2003 National Mental Retardation Awareness Month

Governor Issues Proclamation

Every year, during the month of March, communities across the nation join together to celebrate the accomplishments of their fellow citizens who have a developmental disability.

NYSARC joins the national celebration by kicking off its annual Legacy of Love public awareness campaign in March which provides chapters with an opportunity to collectively tell their communities about who they are and what they do. By joining together with other chapters, Legacy of Love helps to remind the public of the Association’s collective strength and the important work of NYSARC chapters.

Like past years, the Governor issued a gubernatorial proclamation bringing State recognition of the observance.

Although many chapters participated in the March observance, our Essex County Chapter has always been a leader, and this year was no exception. Special events were planned every week from “Success Story” night at their Smith residence in Lewis, to a Legacy of Love celebration at their Schroon Lake Day Habilitation program to open houses and volunteer celebration night. In addition, the chapter visited area schools giving sensitivity training presentations, followed up by a button design contest for elementary school students and an essay contest for older students. The finalists were honored at various Legacy of Love celebrations which provided an opportunity to bring in all kinds of guests. And to top off the event, the chapter had major ads in local newspapers as well as having the local county Board of Supervisors declare March as Mental Retardation Awareness Month in Essex County.

We tip our hat to Essex County ARC!

Delaware County Student Wins Logo Contest

For the second year, NYSARC’s annual Convention Theme Design Competition was open to high school students across the state.

The purpose of the competition is to showcase the talents of our young people as well as the important contribution that NYSARC, Inc. makes to the fabric of life in New York State through its chapter’s programs and services as well as its advocacy efforts in Albany and Washington.

This year’s winning design representing the theme, “Celebrate the Past...Enrich the Present...Shape the Future” was created by Carly Knight, a senior at the Walton Central School, Walton, New York.

Nominated by our Delaware County Chapter, Carly was presented with a lap top computer generously donated by CMI Communications located in Rochester, New York. The award was presented to Carly at a Board meeting of the Delaware County Chapter.
Chautauqua ARC Enjoys Successful Fund-Raisers in 2002

The Resource Center (The Chautauqua County Chapter) enjoyed a very successful year as each of its three major fund-raising events had record results.

The Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament fielded 491 teams (a 20 percent increase over 2002) and netted $27,000 while luring thousands of people to Jamestown for a weekend of exciting basketball action.

The Carl Cappa Memorial Golf Classic set another record, netting $102,000. In its first six years the Cappa Classic, has become the premiere one-day charity golf tournament in southwestern New York, generating a combined $525,000 in net proceeds.

2002’s Laurel Run was also a success, netting $11,000 for the Chapter’s in-school disability awareness and prevention programs.

The dates for the 2003’s events have been set. The Gus Macker will be held June 7th and 8th; Laurel Run will hit the ground running July 18th and finish up the following day; and the Cappa Golf Classic will tee off August 11th.

www.TheArcLink.org

**Linking over 7000 individuals and their families each month to information about services and providers**

**What is TheArcLink?**

*TheArcLink* is a nationwide, comprehensive database that provides vital information about the maze of services available to people with developmental disabilities and their families.

The vision of *TheArcLink* is to improve the quality of services to people with developmental disabilities and their families through the power of informed choice.

For more than fifty years, families facing disabilities have advocated together for better systems of support and inclusion through The Arc, our national organization. Collectively, these families have accomplished great things. All children are now entitled to a free, appropriate public education. Adults who were previously institutionalized hold jobs, own homes and vote. People with developmental disabilities are recognized as citizens with all of the rights and responsibilities of other citizens.

The world is changing very rapidly in its approach to people with disabilities and their families, and in the right direction.

Yet the everyday task of survival in the community can be daunting for individuals with developmental disabilities and families that have little or no information on available services and supports. Many people do not know how to access services, are unaware of choices that exist, or in the case of residential supports, are unaware of long waiting lists and the importance of applying for services early.

*TheArcLink* will help to address all of these issues and more.

**Visit**

[www.thearclink.org](http://www.thearclink.org)

**and see for yourself!**

**Tips for Short Reports**

Providing monthly, even weekly reports is part of our professional lives. Here’s a plan for good short reports:

- **Prepare** a single statement telling what the report is about.
- **Identify** two or three main points.
- **Highlight** each main point; use statistics, brief examples or a one-sentence explanation.

