

Spring 2009

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## *Irish Eyes Were Smiling at the Day Hab!!!*



The Day Hab is looking forward to the spring weather, which will make exploring the local community much more enjoyable. Trips to Nantasket Beach, area zoos and butterfly parks, Blue Hills, as well as the many local parks we are lucky to have in our back yard will take place on a frequent basis. The community is a wonderful setting for hands-on learning and skill development. Our recent strategic planning process elicited many responses from our individuals and their families relating to continuing and increasing our community ventures so that is a goal as we move into the spring and summer seasons.

Over the past several months the Day Hab participants have been busy celebrating the many holidays that have taken place and enjoy the theme activities that the staff leads with input from our therapists. It is a goal to assist Day Hab participants with expressing their individuality as well as for them to become highly interactive throughout the day with a variety of activities.

The Day Hab is preparing for its 4<sup>th</sup> accreditation survey with CARF whose mission is to “promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served”. The survey will occur this summer and we look forward to going through the process and gaining further insight as to how we can better provide our services.

Individuals, family members and staff members of both Harbor Industries and the Day Hab program have been busy getting the word out to our local legislators regarding the need to restore the cuts that are threatening some of the services that the Arc of the South Shore provides. Together, we can make a difference.



## *a note from Daryl*

Many of you received a letter from me a couple of weeks ago informing you of the devastating affect of the Governor's 2010 budget cuts.

Since that letter was sent I have received confirmation from hundreds of people about the letters and telephone calls made to our elected officials at the state house advocating for restoration of those cuts.

**I am happy to report that YOUR advocacy is starting to show some results.**

On March 25 the Governor recommended that \$22M of the \$45M in family support cuts be restored. While this is indeed good news *the restored funding is not intended to fund planned respite services*, the Arc programs that will be discontinued effective July 1st.

**In addition to the loss of planned respite/family support services we will lose funding for**

**14 adults who now attend our Harbor Industries program.**

**Day Hab wrap funding that helps us to support the most physically and medically needy participants.**

**Salary reserve funds that allow us to give small salary increases to our direct support employees.**

I am asking you, your friends and family members to continue to write letters and make phone calls to your State Representatives and Senators, advocating for full restoration of the community services cut. Please go to our website to view the most recent information about the FY 2010 budget and advocacy efforts.

If you haven't already received your invites to our **annual dinner** dance and our annual **Lou Bailey golf outing** please let this be your official invitation to join us at both of these signature events for the Arc of the South Shore.

The past two years our annual Friend raiser, the dinner dance, has been so popular we have had to turn people away. This year we are able to accommodate up to 400 attendees. This year's event will be the best ever with it's theme of Dancing with the Stars. The evenings festivities will feature 16 young adults who plan to showcase their newly acquired dance routine to the accompaniment of a five piece orchestra. So put on your dancing shoes and join us. Come dance with Arc south shore stars!

Then put on those golf shoes and join us for our annual Lou Bailey golf outing. I participated in the outing as a novice golfer for the first time last year and I had a blast!

I have the pleasure of welcoming Craig Pina as our new Director of Development. Craig joined us in January and by now many of you have either met Craig, or talked with him. Craig brings a broad range and depth of skills, talent, and experience to the Arc. We are very happy to have him join us in his role at Director of Development. Welcome Craig!

## *Plans for 22nd Annual Louis Bailey Golf Underway*

Returning co-chairmen for the golf outing, **Normand Racicot** of **Fallon Ambulance Service** and **Robert Falconi** of **Falconi Companies** are leading a dedicated committee and have goals that would make this one of our most successful years to date. "With the current economic conditions and budget cuts coming from the state, this is definitely a time for people to be lending more support to organizations like The Arc of the South Shore, rather than pulling back." Said Racicot. "It is in times like these when we need to whatever we can to assist the most vulnerable people in our communities."



This year's golf outing will, once again, be held at the *South Shore Country Club*. More information, including start times and brochures, can be found by visiting our website at [www.arcsouthshore.org](http://www.arcsouthshore.org).



# Senator Hedlund Visits with Arc Board

## Hears from Program Directors and Advocates about effects of budget cuts

**State Senator Robert Hedlund** (Weymouth) met with the board of directors of the Arc of the South Shore on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. The special meeting with board members was to hear their concerns

regarding budget cuts proposed by **Governor Deval Patrick**.

Program directors from each of the Arc's affected programs presented what the impact would be on their programs. **Katie Hanley**, Director of Community Supports, detailed the effects of funding that has been dramatically reduced in the Governor's proposed budget. Given the magnitude of this cut the Department of Mental Retardation may choose to eliminate family support funding completely. Hanley explained the detrimental effects on people with disabilities and their families if family support and respite care were to be cut and costs that families would need to cover if they were to pay out of pocket. **Anne Holton**, Vice President and Director of Day Services, explained that cuts to her program would mean the elimination of employment services for up to 19 current participants possibly resulting in those people being placed in programs that are not as appropriate, or loss of services altogether. **Rhonda Meisel**, Director of First Early Intervention, detailed the effects of funding cuts and new regulations that would increase the eligibility requirements for children from birth to 3 years old. These changes will undoubtedly have lasting effects on children's lives and the education system.

