



# Community for All

## LARC News

Winter 2013

### PENGUIN PLUNGE

You are invited to dress as your favorite sports hero and join our team as we run, jump and plunge into the chilly waters of Highland Lake to benefit Special Olympics! Funds will support year-round programs of sports training and athletic competition for people with intellectual disabilities.

Your support will not only help Special Olympics Connecticut, but also LARC's own Special Olympic Team.

The Penguin Plunge will take place at Highland Lake, Winsted on Saturday February 9, 2013. Registration begins at 10 AM, the plunge is at noon.

To join our team, or make a pledge, please visit [www.tinyurl.com/larc-olympians](http://www.tinyurl.com/larc-olympians). For more information, contact Robin Pedone, Community Support Coordinator at 860-489-2140 x202 or via email at [rpedone@litchfieldarc.org](mailto:rpedone@litchfieldarc.org).

### Governor Malloy Visits LARC

LARC was honored to have Governor Dannel P. Malloy visit LARC on January 10<sup>th</sup> to learn about our vision of *Community for All*.



Terry Edelstein, the Governor's Nonprofit Liaison, and Governor Malloy learn about our DSO Program from Katherine Marchand-Beyer and Larry Cassella.

During his visit, Governor Malloy was able to see first-hand the diverse, creative, and efficient programs that LARC provides to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism.



The Governor learned about Robert Giarnese's efforts to raise money for "Baking for Babies".

Specifically, the Governor met three individuals in LARC's Day Support Option (DSO) program, and learned how fiscal cuts impact individuals, their families, and their service providers. He also met two young students from the School to Community Transition program and heard about the work LARC is doing to prepare them for the workplace.



Governor Malloy with DSO participant, Jean Kozlak, and Transition Students, Robert Simmons and Kyle Luthy.

According to Executive Director Larry Cassella, "The Governor learned about the plight of nonprofit service providers and our important role as the safety net for a vulnerable population. By meeting several individuals that LARC supports, he was able to put a face to potential state budget cuts."

Visit our new website: [www.litchfieldarc.org](http://www.litchfieldarc.org)

Stay connected at: [www.facebook.com/larc.ct](http://www.facebook.com/larc.ct)

To receive this newsletter electronically, email [info@litchfieldarc.org](mailto:info@litchfieldarc.org)

## Board of Directors

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## Executive Director

Larry Cassella

## 11th Annual Festival of Trees

The 11th Annual Festival of Trees event was a success, raising \$23,000 to provide direct support to individuals with a range of intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism.

This year's festival will provide the opportunity for 650 individuals to attend a December Holiday Party, Fall and Spring Dinner Dances, and a "Pizza Picnic" during the summer. Funds will also support children with special needs attend Camp MOE, recreational supplies and activity scholarships, and outdoor furniture for residents.

The event could not have been possible without the dedicated work done by our Festival Committee and volunteers. We extend our thanks to all those who participated, whether it through sponsorships, donating a beautiful display, participating in one of our theme nights, shopping in our Gift Shop, or bidding on auction items. We are also appreciative of our generous host, Valerie Manor.



Top and Left: A sampling of the holiday displays. Above: Joseph Bachand, President of the Harwinton Lions Club presents a \$1,500 donation to Larry Cassella.

## Thank You to Our Festival of Trees Sponsors & Donors

### Preview Party:

Valerie Manor  
The Community Foundation of  
Northwest Connecticut  
Thomaston Oil

### Family Story Time:

Mr. & Mrs. James Mazzarelli  
O & G Industries  
Bowen Agency LLC  
Litchfield Bancorp

### Holiday Gift Shop:

Thomaston Savings Bank

### Santa Night:

Northwest Hills Credit Union  
Borghesi Building & Engineering  
Petrovits, Patrick, Smith & Co.

### Closing Party

The Community Foundation of  
Northwest Connecticut  
Harwinton Lions Club  
Harwinton Drilling & Engineering  
Litchfield County Foot Clinic

### Seven Nights of LARC:

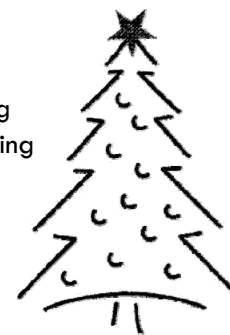
Gleeson-Ryan Funeral Home  
Fire Equipment Headquarters  
Northwest Community Bank  
The Ponte Family  
LARC Board of Directors  
Mr. & Mrs. David Addazio  
United Construction & Engineering

