

# Moving Forward, Stronger and Resilient



Annual Report 2021-2022

### Dear Friend

As I write this letter for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Annual Report, I'm heartened by all we were able to accomplish in the face of many challenges. The pandemic was with us throughout the year, just as the experts had been predicting, and COVID continued to impact how business was conducted locally and around the world. For the entirety of Fiscal Year 2021-22--under the guidance of the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Department of Developmental Services--LARC staff and the individuals in our programs maintained safety precautions. Then as now, we continue to wear masks, test if symptomatic, and isolate if positive for COVID. Keeping staff and the individuals in our care safe and engaged was and continues to be our top priority!



We continued to move forward with initiatives that would strengthen the Arc of Litchfield County (LARC) and we succeeded in achieving much of what we set out to do. We held the first live fundraising event since 2019. *Nature is Nurture* brought friends and neighbors together to eat, drink, bid, and learn about the health benefits of spending time amidst the trees. The Torrington Riverfront project was launched at the beginning of the fiscal year and by the end of it, the project team was working with families and guardians to solidify plans for moving day. The agency's new nursing program evolved throughout the year, and the Autism Resource Center opened its doors to the first pre-K playgroup. Our Day and Vocational programs continue to rebound to pre-COVID levels, and our Residential program remains strong and focused on growth as well. All are core programs of our agency. Through it all, staff continued to work diligently to better serve the individuals in our care.

Please take some time to read this report, which provides financials and other important information from the period between July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Reach out to me if you have questions or want to know more about the impactful services and programs provided by LARC on a daily basis to over 200 individuals. I can be reached by phone at 860-482-9364, ext. 280 or by email at mmenard@litchfieldarc.org.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
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**

# Vocational Program

LARC's Vocational Program provides two types of opportunities for individuals interested in joining the workforce:

### **Individualized Supportive Employment**:

LARC matches individuals with specific jobs after assessing the individual's skills and abilities. LARC provides training and ongoing support to the employed individual. Twenty-two (22) individuals were kept busy working throughout Northwest Connecticut in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022.

### **Group Placements:**

LARC also provides customized workgroups for employers requiring large amounts of manufacturing. Groups can remain on LARC payroll. Permanent supervision is provided for group placements. Forty-five (45) individuals were working as part of customized workgroups in FY 2021-2022.

# Day Support Option

The Day Support Program (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 including Christmas and 4th of July.



# 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.

### Autism Resource Center

LARC's Autism Resource Center serves children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families. The goal of the center is to prepare individuals with the disorder to live fully in the community. The center provides free monthly webinars covering topics important to parents, educators, providers, and guardians. A weekly playgroup for children aged 2-5 provides socialization and activities. The Time Away sensory garden provides a place of respite where parents and children can relax and enjoy the sites, smells and sounds emanating from the array of plants in the gardens.



# Project SEARCH

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

The goal of each student participant is competitive employment. The program provides real-life experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills to help youths with disabilities make successful transitions from school to productive adult life. The Project SEARCH model involves an extensive period of training and career exploration, innovative adaptations, long-term job coaching, and continuous feedback from teachers, job coaches, and employers. As a result, at the completion of the training program, students with intellectual disabilities can be employed in nontraditional, complex and rewarding jobs.

### Recreation & Social Enrichment

Recreational opportunities, ranging from movie nights to bowling leagues and craft clubs, provide social enrichment and are important for all individuals. Numerous recreational and social activities are offered to youth and adults alike with over 80 participants.

LARC's Special Olympics team consists of [64] athletes that compete in Bocce, Bowling, Alpine skiing, Cross Country skiing, 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 AND NEW INITIATIVES**

# LARC Logo Rebrand

In late 2021, the agency undertook steps to re-brand with a new logo in order to more closely align the Arc of Litchfield County with the Arc National brand. The re-branding rolled out in spring 2022. A new sign was installed in May and the logo is now on letterhead, LARC's website, and all printed materials.

