

PRESS RELEASE

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The Arc of Quinebaug Valley celebrates launch of community portion of Capital Campaign

The Arc of Quinebaug Valley kicked off the community portion of its “Elevating Education: The Power to Transform Lives” Capital Campaign Thursday at The Gold Eagle Restaurant at The Laurel House.

Members of the Northeastern Connecticut community joined The Arc Staff, Board of Directors and Capital Campaign Cabinet to celebrate the campaign’s early success.

Gene Michael Deary, President of The Arc Board of Directors, announced the campaign has already exceeded 60 percent of its \$250,000 goal in gifts and pledges over a five year period.

“If you hear The Arc’s story, you can’t help but want to be a part of it,” Deary said. “It’s going to be a successful campaign, we can assure you of that.”

The purpose of the campaign is to provide for the installation of an elevator at the Cook Hill Rd. Office, Education and Training Center that will allow The Arc to provide full accessibility to all people with life-affecting disabilities. These funds will also ensure the continuation of critical services and supports that enable individuals with disabilities to live full and productive lives.

The campaign was launched in February and plans to wrap up in early July.

Deary applauded The Arc’s Administrators and Board of Directors, who have demonstrated 100 percent participation in the campaign, and praised the staff for an overwhelming commitment as well.

Campaign General Chairpersons Jason and Amy St. Onge, owners of G7 Catering in Thompson, thanked the campaign leaders and volunteers. Work by Josh Peach, Branch Manager at Citizens National Bank, and his team in the Corporate and Finance Division, and Deary and his team in the Major Gifts Division, has contributed greatly to the success of the campaign so far, Jason St. Onge said.

Amy and Jason St. Onge said they have been honored to lead the campaign and have been touched and inspired by the generosity Northeastern Connecticut has already shown The Arc.

“It’s only through the assistance of so many kind and caring individuals that The Arc is able to assist so many people,” Jason St. Onge said. “The Arc is changing lives in Northeastern Connecticut.”

Executive Director Susan Desrosiers said the generosity and commitment of the Northeastern Connecticut community “never ceases to amaze me.”

“It’s a wonderful, wonderful feeling to go home each night and know that we made a difference in someone’s life,” Desrosiers said.

Founding Parent Norma Cassettari thanked all of the parents, both past and present, for their commitment, dedication and advocacy. Cassettari said when she and a few other parents came together in the 1950s to form The Arc of Quinebaug Valley, they were in dire need of services.

“I don’t believe we envisioned the enormous growth of The Arc,” Cassettari said. “The one thing we wanted was help for the children, for our kids. It’s a great cause, and it’s been mine for 60 years.”

About The Arc: The Arc of Quinebaug Valley, Inc. is a non-profit human service agency committed to supporting individuals (and their families) with intellectual, developmental and other life-affecting disabilities. The Arc provides opportunities through advocacy and supports for work, play and education so each person experiences personal growth, dignity, respect, choice and greater independence to live life to the fullest. Founded in 1952, The Arc is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

For more information please call The Arc at 860-774-2827 or visit us at our website at www.qvarc.org.