



PIRATE PARTY!

Presented by The Arc of New London County on **April 25, 2009, 7 to 10 p.m.** at the **Mystic Arts Center!** When ye're ready to be lookin' and be soundin' like a rrrreal pyrate, here be the secret to find Fiddlers Green: Ye'll be wantin' t' explore their web page (www.thearcnlc.org) for the history of this glorious party, and the solemn truth about the grog, grub, and auction booty awaitin' ye at this year's pyrate bash. Music by the Denise and Tony Band. Call 889-4435, ext.100 today and those scurvy dogs at Arc will share a secret known only to Davy Jones, tellin' how to get yer grand Lett'r o' Marque grantin' entrance to this most desirable event. **NO SCALLYWAG WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE PARTY WITHOUT A LETTER OF MARQUE (\$50 in advance, \$60 at the door)!**

We be most 'umbly grateful for these good shipmates and their kind sponsorship of this year's party and auction: **Chelsea Groton Bank**, *Captain*; **Mohegan Tribal Nation**, *Captain*; **L&M Hospital**, *Privateer*; **Barefoot Wines**, *First Mate*; **The Resident**, *Swashbuckler*; **The Arc of New Haven**, *Swashbuckler*; **Oriental Rugs Ltd.**, *Buccaneer*; **Savings Institute Bank & Trust Employees**, *Buccaneer*; **Dime Bank**, *Buccaneer*; **J.Solomon Office Supplies**, *Matey*; **Tom and Candy Sullivan**, *Mateys*; **Mattern Construction, Inc.**, *Mateys*

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of New London County

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"You can depend on the Dime"

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OFFICE SUPPLIES

From the President of the Board of Directors

Diane Aubin



Spring brings many opportunities for all of us to experience change. I look forward to welcoming warmer weather, outdoor activities and a return to blooms and green foliage! The Arc of New London County will see changes as well. Our Executive Director, Tom Sullivan, has announced his retirement effective at the end of June, 2009, at the latest. This enables Tom, and his wife, Candy, to begin their retirement together, as planned. The Board is very happy for Tom and Candy, and we wish them a long and happy retirement. We also expressed our gratitude to Tom for the insightfulness, dedication, and integrity with which he has served as our Executive Director. Under Tom's leadership, our organization created programs to meet the needs of individuals in our community, and The Arc of New London County has become the provider of choice for many families in our area. He will be greatly missed by all of us at The Arc. Tom is actively involved in the process for selecting his successor and will continue to support The Arc in a volunteer capacity.

The Search Committee for a new Executive Director is chaired by Enrico DeMatto, Vice President, Cate Steel, Secretary, John Fournier, Treasurer, Shannon Aiello, Immediate Past President, Tom Reynolds, Board Member, Tom Sullivan (representing staff), and me. We met on several occasions, reviewed well over one hundred applications, and have interviewed six people to date. Next, we will identify two or three finalists for the position and conduct the second round of interviews. The Board is looking forward to Tom's being able to assist during a transition period.

Our school-to-work transition center in Groton is now open. The Board voted unanimously to honor Tom Sullivan for his years of outstanding service to the Arc of New London County and for his work on behalf of individuals and disability issues during his career, by naming the new Employment Transition Center in Groton after him.

I look forward to spending a fun evening with you at our **2nd Annual Pirate Bash** in April. Please join us at the Mystic Arts Center on **Saturday, April 25, 2009**. It will be a great time to celebrate what we have accomplished, give thanks to our generous sponsors, and contribute to recreation, respite and camp programs that receive no state funding. Best of all, we will connect, on a personal level, with people from our surrounding communities and people from Arcs all over Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Diane Aubin, President
Board of Directors

Message from the Executive Director– Tom Sullivan

Dear Friends,

Welcome to The Arc of New London County's winter/spring 2009 newsletter. You will find a lot of exciting news about some of our new initiatives and upcoming events in this issue. This will be my last Executive Director Newsletter article. After seven years as Executive Director of this great agency, I have decided to retire at the end of June 2009. This was a difficult decision, but you can all be assured that there is a great team in place to continue the excellent tradition of The Arc. I plan to support The Arc as an active member and occasional volunteer. The Board of Directors has put together a Search Committee for a new Executive Director and it is anticipated that this person will be hired prior to my departure.

Please join with us over the next few months as we celebrate some of our most recent accomplishments:

On Tuesday April 7, 2009 there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony held at our new **Employment Transitional Center** located on the campus of Sacred Heart parish in Groton from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served and our many supporters will be recognized. Please join us.

