

The Arc News

of New London County

www.thearcnlc.org

A Message from The President



Diane Aubin

Time for Spring Chores!

Spring is in the air! The long and busy winter is behind us, and I am looking forward to spring and to our 3rd Annual Pirate Party on Saturday, April 24th 2010 at the Mystic Arts Center in Mystic.

In other news, The Board Development Committee is seeking the names of individuals who might be interested on serving on the Board of Directors or as an officer. **Please consider making recommendations to us. Think of the businesses and individuals you come in contact with who might welcome the opportunity to volunteer their time and expertise, and in return provide The Arc of New London County with community leaders and resources.** Please forward any suggestions you may have to The Arc office with as much contact information as possible. It will be forwarded to the Committee for review. Thank you in advance for your input.

I currently am enjoying my third term as your Board President. As a member of the committee working on the Grants Strategic Planning, I can assure you that The Arc of New London County continues to work diligently to position ourselves across a broader spectrum of funding sources. **Among our priorities: Obtaining funding to install an elevator so that our second floor will be accessible.**

I also serve on the committee that is guiding the refreshment of our Web site, an effort in progress. You can always visit our website at www.thearcnlc.org to obtain the most up-to-date information on Arc 'happenings,' to contact The Arc, or to make a donation to The Arc of New London County.

I look forward to hearing your suggestions for new Board members, receiving comments about the website, and to seeing many of you at our Annual Meeting in June.

Sincerely, Diane Aubin

A Message from The Executive Director

A Toast to Pirates and Partnerships!

We enjoyed a stop at the LOB in Hartford in March, where The Arc of New London County received the first annual Recognition Award from the Connecticut Family Support Council. Attending were State Senator Andrea Stillman and Representative Betsy Ritter.

CFSC is a network of families who have children with disabilities. The Council encourages parents and professionals partner in supporting children with disabilities.

Co-chaired by Karen Hlavac and Robyn Trowbridge, the Council is represented in Southeastern Connecticut by the indefatigable April Dipollina, who nominated The Arc for the award. CFSC and our talented Camp Harkness team, headed by Director Jen Hickey, were recognized for "excellence in innovatively responding to an unmet need in the community and creating a lasting and substantive impact on Connecticut families."

Thanks to April's vision to provide a summer camp for young people with autism, The Arc was able to use its existing camp blueprint to partner with CFSC. And, we're keeping the dream alive this year.

I hope you'll support The Arc's camps for youth and adults – along with our Recreation and Respite programs – by joining us at The Mystic Arts Center from 7 to 10 pm on April 24th for our 3rd annual Pirate Party. Enjoy Shantey Songs, Pirate banter, music from Boat Cake and a quality Silent Auction ... all to benefit these critical programs.

A special treat for Pirate Party-goers will be the "meet and greet" with a Connecticut Sun WNBA basketball player. The Sun has generously agreed to supply memorabilia for our Silent Auction as well.

To buy tickets or to make a Silent Auction donation, please give Barbra Domijan or me a call: 860.889.4435. Or, visit us online at www.thearcnlc.org.



Kathleen Stauffer

Tom Sullivan earns Lifetime Achievement Award



Kathleen Stauffer, Tom Sullivan and Diane Aubin

What better way to finish his outstanding career in human services than to be recognized by his peers for a Lifetime of dedication to the ideals and goals of full inclusion for all citizens in Eastern Connecticut!

Tom is pictured here accepting the CCPA Lifetime Achievement Award with President of the Board of Directors Diane Aubin and Arc of New London County Executive Director Kathleen Stauffer.

Congratulations, Tom, from everyone at The Arc of New London County and throughout the state of Connecticut! We thank you!

The Arc's MISSION:

To provide individualized supports, services, and advocacy to persons with intellectual and other related developmental disabilities to help facilitate their full participation and inclusion in the communities of Southeastern Connecticut.

The Arc's VISION:

People with intellectual and related disabilities supported by The Arc of New London County are full participating members of their communities.

The Arc of New London County's Annual Appeal

Please support our
2009 — 2010
Annual Appeal and make
"25 from 10"
a big success in 2010.

How it works...

If every person receiving
this newsletter makes a
\$25 donation
and then passes this on to
10 family members and friends
who do the same, we will have
one of our best campaigns
ever...in spite of
this challenging economy!

It's easy!

Simply share a copy of this
newsletter page with
10 friends or family members.
Or, just visit our Web page
at: www.thearcnlc.org.

Look for this logo:



and follow the
quick steps.
Thanks!

The Connecticut Sun Shine on The Arc!



