



# The Arctarian

Newsletter of The Arc of Quinebaug Valley



## A message from our director:



Dear Friends and Families:

**R.O.A.D.: Respect Opportunity Advocacy Dedication** - these are the Core Values that drive all that we do at The Arc of Quinebaug Valley.

Every department is working hard to continue to provide the quality of services that everyone has come to expect from the agency. We are keeping a close eye on budget developments in Hartford as any cuts to the Department of Developmental Services will certainly be detrimental to all private providers and the individuals and families we serve. Please call, write or email your legislators and ask them to protect the agencies that provide services to the most vulnerable individuals. Private Providers are the **SAFETY NET**. Get involved. Join the **Family Empowerment Group** – for information see The Arc of Quinebaug Valley website at [www.qvarc.org](http://www.qvarc.org).

Everyone at the agency is very excited about the elevator that is being installed at Cook Hill Road to provide easy access to the second floor which has the Education Program and our beautiful Sensory Room. The project, Elevating Education, will continue through the summer and fall and should be completed by December. We are all looking forward to our first ride!!

The Arc of Quinebaug Valley was one of three agencies in the state to be awarded a contract through Connect-ability to partner with a business to provide services to individuals with life-affecting disabilities. The Arc's Employment Services Department will be re-

sponsible for the contract. For more details, see the article on page 3.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us through the years. Without your help, The Arc of Quinebaug Valley would not be the agency that it is today. I think that you would be very proud of the work that we are doing.

From left to right  
 Dave Barton, Tiffany Bradley,  
 Jen Buell and Andy Cohen  
 during the first quarter  
 Incentive Program  
 reception. Great Job Employees!  
 Want to see more names?  
 turn to page 3.

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



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## Annual Awards Dinner 2011



On Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, The Arc of Quinebaug Valley celebrated an evening of appreciation and success at their Annual Meeting at the Wright's Mill Farm in Canterbury. In attendance were 237 parents, friends, community supporters, staff and participants to celebrate a year of accomplishments.

The theme of the evening centered on achievement. The new national logo campaign "Achieve with us" demonstrates that what began as a group of parents who wanted more for their children, continues to be a grassroots organization with over 730 chapters. All are committed to working at local, state and federal levels to promote and protect human rights and help people with disabilities achieve full and satisfying lives.

Executive Director, Susan Desrosiers said, "We have



seen growth this year in all of our departments and added new services. We are now providing services for the Department of Children and Families through our Residential Department, the Education Department continues to partner with area school systems to provide programs, Employment Services has expanded with an office in Manchester and services provided west to Hartford and the Day Services Department has grown and moved to a new building in Danielson."

Receiving awards that evening included Susanne DiPila-to for the staff Spirit Award, Board Member Pamela



Brown received the Dove Award for her advocacy efforts. the Volunteer Award went to Tom Masso who has served on the Board for 5 years and Attorney James Brennan received an Appreciation Award for his service on the Board and legal counsel. Achievement Awards were given to Carol Reed, Jay Cotter, David Matteau, Alan Smith, Andrew Sassar, Nicki Rizner and Anthony Devlin. From the community, Lowe's Distribution Center was awarded the Com-

munity Partnership Award for providing people with disabilities real jobs with real pay. Mike Bogdanski and Kristin Duethorn from Midtown Fitness and School of Martial Arts received the Community Support Award for their support of The Arc's fundraising efforts.

Other awards that evening included Jill Keith, Special Education Director for the Putnam Schools and Elizabeth Ashwell from the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services who received Special Recognition Awards, Benson Eliassaint from the McDonald's Corporation and Pomfret School received Employer Awards, and Board President Gene Michael Deary received the Norma Cassettari Award for his wisdom and commitment to the mission of The Arc. Linda Lamoureux, Administrator of Development and Public Relations said, "Like Norma, Gene Michael is a beacon for future generations. He has led the agency through unprecedented growth. His foresight, financial expertise and understanding of the needs of a non-profit agency in these challenging times have opened many doors of opportunity for those we support."

Other staff recognized for making a positive difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities included Megan Byers, Donna Lussier, Ryan Bissonette, Elizabeth Smith and Mathew Lefebvre.



### Self Advocate United By: Jamie Lazaroff

I get asked a lot why is advocacy important? I believe it's

important because we all have a voice and our voices can be used to improve our lives and the lives of others. Who wants to be told what to do all the time? If you want to improve your life, think about joining our group. We have had 5 monthly Self Advocate group meetings that have been very well received with 14 members. The first issue that was brought up by the self-advocates was for more social events. The group sponsored The Firecracker Dance on July 8<sup>th</sup>, which was attended by about 85 people. The people in attendance at the dance were not just from The Arc but also our friends from NEPS, Seabird and other agencies. All had a fun time! We are tentatively scheduling another social event in the fall.. This group is a mix of learning and social opportunities to see your friends and make new ones. Please come and join the fun!