Also the "*not to be missed*" **Pirate Bash** will be held on Saturday April 25th at the Mystic Arts Center from 7 to 10 p.m. Join us for food, entertainment, grog, pirates galore, a live and silent auction and many surprises. Perry Lorenz, President of A-Z Contractors and the donor of our new home located on Center Groton Rd. in Ledyard is serving this year as our Honorary Chairman.

Finally, did you know that as a member of The Arc you are a member of the world's largest community based organization of and for people with intellectual and related developmental disabilities? There are over 140,000 members affiliated with more than 780 local and state chapters throughout the country. Our strength is in our **members**. So, don't forget to attend our annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday June 23rd at 5:00 p.m. at The Arc, 125 Sachem St. in Norwich and meet your old and new friends in fellowship and food. If you are not a member or need to renew your annual membership (7/1/2009-6/30/2010), there is an application in the back of this newsletter. Join us today and **together we can create change!**

The Arc Mission & Vision Statements

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 developmental disabilities supported by the Arc of New London County are full participating members of their communities.



Spirit of The Industry Award

The Arc of New London County was honored by the Connecticut Community Providers Association (CCPA) with the 2008 Spirit of the Industry Award at their Annual Meeting held on December 11th at the Marriott in Farmington.

This award is given annually to an agency for having an "extensive involvement in championing the cause of people with disabilities; a record of advocacy; and a spirit of sensitivity and awareness."

Board President Diane Aubin and Executive Director Tom Sullivan accepted this prestigious award on behalf of the agency. Christine Jeffers, Audrey Snelgrove, Jon Maderia, Denise Tift, Greg Chevalier, Alycia Shafovaloff and Michelle Densmore, Arc employees, attended the awards luncheon representing their co-workers.



Pictured left to right are: Diane Aubin, President Arc of New London County Board of Directors, Andrea Ferrucci, CCPA Awards Chairperson, Barry Simon President CCPA Board of Directors, and Tom Sullivan, Executive Director Arc of New London County.

Employment Transition Center

After many months of planning, renovations, inspections and re-inspections, our new Employment Transition Center (ETC) opened its doors in January 2009. This program is located on the property of Sacred Heart parish in Groton and provides vocational training to special needs high school students and adults from throughout the region.

The site features a state-of-the art commercial kitchen, computer lab, life-skills room, and resource library. Through the use of this newly renovated building, we offer culinary arts training in the areas of safe food handling and kitchen equipment knowledge, including the use of a six burner gas stove and convection ovens.

In addition to culinary training, the center offers the tools necessary to acquire computer and office skills. Individuals are being trained to build custom resumes, acquire basic data entry skills, and will learn the techniques of internet research.

Our program remains committed to providing individuals with everyday life skills, including those focused on time management, cooking, budgeting, banking, grooming and hygiene. The Center's resource library will serve as a communal gathering space to foster a group learning environment. It remains our top priority to place individuals in community jobs that are of interest to them. It is our hope that this new center will provide these individuals with inspiration and skills for success in the workplace. The Arc also provides transportation and other supports as needed to this population.

Please join us to celebrate with our many supporters from the community for a **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Tuesday April 7th from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.** Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Barbra at 889-4435 ext. 100.

Please note the new date for the 32nd Annual Jack O'Keefe Road Race

on Sunday, October 4th
At Camp Harkness in Waterford

10K 10:00 AM

5K 11:30 AM

1 mile 1:00 PM

*Check out our website,
www.thearcnlc.org, for more information
and an application!*

Arc's *Connect-Ability* Strategic Plan Has Been Approved!

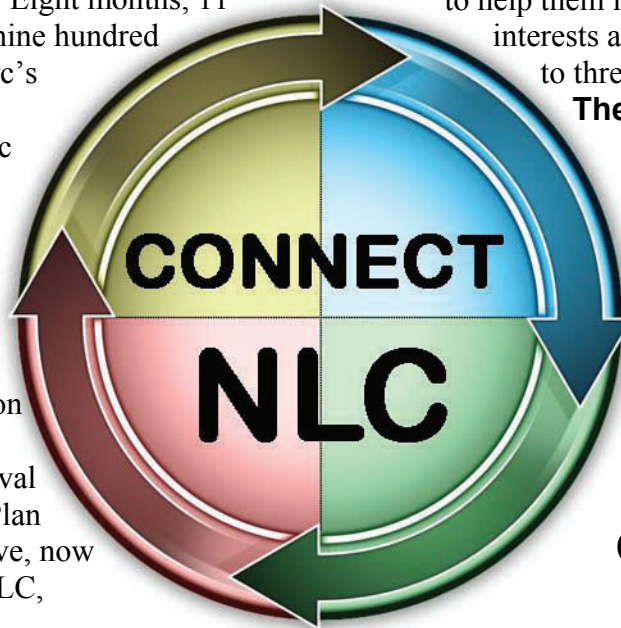
Back in April 2008, The Arc of New London County was awarded one of ten *Connect-Ability* “infrastructure change” grants from the CT Department of Social Services’ Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, and charged with developing a strategic plan to address employment and transportation issues for young adults in high school School-To-Work Transition programs. Eight months, 11 meetings and nearly nine hundred e-mails later, The Arc’s local pilot initiative submitted its Strategic Plan to the state *Connect-Ability* program on December 15, 2008 and received approval to move into its implementation phase on January 30, 2009. With the approval The Arc’s Strategic Plan the local pilot initiative, now called CONNECT-NLC, was created.

