Greetings!

As you can see in the title of our newsletter, GWArc is changing our name! This Spring, we will be renamed Opportunities for Inclusion with the tagline “A New Name and a Bright Future”. We hope you like our new name and logo!

After 61 years as GWArc, we know it may take some time for our stakeholders and the community to connect our new name to our agency with the same immediate recognition our current name provides. After much discussion, our Board of Directors, staff, participants and I believe that our new name better illustrates our mission and what we strive to do, and reflects that we also serve individuals beyond Greater Waltham. The agency also looks forward to serving other challenged populations in the future. While our name is changing, our mission remains the same, with the same programs and services, in the same location. Staff members will also remain the same. Our goal is to complete the name change in the next few months.

You can read more about our new name in the interview that begins below and continues on page 7. Please be in touch with me at rrubin@gwarc.org or 781-899-1344 x4112 with comments or questions about our name change.

Our 2nd Annual “Spring for GWArc!” Live TV Auction, generously hosted by WCAC-TV The Waltham Channel, is happening on Thursday April 12, 6-9 PM! Please tune in and Bid High to support our fun fundraiser that can be viewed in Waltham and 11 surrounding communities, as well as online at wcac.org and Facebook Live! All proceeds benefit GWArc programs and services. See enclosed flyer for more details.

Regards,

CEO Roz Rubin (right) talks about GWArc’s name change with John Peacock and Kelly Hill, hosts of the Waltham Watches cable TV show on WCAC-TV, The Waltham Channel.

ROZ: Yes, so many ideas generated from a list of words that speak to GWArc’s mission. The positive feedback is that Opportunities for Inclusion really describes what our agency does. It’s quite a change for us all to have a new name.
Welcome to:
- Clotilde Augustin, Day Habilitation Developmental Disabilities Assistant
- Ambrose Ojimba, Group Supported Employment (GSE) Site Supervisor, Babson College
- Glenroy Williams, Day Habilitation Developmental Disabilities Assistant
- Rebecca Chao, Brandeis '21, Marketing & Development Intern

Welcome Back to:
- Bentley Service-Learning students who are volunteering in our Day Habilitation program three days a week and in our Community Based Day Supports (CBDS) program one day a week
- Liam Mansfield, former Chief Operations Officer, who is consulting on our Summer 2018 reaccreditation process with the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)

Congratulations to:
- Staff longevity award recipients, recognized at our Annual Meeting in November 2017:
  * Marisol Hernandez, Director of Administrative & Personnel Services, 20 years
  * Mike Grimes, Day Habilitation Case Manager, 5 years
- Rhonda Fleming, Day Habilitation Case Manager, and Marisol Hernandez, Director of Administrative & Personnel Services, who were awarded the 3rd Annual John L. Battaglino Award of Excellence at our Annual Meeting. Leah Battaglino Cosby presented the award for their 20 years of caring and exceptional service (see additional photo page 4)
- Dan Sensale, Group Supported Employment Site Supervisor, Brandeis University, and his bride Rachel who were married in November
- Sara Vu, Easter Seals speech therapist, on the birth of 2nd son Caleb James in March

Thank you to:
- GWArc staff members who donated supplies for the homeless during our holiday drive.

Board of Directors 2018

Welcome back to our Board of Directors:
Co-Presidents - Marcia MacClary, John Peacock
Vice President - Greg Abel
Treasurer - Joe Chiarelli
Secretary - Leah Igdalsky

Directors:
- Gerry Cosby
- Robbie Dembo
- Peter Dixon
- David Felton
- Harvey Fisher
- Kelly Hill
- Eric R. Prichard, Esq.
- Don Willfong

Bob Clement (left) and Adam Maher (right) join CEO Roz Rubin at our Annual Meeting to accept thank you awards for their ten years of service on GWArc’s Board of Directors. Both Adam and Bob left the Board in December due to term limits.
**Participant Spotlight**

**Meet Stephen Scaparotti, Group Supported Employment**

“I work at Brandeis in B&G (Buildings and Grounds) and Sherman (dishroom)” Stephen said recently. Stephen works 3 days a week as a custodian, along with 5-7 other GWArc participants and GWArc site supervisor Dan Sensale, in dormitory buildings at Brandeis University. He also works one day a week at the Sherman cafeteria dishroom. He has worked at Brandeis work sites for 14 years—at B&G and Sherman for 4 years and before that at Brandeis Usdan Dining Hall for 10 years.

