Lennar’s after d’Arc Celebrity Chef Event A Big Success

Over 240 people were in attendance at the after d’Arc Celebrity Chef and Auction event sponsored by Lennar and hosted by The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region on Friday, February 25, 2005 at Maryland Golf & Country Clubs in Bel Air, Maryland.

The event raised over $36,000 for The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region’s Supported Living Services. Funds raised will help individuals with developmental disabilities meet the needs of everyday life, to remain connected to family and friends, and to take an active part in their communities.

Mary Chance, Director of Community Services, Harford County Government, and Colonel John Rooney, APG-MD, were on hand as celebrity chefs at the American cuisine station. “Chefs” Daniele Lemarie-Fleischer, Tony Meoli, and Tania Benfield, served up the French, Italian, and South American cuisine stations, respectively. Aimee O’Neill from O’Neill Auctioneers helped The Arc raise funds from the over 115 silent auction items donated by local businesses.


Rotary Club of Aberdeen Raises $8,000 for The Arc

The Rotary Club of Aberdeen sponsored a Bull, Shrimp and Oyster Roast on Saturday, March 12, 2005 at the Havre de Grace Community Center. In addition to the wonderful smorgasbord, the event featured a silent auction, paddle wheel, and a raffle drawing. Everyone had a great time and danced the night away to the sounds of DJ Coconut Joe. According to Dave Lynch who served as the Chairman, the event continues to pick up momentum each year and has become a yearly venue for the club to raise funds for local community organizations. In fact, The Rotary Club raised $8,000 for The Arc this year to help fund our Supported Living Program. Thank you to our friends at the Rotary Club of Aberdeen!

Torri Dietrich, Director of Development and Joe Cardiff, Arc Consumer accept the $8,000 check from Dave Lynch, Event Chairperson and Kelly Hinder, Aberdeen Rotary Club Secretary.
2004 Annual Fund Drive

Donors

$5,000
Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program

$2,000
Raven’s Nest #1

$1,000
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Andon

$500
Advance Business Systems
First National Bank-North East
Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Gillespie
Harloe Management
Mr. and Mrs. C. William Stipe, III

Up to $499
Mr. Homer Barnard
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

$250
Crouse Brothers
Mrs. Bonnie L. Ferstermann
Lambdin Development
Lions Club of Rising Sun
Mr. and Mrs. James McKee
McKee & Associates, Inc.
Quest Fitness of Bel Air

Up to $249
Mr. Charles Glock
Mr. James Vogt
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Pearce
K Bank

$100
Mr. and Mrs. Mario Baca
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Baird
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Blades
Bob Bell Chevrolet of Bel Air
Mr. and Mrs. John G. Casey
Ms. Phyllis J. Cooper
Mrs. Suzanne Hinder
Mr. and Mrs. George Klem
Mrs. Bea Kolchin
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kramer
Ms. Sara Lassiter
Mars Super Markets, Inc.
Mercantile County Bank
Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Moulton
Mr. Curtis R. Pace
Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Salovitz
Ms. Susan Spencer-Davis
Mr. John Strama
Mr. and Mrs. Fred F. Thursfield

2005 Legislative Summary

by Tim Quinn

As with most Maryland legislative sessions, this year’s sessions had some positive outcomes and some disappointments. Some of the highlights include:

• Funding for the Wage Initiative for direct support professionals
• Full funding for the 2005 Transitioning Youth Program (this provides funding for students graduating from school)
• $51 million in new funding for foster care
• Continuation of the REM program (Rare and Expensive Case Management) for one year pending a report due in the Fall of 2005
• Passage of several bills introduced by The Arc of Maryland in the area of rights and quality assurance

The disability constituency had a very strong and visible presence in Annapolis again this year. This strong tradition of advocacy has played a major role in the success that we have enjoyed for individuals with disabilities and their families. Arc board members and staff testified on bills and at budget hearings, and many others wrote letters and made phone calls to legislators when needed. To all of those who were involved in the legislative process, thank you. Your work truly made a difference.

