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New Nursing Director Joins LARC Leadership Team

LARC’s Clinical Team recently welcomed Glenn Lake as the new Director of Nursing for the agency. Glenn has been a Registered Nurse for eight years and has five years of experience working with people with intellectual disabilities. For the past three years, Glenn has been the Director of Nursing in a large organization similar to LARC. He is an EMT and has been certified as an advanced EMT. (continued on page 2)
Greetings friend:

As we start to wind down 2022, I am so proud of the successes that we were able to achieve to date. It’s been an eventful year and, as with the rest of the world, the pandemic still played a role in the day-to-day operations of the agency. Even so, we hired over 47 new staff; re-branded our logo, re-opened our Migeon location, made it a reality for 12 individuals served by LARC to have a new home at Torrington Riverfront, and brought back the Wine Tasting with great success. Our community of supporters has been exceedingly generous and we appreciate your belief in our vision of “Community for All.”

We hope you have a wonderful holiday season and look forward to connecting with you in 2023.

Best wishes,

Michael Menard, Ph.D., Executive Director, LARC

New Nursing Director joins LARC Leadership Team (continued from page 1)

“We are very excited to have Glenn join the nursing team,” noted Michael Menard, LARC executive director. “Along with April Grey, assistant director of nursing, they will provide an exceptionally high level of knowledge and clinical expertise.”

The agency has employed nurses over the years and utilized services on a per diem basis but an onsite full-time nursing team is new for LARC. “It is really an exciting time to be joining LARC,” noted Glenn. “Having a dedicated, on-site team, employed full time by the agency will help us create continuity and an in-depth understanding of the needs of individuals in our programs. It will also mean we are better able to develop a relationship with the people we support. I’m really excited to be part of the team.”

Glenn Lake, R.N., B.S.N.
Director of Nursing, LARC
Project SEARCH Interns at work!
Contributed by Kathy Riberdy, Special Educator & Coordinator Project SEARCH

Project SEARCH interns are busy interning in their departments at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (CHH).

Chris is supporting Ear, Nose & Throat and the Storeroom, learning how to “Turn Over” patient rooms & restock supplies.

Kim is learning valuable office skills and sanitizing skills in Human Resources and Cardiac Rehabilitation.

Reid is in Nutritional Services working on food preparation for Meals on Wheels, patients, and the cafeteria.

During classroom time, the team is learning about workplace safety and other topics. “We are so proud of them,” noted Kathy Riberdy, Special Education & Coordinator, Project SEARCH.

LARC’s Project SEARCH, now in its third program year, provides classes in employability skills, independent living skills and internship experience for young adults with disabilities. The goal is to obtain competitive employment upon completion in June. For more information, please contact Project SEARCH Coordinator and Special Educator, Kathy Riberdy kriberdy@litchfieldarc.org.
It was a wonderful evening! LARC’s 2022 Wine Tasting celebrated the harvest and more at Crystal Peak on October 28. Many old friends as well as new friends attended and sampled wines, spirits and beer provided by 21 vendors who were invited to participate by The Cork Fine Wine & Spirits. The food was superb. Kevin & The Hammers entertained with classic tunes from the 40s to today. An array of silent auction items and raffle prizes made for a fun and interesting evening. THANK YOU All!

(Right) Dorothy Beckley (President, LARC Board of Directors) with Sarah Langlois (Vice President, LARC Board).

(Left) Jim Steck, Greg and Lauren Zordan (LARC Board member)

(Right) Steve and Erika Hale

(Above) Kevin & The Hammers—Erik Holst-Grubbe, Kevin Klepacki, and Greg Kunz

(Above) Sarah Gersky from The Cork Fine Wine & Spirits with Ted Rozum from Hartley and Parker.

