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Building ARI's Future

In 1974, ARI had to expand. This need led to the purchase of 174 Richmond Hill Avenue and the ARI Vocational Training Center was opened. The building was a factory and needed major renovations to accommodate the needs of the 75 or so clients who were being served.

Under the leadership of Frederick Bowes, Jr., a building campaign began. The campaign rose well over its \$500,000 goal with support from ARI family members, friends, and the community at large.

Fast forward to 2010. It is time to renovate this facility to accommodate the growing needs of our clients. ARI has nearly doubled in size. This growth has brought us a wider variety of individuals with various disabilities. At one point moving to a new facility was considered, but in 2009, the ARI Board of Directors began a process of creating plans to renovate the current facility. After much consideration, a plan was adopted to address many areas of concern including accessibility, efficiency, and environmental issues.

The renovation will create a fully-accessible facility by upgrading the current ramp and adding a second ramp to the lower level.



The plan includes the addition of a second elevator/lift inside the building because ARI has seen an influx of clients who either rely on wheelchairs or have difficulty walking.

Our renovation includes energy-saving measures that will create a "green" facility. New windows will be installed that will allow more outside light to enter the building, thus decreasing the need for artificial lighting. Restrooms will be upgraded to include energy-efficient toilets, sinks, and hand dryers.

ARI is proud to announce that the renovations to this building have begun. If you have any questions on the process please feel free to contact Matthew P. Reyher, President & CEO at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3028 or email reyherm@arict.org.

"It is time to renovate this facility to accommodate the growing needs of our clients."

Please help us by supporting our new building campaign!

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 been preparing our Richmond Hill Facility for an upcoming renovation. The transformation of our building will be completed through a five-phase plan, over several years. Improvements will be made inside and out, resulting in a state-of-the-art, 100% accessible facility.

The plans include:

1. Improving and enhancing electrical and heating systems
2. Installing a new ramping system to improve access
3. Renovating the restrooms
4. Replacing windows with energy efficient sealed windows
5. Cleaning and repairing exterior brick and mortar
6. Installing a new wheelchair lift system
7. Redesigning offices and classrooms

An ARI Facilities Committee meets monthly to discuss the progress being made by our dedicated subcontractors. These ambitious plans need the full support of our community, making our fundraising efforts more important than ever. We will be launching a major capital campaign in the immediate future. Please consider a gift to help us make our facility one we can be proud of.

Much has taken place within the economy that directly impacts ARI, challenging our service-delivery systems. I am deeply worried that our most vulnerable citizens are being put at risk by dwindling state resources. Our level of funding continues to be eroded by reductions commensurate with the State of Connecticut's budget deficit. We cannot continue to just "maintain" services; we must strive to do more than that. I urge each of you to contact your area legislators to let them know about the need for sustainable support of ARI's clients. Now is the time to stand up and be heard, on *their* behalf. ARI's programs are essential to their livelihood, safety, and prosperity.

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

—Matthew P. Reyher

From the Board Chairperson

Over the past two years many of my articles have focused on planning for ARI's future. I have delineated all of the exciting changes in programs, in plant and in attitude that are shaping the ARI of tomorrow. This month, I want to address my thoughts to you the reader. Whether you are a parent of a client, a staff member, a friend of the agency, or someone who picked up the publication, if you are reading this newsletter, ARI needs your help and **we need it now**.

We all know of the difficult times facing the Country and State. The reality is that the State is trimming our funding by tens of thousands of dollars. Yet, they expect us to provide the same high level of service that we have provided for over fifty years. As we start to prepare next year's budget for the agency, the only chance of avoiding service cutbacks falls on you, the reader. **We need your help now.**

On Sunday May 2nd ARI will host the agency's fourth annual "Walk for Independence." It is one of three fundraising events that the agency will hold over a six-month period. This year, the Walk takes on a greater significance than ever before. It is the only fundraiser being held before next year's budget will be finalized. There are many walks each year in Fairfield County. While ARI's walk is successful, our donations fall far short of our sister agencies.

We need your help. If ARI is to continue its commitment to provide quality programs without service cuts, we must replace the money being cut by the State. Your physical presence bolstered by your financial contributions can and will make a difference. Those of you who can should become family or corporate sponsors. Besides the publicity and name recognition you'll receive will be the knowledge that you are making the lives of our clients served that much better. In the world of fundraising, every dollar counts and no pledge is too small. A walk, by definition, is made up of walkers. If each reader (and there are thousands) were to join us on May 2nd, imagine the size of the turnout. And, if each walker contacted their friends, family and coworkers, and if each walker raised one hundred dollars, the result would ensure that programs could continue uncut.

Filling the deficit is an immediate financial problem confronting the agency. But, securing long term stability and growth is also vital to the future of ARI. That is why last month ARI announced the creation of the ARI Endowment

(continued on page 4)

Join us for the 4th Annual Walk for Independence



Help us meet our goal of raising \$40,000!

Please visit us at www.arict.org to register to walk and/or volunteer, donate or set up a **PERSONALIZED FUNDRAISING PAGE!**

Sunday, May 2, 2010
Cove Island Park, Stamford

There is no registration fee for this event but we ask that you solicit at least \$100 in support.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. This is a great way to meet our clients and staff while raising money and awareness for our programs.

