at [www.aric.org](http://www.aric.org). Thank you for your kind generosity.

## NEW GRANTS AND DONATIONS

ARI of Connecticut, Inc. received a \$10,000 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 18 families in need.

ARI of Connecticut, Inc. received \$10,000 in funding from the United Way of Western Connecticut for the 2009–2010 fiscal year for its IHS (formally SLS) program. The funding will allow ARI to expand this program to include new clients waiting for or in need of residential services. The funding will be renewed for a second year, contingent upon the success of UWWC's fundraising campaign and a mid-cycle review of the program.

ARI of Connecticut, Inc. received a \$5,000 grant from the First County Bank Foundation. This grant will be used to offset costs incurred by clients in the IHS (formerly SLS) program they would otherwise not be able to pay

ARI of Connecticut, Inc. was the beneficiary of women's clothing to help dress clients looking for jobs. The donation came courtesy of the IAACP local chapter.

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](http://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.

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