

Strength Through Innovation



Annual Report 2022-2023

Dear Friend

What a great year this was for The Arc of Litchfield County. Our community of employees, supported individuals, their families and guardians, and our partners worked hard to make a positive difference.

Thanks to the efforts of our dedicated and compassionate staff, twelve individuals supported by the agency now reside at the state-of-the-art Torrington Riverfront apartments. To achieve this extraordinary transition to more independent living, it took long hours of planning, learning, and adapting on the part of the staff and the partners with whom we worked. The individuals who qualified for the new living arrangement had their own challenges throughout the process but are now living with more independence and self-direction. All in all, the outcome was worth the effort and now a path for many more such opportunities has been paved for future initiatives.



As we do every year, we advocated for wage increases for staff and this year there was a significant increase due to increased state funding. We will continue to advocate on behalf of our staff, and seek future funding increases.

A Trauma Informed Care learning collaborative was initiated this past fiscal year and I am so proud to report that great progress has been made with staff completing training, and teaching co-workers about implementing best practices in day-to-day care. The Arc of Litchfield County is one of only three Arc providers in the state adopting this methodology of care for staff and employees and we are eager for the program to evolve.

Our amazing donors have supported several very important programs including Project SEARCH, and the Day Support Option (DSO) Social Enrichment opportunity. We are so grateful for their belief in our mission and their continuing financial support of the agency.

Please take the opportunity to read this annual report and reach out to me with questions.

With gratitude, Michael Menard, Ph.D. Executive Director



OUR MISSION

The mission of LARC is to work cooperatively with others in developing opportunities for individuals with Intellectual/Developmental disabilities, including Autism, to reach their maximum level of independence; experience presence and participation; make decisions about their lives and their futures; and live with respect and dignity.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- We assist people with disabilities to live their own lives.
- We assist people to be competent decision-makers.
- We connect people's lives to the community in which they live.
- We support the right of voluntary association.
- We provide unique and individual services.
- We teach people how to have control over their own personal resources.
- We provide only services that will benefit people's physical, emotional, spiritual, and reputational well-being.
- We work hard to help people reach their goals.

VISION

"Community for All"

OUR PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Day Support Option

The Day Support Option (DSO) provides stimulating activities for 40 individuals. Some of the opportunities provided are morning and afternoon social coffee hours, gentle stretching and chair yoga, music and art therapy, current event discussions, bingo, weekly sing along with a professional musician, and a variety of educational and arts & crafts activities. Walks at the Torrington Armory or on nature trails, visits to local parks, and other excursions provide socialization and exercise. Individuals also perform in concerts throughout the year in celebration of a variety of holidays.



Movement workshop at the Warner Theatre

Music Therapy with Meg Capen

Visit from the Nutcracker Ballet

Art Workshop with
Five Points Center for the Visual Arts

Residential Program

The Residential program offers several options, all of which strive to provide supports and services that provide opportunities to live as independently as possible. LARC supports individuals by offering a variety of living arrangements:

- Community Living Arrangements (CLAs) LARC owns and manages 5 CLAs where a total of 25 individuals reside.
- Individualized Home Supports (IHS) LARC offers In-Family Home Support and In-Own Home Support.
- Continuous Residential Supports (CRS)- CRS provide 24-hour support in 3-person homes.



Theater tickets generously donated to a group of our residents.

Vocational

LARC's vocational program provides opportunities for people interested in working.

Individual Supported Employment

With the support of skills trainer, job coach and job developer, LARC works with people to find independent jobs that match their skills and abilities. Once placed, LARC provides ongoing support in the workplace to 21 people who are working 15 - 40 hours per week. Six of these successful people are graduates of LARC's Project SEARCH program. In this digital age, supporting people at work includes helping people to learn to access computers in the workplace, and to acquire online training and payroll information as required by each employer. Three people are currently using public transportation to get to and from their jobs. A few people are celebrating 20 years at their jobs!!