### Media Sponsors:

Register Citizen & WZBG

### Friends of LARC:

Bank of America  
Barry Cone's Heating  
and Air Conditioning  
Mrs. Borghesi  
Bozzuo Associates  
Mrs. Bruni  
Mrs. Grady  
LaMonica's  
Litchfield Lions Club  
Rainbow Center for Children & Families  
RJB Contracting  
The Charlotte Hungerford Hospital  
Mr. & Mrs. William Toy  
Mrs. Wolfinger





## Raise a Glass to Good Health - A Spring Wine Tasting

LARC, in conjunction with Tony's Drive-In Package Store, is pleased to announce its **Annual Spring Wine Tasting** to be held on Friday, March 8, 2013 at the Torrington Elks Lodge #372 (70 Litchfield Street, Torrington). Doors open at 5:30 PM for sponsors and 6 PM for general ticket holders. The event closes at 9 PM.

VIP tickets are \$60 and include a private tasting of premier wines.

General Admission tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door.

Sponsorship packages are available. For more information, please contact Christina Emery, Director of Development at 860-482-9364 x39 or [cemery@litchfieldarc.org](mailto:cemery@litchfieldarc.org).

## Building a Community for All

LARC is grateful to be the recipient of a \$50,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut, Inc. The money, awarded from the Foundation's Draper Fund, is part of LARC's larger campaign to fully renovate the lower level of 314 Main Street.

Upon its completion, the lower level will consist of

3,500 square feet of program space for the School to Community Transition Program. This is a custom tailored program for students 18-21 years old that emphasizes social, employment and life skill development.

The teaching strategies to empower the students to achieve their maximum potential need as much

"hands on" experimental learning as possible. In addition to the Transition Program, the new space will be utilized as a meeting room for a growing parent network group.

According to Larry Cassella, Executive Director of LARC, "We are grateful for the support from the Foundation and the Draper Fund that

allows us to jump start the second phase of our building project. Specifically, these funds will help us create handicapped accessible bathrooms in our lower level. The entire project will be completed over the summer so the students returning from summer break and have fully accessible and functional space to learn essential life skills."

## CAMP MOE

The mission of Camp MOE is to provide an ideal outdoor recreation environment where **all** children have the opportunity to develop friendships, leadership, self-awareness and respect for others. Camp MOE, located at Camp Maria Pratt in Torrington, features over 325 acres of beautiful woods and fields, a private pond, and miles of marked trails. Camp MOE has a swimming area, boating and fishing docks, volleyball and basketball courts, a playing field, archery range, and indoor facilities for rainy day activities.



Registration for the 2013 Camp season has begun! Visit [www.campmoe.org](http://www.campmoe.org) or call 860-618-2800.



*LARC is a member of Leave a Legacy Connecticut, a nationwide public awareness campaign effort to promote charitable giving through wills and estates. "When you include charities in your estate planning you can make a difference in the lives of others."*

## LARC

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[www.litchfieldarc.org](http://www.litchfieldarc.org)

[www.facebook.com/LARC.CT](https://www.facebook.com/LARC.CT)



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

## Social Enrichment Activities

Registration is required for all trips and activities. Please contact Robin Pedone at 860-489-2140 or email [RPedone@litchfieldarc.org](mailto:RPedone@litchfieldarc.org) for more information or to register.

### Dinners:

Applebee's  
St. Patrick's Day Lunch

### Shopping:

Brass Mill Center Mall  
Christmas Tree Shop, Manchester

### Museums:

Pequot Museum

### Theatre:

Warner Theatre-Pipes & Drums  
Warner Theatre-Glen Miller  
Orchestra

### Movies:

Cinerom, Torrington

### Bingo:

Tues Feb 5 and Tues March 5

### Friday Night Fun:

Fri Feb 8 and Fri March 8

### Craft:

Sat March 9

### Movie at DSO:

Sat Feb 9 and Sat March 9

### Weekly Bowling:

At Skytop Lanes, Wednesdays  
at 5-6:15 PM. Session runs  
from Jan 9 through March 27.  
Spring League starts in April,  
contact Robin to join.

### Yarn Together:

Meets every Thursday night  
from 6:30-8:00 PM at 923  
Migeon Avenue. Bring a project  
to perform. Painting, loop  
knitting, crocheting, and other  
projects are acceptable to  
bring. Socialize while knitting,  
crocheting, or loop knitting!

### Self Advocacy Group:

"Each One-Teach One" meets  
once a month. The next meeting  
is Tues Jan 29 from 6:30-7:45  
at 923 Migeon Avenue. All  
meetings have a theme of  
"taking control of our lives."