



9th Annual ARI Walk for Independence



Over 300 people, including ARI consumers, families, friends and sponsors, walked at Cove Island Park, on Sunday, May 3, to raise close to \$30,000 for ARI.

ARI President and CEO, Susanne Kuligowski welcomed the crowd and thanked Stamford Mayor David Martin and State Legislator Caroline Simmons for showing their support of our agency. Warm-up exercises were led by Eleanor Casale of Dance with El before members of the Stamford Police led the 3-mile walk around the park.



Breakfast and lunch were generously provided by Darius Jamshidian of the West Main Street SUBWAY, the Cingari family of ShopRite, and Liz Sue Bagels. In addition, Charles Wieseahn donated his time to take photos during the event.

We would like to thank the many corporations, local businesses and families that sponsored the Walk, including Race Sponsor – Stamford Hospital, Distance Sponsor – The Umbrella Club, Race Promotion Sponsor – Fleet Feet of Stamford, Media Sponsors – Stamford Plus Magazine and The Stamford Advocate, Food/Beverage Sponsors – Subway of West Main Street, ShopRite, W.B. Mason, and Liz Sue Bagels, Print Sponsor – MBA Graphics, and our many Pace Setter, Mileage and Team Sponsors. For a list of all sponsors visit www.arict.org.

Visit our facebook page to see more pictures from the event.

ARI Wish List – YOU CAN HELP!

Want to help but don't know where to start? Here is a list of opportunities to support our programs and services. You can make a real difference in the lives of our consumers by making a donation or giving your time and expertise. If you are interested in donating or assisting with any of these needs please contact Gerard Gasparino, Manager of Development & Recreation at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3023 or email gasparinog@arict.org.

Sponsor the ARI Artists' Initiative

- Annual ARI Artists' Initiative Sponsor \$10,000
- Art Class Sponsor \$5,000
- Class supplies \$2,500
- Special projects, printing of greeting cards, and the calendar \$2,500

Upcoming Event Title Sponsors

- 20th Annual Golf Tournament, July 30, 2015 \$5,000
- 1st Annual Gospel Concert, September 27, 2015 \$5,000
- 10th Annual Walk for Independence, May 2016 \$5,000

In-Kind Donations and Volunteer Opportunities

- Refrigerator (like new) for the new ARI Snack Bar
- Painting (interior and exterior)
- Landscaping at Group Homes
- ARI Committees and Events Volunteers
- Aqua-Aerobics Instructor
- Art Class Teacher / Assistant
- ARI Website Redesign
- Fundraising Database entry and updating
- Lead activities and parties in group homes

From the President & CEO

Bernie Weiss Photo



Time really flies! I can't believe it has been seven months since I returned to ARI! And what a busy time it has been! I have thoroughly enjoyed getting reacquainted with so many consumers, staff and family members from the past and meeting many others for the first time.

Over these past several months, I have been thrilled to see that so many of our consumers are happy, thriving, and looking forward to achieving greater levels of independence. Our staff is dedicated to helping each individual we serve reach their personal goals. We have begun to grow our day program services, welcoming both high school transition students and individuals referred by the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services. We look forward to continuing to expand our services in our day program and also in residential services.

Unfortunately, we are facing many challenges that make our day-to-day work very difficult. ARI has been struggling financially for the past few years, and that continues today. This is primarily due to cut-backs in state funding and somewhat due to the loss (for several different reasons) of consumers and our inability to fill those vacancies. This has and will continue to require us to cut back on our staffing, to require our staff to do more with less, and to impact the services we are able to provide.

Now, more than ever before, we are dependent on our ARI family and friends for support. This does not only mean that we are asking you to make a donation to support this great organization. We are asking you to reach out to your network of personal and professional contacts, attend and support our events, volunteer your time and talents. Tell everyone you know about ARI and the services we provide that make such a difference in the lives of your loved ones. If you have not yet supported our annual fund, please do so today by clicking the donate tab on our website. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming 20th Annual Lotstein/Martin Golf Tournament on July 30 and the new Gospel Concert for Independence on September 27. If you have any questions about donating or volunteering, or you have information about grant or sponsorship opportunities for ARI, please contact Gerard Gasparino at gasparinog@arict.org.