Stephen and his co-workers are responsible for cleaning the common areas (sweeping, windows, bathrooms) during the school year, and in the summer they help prepare dorm rooms for the next year’s students. He also helps out at other GSE sites at Brandeis when needed. Stephen is very sociable and always gets along well with his supervisors and co-workers.

At home, Stephen is informally known as the “Mayor of Medford” because he is very friendly and well known in the community where he lives with his family. He is an active member of his church, serving as an usher at church services and volunteering at monthly church dinners. An avid sports fan, he loves the Celtics, Bruins and Red Sox and knows all their scores and statistics. Stephen is the youngest of 4 brothers and has 7 nephews he enjoys spending time with. His family is very proud of him. Stephen will celebrate his 35th birthday on July 4.

When asked what he would like readers to know about him, Stephen answered “I’m a good worker!” What does Stephen like to do when not working? “I play basketball, softball, and golf with Special Olympics!” he said.

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**Watch City Self Advocates Update**

Watch City Self Advocates members elected new officers in January for the coming year. 2018 officers, shown left to right in the photo below, are Cameron (Cam) Maillet, President; Vasari Sylvester, Vice President; John Shread, Secretary; and Sheila Hernandez, Treasurer. Past officers Kristina Smith and Jessica Crisafulli are advisors.

In March, Ann Frassica, Waltham Police School Safety Officer, spoke to the group about what to do during a bomb threat. At Fall and Winter meetings, speakers presented Community Safety and Korean War veteran Roy Sacco spoke about the impact of donations the group makes to Operation American Soldier.

Members also attended the Mass Advocates Standing Strong conference. Some members will speak at an upcoming “Spread the Word” event at Brandeis with Brandeis Buddies student volunteers.

Officer Ann Frassica discusses bomb threats at the March meeting.
Here’s What’s Been Happening….

Attorneys Christina Montgomery and Clarence Richardson, Jr. volunteered their time to discuss GWArc’s sexual harassment policy at a staff training session in October.

Attendees enjoy a delicious buffet breakfast, music and lots of family entertainment at our fun, festive 47th Annual Harvest Breakfast in October.

Samantha George, Director of Catering at Embassy Suites Waltham, accepts a painting by the Artists of GWArc as a thank you gift. Roz Rubin presented the painting at Harvest Breakfast and thanked Embassy Suites for hosting our fall fundraiser for 16 years!

At left, DC the Clown and his balloon hats were a big hit with Harvest Breakfast attendees!

At right, staff members and volunteers serve a delicious pre-Thanksgiving dinner to CBDS and GSE participants at Woodland Road in November.

Leah Battaglino Cosby (left) presents the 3rd Annual John L. Battaglino Award for Excellence to Marisol Hernandez at our Annual Meeting. John Battaglino was President and a member of GWArc’s Board of Directors, and a friend and supporter of GWArc for many years.

Bud LaCava (above right) presents the 4th Annual “Rags” LaCava Community Service Award to Bentley Service-Learning and Civic Engagement representatives Jeannette MaHines and students Abigail Eisner and Joe Chiarelli at our Annual Meeting. “Rags” LaCava was founder and president of Wheels of Happiness, and provided extraordinary community service to individuals with disabilities for many years.

Our Employer of the Year Award was presented to True Value by Ideal/Pavers by Ideal for their outstanding commitment to employing an individual with disabilities.

At right, Ken Doucette, Director of Community Affairs, Middlesex Sheriff’s Office, gets assistance from Sheila Hernandez and Danny Powers to model protective gear during his keynote presentation.
Our 47th Annual Harvest Breakfast Was a Success!

From the original “Pancake Harvest” in 1971 to “Harvest Breakfast”, 2017 marked 47 years of our signature community fundraiser!