Group Supported Employment

LARC job coaches provide support to 48 people to work in groups in community settings. The sub-contracted work includes maintenance as well as light assembly, mailings, inspection, and packaging at two factory sites. People enjoy friendly relationships with employees and being included in company functions such as holiday luncheons. We look forward to increasing community opportunities now that the world has opened up after the pandemic.

In Home Support



Shopping

Local events

Autism Resource Center

LARC's Autism Resource Center served children and teens with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families. The center provided free monthly webinars covering topics important to parents, educators, providers, and guardians. Two weekly playgroups for children aged 2-5 provided socialization and activities. Twelve families attended one or both playgroups each week.



Project SEARCH

The Project SEARCH teacher and skills trainer supported three people to intern at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital Hartford Healthcare in Torrington. Interns grew in employability skills in departments such as Human Resources, Environmental Services, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Cafeteria, Endocrinology, Cardiovascular Medicine, Urology, Storeroom and ENT. They learned skills such as office work including filing, alphabetizing and patient reminder phone calls, sanitizing and cleaning, picking supplies, re-stocking and transporting medical supplies. In the classroom they covered basic computer skills, internet safety, money handling and budgeting, updated resumes, learned interviewing skills, workplace safety, conflict resolution and self-advocacy. CHH provided guest speakers to cover skills such as CPR Basics, Fire Safety, CHH Security and Interviewing, and Employability Tips from HR. All three interns have either secured jobs or are in the process of finalizing their interview process for jobs they enjoy in community settings. We can't wait to see

all that these interns will accomplish as they move on to living their best life!!



with Flanders Nature Center

Project SEARCH continued

New Job!



Interns at work

Thomaston Savings Bank has donated a 2019 Chrysler Pacific Touring L minivan to the agency's Project SEARCH program. As one of LARC's most generous supporters, Thomaston Savings Bank & Foundation continues to demonstrate their belief in the agency's mission and our vision for improving the lives of hundreds of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The minivan will have a profound impact as it will expand the reach of the program and add efficiency to the day-to-day activities of the Project SEARCH program.

Visit to The Americal Mural Project



Graduation - June 2023

Mary Ellen Kunz, Cheryl Lindstrom, Michael Menard, Stephen Lewis

Recreation & Social Enrichment

Recreational opportunities, including Bingo, crafts, indoor Corn Hole, and Bocce in the summer, provide social enrichment and are important for all individuals. LARC bowling, at Thomaston Lanes, runs from September through mid-June.

LARC's Special Olympics team consists of 64 athletes that compete in Bocce, Bowling, Alpine skiing, Cross Country skiing, Snowshoeing, Power Lifting and Track & Field.



Advocacy

LARC is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with Intellectual and Developmental disabilities (I/DD) within our community. Along with our partners National Arc and Arc Connecticut, LARC provides opportunities throughout the year to participate in advocacy initiatives and a variety of workshops to educate families and the community about the rights of individuals with I/DD.

UPDATES & NEW INITATIVES



LARC on the Road events provide opportunities for LARC to share information on new initiatives and program updates as well as plans for the future. The most recent event was hosted by the Orr family -- Kate (LARC board member), Melissa, and Doug -- at the new Torrington Riverfront apartments in May, where Melissa Orr now resides. Michael Menard, executive director at LARC, shared updates on the agency's work to make this state-of-the-art facility available to people who want to live more independently. Many guests, including elected officials, attended this important outreach and information event.









• Trauma Informed Care

Early this year, LARC embarked on an ambitious project to bring Trauma Informed Care into our culture. Trauma Informed Care (TIC) has been a healthcare approach for many years in other sectors of human services, but only recently came to the attention of providers who work with people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The development of the Whole-System Change Model is the result of the Traumatic Stress Institute's (TSI) years of experience working with clients to create lasting change. TSI serves as a steady, long-term partner supporting systems as they prepare to launch, implement, and sustain TIC culture and practices. To this end, LARC has partnered with CCARC, Midstate ARC, and the Traumatic Stress Institute (a program of Klingberg Family Centers) to implement TIC through the "Risking Connections" training model. Our three agencies will be among the first I/DD providers in the country to embrace TIC. DDS is interested and is participating as passive observers.

