

Community for All

Summer 2024 Edition

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Former LARC board member honored

The LARC Board of Directors recently honored former board member and past president, Ann Bowen, for her years of service and dedication to the agency's mission and vision.

Ann served on the Board of Directors from 2007 until 2018—and as President from 2011 until 2013. While she had no personal, family experience with the IDD community, once Ann joined the LARC board she was all in. Always eager to provide philanthropic support, perform committee work, and serve as a community ambassador for the agency and its mission, Ann's affection for the people supported and dedication to the essential work of this organization became her hallmark. Even after leaving the board, Ann has remained a strong advocate for the agency and its mission. (continued on page 6)



Ann Bowen, past president and long-time member of LARC Board of Directors, with Michael Menard, LARC Executive Director.



LARC's Dinner Dance returns!

The ever-popular LARC Dinner Dance has returned! Over 100 people attended this agency favorite recently at Crystal Peak in Winsted to dine, dance and socialize. The event had been held—often four times per year—over the past decade. The pandemic in 2020 put the event on an indefinite hold. With much cajoling by staff and individuals who fondly reminisced about the “fun evening,” the event was finally realized. According to Michael Menard, LARC Executive Director, “this is a fabulous event for the entire agency. We have already started planning a holiday event.” (more photos on page 7)



LARC Board of Directors

Sarah Langlois, President
 Kathleen Orr, Vice President
 Ruth Nadeau Dwyer,
 Secretary
 Mark Lambert, Treasurer
 Dorothy Beckley, Past
 President
 Kim Brown
 Barbara Canary
 George Craig
 Julie Gargiulo
 Jon Sheaffer
 Chad Widing
 Lauren Zordan

Executive Director
 Michael Menard, Ph.D.

So very special and impactful

As I prepare to retire from LARC this October, I am reminded of how personally impactful the experience of working here has been these last 6+ years. Prior development work was rewarding but not in the same way as working on behalf of people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Contributing to efforts to improve the quality of life for the individuals supported by LARC through collaborations with arts and culture partners made for especially enriching experiences. It was deeply impactful to witness the pure, spontaneous and heartfelt joy exhibited when program participants were immersed in creating a work of art, trying different dance steps, participating in a musical activity, or tending to the flowers blooming in the garden. These are just a few of the activities that daily engage participants in LARC's many programs but are the ones that deeply touched me.



Our community also felt the joy shown in the photos included quarterly in the newsletter, with many sharing their gratitude to LARC with words and also with generous support. Development work is made so much more rewarding when the people who inspired the development team directly benefit from what donors and supporters make possible. It is not easy work, but my time at LARC has been so very special and impactful.

All my best to our staff, supporters, and greater community.

Mary Ellen Kunz

Director of Development and Marketing



Project SEARCH News



Project SEARCH returned to Charlotte Hungerford Hospital this fall and welcomed two interns who will be participating in this year's program. Ellen Kirsch, who has worked with the Project SEARCH team for four years, returns this year to run the program. Ellen has been with LARC for many years working in the School to Community Transition program, Camp MOE, LARC's Day Program, and continues to coach Special Olympics athletes and manage LARC's Recreation Program.

"I am excited to step into this new role of Project SEARCH & Recreation Manager," Ellen shared. "I look forward to continuing this impactful program and guiding our interns to prepare them for competitive employment. In addition, I also look forward to re-introducing both new and favorite recreational activities and programs to the individuals LARC supports."

The Project SEARCH Program is a unique, business led, nine-month internship program for individuals with developmental disabilities. Interns in the program complete three rotations at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital with the main goal of gaining the necessary skills to obtain competitive employment.

"Why I work here..."

in the words of LARC staff

To see future posts visit
LARC's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/LARC.CT/>

Why I work here...



"I love my job at LARC because of making a difference in the individual's lives. Giving them the best day that they can possibly have. At the end of the day there is both joy and fulfillment seeing the smiles on their faces. Also the relationship that you build with all the individuals that you work with is very special."