We continue to provide vital services to those who have chosen ARI and we know there are many more in our community who need our services. We also know that there are opportunities for program expansion, diversification of revenue (so that we are not as dependent on the state), and ways that we can adapt, change and grow to help ensure that we are here to provide the services you have come to depend on. But we can't do this alone. We truly need the help and support of our friends and families.

I look forward to partnering with you in many ways so that together we will continue to make dreams come true.

Susanne D. Kuligowski
President & CEO

Residential News

We continue to strive to maintain the highest standard of safety, security and enjoyment for our residents. We are proud to announce that, so far this year, three group homes have received a two-year license. This is the highest obtainable level for a group home. One home recently had a great inspection and our final home will be up for inspection in June. We expect successful outcomes at these sites as well.

On June 3, a volunteer group will be painting at Sunrise Ridgefield Cottage and on June 10, a volunteer group will be painting at our Truglia Residence, here in Stamford.

Unfortunately, over the winter, we had a major pipe burst, causing major damage at our Tally Ho Residence. Thanks to the Residential team, there was a smooth transition for all of the seven residents who were forced to relocate for two months. This was a tough time for both consumers and staff, but everyone persevered. After all the damage was fixed, the house reopened in April. We would like to thank Jenna Marie's Deli and Zody's at Sterling Farms for assisting with meals during this time.

For more information on our Residential Program please contact Patti Scialis, Director of Residential Programs at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3018 or email scialis@arict.org.

Knights of Columbus Gift

ARI received \$10,000 on Sunday, April 12, from the Knights of Columbus. We are most grateful for this generous, annual gift.



Day Services

We have begun providing services for one high school student, assisting in her transition into adult services. She has blossomed in her short time at ARI, working on new skills and meeting new friends. We have plans to expand our School to Adult Day program and hope to have at least one new student begin next month.

The grand opening of the Day Service Snack Bar will be in June. The snack bar will allow consumers, staff and guests the opportunity to purchase healthy snacks and drinks while providing the opportunity for consumers to acquire money, communication and management skills. The consumers, with supervision from day program staff, will purchase items, maintain inventory and sell items, while building their confidence to work in the community. All proceeds will be used to purchase necessary program supplies.

You can help! We need a full-size refrigerator! If you have one, or know someone who does, please contact us. Also, any donations of healthy snacks or drinks would be most welcomed.

Last month, our Sheltered Employment program prepared 300 bags for distribution for Memorial Day in the Hamptons. This is the second year that we have prepared these bags. Jane Udell-Meyer of Madison and Mulholland is both impressed by and thankful for the work done by the consumers of ARI.

The Landscaping and Housekeeping crews continue to maintain both residential and commercial contracts. We continue to look for new contracts.

For more information on our Day Programs please contact Darlene Caviness, Director of Day Programs at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3027 or email cavinessd@arict.org.

Gospel Concert for Independence

SAVE THE DATE!! ARI Board Members, Renee and Eric Brown, and Calvin Chapman, are initiating a very special ARI fundraising event on September 27, 2015 at the Norwalk Concert Hall. So far, they have secured several renowned performers for this inspiring evening of music and giving. Mr. Brown's group *Basic: Brothers & Sisters in Christ* will be joined by *Kevin Monroe & The Monroe Singers*, *Vision Community Steppers*, *The Good News Gospel Choir*, and more.