CONNECT-NLC is a volunteer collaborative made up of educators, state and private service providers, advocacy groups, employers and other civic partners working to remove employment barriers for young adults with disabilities transitioning from high school to the adult world. CONNECT-NLC will provide students, their families and school transition coordinators information and technical assistance on Best Practices in transition services, will encourage more schools throughout the region to join the Best Buddies program, will work toward creating “bridge” services between school and adult

services in advocacy and other areas, and will partner with adult service providers and local employers to find jobs for young women and men who are leaving school.

CONNECT-NLC is creating **the m-p/3 project**, a “mini-pilot” that will involve three students from three schools working with three service provider agencies to help them identify their vocational interests and then “connect” them to three employers.

The m-p/3 project is currently scheduled to run through 2009.



**Help
shape
the
Future!
Help
CONNECT-NLC!**

If you are interested in learning more about *Connect-Ability* visit their website at www.connect-ability.com or contact CONNECT-NLC Grant Coordinator Paul A. Harvey at 860-889-4435 at extension 103, or write to pharvey@thearcnlc.org.

Connect-Ability is managed by the CT Department of Social Services through its Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, and funded by the US Centers for Medicaid and Medicare.

1671 Center Groton Road, Ledyard Open House

For several years it has been the dream of our Agency to have a permanent site for our Respite Program. Since July 2005, we had been operating a respite home on the property of Uncas-on-Thames through the support of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Because this was a temporary arrangement and the site was not barrier free, we spent many months seeking a permanent site that would be available to all people who needed respite.

Perry Lorenz, President and CEO of A-Z Construction and his family became aware of our need and donated a beautiful home, which used to be their family home-stead, located on 3 acres of land in Ledyard for our use. With the help of the Corporation for Independent Living (CIL),

Advanced Improvements, the Dominion Foundation, Pfizer volunteers through the United Way Day of Caring, and many other supporters, this house was extensively renovated and brought up to current fire and safety code.

An Open House celebrating this milestone was held on the evening of February 3, 2009. In spite of the snowy weather, a large group of friends and supporters attended to admire this new home and to thank Perry Lorenz.

The home will provide some permanency to 4 young women and two separate respite bedrooms for people who live at home with their families who occasionally need a break in caring for their loved ones. Stop by and say hello when you are in the neighborhood!



Perry Lorenz (center, rear row) surrounded by Arc friends at the February 3rd Open House.

Donors Since July 2008

Christopher & Gay Adams	Jerome Davis
Nancy & Robert Ager	Enrico DeMatto
Shannon and Robert Aiello	William Demicco
Arc of Greater New Haven	Evelyn Derosa
Bennie Barnes	Dime Bank
Joann Beverly	Paul Downey
Blum Shapiro Foundation, Inc	Helen Driscoll
Bob's Discount Furniture	Jean Duffy
David Bosio	Eastern Federal Bank Foundation
Suzanne Brown	Elsie Brown Fund
Cavanagh Springs	Julia Evans
Cavasino	Carol Faraci
Central CT Carpenters Local Union 24	Debra & Phillip Fisher
Chelsea Groton Savings Bank	Denise Fournier
Coca Cola Bottling of SE CT	Freeport-McMoran Copper & Gold
Stephen Colgan	Phyllis Frenis
Carole Cone	Judith & Delmore Furnia
Connecticut Commercial Realty	Linda Gedeon
Christine & Anthony Cosentino	Bridgette Gordon-Hickey & Brian Hickey
Council #2364 K of C	Michael Gouthro
Council #7054 K of C	Beverly Gregg
Council #8903 K of C	Thomas A. Griffin
Council #12705 K of C	Timothy & Colleen Halloran
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Curtin Insurance	Kissel Chiropractic LLC
Kathy Cusumano	Sara Klemmer
Gerald Daigle	Komorowski
Courtland Darrow	Donald Kovacs

*Many thanks to all our friends and partners who have contributed to
The Arc of New London County this year in so many ways!
You can also donate at www.thearcnlc.org via Pay Pal.*

Donors Since July 2008 (cont.)