The new logo features the same elements of National Arc's logo, which is a visible manifestation of LARC's long relationship with The Arc. The Arc is the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. As a national organization, The Arc has an immense presence in Washington and helped achieve many important milestones over the years.



# Torrington Riverfront

The Arc of Litchfield County has been working on making possible a new living arrangement for 12 individuals who are affiliated with the agency at the Torrington Riverfront Apartments situated along the Naugatuck River in downtown Torrington. This state-of-the art facility was completed last year and preparations began in earnest in 2021 with the LARC team managing the referral process, maintaining communications with DDS (Department of Developmental Services) and families, and implementing the housing application process. The team worked with the developer and management company, as well as state and city officials to ensure everything that needed to be accomplished by specific dates was, indeed, accomplished! As the second half of the fiscal year came to an end, the project was well on its way to fruition and individuals slated to move in were packing, buying furniture, and becoming familiar with their new state-of-the art home along the Naugatuck River.

### Autism Resource Center

The Autism Resource Center launched a new and much-anticipated playgroup in the fall of 2021. Children aged 2-5 with Autism Spectrum Disorder were welcomed into a newly-designed space, which caters to their ages and needs. The children along with their parents, guardians, and support staff, meet weekly, and work on individual as well as shared goals, which provide additional opportunities to work on various skills in different settings, promoting generalization. To accommodate more families a 2nd group has been added to the schedule. The center now offers morning and an afternoon weekly groups. The playgroups have been a huge success.



# Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH resumed in person at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in September 2021. Kathy Riberdy, Special Educator and Project SEARCH Coordinator, was joined by four exceptional young adults who showed up ready to learn and work on job skills. Marianne Sedgwick, LARC Vocational Coordinator, and Ellen Kirsch, Skills Trainer, were welcomed additions to the Project SEARCH team. Interns worked on creating resumes, filling out applications, interview skills, looking professional, resolving conflict and internet safety among other topics. Charlotte Hungerford Hospital has been a welcoming and supportive host. Project SEARCH interns have learned valuable, transferrable skills by supporting eight departments including Nutritional Services, Podiatry, Cardiology and the Storeroom. One intern has been hired as a part-time office assistant in Podiatry at CHH. Another intern secured part-time employment working in the kitchen and housekeeping at Keystone Place in Torrington.





### New Medication Certification Process

A new medication administration certification process was introduced and fully implemented in July, with Phase 1 and Phase 2 components. Phase 1 is uniform across the Department of Public Health, Department of Children and Family Services, and Department of Developmental Services and includes the option to complete independently online.

# Recreation and Special Olympics

LARC participated at the Special Olympic Bocce competition at Scalzi Park in Stamford. Athletes won several medals including three golds, one silver, three bronze, and two 4th place ribbons. Some competitions were so close that two teams had to play two other teams for a run off. The team with the most points in the combined rounds won the gold. One division resulted in a tie for gold (LARC and another team ) because the runoff also resulted in a tie!! LARC had two athletes compete in the snowshoe competition and four in cross country skiing. Three athletes competed in alpine skiing.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT Program Service Revenue	\$ \$7,376,63
Program Sales	232,67
Grants	243,62
Contributions	1,136,03
Fundraising	26,46
Interest, investment and other income	2,73
Net assets released from restrictions	124,37
Total revenues, gains and other support	\$9,142,54
EXPENSES	
Program Services:	
Day Programs	\$ 4,212,599
Residential Programs	2,985,963
Other Programs	523,839
Total program services	7,722,401
Supporting services:	
	1,155,684
Administrative and general	
Administrative and general Fundraising	101,536
-	101,536

# **OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY**

### UNRESTRICTED GIFTS

### \$4,000 and above

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

### \$1,000 - \$3999

Ms. Barbara Canary
Janet Castano
Crosswicks Foundation
Lois Grady
Melwood Horticultural Training
Ctr. (Donate a Car Program)
on behalf of Mr. & Mrs.