Betty
Day Support Option Program,
Direct Support Professional

1964-2024 - Sixty Years

SPECIAL EDITION

60 YEARS OF PROVIDING LIFE-CHANGING SERVICES AND SUPPORTS TO PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

A business, not workshop

Industries hail Lark's work



Ruth Stone, a Lark worker, sews red tote bags.

HILL BASTENBECK photo

1980s

Supported employment begins

Community homes open on Main St. in Torrington, Oak St. in Winsted, Bertoli Dr. in Litchfield, North Rd. in Harwinton

Six individuals become the first Outward Bound participants with intellectual disabilities in the United States



Lawrence H. Cassella, recently hired as executive director for the Litchfield County Association for Retarded Citizens, Inc., speaks to LARC's board of directors Tuesday as Eleanor McCann, outgoing head of the agency, looks on.

LARC board names executive director



1990s

LARC begins to support individuals living independently in apartments

The Day Service Option (DSO) program begins

LARC moves 60 individuals out of the workshop and into community-based employment



1964-2024 – Sixty Years

SPECIAL EDITION

**60 YEARS OF PROVIDING LIFE-CHANGING SERVICES AND
SUPPORTS TO PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL AND
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**



2000s

**The Day Service Option (DSO)
moves into the community**

**LARC launches first capital
campaign to construct
headquarters building**

LARC relocates to 314 Main St.

2010s

Camp MOE, an integrated day camp for all children, opens

LARC relocates DSO to Migeon Ave., Torrington

LARC changes name to The Arc of Litchfield County, Inc.

LARC celebrates 50 years of providing a “Community for All”

**Construction completed on a new community home in
Barkhamsted**

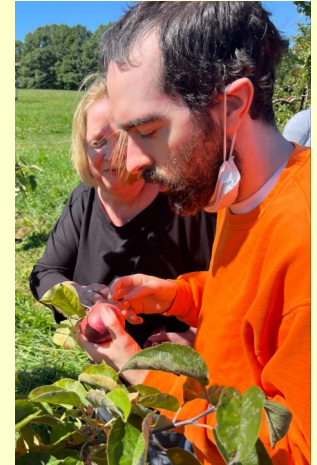
**Project SEARCH is launched at LARC with host partner
Charlotte Hungerford Hospital**



Outings to Averill Farm and Pinney Stables



LARC's Day Support Option (DSO) program has been out in the community enjoying the beautiful weather. They visited Averill Farm and picked apples—always a rewarding and fun activity. Spending time with the horses at Pinney Stables is another popular outing.



DSO team delivers Meals on Wheels

Three days per week, individuals in LARC's DSO help deliver meals to friends in need through the local *Meals on Wheels* program.

Recently the team picked up meals from the Sullivan Senior Center and delivered them to seniors in Winsted.



(continued from page 1, *Former LARC board member honored*)

A plaque in honor of Ann is displayed in LARC's newly named Ann Bowen Board Room. Staff and board members also celebrated

two LARC employees, Beth Phillips and Dawn Warner, who

recently reached 25 years of working at LARC. Dawn is shown here with Michael Menard. Beth was unable to attend. Congratulations to both.



LARC's Dinner Dance returns! (continued from page 1)



WOW!!

LARC's Main St. and Migeon Ave. DSO programs recently conducted a back-to-school supply drive for area schools. LARC staff donated binders, notebooks, and folders. The following local community partners assisted in gathering supplies or making donations: Staples, KidsPlay Children's Museum, Howard's Bookstore, and Five Points Arts Center. In addition, funds from the DSO recycling program were added to the collection. After all of the

donations were collected, participants and staff sorted them and prepared them for delivery to area schools.

Thank you to all who donated!



Your donation has real impact!

Your support helps LARC provide many of the programs and activities that help

improve the quality of life for hundreds of people served by the agency on a daily basis. Monthly

donations can be set up on LARC's website www.litchfieldarc.org. Many employers match donations. Thank you for your support!



Mary Ellen Kunz
Director of Development & Marketing
314 Main Street
Torrington CT 06790

Our vision, **Community for All**, strives to achieve inclusion for all individuals.

The principles which have guided LARC in its delivery of programs since 1964 are individual empowerment, choice, respect and dignity.



COMMUNITY FOR ALL