Beth (Advisory Committee LARC’s Autism Resource Center) and Mark Lambert (LARC Board Member)
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Thank you to the following businesses, artists, and crafters who contributed to our silent auction and raffle:

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Café 38
Carl’s True Value
Mark & Louis Centrella
Connecticut River Museum
Connecticut Science Center

DJ Stenson, Artist
Dos Amigos
Foothills Pet Salon
GMB Exposures
Good News Café
Jill Klepacki Pottery
Joan Meek Kids Play
Lambert Family

Lily & Vine
Live B You Home
Lowes Torrington
Market Place, Litchfield
Mattatuck Museum
Mystic Aquarium
New Britain Museum of American Art
Noujaim’s Restaurant
Nutmeg Fudge Company

Palace Theatre
Rowley Grill & Tap
Salt 2.0
Saltwater Grille
Sawyer’s (see Brinx)
Seven Angel’s Theatre
Soulbury Cultural Gifts
Stepansky Family
The Garden
Torringford Manor

Torrington Country Club
Tractor Supply, Litchfield
Tractor Supply, Barkhamsted
Deb Ullman
Warner Theatre
Water & Wine Puzzles
Wild Birds Unlimited, Watertown
PUMPKIN Decorating Brings Out Creativity

A recent event at LARC brought in families for a fun afternoon of decorating pumpkins. The event, hosted by LARC’s Autism Resource Center in partnership with TAFA (Torrington Area Families for Autism) and Sun, Moon & Stars, Inc., provided opportunities for guests to create some fabulous pumpkins. “Whenever possible, we like to collaborate with other community organizations so that we can share resources and expertise,” noted Nerissa Casanova, Autism Resource Center coordinator.

Creativity was in evidence throughout the afternoon as guests took advantage of an array of materials to add to their pumpkins, which were all donated by Ruwet Farm. “Everyone was really excited and they created some spectacular pumpkins,” noted Ms. Casanova. “It was a very festive event and I think everyone enjoyed the experience.”

For information about LARC’s Autism Resource Center’s upcoming events and webinars, please visit https://www.litchfieldarc.org/events--webinars.html. To reach Ms. Casanova, please call her at 860-482-9364 ext. 350 or email her at ncasanova@litchfieldarc.org

Your donation has real impact!

Your support helps LARC provide many of the programs and activities that help make life better for the 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. Questions? Call Mary Ellen Kunz at 860-482-9364, ext. 390. Thank you!
Moving In (continued from page 1)

“It’s been a massive amount of work and thanks to the team members involved, there are 12 really excited people who are embarking on a huge but very rewarding challenge,” explained Michael Menard, LARC executive director. Menard went on to explain how 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,” confirmed Mr. Menard.

New Assisting Technology at Riverfront

Assistive Technology is an integral component of the Torrington Riverfront apartments occupied by individuals supported by LARC. According to Lisa Francis, LARC Clinical Team, the installation of various types of assistive technology is underway. Lisa reports that Assisted Living Technologies has installed CookStop: Stove Fire Prevention and SafeT Sensors for microwave ovens in some of the apartments, and in others they have set up the Dose Flip Medication Reminder.

Bob Mule from Mule Securities visited Torrington Riverfront in early November in preparation for the installation of a remote monitoring system, which includes:

- **Big Red Panic Button**, to be installed on bathroom floors to easily alert staff of a fall and the need for help.
- **Sensors**, to alert staff of unusual movement or lack thereof. Example: door opening at 2 a.m., or someone not getting out of bed by 10:00 am.
- **A Coded Door lock** for those who have requested one.
- **A video doorbell** for extra security.

An additional fire alarm which would notify a LARC staff member in the event an alarm was set off in an apartment.

“It certainly has been a pleasure working with everyone involved, and I can’t wait to see it all come together soon,” Lisa exclaimed.

Performance and Movement Workshop at The Warner Theatre

LARC DSO (Day Service Option) staff have been transporting and accompanying individuals to the Performance and Movement Workshop at The Warner every week since mid-September. The workshop is funded by a grant from Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation. The participants are enjoying the experience and look forward each week to see what is planned for the class.

Photos by Luke Haugwout
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.