Ms. Sue Ritchie

Chris Mitchell

Mr. & Mrs. Adrian Selby

Ms. Lara Sharp

Mr. Wellesley J. Smith

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Ullman

### \$500 - \$999

Mr. & Mrs. Stacey Castonguay Mr. Michael Gruner

Ms. Karen Latina

Employees of Northwest Community Bank

Mr. & Mrs. John Ursone

### \$250 - \$499

Mr. Stephen Serota

Barron Financial Group, LLC The Blackbaud Giving Fund Mr. Robert Kelly

### \$100 - \$249

Ms. Sarah Arburr

Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Borghesi

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Brady

Mr. Peter Caruso (UW of GW)

Mr. Robert Cassella

Dr. Roger Coutant

Mr. & Mrs. George Craig

Mr. & Mrs.George Day

Day Plumbing & Heating

Mr. & Mrs. Joel Easley

Dr. & Mrs. John Gargiulo

Ms. Uma Gnanaguru

Mr. Stephen Ivain

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Lamb

Mr. & Mrs. James Lamoin

Mr. & Mrs. John Lavieri

The Lions Club of Harwinton

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mangione

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Merz

Mr. & Mrs. Doug Orr

Mr. & Mrs. John Reznick

Rotary Club of Torrington &

Winsted Areas

Ms. Anne Ruwet

Ms. Laurie Sablak

Ms. Melodie Sharp

Mr. Scott Tillman, HTH Automatic Sprinkler, LLC

### **Up to \$99**

Amazon Smile

Ms. Tina Bernacki

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Beyer

Ms. Patricia Cheever

Ms. Julie Davy

Mr. & Mrs. Toby Cole

Mr. Robert Del Vecchio

Ms. Maegan Kiger

Mr. Lawrence Lambert

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Lavoie

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Ledversis

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Libby

Ms. Annie Lord

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mosey

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Nejaime

Mr. & Mrs. Dave Perlotto

Mr. Walter Sharp

Ms. Nicole Smith

Ms. Dianne Soucy

Mr. Kevin Sullina (via Charity on

Top Foundation, Inc.)

Mr. Robin Thurlough (UW of GW

Ms. Elizabeth Vasko

Ms. Veronica Zecchin

Mr. Michael Zychek

### **RESTRICTED GIFTS**

### **CAMP MOE**

Alliance All Trades, Inc.

Altrusa International of Litchfield County, Inc.

Ryan Batchelder

**Brooker Memorial** 

Drazen Law Group, LLC

Ed Advance

PJs Laundromat, LLC

Planning Across the Spectrum, LLC

Town of Winchester

### **CAMPERSHIPS**

The Kids of Summer Town of Litchfield

# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN, CAMP MOE

Borghesi Building & Engineering
Ann Bowen

**O&G** Industries, Inc.

# GIVE LOCAL in support of the Autism Resource Center

Ms. Dorothy Beckley

Mr. Matt Carbone

Mr. & Mrs. Martin Connor

Ms. Noel Croce

Ms. Linda Cull

Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Forbes

Mr. Jonathan Jacobson

Ms. Mary Ellen Kunz

Ms. Beth Lambert

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Lewis

Ms. Meg McGinn

Mr. Michael Menard

Mr. Griffin Rapsilber

Ms. Kathy Riberdy

Ms. Lynn Richardson

Ms. Ann Ruwet

Ms. Susan Smith

Fr. Robert Tucker

Ms. Deborah Ullman

Ms. Roberta Willis

Ms. Lauren Zordan

# **OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY**

### **MATCHING GIFTS**

Benevity Community Impact Fund on behalf of:

Barbara Canary Janet Castano Heather Dzielak

Laurie Sablak

The Blackbaud Giving Fund on behalf of:

**Bonnie Nadler** 

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Mr. Mikhael Abdulhai

Ms. Dorothy Beckley

Mr. Lance Beckley

Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Blanchette

Ms. Kimberley Brown

Ms. Barbara Canary

Mr. Matthew Carbone

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Cassella

Mr. & Mrs. George Craig

Mr. Robert Del Vecchio

Ms. Mary Fischer

Ms. Cheryl Flanagan

Ms. Martha Gallagher

Ms. Andrea Jeans

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Mangione

Ms. Ruth Nadeau Dwyer

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Orr

Ms. Joyce Peck

Ms. Colleen Renzullo

Mr. Jordan Richards

Ms. Patricia Rondano

Mr. & Mrs. Adrian Selby

Mr. Jon Sheaffer

### **MEMBERSHIP** continued

Mr. Jeff Smith - Petrovits, Patrick, Smith & Co.