Our 47th Annual Harvest Breakfast on October 22 was a great success! We hope you were there! The event featured a delicious buffet breakfast and capacity attendance. DJ Rich Profita, DC the Clown, the Magic of Ryan Lally, Sparky the Fire Dog, photo booth, face painting, line dancing, silent auction, mystery gifts and participant-made crafts at the Holiday Boo-tique all added to the fun.

Our thanks to Embassy Suites Boston/Waltham for generously hosting (for the 16th year!) and to our generous event sponsors:

Titanium Pancake: Charlesbank Garden Apartments, Hobbs Brook Management, Watertown Savings Bank

Gold Pancake: Coastal Capital Group, Park Lodge Hotel Group


Media Sponsor: WickedLocal

Thanks also to our generous advertisers and auction and mystery gift donors. Visit our website www.gwarc.org/harvest-breakfast/ for a complete list. Please patronize our sponsors, advertisers and auction/prize donors and thank them for supporting GWArc!
Program Updates

Day Habilitation:
- Regular visits from John Buchanan (music therapist), Mace Miller (drumming/singing), musician James Jones and pet therapy dogs continued at both sites
- New Year’s Eve came early with party hats and celebrations at Chestnut Street and Woodland Road on December 29
- We celebrated Chinese New Year in February. At right, Brian Doucette displays the paper dragon he crafted
- Each program room created an amazing group art wall hanging with CC King, artist in residence

Community Based Day Supports:
- Continued delivering Meals on Wheels and exercising at the Waltham YMCA weekly
- Sessions with James Jones (singing/playing musical instruments) now take place at the Waltham Boys & Girls Club music studio, which provides a great space and a fun community trip
- Participants and staff (right) enjoyed a rousing pre-Super Bowl Party
- Making Valentine crafts with Bentley Service-Learning student volunteers (right) was a fun February project

Group Supported Employment (GSE):
- GSE participants enjoyed a Semester Break program with fun and educational activities while college work sites were closed for winter break
- Mass Advocates Standing Strong trainers presented “Explore - Prepare - Act Finding the Job You Want” to GSE and CBDS participants

Individual Supported Employment (ISE):
- Job coaching/support continued for several individuals who hold jobs in the community

School to Work Transitions:
- Approximately 20 students are enrolled
- Several students have paid jobs or volunteer positions for which they receive a stipend
- Activities included job shadowing trips to Brandeis and Bentley dining halls and training on community safety and MBTA use
- Students raised funds and shopped for gifts for two children for the Student Santa program

Adult Family Care (AFC):
- Camille Haas, AFC Program Manager, appeared on the Carlisle Community Forum TV show to discuss the AFC Program (view on gwarc.org)
- Contact Barbara Dunker, RN, AFC Program Director to find out more about this beneficial program. Barbara can be reached at 781-899-1344 x4710, bdunker@gwarc.org

Recreation:
- We enjoyed lots of great Fall & Winter activities, including Bentley University Basketball and a visit to the Dreamland Wax Museum in Boston!
- Our Spring Recreation brochure is available with new activities and old favorites. For questions about upcoming activities, please visit www.gwarc.org or contact Mike Mullins, Recreation Manager/Volunteer Coordinator at 781-899-1344 x4120, Recreation@gwarc.org

We remember with love…
Cathy O’Neil, a participant in GWArc’s Day Habilitation Program for many years. Cathy passed away in January.
McDevitt Middle School Visits GWArc!

McDevitt Middle School 8th grade students and teachers spread lots of cheer with holiday songs and performances at Chestnut Street and Woodland Road in December. This was the 11th consecutive annual holiday visit by McDevitt students. Teachers Kellianne Woods and Kevin Coyne accompanied the students. We appreciate McDevitt Middle School!

Opportunities for Inclusion...Our New Name!

Continued from Cover Page

J: I hope everyone knows we want individuals to be part of the community—for employment, socialization and recreation, and this name really says so.
R: And we do support persons beyond the greater Waltham area in our day programs, Adult Family Care and Recreation programs. We hope this name change helps everyone to understand that.
J: It’s going to be quite a challenge to have our stakeholders make the change, but the redesign of our website, electronic and print communications and our bright blue logo should help.
R: Don’t forget small giveaways and flyers that all of us will be carrying to inform those we meet and remind them of the change—magnets, pens and sticky notepads. We all use them, so having Opportunities for Inclusion items on hand should help!
J: The name change has some more complicated parts to it. What else needs to be done?
R: We have had to change the agency by-laws with approval from the Board of Directors and contact the Secretary of State, Attorney General’s office and IRS. Our funding sources, vendors and banks are all being informed, too. All those we support and their families/guardians and community members are being informed. And we have changed the sign at Chestnut Street.