The Trauma Informed Care Resource Center describes TIC as shifting the focus from "What's wrong with you?" to "What happened to you?" According to TSI, TIC is widely viewed as a best practice in the human services, refers to a whole-system approach to addressing the reality of trauma in the people being supported through staff training, trauma-specific treatments, trauma-informed behavior support, and policy changes. Implementation of TIC has been shown to increase staff retention, decrease restraints, and decrease abuse allegations.

LARC staff were trained to be TIC trainers. After that, training of all staff will continue. Two homes have been identified for piloting the training, and it will become a part of our culture. There are still many months to go for this process to be complete and while this may be a challenge, we believe that in the end, it will significantly impact the people we support and our staff in a positive way.

New Owners of Camp

The Camp MOE property was officially sold by the Arc of Litchfield County (LARC) to Northwest Connecticut YMCA in late May, 2023. The two organizations worked closely to make the transaction mutually-beneficial, and to help ensure that the Camp continues to serve families from northwestern Connecticut.

• New Owners of Camp Continued

"The Camp MOE property is a fantastic piece of land with so much potential. We are very gratified that LARC and the YMCA were able to make this happen," said LARC Board president, Dorothy Beckley.

Over the past year, the LARC Board worked with the YMCA to put together a deal that benefitted both agencies. "This is the result we hoped for," explained Michael Menard, executive director at LARC. "The YMCA now owns 165 acres of beautiful outdoor space and newly-renovated buildings that can accommodate all kinds of programs and activities. This is an ideal outcome and we wish them great success."

Torrington Riverfront

The Supportive Housing initiative at newly-constructed Torrington Riverfront is now home to 12 individuals. Over nearly a two-year period, the LARC team has worked diligently to make this new, state-of-the art facility home for 12 LARC-supported individuals. This entailed regular weekly (more often daily) meetings with co-workers, staff from the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services, representatives from the project developer, property management staff, city officials, and families. Every effort has been made to make sure the individuals feel comfortable in their new homes. This is truly an example of LARC's vision of "Community for All."

It's been a massive amount of work, and thanks to the team members involved, 12 really excited people are embarking on a huge but very rewarding challenge. In addition to the staff efforts, the community has helped make this a reality as well. The crowd-funding campaign through Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation's "Northwest Gives" helped raise money to fund the purchase of furniture, and friends of LARC donated loveseats, headboards, dining chairs, lamps and many other suitable furnishings. We are so very grateful.



OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY

UNRESTRICTED GIFTS

\$4,000 and above

Benevity Community Impact Fund Mr. & Mrs. Allan Borghesi Heather & Moose Dzielak

\$1,000 - \$3999

Altrusa International of Litchfield County, Inc. Ms. Barbara Canary

lanet Castano

Crosswicks Foundation

Renaissance Administration, LLC.

Mr. Wellesley J. Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Ullman

United Way of Northwest Connecticut

\$500 - \$999

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Brady

Mr. & Mrs. Stacey Castonguay

Ms. Karen Latina

Town of Litchfield

Mr. & Mrs. John Ursone

\$250 - \$499

Meghan Dzielak Employees of Northwest Community Bank

HTH Automatic Sprinklers, Inc.

Mr. Robert Kelly

Mr. Stephen Serota

Southridge Technology

\$100 - \$249

Mr. David Allen Amazon Smile

Big Y Community Bag Program

Mr. Peter Black

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Boutin

Mr. Matthew Carbone

Atty. Michael J. Considine

Dr. Roger Coutant

Fidelity Charitable

Dr. & Mrs. John Gargiulo

Innovative Medical Products, Inc.

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lambert

Mr. & Mrs. James Lamoin

Ms. Paula Lamoin

Mr. Richard Larkin

Mr. & Mrs. John Lavieri

The Lions Club of Harwinton

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Merz

PMC Industries,Inc.

