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For Immediate Release

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35th Annual Jack O'Keefe Memorial Strides Road Race Sets Record for The Arc New London County

Waterford, CT- The 35th annual Jack O'Keefe Memorial Strides Road Race at Camp Harkness in Waterford set new records for The Arc New London County. Hosted Sunday, October 7, the race brought out 504 runners, walkers and rollers resulting in a 19% increase from 2011. The proceeds from the race benefit programs at The Arc which would otherwise go unfunded.

For the 8th year, Outback Steakhouse served ribs, chicken and salad for the hungry runners. "Outback has been a phenomenal supporter of The Arc New London County," said Kathleen Stauffer, Chief Executive Officer of The Arc. "We can't thank Mark Duval and his incredible staff enough. These are folks who truly understand community service."

The road race was generously supported by platinum sponsors M.J. Sullivan, O'Keefe Controls Co., The Tolland Fund and Suisman Shapiro. Gold level sponsors included Rose & Kiernan, Inc., Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold and RX Health. Litchfield Insurance Group, McCarthy Heating & Oil, Mohegan Sun, Mutual of America, Savings Institute, Coca-Cola Bottling of SECT, Crystal Rock, LLC, The Day, The Resident and The Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation also helped to make the event a success as silver sponsors. A complete list of sponsors can be found on The Arc's website at www.thearcncl.org.

"We're especially excited to see this long-established race enjoying a resurgence and becoming a favored family event for New London County," said The Arc's Board President, John Fournier. First hosted in the late 1970s, the race was established to honor the late Jack O'Keefe who originally founded the race in collaboration with members of Seaside Regional Center, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Recreation, Camp Harkness, the Town of Waterford and many other civic and community organizations throughout the region. As a result of many changes at the DDS, the race is now an event of the Cactus Jack Foundation and The Arc New London County. The Arc New London County advocates for inclusion and advocacy for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For more information visit www.thearcncl.org.

NOTE: The Arc New London County is New London County's agency of choice for many people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Located at 125 Sachem Street in Norwich, Connecticut, The Arc was established in 1952 by parents of children with intellectual disabilities to serve the citizens of New London County. Board of Directors: John Fournier, President; Enrico DeMatto, Vice President; Linda Rhodes, Secretary; Emily Fournier, Treasurer; Members: Dennis Starling, Client Representative, Shannon Aiello, Dawn DeCristofaro, Mary Ann Duchene, Alan Messier, Wendy Mis, Alice Munyan and Denise Walstra. Immediate Past President: Diane Aubin.