



The Arc™ NEWS

New London County

www.thearcnlc.org

A Message from The President of The Board of Directors

We were delighted to learn that The National Conference of Executives of The Arc announced that our own Kathleen Stauffer, Chief Executive Officer of The Arc New London County, has been awarded its prestigious **Rising Star Award**.

This national award gives recognition to an Executive Director, President or Chief Executive Officer of The Arc in his or her first five years in the role who has made outstanding contributions to furthering the philosophy of full

inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

When Kathleen joined The Arc New London County, members of the Board of Directors were impressed by the speed and breadth of her mastery of the topics and issues associated with our industry, and her eagerness to support Arc's core values comprehensively.

She quickly applied tools and techniques that she learned in other industries to problems

facing local, state, and national Arc organizations.

It is fitting for her to receive national recognition for her caring, ideas, skill, and persistence in improving the quality of services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. — John Fournier



John Fournier

A Message from The Chief Executive Officer of The Arc

**Let's Measure
Our Success!
Outcomes equal results!**



Kathleen Stauffer

In 59 years, The Arc New London County has traveled far from the night that parents seeking opportunities for their children passed a

hat in Groton and collected \$10.69. Today, we help dreams come true for 550 people.

Among our greatest achievements has been community-funded *Recreation*, which embodies wellness and inclusion. Advocacy soon became a cornerstone with participants forming a Board of Directors for self-governance. Today, *Recreation* - now Community Life and Advocacy - is thriving.

Our Pirate Party each April and our Road Race each October support Community Life and Advocacy, as does The United Way and our Annual Appeal.

We've always reaped results; now, we're measuring them. People with intellectual disabilities contribute: Lions Club lobster

bakes ease the pain of natural disasters; peer advocates fight domestic violence; the elderly benefit from Meals on Wheels.

We change lives ... and we can prove it.

Our Annual Appeal mails shortly. Please be generous. Your support makes a difference. We do, too. And, we measure it!

P.S. - Don't miss our 34th Annual Jack O'Keefe Memorial / Cactus Jack Foundation Strides Road Race Sunday, October 2, at Harkness.

Register at www.thearcnlc.org. Food provided by **Outback Steakhouse!**

— Kathleen Stauffer

Study Finds Support And Services Lacking For People With Intellectual And Developmental Disabilities

(NAPS)—Fifty years ago, President Kennedy made a call to the nation to help bring people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) out of the shadows and give them opportunities to lead productive, quality lives. Despite gains in many areas, more progress must be made to create these opportunities.

The Arc, the nation's largest and oldest human rights organization for the I/DD community, conducted a national survey, Families and Individual Needs for Disability Supports (FINDS), to learn from caregivers of people with I/DD if their loved ones are faring well in school, the workplace and throughout their lives. The survey questioned whether the I/DD population receives the support services, funding and resources they need and deserve to lead fully integrated lives.

According to the FINDS survey, 62% of caregivers report a decrease in services for their family member with a disability.

While budget cuts and economic strain have hurt all Americans, the 7 million

living with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families are among the hardest hit.

The survey revealed that potentially 1 million families report being on waiting lists

quit their jobs to stay home and provide care.

The Arc serves more than a million individuals and their families through more than 700 state and local chapters and has helped many people with I/DD achieve their goals in the areas of education, employment and independent living. The survey found that most people with I/DD live in poverty and that fewer than 20% are employed. Thirty three percent have Supplemental Security Income as their only source of income while 21% live on Social Security.

Although the nation has made some progress over the last 50 years, much more can be done. An immediate priority, say experts from The Arc, is to pressure Congress not to balance the budget on the backs of people with I/DD. Budget cut proposals in Congress threaten to dismantle Medicaid, making it even

harder for people with I/DD and their families to achieve their goals in the areas of education, employment and independent living.

To raise awareness surrounding the barriers those with I/DD face, the



The Arc gives 8-year-old identical twins Annika and Maya Adrian-Hage hope that they will be able to achieve their life goals.

for the most basic government-funded services including transportation, housing, employment supports and personal assistance, with an average wait of more than five years. Many family members have even had to

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organization has partnered with Lauren Potter, star of the hit FOX show "Glee." As a successful actress with Down syndrome who is achieving her dreams, Lauren represents the spirit of The Arc's work.

To help people with I/DD achieve their goals, visit www.thearc.org.

Did You Know?

