thank you, again and again!



obs • home • services

ARI of Connecticut, Inc. Annual Report 2018

## **ARI President & CEO**

Photo by Bernie Weiss

The 2017 – 2018 year was full of successes, accomplishments, and celebratory moments as well as many new and ongoing challenges.

In our day program, we closed our prevocational services, which started as our "sheltered workshop" more than 40 years ago. Individuals in that program transitioned into either Group Supported

Employment or Day Service Options. We expanded our program activities both in house and in the community, expanded volunteer opportunities and celebrated as a few individuals started new jobs. We also started an Individualized Day Support program for those who need a more customized approach to their day program and we expanded group contract work in the community.

In our residential program, we celebrated as two individuals achieved their goals to move from the group homes where they had lived for more than a decade into their own apartments. We expanded social and recreational activities, with a focus on learning about and celebrating our different cultures. We also restructured our medical department to provide improved medical oversight while reducing our expenses.

This year we purchased ten new vehicles, including four accessible vans, thanks to the generosity of the State of CT and Friends of ARI. We also replaced the HVAC system in our day program building, made possible with a grant from the City of Stamford.

We all were saddened by the passing of Mary Grace Festo. Mary Grace was a beloved member of the ARI family for most of her life. She worked in our sheltered workshop and participated in countless activities in Day Service Options for many years. She also lived in three of our four homes in Stamford. We will miss her.

At the state level, we were on a roller coaster. The first part of the year we experienced funding cuts and two furlough days due to a fiscal crisis. The second part of the year the state financial projections improved so they reinstated some funding and increased funding in the IHS program. They also approved an increase in the minimum wage for staff working in the ID/DD field, with an implementation date of January 1, 2019.

Through all of the ups and downs, we stayed steadfast and focused on our mission and on meeting the ever-changing needs of the individuals we support.

I thank our Board of Directors for their dedication and leadership and am eternally grateful to our staff for their hard work and dedication. I am thankful for our extraordinary volunteers who dedicate their time supporting programs and events or completing painting, maintenance and gardening projects at our facilities. Without your time and talents, our work would be so much more difficult to accomplish. Finally, I am so appreciative for the many donors, grantors and sponsors who generously support our work. Without you, it would be impossible to do all that we do.

I look forward to continuing to celebrate and struggle through the year ahead, knowing that the countless members of the ARI family will be there with me.

Susanne D. Kuligowski President & CEO

# ARI Accomplishments 2017 – 2018

## RECREATION

Over 100 individuals attended ARI sponsored recreation activities including art, aqua-aerobics, parties, baseball games, hockey games, symphony concerts, WWE Events, bingo, social nights, golf, dinner outings, bowling, picnics and much more. Thanks to the Stamford Symphony, Bridgeport Bluefish, and Sound Tigers for the donated tickets!

Our holiday parties at the Knights of Columbus celebrate Valentine's and St. Patrick's Days and Christmas/Hanukkah. Over 85 individuals, staff, family members and friends enjoyed each of these dance parties with music by DJ Jeffrey Stroffolino. Dinner was provided by Celebrations by Lina.



Once again, over 100 individuals and staff enjoyed the Stamford Police Association annual Holiday Party, which has been an annual favorite for over 65 years! The SPA funded the purchase of gifts, DJ and cake for the event. Renee Brown donated the lunch and DJ Jeff provided the dance music.

Eleven individuals participated in Special Olympics, competing in Bowling, Figure Skating, Speed Skating, Snow Shoeing, Bicycling, Swimming, Track & Field, Tennis and Weight Lifting.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

An energetic group of 23 volunteers from Ernst & Young cleaned and planted gardens and painted common areas at the Palermo Residence in October. Another 15 volunteers from The Richman Group painted all seven bedrooms at Palermo in January.

Over 150 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 assisted with programs and fundraising events including Aqua Aerobics, Art Class, the 23rd Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament, the 12th Annual Walk for Independence, the 65th Anniversary Celebration and much more.



#### **FUNDRAISING**



The First County Bank Foundation continued their generous support for the individuals in the residential program by awarding a \$5,000 grant to provide financial support and continued independence for individuals.

Pitney Bowes awarded a \$5,000 grant to purchase curriculum materials to enhance learning in the areas of Life Skills and Career Development Training.

The Workers' Compensation Trust awarded \$12,688 for the purchase of equipment to assist with maintaining a safe environment for individuals and staff.

The Knights of Columbus Council #41 continued their support by awarding \$15,000 from their annual golf tournament and Tootsie Roll Drive. Council #583 awarded \$375 from their annual Tootsie Roll Drive.