Dear Friends of The Arc,

We have wonderful news to share today!

The Connecticut Sun, with full support of The Mohegan Tribe, has proposed working in partnership with The Arc of New London County!

Among the ways in which this new partnership will be celebrated:

- ☀ ***A Connecticut Sun Van wrap to be placed on an Arc transport van***
- ☀ ***Connecticut Sun players to be present at The Arc's Pirate Party on April 24, 2010***
- ☀ ***Connecticut Sun memorabilia to be donated for Pirate Party Silent Auction***
- ☀ ***An Arc Awareness Night to be hosted at an upcoming Connecticut Sun basketball game***

We will be working out the details of the above items with The Sun in the coming weeks. Please be assured that you will be apprised well in advance regarding details of upcoming events.

The Connecticut Sun, along with The Mohegan Tribe, wholeheartedly support empowerment for people with disabilities here in Southeastern Connecticut.

Thank you for helping me to share this good news! And look at some of the comments this news has generated so far!

— Kathleen Stauffer, Executive Director



"This is wonderful!"

"I think the Sun players being at the Pirate Party is a real plus."

"Very nice! What a fantastic opportunity! It is so great to have the Mohegan Tribe's support for the Arc of New London County."

"That is fantastic news!! Great opportunity and a lot of fun too!"

"Asijha Jones! Renee Montgomery! Kara Lawson! Awesome!"

Arc Rec Program sends packages to our Troops!



To: The ArcNEWS
 From: Walter Doubleday, Recreation Program
 Date: February 19, 2010
 Subject: Packages for our Troops

We have collected 5 good size boxes of items to send overseas. These will be going out within the next few weeks. The boxes are stacked, for the time being, in the recreation office. We have enclosed the following letter in each box:



The ARC of New London County is an organization that works with people with intellectual disabilities

in Connecticut. Recently, the Recreation Program thought that it would be a good idea to collect and send items to help our men and ladies serving overseas.

We decided to open this to our entire organization and hope that these items will be just a small token of our appreciation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and we wish you a safe tour and a swift return home.

—The Arc of New London County

Thanks to Our Recent Donors:

Pearl Badaloni
Susan Cameron
Chelsea Groton Bank
Enrico & Luanne DeMatto
James & Patricia Greenleaf
L & M Hospital
Diane Martin
Mattern Construction
People First of CT
Rugh Protective Agency
Savings Institute
J. Solomon Office Supply
George & Lois Strouse
William Sullivan

Bob's Discount Furniture
Charter Oak Fed. Credit Union
CT Coastal Dentistry
Linda Gedeon
Fred Lathrop
Marge Loughlin
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
Mohegan Sun
Kathleen Perry
Sacred Heart Parish
St. John's RC Church
Gary Smith
Thomas Sullivan
Walter & Marilyn Turkowsky

Set Your Sails Mates, the Treasure Awaits!

The Arc of New London County is having its 3rd Pirate Party to raise funds for its recreation, respite and camp programs to benefit individuals with intellectual and related disabilities.

Wear your favorite pirate garb and join us on Saturday April 24th from 7:00 to 10:00 PM at the Mystic Arts Center, 9 Water Street in Mystic.

100% of the proceeds from the evening's event will be used to support the following programs:

Recreation:

Every month, the Arc of New London County provides a full calendar of recreational activities and transportation for over 100 people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities.

The Recreation program is an accredited chapter of CT Special Olympics, sponsoring many local teams in State and National competitions, and also provides social, cultural, and learning activities throughout the year.

Respite:

Caring for a disabled family member is a lifelong challenge and commitment. Respite programs allow care providers to get an essential break to recharge and take care of their own needs.

The Arc provides a Respite Center in Ledyard available for families who need this opportunity. Respite helps keep family members together. Part of the proceeds from tonight's event will support people who need Respite services, but cannot afford the associated cost.

Camp Harkness:

Since 1999, The Arc of New London County has operated a summer residential camp at Camp Harkness on Long Island Sound in Waterford. Each year, we serve over 250 people with developmental disabilities from all over Connecticut who come to enjoy a quality vacation and take advantage of the beautiful Harkness property and beach. It is our

goal to offer camp with no increase for 2010 since families have already been hard hit with social service cuts this year.

Day Camp Program:

Last year we are extending our Camp Season to include a one week Day Camp pilot program for children with Autism and other developmental disabilities.



Pirate Barbra Domijan
860-889-4435 Ext. 116

Many live and silent auction items including golf outings, gift certificates, art, sports memorabilia and much more were donated last year, raising nearly \$19,000! That money helps The Arc serve greater numbers of people with intellectual and related disabilities in Southeastern Connecticut, including the rapidly growing needs of families with loved ones with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Entertainment, heavy hors d'oeuvres and an open bar are included in the \$50 price of admission.