The Arc calls on one million Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), their families, colleagues, neighbors and friends to help people with I/DD achieve their goals in the areas of education, employment and independent living by signing up at www.thearc.org/joinwithus.

Some Parting Shots of The Arc's 4th Annual Pirate Party!

Now It's Full Sail Ahead for Next Year's Treasure:

The Arc's 5th Annual Pirate Party – April 28th 2012!



Pirates, Pirates Everywhere! – See You There Next Year!

Elements of Ellen




In Memory of Ellen B. Lassonde

A life-long resident of Norwich, Connecticut, Ellen B. Lassonde was a woman who always presented herself well-dressed from head to toe. As a result, she always appeared confident and, more importantly, competent. It is remarkable what attention to one's appearance can do for one's self-esteem.

Ellen's family and friends want her personal legacy to live on. As a way to honor her, they have created, with the help of The Arc New London County, an exciting way to help women and men with disabilities enjoy the same sense of self-expression that Ellen enjoyed through dress and through style.

Elements of Ellen is a simple idea that encourages professional retailers, beauticians and others to share their knowledge of and experience with the many elements of style - fashion, hair and skin care, make up and more. Ellen's family would like everyone to carry themselves with the confidence and grace Ellen exemplified.

Elements of Ellen is an opportunity for *all* of us to work together to empower life change in a very proactive way; you have nothing to lose, and the men and women who will benefit from your generosity have *everything* to gain.

We hope you will support this effort to honor Ellen and support men and women with intellectual disabilities throughout Southeastern Connecticut to explore self-expression through style. Call 860.889.4435 x 103 for more information. 

Some Elements of Ellen Participants. Next up: Men Line Up for Hip Makeovers!



Courtney



April



Jessica

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The Le Blanc Family Picnic Funds a Foundation for *Elements of Ellen*

It was a well-planned family get-together at Lord's Point in Stonington, Connecticut, with the house right near the water and cars parked everywhere, live music, kids in the pool and plates full of big red lobsters! Certainly a celebration!

Some 74 people traveled from states near and far to attend, including California, Wisconsin, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and many people from the greater Norwich area here in Connecticut.



On the one hand they had gathered to honor the Leblanc family's French-Canadian heritage, and the festivities included singing a few French songs, but they noted, too, that the occasion was also the birthday of a number of guests, including Diane Klotz, Stella Marie Auxier, Nancy Barry, and the late Ellen Lassonde. Diane took the opportunity to honor Ellen's birthday, and the crowd toasted the heavens!



In attendance was Laurie Herring, The Arc New London County's Chief Operating and Quality Assurance Officer, who was asked to speak. She noted that Ellen's family wanted to remember her and honor her life by noting her style in some way, and that's what *Elements of Ellen* is all about, a unique way to help women and men with intellectual and developmental disabilities learn how to present themselves and gain confidence. Laurie shared full color glossy photos from a PowerPoint presentation of the first person to benefit from *Elements of Ellen*, and articulated the family's desire to create a Foundation in Ellen's honor as a way of sustaining the effort.

A hat was passed, and folks began giving donations toward the creation of the Foundation. Family members cheered each other when money or checks were put into the hat, and by the end of the day more than \$4,800 was raised to help launch *Elements of Ellen*.

Among donors were Stella Marie and Lloyd Auxier & family, Diane and Jeffery LeBlanc, Carol Dunn, John Dauphinais, Nancy and Michael Barry, Gerard and Loretta LeBlanc, Diane Kotz, Paul and Edie Lassonde, brother of Ellen, Doreen Murdock, loving half-sister to Ellen, MaryAnn and Donald Boudreau, whose deceased daughter, Deidra, volunteered regularly and advocated strongly for individuals with disabilities at the Arc Manchester, CT. The largest donation of \$1,000 came from Ginger Armstrong, who donated not only in memory of Ellen but also in memory of her beloved brother, Dennis, who worked at the Arc in Preston for many years. Others requested anonymity in their donations and hundreds of cash dollars were generously received from other aunts, uncles, and cousins attending the picnic.

Doreen Murdock, the Manager of MGM Stores at Foxwoods hopes to secure Silent Auction items for next year's Pirate Party. Other family member also indicated that they will be looking for silent auction items, all in an effort to help grow and sustain Ellen's Foundation.

It was a family celebration filled with love and generosity that will continue to benefit women and men with intellectual and developmental disabilities at The Arc New London County through the *Elements of Ellen Foundation*.