Lake of Isles	Road ID
Laurel Tire Inc.	Florence Robinson
Law Office of Gregory G. ST. John	Rose & Kiernan
Lawrence & Memorial Hospital	Edward & Lori Royer
Ledyard Rotary Foundation	Mark & Mary Jane Ruffo
Garrick Madonna	Savings Institute
Lance Magnuson	Schuster Driscoll, Inc.
Diane Manning	Margaret & Thomas Sheridan
Loretta Manning	Shop Rite Supermarkets
Lisa Maroto	Robert, Janet, & Jay Siart
Wendy Mercado	Smith Insurance, Inc.
Donna Milnarik	Catherine & Richard Steel
Minuteman Press	Duncan Stoddard
MJ Sullivan Automotive Group	Strickland
Mohegan Tribe	Suisman Shapiro, Attorneys at Law
John T. Moran	Tom & Candy Sullivan
Gary Motin	Bill Terwilliger
Felicia Murallo	The Day
Mutual of America	The Kitchings Foundation
Mystic Rotary Club	The Tolland Fund
New London County Mutual Insurance	Donna Thompson
O'Keefe Controls	Annibal Torres
Robert & Maureen O'Keefe	Marilyn Turkowski
Outback Steakhouse	Anthony & Denise Walstra
Pendleton	Waterford Group Charitable Foundation
People's United	Webster Bank
Anne Bingham Pierson, M.D.	Dave Weiss
Ron Rasi	Rosaline Wellington
Rep. Tom Reynolds	Karen Zrenda

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*Are You an Arc
Member?*

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

July 1, 2009—June 30, 2010

Last Name:			First Name:			Date:		
Street Address:			Email:			Home Phone:		
City:			State:		Zip:		Work Phone:	
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES (Please check one):								
Note: If you are an Arc of New London County employee or relative, you must select Non-Voting.								
Voting Membership						Non-Voting Membership		
Individual		\$15.00				Individual		\$15.00
Senior Citizen		\$10.00				Senior Citizen		\$10.00
Self Advocate		\$10.00				Self Advocate		\$10.00
						Corporate		\$100.00

Please make checks payable to The Arc of New London County, Inc.—Thank you

Membership is for one year and renews on June 30. Membership in our local chapter also entitles you to membership in The Arc of Connecticut and The Arc of The United States. Voting Membership entitles you to one vote at general membership meetings. Membership entitles your family member to a discounted fee at Camp Harkness.

Please check here if you do not want to be listed in the membership directory: ☐

The Directory will be available to all Arc Members in order to improve communication between families, self advocates, and service providers.

Please check here if you would like to receive *The Arc Today*, our National Newsletter: ☐ (No extra charge)

Optional Information:

In order to gather data about our membership, we request that you fill out the following information for our records. This information is optional, but will be helpful in determining the demographic base of our membership:

Age Group of Member:					
	1-24		25-34		35-44
	45-54		55-64		65+

If Family Member, age group of person with disability:			
	1-21		22-35
	36-50		51+

Classification:					
	Self Advocate		Volunteer		Professional
	Provider		Employee		Interested Citizen
Family Member of person with developmental disability					

Call 860-889-4435 to learn how membership can benefit you.



125 Sachem Street
Norwich, CT 06360
860-889-4435
www.thearcnlc.org

Summer Day Camp is Here!!!

After many months of planning, The Arc of New London County is pleased to announce, in addition to our regular 7 week residential camp program, a **Pilot Summer Day Camp Program at Camp Harkness** for children ages 8-21 who have developmental disabilities.

The Connecticut Family Support Network – Southeast identified a pressing need for school aged children who are not quite ready for an overnight camp experience but would like to participate in enjoying summer camp. At the same time, the camp will also offer families a valuable respite from their caretaking responsibilities when summer school is ended.

Operated by Jen Sullivan Hickey, our very capable Camp Director, and her staff, the day camp will offer activities focused on services to children on the autism

spectrum and children with intellectual disabilities, and will include games, crafts, and daily access to the beach. Breakfast and lunch will be provided daily.

The day camp will run August 9-14, starting Sunday, August 9th, with a meet-and-greet day for the families from 1 to 4 p.m. Day camp will be offered all that week from 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. On Friday, August 14th, the week will conclude with a Family Picnic and awards ceremony.

The pilot will be set up for children ages 8-21 with a maximum of 25 campers. Interested families are asked to contact Jen Hickey at (860) 822-0801 or jhickey@thearcnlc.org.

The application for both overnight and the day camp pilot is on our website: www.thearcnlc.org.