Tickets are available at the door. To purchase tickets in advance go to www.thearcnlc.org or call Barbra at 889-4435 Ext. 116.



**AHOY THERE,
MATEYS!**

**Here be an
important
opportunity!**

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Our 3rd Annual

PIRATE PARTY!

at The Mystic Arts Center



Please Donate Your Used Car to The Arc of New London County!

The Arc Vehicle Donation Program accepts **ALL** Cars, Trucks, Motor Cycles, RV's, regardless of the condition of the vehicles. All vehicles that are donated to the program **MUST** have a clean title. Towing is **FREE!** Normally, vehicles are picked up within 1 – 2 business days. You will need to provide the title and keys to the tow driver.

It's EASY! Go online at www.thearcnlc.org, click on the car symbol and then follow directions for donating online. Or you can call toll free at **1-877-ARC-CAR0** (1-877-272-2270), and be sure you have the title in hand as the folks on the other end must obtain information from the title while accepting the donation.

Once your vehicle is picked up, a formal receipt

The Arc Vehicle Donation Program

1-877-ARC-CAR0
(1-877-272-2270)

on The Arc letterhead signed by Peter Berns, the Executive Director of the Arc of the US, will then be sent to you. You will be notified of the sale amount within 30 days of the sale of your vehicle, and you will receive a letter, along with the IRS 1098C form indicating the sale amount of the vehicle. A check will then be issued directly to The Arc of New London County. Give it a try!

"The Giving Tree"

When The Arc considered purchasing a display for the front lobby to recognize and honor its donors, someone suggested that perhaps a student from NFA could produce a painting of a tree that would have more character than one of the prefabricated models that were being considered. That student, former NFA graduate Akanksha Sule, now a Freshman majoring in Fine Arts at Quinebaug Valley Community College said,

"I thought it was a great opportunity!" So do we!
Thank *you*, Akanksha for your inspiring creation!



Have you noticed changes in our reception area? This bright, stunning relief of The Arc's logo is crafted in brushed metal and is mounted directly onto the wall surface behind our receptionist's desk.

The new sign is part of an ongoing project to upgrade the look of our front lobby and reception area that began with new paint on the walls and artist Akanksha Sule's wonderful painting "The Giving Tree," completed in September 2009. The upgrade includes the new the reception desk, room dividers, new furniture and will ultimately include new carpeting.



The hope of this feature is to provide a forum for you to share your thoughts about The Arc of New London County, about the important work you do here every day, and about the place the work you are doing has in your life.

Our guest this issue is Jon Maderia, Transition Coordinator at The Arc's Employment Transition Center Vocational Program in Groton. Jon has been with The Arc for five years.



Jon Maderia
Transition Coordinator,
Employment Transition
Center, Groton.

Q: What is the most important thing to consider when you work with someone who has an intellectual disability?

A: *The most important thing to know is that they are people. The lives of people with disabilities are not very different from the lives of people without disabilities. They have jobs, families, are in relationships, etc. Getting to know each individual and building a relationship with them is important.*

Q: How can we convince employers that individuals with intellectual disabilities can get the job done?

A: *People with disabilities don't want to be placed in token roles, they want real jobs and want to be treated like any other employee. Once an employer hires someone with disabilities they are usually amazed at their work ethic and also the quality of the services we provide.*

CONGRATULATIONS, TALIBAH!



Wow! Now *THAT* was a surprise!

Little did Talibah Williams (Community Integration Program) know when she called in her response to local radio station 107.7 *Jammin'* WBMW's promotion for Valentine's Day on the Brian Ram and Miss L show, that her entry (a description of her first kiss!) would win **FIRST PRIZE!**

Here, posing with a couple of Cupids who double as radio staff, Talibah holds her prize: a bouquet of flowers, a box of chocolate covered cherries and a moment she will never forget! Congratulations, Talibah!



COMING EVENTS! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 33rd Annual
Strides Road Race
Sunday, October 3, 2010

At Camp Harkness
301 Great Neck Road
Waterford, CT 06385

*All proceeds support
The Arc of New London County's
Recreation, Respite and Camp Harkness
programs for individuals with intellectual
and related disabilities.*



**PIRATE
2010!**

**SET YOUR SAILS, MATES,
THE TREASURE AWAITS!**

Saturday, April 24, 2010



Our 3rd Annual
PIRATE PARTY!



at The Mystic Arts Center