ARI Artists Initiative



The ARI Artists' Initiative was founded 12 years ago by local, accomplished artist Donald Axleroad. Under his leadership, the class gave people with disabilities the opportunity learn and grow as artists. Since its inception, the class has offered these artistic avenues to nearly 20 students. Currently, the class is taught by artist and professional photographer Charles Wieseahn. The Artists' Initiative goal is to allow the students to reach for a higher level of independence by giving them a feeling of self-worth and importance through art. Students work continues to be featured in local art shows, including a show at the Greenwich Art Society in November of 2014.

Unfortunately, due to the troubling economic times, and loss of a major funder of the class, we are in need of sponsors and partners. If we do not receive funding for the class, we will be forced to either charge students to participate or discontinue the class.

To ensure the continuation of this great program, we have begun selling greeting cards, featuring beautiful artwork by members of the Initiative. These cards showcase their extraordinary work and innate ability, while establishing a potential funding base. Each greeting card is 5x7" and includes a matching envelope. They cost \$5 each or \$20 for 5. To see and purchase the cards, please visit our website or contact Gerard Gasparino at (203) 324-9258 ext. 3023, or email gasparinog@arict.org.

Thank you for Supporting ARI of Connecticut!!

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

- Benefactor \$2,500 +
- Leader \$1,000-\$2,499
- Supporter \$500-\$999
- Contributor \$250-\$499
- Friend \$100-\$249
- Donor \$25-\$99
- Other _____
- Enclosed is a completed form from my employer's matching gift program.

Mr / Mrs / Ms Name _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Tel: (H) _____ (C) _____
Email: _____
Payment Type: Check Cash Mastercard Visa
Credit Card #: _____
Name on Card: _____
Exp ____/____/____ 3 digit # on back of card: _____

For more information, please go to <http://arict.org/> or call 203 324-9258, ext. 3023



20th ANNUAL ARI
Lotstein/Martin
Golf Tournament
and Awards Dinner



Thursday, July 30, 2015 • Sterling Farms Golf Course, Stamford

Registration and Lunch beginning at noon.

Shotgun Start at 1:45 p.m.

Awards Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

Proceeds to support programs and services provided by ARI of CT whose mission is to enrich the lives of people with disabilities by enabling them to achieve their fullest potential at home, at work and in the community.

EVENT Sponsorships

- Tournament Sponsor** **\$5,000**
 Two Foursomes
 Primary listing as Official Sponsor
 Banner on course
 Additional dinner guest invitations
- Major Sponsor** **\$2,500**
 One Foursome
 Listing on all printed materials
 Tee sign on course
 Additional dinner guest invitations
- Hole-in-One Sponsor** **\$1,000**
 Two Golfers
 Listing in program
 Tee sign on course
 Two additional dinner invitations
- Eagle Sponsor** **\$750**
 One Golfer
 Listing in program
 Tee sign on course
 One additional dinner invitation
- Birdie Sponsor** **\$500**
 One Golfer
 Listing in program
 Tee sign on course
- Tee Sponsor** **\$250**
 Listing in program
 Tee sign on course
 One dinner invitation
- Personalized Golf Flag** **\$75**

REGISTRATION

NAME _____
 COMPANY _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE _____
 EMAIL _____
 Other golfer's names _____

- _____ Golf @ \$175 each \$ _____
- _____ Golf and one dinner guest @ \$225 \$ _____
- _____ Dinner only @ \$75 each \$ _____
- \$5,000 Tournament Sponsor
- \$2,500 Major Sponsor
- \$1,000 Hole-in-One Sponsor
- \$750 Eagle Sponsor
- \$500 Birdie Sponsor
- \$250 Tee Sponsor
- \$75 Golf Flag

For more information or questions, please call Gerard Gasparino, (203) 324-9258 ext. 3023 or email gasparinog@arict.org, or go to www.arict.org

Please make checks payable to ARI of CT and mail with this form to:
 Golf Tournament c/o ARI of CT
 174 Richmond Hill Ave., Stamford, CT 06902

We also accept MasterCard and VISA.
 Please visit www.arict.org or call (203) 324-9258 ext. 3023

ARI of Connecticut, Inc. • Established 1952

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