Celebrating the Life of Dudley Wilcox

We wish to celebrate the life of James Dudley Wilcox, 56, who passed away March 13th, 2005. Many people knew “Dudley” as an excellent role model in our community, not just for those with disabilities, but also for everyone whose life he touched.

In his 37-year career with The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region, Dudley was employed by The Arc at the Warner Brothers Distribution Center and at the Harford County government Canofile Document Processing Center where he was promoted to a supervisory position. Dudley later sorted and delivered mail at the Harford County Circuit Courthouse in Bel Air, Maryland.

Dudley was awarded the 1998 Public Employee of the Year Award from the Harford County Committee on Employment for People with Disabilities. In 1999, he was awarded the Outstanding Marylander with Disabilities Award from the Governor’s Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. Dudley’s brother in law Dave said it best… “Dudley’s heartfelt greetings always made you feel better about yourself, even on a bad day.”

We appreciate our volunteers!! With the kind and generous gift of time and talents, our volunteers provide a variety of important supports for the people we serve. The Arc volunteers enjoyed a lovely luncheon and enjoyed the guest speaker, Sally Drumm, from RSVP and The Volunteer Connection.

Anne Cerruto, Respite Care Coordinator, speaks to a group from the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion after accepting a donation of $800 for The Arc’s Family Support Services

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities Task Force on Social Security has prepared a set of seven fact sheets explaining Social Security benefits for people with disabilities. The fact sheets are intended to provide information about benefits for people with disabilities and the potential impact of privatization. The fact sheets are available now on CCD’s website at www.c-c-d.org under “What’s New at CCD”
Spend Tuesdays with The Arc!
Membership Series Kicks Off
by Kathy Pitrat

Why be a member of The Arc? If you’ve ever asked that or heard that question, here’s one great answer—Tuesdays with The Arc! “It’s a chance to meet the needs of members by providing important information that family members and persons with disabilities need to live better lives,” says Tim Quinn, Executive Director of The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region. “We wanted to add more value to Arc Membership and this seemed to be an ideal way to do it.”

The series is sponsored by The Arc Foundation and developed by a committee of family members, Board members, a self-advocate, Arc staff, the President of the Harford County Commission on Disabilities as well as the Disabilities Coordinator for Harford County Government.

The Spring Series featured Julie Portman, an award winning writer, actor, theatre director and master teacher who taught the value of stories and how to think of our lives as an adventure. Dr. Angela Amado from the University of Minnesota provided successful strategies for promoting friendships between people with disabilities and their non-disabled peers. Mary Sowers from the Developmental Disabilities Administration presented on the New Direction Waiver, which is a consumer-directed waiver that will allow people to direct their own services. This will impact 100 people per year across the state over the next three years. Finally, Lynette Alexander, Rehabilitation Specialist, presented an overview of The Division of Rehabilitation Services and what they have to offer to people with disabilities.

“The Membership Committee is already planning the Fall Series,” Quinn reports. “Issues like guardianship, informed consent, and financial planning are big concerns for families and we want to help them find the answers to their questions.” He points out that without the support of The Arc Foundation, the series wouldn’t be possible. “The financial support provided by The Arc Foundation allows us to bring in speakers we could never otherwise consider. This affords our membership with opportunities to have access to the best information and resources we can find.”

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus

Bel Air Council

Don Litz, Co-Chair of 2004 Tootsie Roll Campaign, Knights of Columbus (#4714 Bel Air Council) presents a $1,700 check to Mara Walter, Volunteer Coordinator for The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region. The Knights of Columbus conducts this yearly campaign, which supports individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Harford County Government Good Neighbor Award

The Arc Family Support services nominated the Fallston United Methodist Church for their dedication to the developmentally disability community over the last five years. Each year the Mission Committee contacts The Arc to identify families that would need assistance with school supplies for their children. This dedication continues throughout the holidays including Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. The Mission committee takes the time to personalize each family’s donation, going above and beyond their call of duty.