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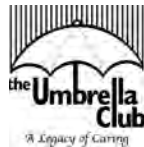
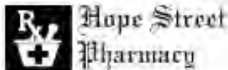


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Sponsor a TEAM Sponsor an ARI HOUSE TEAM Sponsor an ARI Client Be an Event Sponsor

Enclosed is my matching gift form I can't participate but wish to make a donation

Please make checks payable to ARI of CT and mail with this completed form to ARI Walk for Independence, 174 Richmond Hill Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902 by or before April 28. You can also make your payment or donation at online at www.arict.org.

Check \$ _____

Visa Mastercard Card Number _____ CVA _____

Name on Card _____ Exp Date _____



For more information about the Walk and SPONSORSHIPS please call 203.324.9258, ext. 3023

Day Programs

BRS Job Placement

Beginning in January 2010, ARI expanded services to clients who are in the search of competitive employment through the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services. Job Specialists will be working with these clients on preparing them for interviews and job searching. Some of the services that will be provided include cover letter and resume preparation, video taping of mock job interviews, and review of mock interview to show strengths and weaknesses. ARI plans to develop a business advisory committee that will include professionals to help conduct mock interviews and give feedback to the client that will prepare them for real life situations.

Production Services

ARI continues to work with Production Providers for assembly jobs for our production services. Production Providers provides work for people with disabilities. ARI thanks them for continuing to provide jobs for our clients.

Staff News

Employee Feedback Survey

ARI of Connecticut, Inc. has completed its annual Employee Feedback Survey. This survey is an integral part in helping us strengthen our organization and assisting in targeting problem areas. As we continue to improve our organization's services and culture, we value employee input. This survey gives employees the chance to give feedback on the agency while keeping their responses confidential.

This year's survey asked employees questions about communication, training opportunities, policies, procedures, systems, supervision, and other areas of importance. ARI values employee feedback and continues to seek input from staff members. We thank all employees for their participation.

Welcome New Staff Member

Takara Whitley, *Residential Counselor, In-Home Supports Program*

From the Board Chairperson, cont.

(continued from page 1)

Fund. Here is an excellent vehicle for those who can, to include the agency in their long term financial and estate planning. There are many options available to perspective donors and an ARI representative would be happy to meet with you and your financial planner. Leaving a living legacy for good is how we all wish to be remembered and donating to the ARI Endowment Fund is one way to achieve that goal.

Talking about tomorrow is always exciting and opens one's mind to endless possibilities and dreams. But tomorrow can only come if we survive today. Besides the clients we serve, there are so many people in Connecticut that need our help. Only you can ensure that ARI's future is bright. In these difficult economic times, action and support is required. Please don't let us down. **WE REALLY DO NEED YOUR HELP.**

—Allan Sussman

15th ANNUAL

ARI Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament

**NEW DATE AND TIME:
Thursday Afternoon
August 19, 2010**

**Sterling Farms Golf Course
Stamford**

Registration and lunch begin at noon.

Shotgun Start at 1:45 pm.

Dinner Party at Sterling to follow.

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

Recreation and Volunteers



The winter months have been filled with wonderful recreation activities for ARI clients. From bowling, art, and aquaerobics to the annual holiday parties and hockey games, clients had lots of choices for fun and socialization. Over the past four months, more than 75 clients have participated in a least one activity each month.

Party time!

A special party was held at ARI to celebrate the holiday season. Thomson Reuters provided the food and beverages and the Stamford Police Department donated over 100 gifts to our clients. Special thanks to Police Officer John "Cowboy" Farrell and to Ed Napolitano, Vice President of Tax at Thomson Reuters for sponsoring and attending the festivities.

Another holiday party was held at the Knights of Columbus, where Michael Powers and his wife donated the catering and cost of the facility. They also hosted the annual Valentine's Day Party! Their generosity is greatly enjoyed and appreciated by all.

We'd also like to thank our student volunteers from the Westhill High School BuildOn organization and the ARI Youth Corp for their help at these events.

ARI Artists Initiative Calendar

The 3rd Annual ARI Artists Initiative Calendar received positive feedback from the community. In January the Stamford *Advocate* ran a feature about the art class, showcasing the abilities of the 15 plus artists who participate on a weekly basis. The art class continues to grow and produce art work worthy of recognition. Please keep on the lookout for future shows.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more information about the recreation program feel free to contact Gerard J. Gasparino, Manager of Development and Recreation at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3023 or email gasparinog@arict.org.

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 7 and 8, 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.



ARI FAMILY ADVISORY GROUP

2nd Family Pot Luck Meeting
Celebrating Diversity

Saturday, April 24th

11:30 AM

ARI Richmond Hill Avenue Building

Bring your whole family!

RSVP 203 324 9258, ext 3036
and please tell Larry Stoler what you will be bringing.

Donations November 1, 2009 to February 28, 2010

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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For more information, please call 203.324.9258, ext. 3023

- Please let me know about your endowment and other giving opportunities.
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THANK YOU to the Knights of Columbus!



Kenny D'Andrea (left), Past ARI Board Member and member of the Knights of Columbus, and Grand Knight Anthony Uva (right), presented a check for over \$10,000 to Matthew Reyher (center), ARI

President and CEO, at their Annual Communion Breakfast on Sunday, February 21, 2010.

The Knights of Columbus support ARI of Connecticut, Inc. each year through the annual Tootsie Roll Drive and Frank J. Robotti Memorial Golf Outing.

ARI thanks the Knights of Columbus for their continued support.

ARI of Connecticut, Inc.

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