Diane Klotz, a cousin of Ellen Lassonde, approached The Arc with the Lassonde family's desire to keep Ellen's personal legacy alive.

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The Arc New London County Annual Meeting June 28, 2011



The Arc Night at The Connecticut Sun! August 15, 2011



The Arc New London County, in partnership with The Mohegan Sun, sponsored The Arc Night at The Connecticut Sun for the second year, an opportunity for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to join their neighbors in the community to see a great basketball game! The event is also an opportunity for the community to learn more about people with disabilities and their desire to be included and respected.

Shown with a check for \$3,000 from the Connecticut Sun are: Kathleen Stauffer, Chief Executive Officer of The Arc, Eric Motin, former Board representative, Diane Aubin, Immediate Past President of The Arc's Board of Directors, and Christopher Sienko, Vice President and General Manager of The Connecticut Sun. 

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REGISTRATION FORM

Sponsored by



Your Logo could be here, too!

Sunday, October 2, 2011

Camp Harkness

301 Great Neck Road
Waterford, CT 06385

Race officiating
by **SNERRO**

Cash Prizes

for 1st male & female
finishers in 5K and 10K races!

Team Competition

Held at the 10K race
Top 3 finishers for each team will be
scored— Jack O'Keefe Trophy to be
awarded to winning team!

Outback Gift Certificates

to top 3 finishers in each
division for 5K and 10K races!

Starting Gun Times

10K 10:00 am

5K 11:30 am

**Family Fun Run, Walk & Roll!
1:00 pm**

All races start & finish
at Camp Harkness

Changing areas, prizes, &
family entertainment available!

Check here for Wheelchair Division: ☐

Registration Fees**:	Early Registration:	\$15.00/entrant or \$30.00/family (Max of 4)
	Race Day:	\$20.00/entrant or \$35.00/family (Max of 4)
	Children under 12:	\$5.00
	Patron Ad:	\$50.00
**Fee includes food provided by Outback Steakhouse, Strides T-Shirt and race packet		
All proceeds benefit The Arc New London County		

Entrant Information		Age	Div*	Sex	T-shirt Size	5K, 10K or Fun Run	Fee
Please fill out one application for each entrant Each entrant must sign the waiver below							
Entrant							\$
Address						Patron Ad	\$
Phone () —	email				Other Contributions		\$
If family entrant, indicate family member paying here: If TEAM entrant, indicate TEAM NAME here:						Total Enclosed (if family entrant-enter "Family")	\$
*Women's Divisions Girls (G).....11 & under Women's Juniors (WJ).....12-17 Women's Open (WO).....18-39 Women's Masters (WM).....40-49 Women's Grandmasters (WG).....50-59 Women's Seniors (WS).....60-69 Women's Veteran (WV).....70+ Women's Wheelchair (WW) Women's Electric Wheelchair (WE)		*Men's Divisions Boys (B).....11 and under Men's Juniors (MJ).....12-17 Men's Open (MO).....18-39 Men's Masters (MM).....40-49 Men's Grandmasters (MG).....50-59 Men's Seniors (MS).....60-69 Men's Veteran (MV).....70+ Men's Wheelchair (MW) Men's Electric Wheelchair (ME)		Make check payable & mail to: The Arc New London County 125 Sachem St Norwich, CT 06360 Tel: (860) 889-4435 x 116 email: info@thearcncl.org Fax: (860) 889-4662 www.thearcncl.org			
Waiver: (Must be signed by each entrant in order to participate— Under 18 must be signed by parent/guardian) In consideration of my accepting this entry, I do hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, waive, and release forever and discharge any and all claims for damages which I may have or which hereafter may occur to me against The Arc New London County, The Cactus Jack Foundation, The Department of Developmental Services, Camp Harkness, Outback Steakhouse, The Town of Waterford, and any other sponsors for all claims arising out of my participation in said athletic event.							
Signature _____				Date _____			



New London County

125 Sachem Street
Norwich, CT 06360
860-889-4435

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.

VISION:

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

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SAVE THE DATES! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

COMING SOON!

Our 5th Annual
PIRATE PARTY!
Saturday, April 28, 2012
at The Mystic Arts Center



**THE TREASURE
AWAITS, MATES!**



SAVE THE DATE!

The 34th Annual
Strides Road Race
Sunday, October 2, 2011
At Camp Harkness
Waterford, CT

REGISTER ONLINE!