2004 Annual
Fund Drive
Donors (cont.)

$100 (continued)
Mr. Ralph Walls
Mr. Melvin Wrublevski

Up to $99
Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Orange
Mrs. June Poole

$50
Mr. William Kietzman
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lindloff
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick McGann
Mr. Joseph Meholic
Mrs. Ruth Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Weikle

Up to $49
Col. and Mrs. Robert McEvoy

$25
Mrs. Maudeline Banks
Ms. Ellen L. Butler
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dean
Ms. Julia DuBois
Mrs. Helga Dunn
Godfrey General Contractors
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Gutowski
Harford Carpet Sales, Inc.
Dr. and Mrs. Gunther Hirsch
Mrs. Rose Howard
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lindloff
Ms. Vivian Prochaska
Dr. and Mrs. Jay Rudo
Ms. Dawn Weikle
Dr. and Mrs. John D. Weisz

Up to $25
Ms. Lynn Fowler
Mr. and Ms. Martin Perry
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rotondo
Mrs. Ruth Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Alhimook
Ms. Louise Cannaliato and
Mr. V. James Cannaliato
Harford County Cultural Arts Board
Mr. and Mrs. Leroy A. Hess
Mrs. Helen Mace
Ms. Mitzie Snyder
Ms. Marilyn Spencer

Receive the Ambassador Newsletter in your email box!
To save money and trees…The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region will be distributing the Ambassador Newsletter electronically beginning with our Fall edition. Please inform us of your e-mail address by contacting Bev Olsen at Bolsen@arcncr.org or by calling 410-836-7177 x338. If you do not have e-mail capacity, or if you wish to continue to receive a hard copy of the newsletter, we will be happy to accommodate you. Thanks for your continued support of The Arc!
Calendar of Events

Prospective Foster Parent Training – The Arc will hold Foster Parent training in the summer of 2005 at The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region, 4513 Philadelphia Road, Aberdeen. See future Ambassador News for exact dates and time. To receive more information about foster parenting, contact Becky Cody at the Arc, 410-836-7177, ext. 400.

Foster Family Support Group – Foster families currently involved with the Arc’s Family Partnership Program meet on a monthly basis throughout the school year to learn, to share, to participate in family activities and to support each other. For more information please contact Becky Cody at the Arc, 410-836-7177, ext. 400.

Teens First Meeting 2nd Friday of each month: Held in the Family Supported Living area, The Arc Administrative Offices. Contact Becky Cody at the Arc, 410-836-7177, ext. 400.

Cecil County Parent Support Group Meeting – Call to verify time & location, contact Becky Cody at the Arc, 410-836-7177, ext. 400.

Infants & Toddlers Play Group, 10 -11:00 am, meet every Thursday at The Arc Administrative Offices. Call Kim Marchman at 410-638-3823 for more information.

People First of Harford County – First Monday of every month June 6th, July 11th, August 15th, September 12th, 2005 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm at Christ Our King Church in the Alpha room, 10 Lexington Road Bel Air. All are welcome. For more information, contact Vernon DeHaven at 410-638-1465 or Mitchell Neiburger at 410-836-7177, ext. 355.

Awards Dinner Dance for The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region June 2nd, 2005, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, at The Richland Ballroom, Edgewood, Maryland. Please contact Janice Drakeford at The Arc, 410-836-7177, ext. 343 for more information.

The Arc of Maryland 2005 State Convention – The State Convention will be held on June 3, 2005 at Martin’s Crosswinds in Prince George’s County. A half-day conference will be held and focus on the unveiling of a new media message. The convention will begin with the Awards Luncheon; workshops from 1-5:00 pm. The Annual Meeting and Elections will follow, with the President’s Reception from 5-7:00 pm.

American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life – June 24 and 25, 2005. The Arc will be participating at Relay for Life held at the Susquehanna State Park in Havre de Grace, Maryland. We are walking in memory of Rob Dare, Dudley Wilcox, and other friends of The Arc who we’ve lost to cancer. Contact Jennifer Re at 410-836-7177 ext. 329 if you are interested in Relaying with The Arc!

Our sincere thanks! To the Weinberg Foundation for their donation of $10,000 to The Arc Summer Camp Program