Mr. & Mrs. Randall Smith

Mr. & Mrs. James Steck

Mr. Tim Waldron

Mr. Chad Widing

Mr. & Mrs. James Wolfinger

Ms. Lauren Zordan

### **SOCIAL ENRICHMENT**

United Way of Massachusetts Bay & Merrimack Valley United Way of Northwest Connecticut

### **AUTISM RESOURCE CENTER**

The Autism Resource Center received the following gifts: gift cards, kitchen toys, puzzles, books, plants, gardening supplies and project building kits.

Donations were received from:

BJs Wholesale Club, Torrington Home Depot, New Hartford Kudron Family Beth Lambert Stop & Shop

**Ullman Family** 

### **GRANTS**

### Funding for Social Enrichment & Recreation Programs

Funded by: Allstate Foundation

LARC was awarded \$500 from the Allstate Foundation. Rich Waag, an Allstate employee and volunteer in our alpine ski program, is responsible for the receipt of this grant. We are grateful for his support on and off the slopes.

### Gaming and Electronic Devices, Autism Resource Center

Funded by: Civic Family Services

LARC was awarded \$1000 from Civic Family Services to purchase games and electronic devices for an after-school program for children and young adults with autism".

### i Pads, Vocational Program

Funded by: the Connecticut Community Foundation

LARC was awarded \$11,132 from the Connecticut Community Foundation to purchase iPads for staff in our vocational progam to use on the job when they are working out in the community.

### Lift for Residential Program

Funded by: *Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation*LARC was awarded \$5,100 from the Edwin & Edith Stone Fund (a fund of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation) for the purchase and installation of a new lift in one of the agency's group homes.

### Replacement Generator

Funded by: *Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation* LARC was awarded \$7,250 from the Eva M. Coty Fund, a fund of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation for the purchase and installation of a generator for North Road.

# **OUR GENEROUS COMMUNITY**

### **GRANTS** continued

# Support and resources for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Funded by: Robert Rosenheim Foundation
Continued funding from Robert Rosenheim Foundation as part of
the \$150,000 grant awarded to LARC to support the Autism
Resource Center which offers workshops, children's playgroups and
an after-school program for children and teens with Autism
Spectrum Disorder.

### Gift Certificate, Autism Resource Center

Funded by: *The Home Depot (Team Depot Volunteer Project)*LARC was awarded a \$2000 gift card as part of the "Team Depot Volunteer Project" to be used in support of the Time Away Sensory Garden and Autism Resource Center.

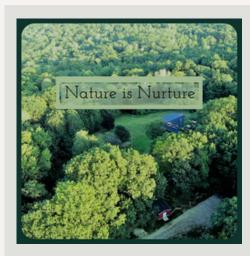
### Time Away - Sensory Garden

Funded by: *Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation*Continued funding from Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation to complete the Time Away Sensory Garden including fencing and construction of a pathway.

### Five Points Gallery Art Program

Funded by: *Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation*LARC was awarded \$1,200 from Thomaston Savings Bank
Foundation to fund an art workshop at Five Points Art
Center.Twelve individuals in LARC's Day Support program attended the workshop. Through demonstrations, individualized attention, sensory explorations, and mixed media materials, participants explored art making at their own pace, using materials tailored to their needs. At the end of the workshop, the artwork created was exhibited in a two-week show at the Five Points Annex on Water Street in downtown Torrington.