*Source: Communications Briefings Vol. XXII, #1*
Albany ARC Joins WRGB Volunteer Website

Several months ago, WRGB Channel 6 created and launched an exciting new community service campaign, in partnership with United Way, called “World at Home.” The campaign is a powerful and valuable resource for both the Capital Region community-at-large and non-profit organizations throughout the area who are looking for volunteers. The mission of the campaign is to encourage people to build a stronger community through volunteerism. A website has been created, worldathome.org, for organizations and volunteers to “match up.” Organizations can search for individuals interested in volunteer opportunities, and individuals can search organizations for positions they may be interested in.

The Albany ARC has joined the World at Home campaign and is listed on the website as an organization looking for volunteers.

“Medal of Freedom” Presented by HARC to Senator Seward

The Herkimer Area Resource Center, the Herkimer Chapter of NYSARC, Inc., presented New York Senator James Seward with the “HARC Medal of Freedom,” on March 21, 2003. HARC Executive Director, William Privett explained the medal serves as a symbol of gratitude for the Senator’s financial support and legislative initiatives on behalf of people with disabilities and programs, such as sheltered work and residential services. For his assistance, the Senator has in turn helped people with disabilities to enjoy greater freedom and independence in their lives—whether it be retaining or getting a new job, a new home, new work projects, etc.

After the morning reception and press conference, the Chapter hosted family members and staff for a roundtable discussion to give support to the Governor’s 2003-04 budget in relation to people with disabilities, and to explain the job demands of human services direct care professionals, and the importance of fair pay. The Senator and Assemblyman, Marc Butler also participated in an Executive Conference with special guests Marc Brandt, Executive Director, and Ben Golden, Associate Executive Director for Governmental Affairs, both of NYSARC, Inc.; Stephen Smits, Director, and Richard Barnum, Director, Office of Community Support, both of the Central DSO; William Privett, Director, HARC; Jeanne De Paredes, President, HARC Board of Directors; and Marc Brandt, Executive Director, and Ben Golden, Associate Executive Director for Governmental Affairs, both of NYSARC, Inc.

Senator James Seward was recognized for his work on behalf of people with disabilities by the Herkimer Chapter of NYSARC, Inc. The Senator also participated in a roundtable and executive session to outline important issues human service agencies face today. Those involved in the success of the day included (L to R): Senator James Seward; Dana Guernsey, Director of Residential Services, HARC; Assemblyman Marc Butler; Stephen Smits, Director, and Richard Barnum, Director, Office of Community Support, both of the Central DSO; William Privett, Director, HARC; Jeanne De Paredes, President, HARC Board of Directors; and Marc Brandt, Executive Director, and Ben Golden, Associate Executive Director for Governmental Affairs, both of NYSARC, Inc.

The Public Eye is a quarterly newsletter published by NYSARC, Inc. for NYSARC, Inc. Chapters. Comments can be addressed to NYSARC at: 393 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, New York 12054. Tel: (518) 439-8311  FAX: (518) 439-1893 E-Mail: nysarc@nysarc.org.
Cabaret Raises Thousands for Orange County AHRC

A holiday Cabaret to benefit the Orange County Chapter, NYSARC, Inc. raised over $10,000 for AHRC’s programs and services. The event was held at the Orange County Golf Club in Middletown, New York.

Velvet Solange, a volunteer at AHRC, was the performer for the night in a tremendous rendering of Cabaret. Other musical selections were performed by Richard Rogers and Company who accompanied Ms. Solange.

A live auction raised over $3,000 for the chapter. Auction items included an evening in Manhattan, a traditional Sicilian dinner for ten and box seat tickets to the New Jersey Nets. Many area businesses donated their goods contributing to the success of the event. Congresswoman Sue Kelly donated an American flag, which had flown over the United States Capital. Both Congresswoman Kelly and her husband attended the event as well as Orange County Legislator Bonnie Kraham.

Among the volunteers that helped to pull the event together were a group of high school students who served as ushers and hostesses.

The Orange County Chapter stated that it was, “Truly indebted to the Orange County community for their continued support of the agency and individuals with disabilities.”

Foundations Putting Money Into Campaigns Led By Youth

In the past two decades, foundations have poured tens of millions of dollars into efforts to help inspire young people to volunteer, distribute charitable grants, and start their own charities. Now, a growing number of foundations say a new need is emerging: to build a generation of activist youths.