Mr. Thomas Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Smith

Ms. Kathryn Willard

Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Wortman

Up to \$99

Mr. David Benson

Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Blanchette

Ms. Nancy Boland

Mr. & Mrs. James Boutin

Mr. & Mrs. John Boutin

Ms. Barbara Bowler

Ms. Patricia Cardwell

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Castain

Ms. Patricia Cheever

Mr. & Mrs. Toby Cole

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Derosier

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Dudley

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Fleming

Mr. Joseph Gentile

Mr. John Hesterberg

Ms. Margaret Johnson

Mrs. & Mrs. Harold Lamb

Ms. Sarah Langlois (via United

Way of Central & NE CT)

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Lavoie

Mr. Eric Lefebvre

Ms. Kimberly LoPresti

Ms. Annie Lord

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mangione

Ms. Joy Mojon

Mr. Robert Mosey

P.E.O. - Chapter K-M/CT

Ms. Joyce Peck

Mr. & Mrs. David Perlotto

Mr. James Post

Mr. Jordan Richards

Mr. & Mrs. Randall Smith

Ms. Alice Staszowski

Ms. Maryann Stufano

Union Savings Bank Foundation

United Way of Greater

Waterbury

Mr. & Mrs. Roy VanAlstyne

Ms. Jo-Ann Walker

Mr. Chad Widing

Ms. Veronica Zecchin

Mr. Michael Zychek

RESTRICTED GIFTS

Autism Resource Center

Ms. Luann Poe

Day Support Option

Program - In Memory of

Alexandrea Jeans

Ms. Margaret Bisciotti

Mr. Kevin Braddock

Bronc Callahan Community Fund, Inc.

Ms. Carole Charette

Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Eldridge

Ms. Christina Emery

Ms. Suzanne Flores

Ms. Helena Guba

Ms. Kathryn Higgins

Ms. Andrea Jeans

Ms. Candace Majewski

Mr. Mark Majewski

Mr. & Mrs. Armand Marchand

The Meto Family

Mr. & Mrs. Francis Motuzick

Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Nicholson

Mr. & Mrs. George Pohorilak

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Roberts

Ms. Pamela Root

Dr. Terrence Ryan

Ms. Kim Swain

Mr. Miles Van Noordennen

Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Wortman

Residential

Ms. Katherine Woodward-Thomas

OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY

MEMBERSHIP

Mr. David Allen

Ms. Dorothy Beckley

Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Blanchette

Ms. Barbara Canary

Ms. Mary Fischer

Ms. Martha Gallagher

Ms. Andrea Jeans

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lambert

Ms. Annie Lord

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mangione

Ms. Joyce Peck

Mr. Mike Pinette

Mr. Jordan Richards

Ms. Patricia Rondano

Mr. & Mrs. Randall Smith

Mr. & Mrs. James Steck

Mr. Chad Widing

Mr. & Mrs. James Wolfinger

Ms. Lauren Zordan

MATCHING GIFTS

Benevity Community Impact Fund on behalf of:

Barbara Canary Janet Castano

Heather Dzielak

Fidelity Charitable on behalf of:
Uma Gnanaguru

GIVE LOCAL

Ms. Mickie Ann Budny

Mr. Matt Carbone

Mr. Steven Caruso

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Colavecchio



Mr. & Mrs. Martin Connor

Dr. Roger Coutant

Mr. & Mrs. George Craig

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Fielder

Ms. Mary Fischer

Ms. Sarah Langlois

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lewis

Mr. Griffin Rapsilber

Ms. Kathy Riberdy

Ms. Lynn Richardson

Ms. Ann Ruwet

Ms. Susan Smith

Ms. Elaine Surveski

Ms. Deborah Ullman

GRANTS

Funding for Autism Resource Center - Teen Program

Funded by: Torrington Savings Bank Foundation

LARC was awarded \$20,000 from Torrington Savings Bank Foundation to provide programming and activities to high school students who are on the autism spectrum that will help improve socialization skills, build relationships with peers and staff, and increase comfort with technology.

