



GREATER WALTHAM Arc NEWS

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December 2010

From the CEO, Roz Rubin –

Holiday Greetings – we all hope for a festive holiday season and a wonderful 2011 – and a mild winter!



As you may know, the theme of our Annual Appeal this year is “***Because of You...***”.

This means the support of all our friends of GWArc has helped us to provide quality services. Now, I would like an opportunity to share with you another part of that story...

“Because of Them...” Many staff members have been asked why they work at GWArc – their responses tell the story of a committed and compassionate group who bring skills and energy to the agency.

Eileen Nee, Director of Day Education – “It is because of both the consumers and the Day Education staff members that I work at GWArc...The staff is an extraordinary team whose unconditional dedication to consumers is demonstrated daily.”

Heidi Barberio, Recreation Manager – “The individuals and families I work with every day make my job so rewarding. I am proud to be part of GWArc and to work with so many wonderful, caring people.”

Lindsay Sullivan, R.N. – “The consumers work hard every day and their success is visible—GWArc is a small agency so I am able to see everyone daily.”

Lori Bennett-LeClair, Assistant Director GSE/BIS – “I work at GWArc because 24 years ago I was asked to apply for a position at GWArc’s Rumford Ave. workshop, and once I began working there, I knew that I was involved in the tremendous world of those with disabilities, and could not imagine choosing anything else for a career. GWArc has always been an agency that strives for the best in all who work here.”

Peter Cohn, Day Education Case Manager – “I really enjoy working with the consumers and helping them with their daily activities. I volunteered at GWArc when I was in high school, and it’s so rewarding to be here now as an employee.”

Joanne Raymond, Grant Writer - “GWArc management and staff are inspiring—they truly make a difference for consumers through the work they do. I am privileged to work with GWArc to seek grants for programs that are so important to consumers, their families and the community.”

As you can see, GWArc programs are wonderful ***because of them***. We are proud of the GWArc staff and take this opportunity to thank all of them for another year of good work!

GWArc 2010...A Year Well Spent



Anna Thorpe (l), Liam Mansfield and Roz Rubin represented GWArc at MDDC/Arc Mass Day at the State House in March.



Roz Rubin moderated the Legislative Town Meeting in Waltham in March. Seated (l to r):



Representatives William Brownsberger, Jonathan Hecht, Thomas Stanley, and Peter Koutoujian.



Board President Bob Clement (l) and Board Member John Peacock sold raffle tickets at "Ciao Down for GWArc" in April.

Austen Abele-Castro played for Waltham Youth Baseball Challenger Division, supported by GWArc Recreation Department. T-shirt logo "NI" stands for "Nothing Impossible".

Transitions Program Manager Daisy Antonini checked in with Waltham High School student Steven Negron, a volunteer at Newton-Wellesley Hospital.



Lenny Bardsley and Faith Weagle (above) relaxed at the PLUS BBQ at Lake Cochituate in August.



Watch City Self Advocates Joe O'Connell and Brian Doucette enjoyed each other's company at GWArc's 40th Annual Harvest Breakfast in October.

GWArc's Special Olympics team (l) competed in swimming, track and field events in June.



Fall Events Wrap Up

We hope you attended one or all of our fall events, but if not, we are sharing this update with you!

Harvest Breakfast – Our 40th Annual Event was a huge success, with \$57,496 raised. Everyone enjoyed the hospitality of the Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel, meeting the founders of Pancake Harvest, and the entertainment was wonderful-- let's not forget the great food! (PS – Chef reported he cooked twice as many eggs as usual; we all really brought our appetites this year.)

Annual Meeting – November 18 brought Peter Berns, President of Arc of the United States, to the Doubletree as our honored guest speaker. Peter presented many compelling success stories about consumers across the country, as well as some examples of challenges still faced. He emphasized that the 700 Arc chapters, most at least 50 years old, bring strength and credibility to the Arc. Over 100 attendees also saluted GWArc staff longevity and Community Award Recipients. It was a great event for GWArc.

Thanksgiving at GWArc – Day Education had a festive turkey dinner arranged by CEO Roz Rubin (a lot of potato mashing!) on November 23 and EPT cooked an extensive feast on November 24. We considered this "training" for the Big Day – Thanksgiving, 2010!

Consumer and Staff Holiday Party – Were you there for the chicken parm, the great dj music, the holiday spirit? If not, you missed a terrific time at the French American Victory Club in Waltham, where over 150 consumers, family members, staff, Board Members and others dined and danced to celebrate the holiday season on December 3. Thanks to Vincent Mula, Boston Bark and Mula Materials, who underwrote the cost of the event! Thanks also to our new friends at the Club who donated the space and soda for our party.

As you can see, GWArc knows how to have a good time. And we certainly did so this fall, while meeting new friends and sharing our pride in the agency.



Artist Kris Waldman taught a Day Education art class.



Weston High School volunteer Erik Sievert played his guitar for Day Habilitation consumers.



Peter Berns, President of Arc of the US, was keynote speaker at GWArc's Annual Meeting in November.



Waltham Mayor Jeannette McCarthy presented a city proclamation in recognition of GWArc's 40th Annual Harvest Breakfast to Roz Rubin.



Board members Greg Abel and James Baron sold Harvest Breakfast commemorative t-shirts.



Adam Maher (center), GWArc Advocate of the Year, listened to a proclamation presented by state representatives Peter Koutoujian (l) and Thomas Stanley (r) at the Annual Meeting.



GWArc photos representing four decades were on display at Harvest Breakfast.



Roz Rubin presented a thank you gift to Doubletree General Manager Rob Weitz.



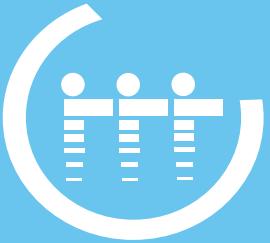
Michelle Bourgeois, GWArc Board Member and Holiday Party Corporate Sponsor Vinnie Mula, David Letellier and Roz Rubin enjoyed a moment together at the Holiday Party.



Ruth George-Vandewater and GWArc Board President Bob Clement posed for a photo at the Holiday Party.

SHORT TAKES – Some important news to note

- Thanks to Board Member Tom Coxall, leaving the Board after his second ten-year term. His leadership and commitment to GWArc will be missed.
- Grants/donations update – Alden Trust and TJX, funds for Transitions Program; Blue Cross Blue Shield Catalyst Fund for additional consultation on fundraising; Waltham Cultural Council through Mass Cultural Council for Artist in Residence at Day Education and EPT Programs. We have also received a gift from the Watertown Savings Bank, Club 50 Members (\$5,000).
- Watch City Self Advocates update – 13 members attended the MASS Advocates Standing Strong Conference, Sturbridge, MA on November 20. This great (and growing) group also voted to continue their support to our troops with donations to Operation American Soldier in 2011.
- We continue to “Go Green” reducing the number of printed newsletters (costing us over \$1.00 each to print and mail). We now mail only 550 newsletters, instead of over 1,000! If you wish to receive the newsletter by email instead, please call Heather at 781-899-1344 #0 or email us at gwarc@gwarc.org.

**GWArc**

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GWArc's Annual Appeal Continues....

As we continue our 2010-11 Annual Appeal, please consider a gift to GWArc. Your donation provides support for programs important to the quality of life for GWArc consumers.

As our appeal letter, sent in November, said – “Because of you....” there are enhanced services, high consumer and family satisfaction, and many success stories.

Note you may donate with the enclosed remittance envelope or through our web site – www.gwarc.org, see “Make A Donation.”

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