# **SPECIAL EVENTS**



# **Sponsors**

FY 2021-2022

Al's Garage
Alliance All Trades, Inc.
Gleeson-Ryan Funeral Home
Harwinton Drilling & Engineering

Co. Inc.
Litchfield Bancorp
Petricone's Pharmacy
RKL & Associates
Sullivan Automotive
Thomaston Savings Bank
Foundation

Union Savings Bank Foundation Workers' Compensation Trust Dr. William P. Ryan

### **Donors** leannette Brodeur

Martha Gallagher Lauren Zordan



# SPECIAL EVENTS



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

# **Sponsors**

Conti, Levy & Salerno, LLC
Dymax Industries
Northwest Community Bank
and Its Divisions
O&G Industries, Inc.
Sterling Sintered
Technologies, Inc.
Thomaston Savings Bank
Torrington Savings Bank

### **Donors**

Barry Cone Heating & Air Conditioning Northwest Hills Credit Union

## **Tablescape Donors**

Friendly Hands Food Bank Lois Grady Mary Ellen Kunz LARC Leadership Team Bill Latz Cindy & Mary Lavoie Meg McGinn

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

Most Popular!!



"Kentucky Derby" Torrington Savings Bank



### **Sponsors**

Al's Garage
Brooks, Todd & McNeil
Howd, Lavieri & Finch, LLP
Kainen, Escalera & McHale, P.C.
Klebe Fuel Co.
Mutual of America Life Insurance
Thomaston Savings Bank
Torrington Savings Bank

LARC's Fall Wine Tasting was held in October 2022 and therefore was not part of FY2021-2022. The listed sponsorships were received in FY 2021-2022.

# **TRIBUTES**



We wish to honor and remember Robert Del Vecchio, a friend and close member of our community who passed away this past year.

### **DONATIONS IN HIS MEMORY WERE MADE BY**

Chris & Linda Arnold Mr. & Mrs. Solomon Jacob

Christine & Walt Dickinson James Micca

Joyce Finnen Lenora Palumbo

Aida & David Gelormino Jerry & Laurie Parrott

Lynn Gelormino Julie & Larry Pickett

Scott, Kristen & Mike Gelormino Harold & Janet Scheidel II

Linda Gryniuk

### **ADDITIONAL MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

Edward B. Hall Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Lavoie

Susan & Kathleen Kelly Mr. & Mrs. George Day

Day Plumbing & Heating

Mr. Robert Kelly

Lorraine Rebillard Veronica Zecchin

Emil "Moe" Renzullo, Jr. Bonnie Nadler

Blackbaud Fund (Matching Gift)

Reznick & Ryan Families Mr. & Mrs. John Reznick

Jack Ritchie Ms. Sue Ritchie

Vee & Joe Ruwet Ms. Ann Ruwet

Benita Serota Mr. Stephen Serota

### **HONORARY DONATIONS**

Larry Cassella Robert Cassella

Steven Castonguay Mr. & Mrs. Stacey Castonguay

Mary Fischer Barron Financial Group

Eric Lambert Lara Sharp

Melodie Sharp

Dianne Soucy

Beth Lambert Julie Davy Nicole Smith

Maegan Kiger Elizabeth Vasko

Meg McGinn Karen Latina

Robin Pedone Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mosey

Lara Sharp Janet Castano

### **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 Anastasia
Rhonda Capitanio Marshall

Patricia Cheever Donna Puzacki Betsi Cole Dennis Ray

George Day Laurie Sablak Kathy Day William Small

Mary Fischer Katie Stack Elaine Giarnese Erin Tierney

Anne Gustafson Rich Waag Jeff Humphrey 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

Julie Stachowiak - Director of Clinical Support

**Human Resources** 

Jennifer Miller - Director of Vocational Support

Traci Damon - Director of Residential Support

### LARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers of the Board:
President - Dorothy Beckley
Vice President - Sarah Langlois
Secretary -Ruth Dwyer
Treasurer - Tim Waldron
Past President - Kim Brown

Directors:
Barbara Canary
Matt Carbone
George Craig
Mark Lambert
Kathleen Orr
Jon Sheaffer
Chad Widing
Lauren Zordan