Toward that end, grant makers have started giving money for programs such as youth-led campaigns to improve conditions in public schools and to protest environmental hazards in neighborhoods. Foundation leaders say youth activism helps young people learn to identify and confront the causes of problems in their neighborhoods—and to recognize that they have the power to help solve them.

A handful of foundations interested in such grant making formed the Funder’s Collaborative for Youth Organizing in 2000.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

A few months ago, what may have seemed to be an impossibility to some, became, an amazing reality to many.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, sponsored by ESL Federal Credit Union was presented in Monroe County.

Fifty actors—40 with developmental disabilities from the Arc of Monroe County—School of Holy Childhood and Lifetime Assistance, performed for sold-out
Broome-Tioga ARC Marks Its First 50 Years

In September 2002, the Broome-Tioga Chapter began celebrating its 50th Anniversary with a number of events and activities involving consumers, families, members and staff. At their Annual Awards Dinner, surviving founders and their families were honored guests.

Consumers in all programs participated in an extensive agency-wide art project. Final products done in various mediums were on display at the dinner and showcased in a local department store window along with an agency anniversary display.

Gala celebration events culminated in November when the world-renowned Famous People Players from Toronto filled the Forum Theatre in Binghamton with their very special performance. A very appreciative audience of consumers, family members and staff enthusiastically cheered the troupe on. After the performance, many of the guests proceeded to the nearby Regency Hotel for a black tie gala dinner.

After the ceremonies, Diane Lynn Dupuy, the director and founder of the Famous People Players, gave an inspirational speech emphasizing the extensive talents, creativity, and ability to overcome obstacles of the troupe members, each of whom has a developmental disability. Concluding her presentation, she noted that the acronym ARC should stand for “America’s Remarkable Citizens”.

It was an evening filled with fellowship, good food, and dancing, a fitting tribute to the accomplishments of consumers, parents, board members, staff and the community in the first 50 years of the Broome-Tioga Arc’s great adventure. The Chapter begins its next 50 years buoyed by optimism, enthusiasm and a renewed sense of our mission fostered by anniversary celebrations.

Great Event!

Food for Thought

“Occasionally someone will mistakenly view volunteers as amateurs. They need to remember that Noah’s Ark was built by amateurs and the Titanic was built by professionals!”

“If you think you’re too small to make a difference, you haven’t been in bed with a mosquito!” — Anita Roddick

Kudos to Monroe ARC!

Today, its membership stands at 22 foundations including such major players as the Ford Foundation, in New York, and The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, in Flint, Michigan. Members contribute money to the collaborative, which has given $1.2 million so far to youth activism efforts.

StageWorks Perform at Oneida-Lewis 17th Annual Gala

Members of StageWorks performed the song *Imagine* at the 17th annual Arc Gala on January 25, 2003. Vicki Hillebrand, community recreation coordinator for The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter NYSARC (The Arc) said the folks consider it an honor to perform at the annual Gala.

StageWorks is sponsored by The Arc, and funded by the Friends of The Arc Foundation. Now in its sixth year of production, StageWorks was established to increase awareness of the abilities of people with disabilities, and provide an opportunity for people of musical talent and interest to participate in the creative and performing arts.

The StageWorks performance at the Gala is one of several shows that is performed throughout the community. "The folks have been rehearsing for weeks and they were really excited," said Liza Grube, activities director for The Arc. The gala is a major fundraising activity for The Friends of the Arc Foundation, which helps to support programs like StageWorks, Exceptional Arts, the Leisure Center and Day Camp.

The Arc Gala also honored Jim Ellis for his work on behalf of the Friends of the Arc Foundation. "Jim has given years of service to The Arc by donating his time, talent and expertise." The 15 person committee was chaired by Gina Hobika. Over 300 people attended and $46,500 was raised.

NYSARC Partners with VOA

NYSARC, Inc. in a partnership with Volunteers of America, University at Albany and Marist College is sharing information and promising practices to enhance end-of-life care for people with developmental disabilities.

*Last Passages* is a national demonstration project designed to help transform death and dying from a “critical incident” to the natural end of life cycle for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

The project is supported by grants from the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, and the Project on Death in America of the Open Society Institute.

The goal is to improve the range of choices and quality of care for people with developmental disabilities who are nearing the end of their life.