A \$100,000 anonymous donation was received from a generous individual to be used where most needed.

A \$70,000 grant was awarded by Friends of ARI to purchase new vehicles.

A \$311,161 grant was received through the State of Connecticut Nonprofit Grant Program to purchase vehicles. Combined with the Friends of ARI grant, a total of 10 new vehicles were purchased, including four new accessible vehicles.

The 65th Anniversary Gala, 23rd Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournaments and 12th Annual Walk for Independence were all successful in raising awareness and funds to benefit the agency. The 65th Anniversary Gala was enjoyed by 275 guests. Over 300 people attended the Walk for Independence and over 120 attended the Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament.

We are so grateful for the generous support we received from over 700 individuals, families, foundations and corporations. Every donation makes a difference and makes it possible for us to continue all of the work that we do. THANK YOU!

## **RESIDENTIAL**

ARI owns and operates four group homes in Stamford and one in Ridgefield. A total of thirty-one individuals live in these homes, all of which have met the highest level of licensing standards in CT. Two individuals who had lived in our group homes for over 10 years moved into their own apartments this year! They joined eighteen others who live in their own apartments and receive supports from ARI to ensure their continued success in living independently in the community.

Staff helped each individual achieve greater levels of independence, enrich their lives, and increase their participation in the community. With assistance, one third of the people we serve were able to plan and enjoy vacations and/or summer camp this year. They engaged in a wide variety of activities, focusing on improving their quality of life through building relationships and participating in enrichment activities. This year we focused on expanding awareness and appreciation of other cultures through food, education and crafts.

Health Care oversight was provided for all individuals. The Medical Department coordinates all medical appointments and care, and ensures compliance with countless state regulations. They also ensure all staff are certified to administer medication as needed and train them on general health information as well as specific medical concerns experienced by the individuals with whom they work.



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#### **DAY SERVICES**

In order to follow best practices, ARI closed its Pre-Vocational services program in September 2017. At its peak, over 80 individuals were employed to complete small assembly jobs. Only eight remained at the beginning of this year. When the program closed, they transitioned into Day Service Options or Group Supported Employment.

Our Day Service Options help individuals to develop essential life skills and to experience and contribute to our local community. Activities included self-advocacy, social skills, cooking, arts & crafts, music, computer skills, recycling, and cultural awareness. Fifty-six individuals joined members of the community at the senior center, library, museums, parks and other cultural venues.

Volunteer opportunities enable individuals to learn skills while giving back to their community. Twelve individuals volunteered at organizations including Stamford Hospital, Salvation Army, Person to Person, Tully Health Center, New Covenant Center, and First Congregational Church Thrift Shop.

Group Supported Employment provides opportunities on Landscaping and Cleaning crews. The 22 employees learn skills that will help them to be successful in the future. The crews were responsible for six outside contracts and the maintenance of the ARI facilities.

Individualized Supported Employment helps individuals obtain and maintain competitive, integrated jobs in the community. Sixteen individuals work at Stop & Shop, Whole Foods Market, The Ferguson Library, Zody's 19th Hole, Target, Sterling Farms Golf Course, First County Bank, Odyssey Re, Bobby V's Restaurant and More!

Individualized Day – Non Vocational services provides educational, social and recreational activities that are tailored to each of two individuals' interests and needs.

In planning and preparing for work in the community, two individuals completed work assessments and one completed on the job training with a final goal of a competitive employment. Four individuals completed career plans, and two of them were hired for part-time employment.

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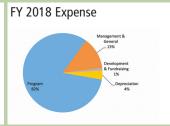




# **Audited Financials**

**AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT 2017 - 2018** 





## **REVENUE**

| State Grants            | \$5,469,830 | 84%  |
|-------------------------|-------------|------|
| Program Revenue         | \$413,715   | 6%   |
| Contributions           | \$487,446   | 7%   |
| Fundraising Events(net) | \$31,095    | 0%   |
| Rental Income           | \$95,150    | 1%   |
| Interest & Other Income | \$18,016    | 0%   |
| Total                   | \$6,515,252 | 100% |

## **EXPENSE**

| LAI LINGL                 |             |      |
|---------------------------|-------------|------|
| Program                   | \$5,242,959 | 82%  |
| Management & General      | \$832,728   | 13%  |
| Development & Fundraising | \$67,143    | 1%   |
| Depreciation              | \$235,418   | 4%   |
| Total                     | \$6,378,248 | 100% |

#### ARI MISSION STATEMENT

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.

# ARI of CT Donations

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

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 your time for those we serve. You can also find more information at arict.org

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