Funding for Autism Resource Center - Pre-K Program

Funded by: Union Savings Bank

LARC has been awarded a grant of \$10,000 from Union Savings Bank Foundation in support of the interactive socialization program for pre-K children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Funding for Autism Resource Center - Teen Program

Funded by: Autism Speaks

LARC has been awarded a grant of \$2,229 from Autism Speaks in support of the Teen Social Skills and Homework Club for teens with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Funding for Autism Resource Center

Funded by: Charlotte Hungerford Hospital / Hartford Healthcare LARC received a grant in the amount of \$1,110 to fund a 12-week music therapy program for Autism Resource Center.

Funding for Day Support Program

Funded by: Fred & Josephine Bruni Fund , a fund of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation

LARC received a grant in the amount of \$1,100 to fund a 12-week music therapy program in the Day Support Option program.

Funding for Day Support Program

Funded by: Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation

OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY

GRANTS continued

LARC was awarded a grant in the amount of \$1943 to fund a performance and movement workshop at The Warner Theatre.

Funding for 314 Main Street Office

Funded by: American Savings Foundation

LARC was awarded a capital grant of \$5000 to fund the purchase and installation of an air conditioner unit for the agency's 314 Main Street office and program building.

Funding for Furnishing Torrington Riverfront Apartments

Funded by: Northwest Corner Gives, Savings Foundation, a fund of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation

LARC was awarded a grant of \$4950 to fund the purchase of furniture for 6 residents of the Torrington Riverfront Apartments.



Recreational Bowling

National Donut Day

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sponsors FY 2022-2023

Becton-Dickinson Borghesi Building & Engineering Co. Doyle's Medical Supply Giordano's Signs & Graphics, LLC Gleeson-Ryan Funeral Home Lois Grady Guilmartin, DiPiro & Sokolowski Harwinton Drilling & Engineering HTH Automatic Sprinklers William Latz Law Offices of Ellen Marino Northwest Community Bank & Its Divisions O&G Industries, Inc. Petricone's Pharmacy Petrovits, Patrick, Smith & Co. Risk Strategies Company Inc. Southridge Technology

Sterling Sintered Technologies, Inc. Sullivan Automotive Union Savings Bank Foundation, Inc. United Healthcare Services, Inc.

West State Mechanical, Inc. Workers' Compensation Trust



Donors

Steve Caruso
Paul Hamlin
Liquor World,LLC (DBA
The Cork, Fine Wine &
Spirits)

LARC's Fall Wine Tasting was held in October 2022. The sponsorships (listed above) were received in FY 2022-2023. Others were listed in the 2021-2022 Annual Report

SPECIAL EVENTS

continued



Sponsors

Advanced Physical Therapy Lois Grady Harwinton Drilling & Engineering Kainen, Escalera & McHale The Kids of Summer Foundation Mutual of America Financial Group Northwest Community Bank and Its Divisions O&G Industries, Inc. **Risk Strategies** Sullivan Automotive **Thomaston Savings Bank**

Torrington Savings Bank

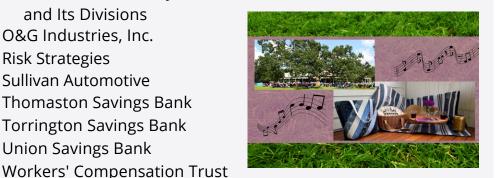
Union Savings Bank

"It's All Set", our third virtual fundraiser, featured multiple creative and fun themed tablescapes. Participants purchased online raffle tickets. Winners were randomly drawn at the end of the event.

Donors

Matthew Carbone Barry Cone Heating & Air Conditioning Mark & Beth Lambert William Latz Michael Menard Tina Milanesi Sterling Sintered Technologies, Inc.

