As we begin a new year and celebrate our 55th anniversary, GWArc asked stakeholders at the agency and in the community to reflect on the future of our services and directions we should pursue, as well as to share some of their favorite GWArc experiences. We hope the comments below will help you to think about GWArc and encourage you to be in contact with your input as we move forward.

As you can see from the above, there is a positive feeling about the need for GWArc to continue to provide quality services in the community. The Board of Directors and I invite you to a conversation with any or all of us about GWArc and its future directions. Regards for a happy holiday season and a wonderful 2012!

Roslynn Rubin, Ed.D
Chief Executive Officer
GWArc 2011...Another Great Year!

Fall Events Wrap Up
Fall was a wonderful time at GWArc, making and strengthening community connections while having a great time celebrating our agency. We hope you attended one or all of our fall events, but if not, we are sharing this update with you!

Harvest Breakfast – Our 41st Annual Harvest Breakfast was a sold out success as the community came together to celebrate and raise funds for GWArc. Embassy Suites Waltham staff, our hosts for the 11th consecutive year, went above and beyond to make the event special. Attendees enjoyed great food and entertainment with the music of Ken Doucette, amazing magic tricks, face painting and the fabulous balloon stylings of DC the Clown.

Annual Meeting – November 14th featured Artist-in-Residence Pablo Friedmann as our keynote speaker. Pablo shared his background and experiences teaching persons with challenges, and staff longevity and community awards were presented. As a special highlight of the evening, Board President Bob Clement and Roz Rubin led all attendees in a toast to GWArc’s 55th anniversary.

Thanksgiving at GWArc – Day Education enjoyed a festive turkey dinner arranged by CEO Roz Rubin and COO Liam Mansfield on November 21st. EPT cooked and shared an extensive feast on November 23rd.

Consumer/Staff/Family Holiday Party – A terrific time was had by all at the French American Victory Club on December 2. Over 150 consumers, staff, family members, Board Members and others dined and danced to celebrate the holiday season. Our thanks to our friends at the Club, who donated the space and soda for the party.
People First Language – Start Using It – Please

When you are referring to a person with a disability, please use People First Language, a respectful way of speaking that puts the person before the disability. People First Language describes what a person has, not who a person is. Here are some examples to make this idea clear:

Respectful Language:
The girl with Down syndrome works hard.
The man who uses a wheelchair stopped in.
The person with a seizure disorder is seeing the doctor.

Hurtful Language:
The Down’s girl works hard.
The wheelchair bound man stopped in.
The epileptic is seeing the doctor.

Please use People First Language to help change old, negative stereotypes about individuals with disabilities. Thank you.
GWArc’s Annual Appeal Is Underway!

Please give as generously as you can to our 2011-2012 Annual Appeal! Your donation provides support for programs that are so important to the quality of life for GWArc consumers.

This is a particularly important year for GWArc—our 55th anniversary! As we noted in our appeal letter, please help us continue the work first begun by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities in 1956—the work of ensuring the GWArc population enjoys the quality of life deserved by all!

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

If you have already made a donation, thank you!

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