J: The plan is for some months to come we will be saying “formerly GWArc” in all our communications.
R: Yes, with a change this big after 61 years, it will take awhile for everyone to get used to our new name. Same quality services with hopes to grow, too. Coming this spring…Opportunities for Inclusion “A New Name and a Bright Future”!

Grants Update

We are grateful for the following recent grants:

- Father Henry Marquardt Memorial Fund - $10,000 for program activities and equipment
- Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association - $5,100 for Employment Services
- Belmont Savings Bank Foundation - $2,500 for Healthy Living cooking/nutrition & exercise programming
- Bessie Pappas Charitable Foundation - $2,500 for Equine Assisted Activities & Therapies
- Waltham Cultural Council - $1,000 for Artists of GWArc arts programming with CC King, artist-in-residence*
- Waltham Community Foundation - $600 for Artists of GWArc arts programming

*This program was supported in part by a grant from the Waltham Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.
Electronic Newsletter
To receive GWArc’s newsletter and other updates by email please email us at gwarc@gwarc.org, call 781-899-1344 x0, or visit www.gwarc.org.

Scan with your smartphone to visit our website!

AmazonSmile
Do you shop at Amazon? Shop at AmazonSmile (same products and prices), designate GWArc as your charitable organization and GWArc will receive .5% of your purchase price at no cost to you.

Watch for Our Newly Redesigned Website: OppsforInclusion.org Coming Soon!

Think Spring . . .
And Our Spring Appeal!
We’re hoping for an early Spring and that you will make a tax-deductible donation to help GWArc continue to provide high quality care and services.
If you would like to make a secure donation online, please visit www.gwarc.org/make-a-donation/
You may also donate using the enclosed donation sticky note (see page 7) or send a check payable to GWArc to 56 Chestnut St., Waltham, MA 02453. And if you have already made a donation, thank you!

LIVE TV Auction
Thursday, April 12, 2018
6-9 PM
Bid on great items while supporting GWArc!
Highlight your business to the Waltham community & beyond on live TV by becoming a sponsor or by donating an auction item!

For information, contact: Joanne Raymond, Marketing & Development, 781-899-1344 x4147, jraymond@gwarc.org or visit www.gwarc.org.

See flyer insert for TV channels/ details on how to watch!

WCAC-TV The Waltham Channel’s SPRING 2018 LIVE TV AUCTION to benefit Greater Waltham Arc
SAVE THE DATE!

“Spring for GWArc”

WCAC-TV The Waltham Channel’s SPRING 2018 AUCTION to benefit Greater Waltham Arc programs and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities

LIVE TV Auction

Thursday, April 12, 2018
6-9 PM

Bid on great items while supporting GWArc!

View on your TV or online at www.wcac.org

Premier Sponsor:

GW Arc, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has served individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community for over 61 years. Our tax id # is 04-2441728. For more information, visit www.gwarc.org.
SAVE THE DATE!

“Spring for GWArc”

WCAC-TV The Waltham Channel’s
SPRING 2018 AUCTION
to benefit Greater Waltham Arc

LIVE TV Auction

Thursday, April 12, 2018  6-9 PM

Waltham residents can view WCAC-TV on these channels:

Comcast
  • WCAC-TV - Channel 8 (Channel 7 without a cable box)

RCN
  • WCAC-TV - Channel 3

Verizon
  • WCAC-TV - Channel 47

WCAC-TV can also be seen by Verizon subscribers in the following communities:

Arlington       Lexington       Wayland
Bedford         Newton          Westford
Belmont         Stow            Weston
Harvard         Sudbury

Or view online at www.wcac.org or Facebook Live

Questions? Contact GWArc at 781-899-1344 or gwarc@gwarc.org, or visit www.gwarc.org.