Most "Tanglewood Popular!! Date Night"



Tablescape Donors

Mary Ellen Kunz Dorothy Beckley, Barbara Canary, & Ruth Dwyer Kate Orr & Lauren Zordan LARC Leadership Team Bill Latz Meg McGinn

Northwest Community Bank and Its Divisions Patricia Rondano The Cork, Fine Wine & Spirits **Thomaston Savings Bank Torrington Savings Bank Union Savings Bank**

Wreath Sale

Each November, on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, volunteers and staff are in the parking lot of the 314 Main St. office sorting and passing out beautiful, fresh wreaths delivered directly from Moscarillo's Garden Shoppe.





Now in its 21st year, proceeds from the wreath sale provide funds for LARC's Social Enrichment and Recreation Programs, including Special Olympics. Our 2022 sale provided \$1912.00 in support of these programs.

TRIBUTES



Mat Brady was a bright and amazing soul. He loved to laugh, sing and dance. He was fascinated with rain. He had a special way of drawing in all those around him. He is greatly missed by his housemates and the LARC staff who supported him.

DONATIONS IN HIS MEMORY WERE MADE BY

Mr. & Mrs. James Boutin Mr. Joseph Gentile

Mr. & Mrs. John Boutin Innovative Medical Products, Inc.

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Boutin Mr. Richard Larkin Ms. Barbara Bowler PMC Industries, Inc.

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Brady Mr. Thomas Smith

Ms. Patricia Cardwell Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Castain Ms. Maryann Stufano

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Derosier Ms. Jo-Ann Walker

Ms. Kathryn Willard Mr. & Mrs. Donald Fleming

May Louchen, beloved mother of Jamie Louchen, passed away in October 2022. The following gifts were made in her memory.

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Dudley Ms. Joy Mojon Ms. Margaret Johnson Mr. James Post

Ms. Kimberly Lo Presti

ADDITIONAL MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In memory of Andrew G. York

Atty. Michael J. Considine Mr. John Hesterberg

In memory of Robert Del Vecchio

Ms. Alice Staszowski

HONORARY DONATIONS

In honor of David Allen In honor of Kevin Braddock Mrs. & Mrs. Lowell Wortman

In honor of Steven Castonguay

In honor of Eric Lambert

In honor of Sarah Langlois

In honor of Meg McGinn

In honor of Robin Pedone

Mr. David Allen

Mr. & Mrs. Stacey Castonguay

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lambert

Union Savings Bank Foundation

Ms. Karen Latina

P.E.O. Chapter K-M

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mosey

VOLUNTEERS

We wish to thank the volunteers who give of their time and talents in support of our Social Enrichment, Recreation and Special Olympics Programs. Their dedication is invaluable.

Heather Blauvelt Ellen Kirsch Kim Brandmeyer Robyn Kirsch Henry Brandmeyer Paula Lamoin

Scott Brede

Rhonda Capitanio

Patricia Cheever Bart Cole

Betsi Cole George Day

Kathy Day Mary Fischer

Elaine Giarnese Anne Gustafson

Jeff Humphrey

Katherine Marchand-

Beyer

Anastasia Marshall

Xavier Marshall Wes Parker Wyn Parker

Laurie Sablak

Katie Stack Erin Tierney

Jaclyn Wassik



MEMBERSHIP

If you are not currently a member of LARC, we invite you to join today! Simply go to LARC's website, www.litchfieldarc.org, click on "Ways to Help" and become a member. An individual membership, at just \$25 annually, includes membership in The Arc CT and The Arc of the United States. You'll receive information regarding events, advocacy opportunities and an invitation to the annual meeting.



OUR TEAM

LARC LEADERSHIP

Michael Menard, Executive Director
Mary Ellen Kunz - Director of
Development & Marketing
Linda Cull - Director of Finance

Scott Whittaker - Director of

Human Resources

Julie Stachowiak - Director of Clinical

Support

Traci Damon - Director of Residential

Support

Glenn Lake - Director of Nursing

LARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers of the Board:

President - Dorothy Beckley

Vice President - Sarah Langlois

Secretary -Ruth Dwyer

Treasurer - Mark Lambert

Past President - Kim Brown

Directors:

Barbara Canary

Matt Carbone

George Craig

Kathleen Orr

Jon Sheaffer

Chad Widing

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Lauren Zordan