**Our Self Advocate Group meetings are the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month.**

**Location: 190 Mechanic Street,  
Danielson, CT from 6 PM to 7:30 PM**

*\*Light Refreshments Served\**

Want to see more pictures from our

Firecracker Dance &  
2011 Annual Dinner?

Find us on the Web

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

Or

**"LIKE" us on Facebook**



Want to see more pictures?



“LIKE” us on Facebook

*Achieve with us.*



“10...9...8...7...6...5...4...3...2...1.. “Dump those ducks!” Administrator Linda Lamoureux’s voice echoed over the boisterous growl of the loader carrying 3,823 ducks. The event was originally scheduled for August 14th, however, due to inclement weather it was postponed and rescheduled for August 20th. This was the first time the event was ever postponed but the turnout was still amazing.

Children got a chance to play games in the kid’s pools like fishing for ducks, chuck a duck, potato bag races, and face painting. The Arc of Quinebaug Valley is very thankful to our Event sponsor Charter Oak Federal Credit Union ,



Prize Sponsors: Bank of America, The Citizens National Bank, Valvoline Instant Oil Change, Metro-cast, Spirol International Corporation, and Roland H. Lupien, DDS. Rubber Duckie Sponsors: Northeastern CT Healthcare Credit Union, Putnam Chrysler Dodge Jeep Kia, Putnam Plastics, Inc., Parker Memorials and Stone Co., Demers Accounting Services, Jewett City Savings Bank, Mantec, Putnam Ford, SFC William Rahill, Foster Corporation, 101 Business Solutions, LLC, Friendly Spirits Liquor store, donations from The Shoppers Turnpike Corp, and A-1 Septic Service. We Thank You for making this Rubber Duckie

Race a huge success! We also would like to give a huge Rubber Duckie Thank You to our Volunteers, without the commitment and dedication from our staff, administrators, board members, and community the Rubber Duckie Race would not have been possible.

This event raised \$21,000 this year to help support programs like The Arc of Quinebaug Valley’s Education, Residential, Day, Employment, and Retirement services. Through events like The Duck Race, The Arc works to raise awareness that people with disabilities are valued members of their community. Everyone deserves a chance to live life to its fullest and that is what The Arc is about, seeing the ability in dis-Ability.



Let's Build Something Together™

**The Arc of Quinebaug Valley is Awarded Connect-Ability Contract**

The Arc of Quinebaug Valley was one of three agencies in the state to be awarded a contract through BRS Connect-Ability which partners employers with nonprofits to provide job opportunities to more than 275 individuals with disabilities. This collaboration will help to create quality opportunities for highly-motivated residents who have a

life-affecting disability but who are able to work competitively with the right combination of training and cooperative placement.

The Arc of Quinebaug Valley has been in a partnership with Lowe’s Distribution Center in Plainfield to provide real jobs with real pay for people with intellectual, developmental and other life affecting disabilities. The Arc and Lowe’s have worked closely together over the past year in a collaboration to provide on the job training and employment to individuals with disabilities. This new initiative expands on the current program by assisting with transportation arrangements and expanding the initial training for individuals in the initiative.

Funded by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the state’s Connect-Ability initiative helps bring together employers with job-seekers with disabilities through a variety of measures, including a media campaign featuring Connecticut residents and employers and community-based programs.

The following employees are the winners in the first quarterly incentive raffle:

The **Grand Prize** was awarded to **Mike Waters** from Retirement Services. Ten consolation prizes went to **Sharon Bein, Mark Boudreau and Melissa Jensen from Day Services, Melissa Dreibholz, Tiffany Bradley, Jen Buell, Kim Carter and Joyce Jacques from Residential, Andy Cohen from Education, and Dave Barton from Employment Services.** The winning employees celebrated in a reception on August 2nd. Congratulations to all employees who were eligible for the raffle.

**Keep up the good work!**

# Towns We Serve!

## Connecticut Family Support Network Presents “One Voice”

A conference for parents and caregivers who are raising children with disabilities and special health care needs

**THIS EVENT IS FREE!**

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

9:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.

The Courtyard by Marriott

4 Sebeth Street, Cromwell, Connecticut,

Lunch will be served

To Register Call: 203-710-3041

or go online

[www.ctfamilysupportnetwork.eventbrite.com](http://www.ctfamilysupportnetwork.eventbrite.com)

### **Windham County**

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Putnam  
Scotland  
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Thompson  
Windham  
Woodstock

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Union  
Vernon  
Willington

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Suffield  
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Waterford  
Groton  
Sprague  
Bozrah  
Salem  
Montville  
N. Stonington  
Old Lyme  
Stonington



### Our Mission

*The Arc of Quinebaug Valley, Inc. is a nonprofit human services 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 its fullest.*

**empower**  
Real People,  
Real Progress

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

687 Cookhill Road  
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For people with intellectual  
and developmental disabilities

**The Arc**  
Achieve with us.



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