ARC of Monroe To Benefit From Animal Scramble

If anyone traveled to Rochester during the Spring and Summer of 2001, you were sure to see one of the over 150 horses which were on parade around the City and County. In May 2002 The Arc of Monroe County was named as one of the six founding charities to participate in *ESL Presents Animal Scramble.* So what is Animal Scramble? It is a simple concept with community-wide impact. Local companies, organizations, and individuals sponsor a variety of life-size, fiberglass animals. To date over 200 animals have been sponsored. The sponsor then partners with a local artist to paint and embellish the animal for display. From January to March 2003, a local artist along with many of The Arc’s consumers, families, volunteers, and staff will be painting and decorating our two fiberglass eagles.

One eagle is being sponsored by The Arc of Monroe County and has been named “High Heart”. High Heart represents the heart of the organization - its consumers, families, and caregivers. The second eagle is being sponsored by the Arc Foundation of Monroe and has been named “Wings to the Stars”. Wings to the Stars represents staff, board members, trustees, volunteers, donors/contributors, and the community at-large.

The Chapter anticipates raising between $200,000 to $300,000 from this project. So if you happen to be in Rochester during the summer months, be sure to look for one of the many animals!
Each year during the holiday season, Jefferson Rehabilitation Center hosts a holiday party for its employees. This year, (as in past years) the holiday party planning committee purchased many wonderful gifts that were raffled off during the festivities. In addition to the items raffled, staff could purchase tickets to win a television or stereo. The planning committee decided that all proceeds from the sale of those tickets would, for the third time, be donated to The Bernier Carr Group’s 8th Annual Christmas Gift and Fund Drive.

The Bernier Carr Group Annual Children’s Christmas Drive collects, distributes and donates toys and financial contributions to various local non-profit organizations. It was felt that since this group was already collecting funds for various organizations in the community that they would donate to their efforts and have a large number of people benefit.

By the end of the holiday party, Jefferson ARC employees had raised $1,500 which was later presented to The Bernier Carr Group.

Jefferson ARC Employees Raise $1500 for Children’s Fund Drive

Steuben ARC
2003 Legacy of Love

Steuben Arc kicked off its 2003 Legacy of Love Campaign on February 1st and went through the month of March. The 2-month campaign was designed to celebrate the abilities of people with developmental disabilities and the quality, whole-life services provided by the Steuben Chapter.

Activities included the sale of chocolate pops and Arc stars, distribution of 50,000 educational placemats to local restaurants, a celebrity auction and annual membership drive.

The celebrity auction featuring Tammy Leitner, Survivor Marquesas Cast member as its honorary chairperson, brought in numerous items including a Joe Torre autographed baseball, a Sterling Marlin autographed poster with life-size cut out, and a Joe Diffie autographed picture with neck scarf.

Way to go Steuben!
Make a Meaningful Award Certificate

The next time you want to give an award to a volunteer or employee, you may want to design your own certificate rather than purchasing “boxed” certificates.

There are several computer programs available today that are easy to use and allow you to include photos and your chapter’s logo. Most publishing software, such as Microsoft Publisher, have a certificate maker. You can also find shareware programs that have certificate generators.

Listed below are a couple of sites that offer downloads of free software for certificate programs:

www.in2edu.com/downloads/awards.htm
www.certificatecreator.com
www.successcertificates.com

A Look Back in Time

For the Allegany County Chapter, Legacy of Love was not just an event- it was a celebration. Starting with a Media Day the Chapter announced the various activities that people in the area could look forward to participating in as the community celebrated Legacy of Love 2003.

Over 4,000 placemats with pictures and information about the ARC and the people it serves were placed in local area restaurants including Burger King, The American Hotel, Buckhorn’s Family Restaurant, and Club Boomers.

Brightly decorated posters celebrating the event were hung in businesses throughout Allegany County. Attached to the posters were Chapter Membership forms.

And, for chocolate lovers, ARC bars were sold through local businesses during the Legacy of Love celebration.

To round out its 2003 event, The Mayor of Belmont proclaimed March 2003 as Mental Retardation Awareness Month in Belmont and the County Legislators issued a county proclamation.

Finally, numerous articles were published in local newspapers and provided to radio stations and a great front-page story was included in the Chapter’s monthly Communicator for staff regarding Legacy of Love.

Great job Allegany!