Board members also commented on the negative impact these cuts would have on families, consumers and the community as a whole. Cuts in early intervention would lead to greater needs that would have to be addressed by school systems, cuts to respite and family supports programs would impose tremendous hardships on families served and reductions to employment services would lead to a step backwards for many individuals that have thrived in this setting as well as putting a hardship on families.

After hearing the presentations and statements from all present, Sen. Hedlund stressed his strong belief that state government exists primarily to fulfill 4 basic needs. Those needs are public safety, education, basic infrastructure and especially to take care of those who can't always take care of themselves, like those served by The Arc of the South Shore. Hedlund was very clear that he has done more than "talk the talk" when it comes to supporting our efforts, he stressed that it is very important for us to hold our legislators accountable in their rhetoric when compared to their voting record.

While Sen. Hedlund is only one person in the 40 person Senate he stressed the importance of letting our Reps and Senators know of our situation through letter writing. While it is very easy to send a pre-formatted email, all legislators are inundated with them. A letter is still always most effective. Sen. Hedlund said that he would consult with **Sen. Richard Tisei** (Wakefield), who has been a champion of the Arc's cause, and continue to work on behalf of those whom the Arc serves.



*Photos: Top - Sen. Hedlund (right) and board member James Lawson (left) listen to concerns of board member Norma Grasse*  
*Bottom - (left to right) Daryl A. Cook, Executive Director; Anne Holton, Executive Vice President/Director of Day Services; Maria Plante, Board Member; James Lawson, Board Member; Sen. Hedlund; Richard Frye, Board Member; Rhonda Meisel, Director of First Early Intervention; Katie Hanley, Director of Community Supports.*

## New Development Director Joins the Arc

The Arc of the South Shore announces the addition of **Craig Pina** to its staff. Mr. Pina will serve as the Director of Development and will be responsible for all development, marketing and public relations duties at the Arc. He replaces **Claudia Cuscianna**, who served the Arc in that capacity for three years.

Craig Pina has most recently worked as the Development Coordinator for the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts. While there, he was responsible for developing the organization's giving programs and assisting local organizations in their fund raising activities.

Prior to that he was the South Suburban Area Manager, with Special Olympics Massachusetts for nearly seven years. As Area Manager, Mr. Pina oversaw a 26 town area and was responsible for all fund raising, volunteer outreach and training and organizing the area's many special events and competitions.

Mr. Pina lives in Brockton with his wife and two daughters and has a long history of community involvement including current positions serving on the Water Commission for the City of Brockton and as President of the Board of Directors at Brockton Day Nursery.

"I'm very excited to have been given this opportunity to work with The Arc of the South Shore." Said Pina. "Given this uncertain economic climate and funding cutbacks, our development efforts become even more important. I've been able to reconnect with many old friends and I look forward to making many more new ones!"



## Residential Programs

### Looking forward to Spring!

It has certainly been a long winter and the residences are looking forward to warmer weather and outdoor activities. Thanks to **Laura Fiore**, our Community Activities manager, the residents have been enjoying a lot of activities over the past few months. The Christmas season was fun and festive with Christmas crafts, cookie decorating and a fun-filled party with a Yankee swap. Leading up to the holiday, on December 14<sup>th</sup>, many of the individuals went to the *Nutcracker Ballet* at the *Boston Opera House* and absolutely loved the sights and sounds of the production. In January, the *Norwell Theater Company* held the Piano Man- which was the music of Elton John and Billy Joel. It was an interactive show in which Seth and Billy joined the singers on the stage to dance and sing!

Our monthly dinners continue to be a huge success, held at different restaurants around the South Shore. Each month birthdays are

celebrated., and a great time is had by all. The bowling league is held monthly at *Timber Lanes* in Abington with each home having their own team shirts and name. The competition can become exciting, as each house/team is always striving for the highest score! Weekly gym class is held at *Compelling Fitness* in Hanover. This is a very well attended activity that is great for the health of our residents. To date, one of our ladies has lost 20 pounds participating in the program! We're all very proud of her and hope that she continues her great progress.

Activities are planned on monthly bases with input from the residents. Upcoming events are a karaoke night, touring the Adams Homes by trolley. Also, yoga and tennis lessons are just a few activities being planned. To borrow a quote from Susan "*the busier we are the happier we are!*" and we always do our best to keep moving.

# Harbor Industries News of Note

Over the past few months the staff and participants of Harbor Industries led by Jon Gardner have been busy with in-house printing projects on our new state of the art HP printer that was acquired through a generous grant from the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association. All of the invitations and related print materials for our upcoming Spring Dinner Dance were produced by the Harbor Industries workshop.



The benefits of this acquisition have been multi-faceted. We are now offering individuals in our program training in office machine operation and document assembly. In addition, we have been able to create high quality imaging that is providing a considerable print cost savings to the Arc. We have also begun to offer printing services to the local business community.

Please contact Bob Mackey or Bob Chandler at 781-335-3023 for your printing or subcontracting needs.

## *2009 Spring Appeal*

This year the Arc is facing cuts in state funding that will profoundly affect individuals and families we serve. Will you provide assistance, which is needed now, as much as ever before?

### Spring Appeal Reply Form

**Yes!** I will help support The Arc of the South Shore! Please accept my donation in the following amount;

\$25.00       \$50.00       \$100.00       \$250.00

Other Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me about planned giving opportunities including Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts and other gifts of my estate.

My employer's Matching Gift Form is enclosed

#### Method of Payment

Check

Visa

MasterCard

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Exp. date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature



### The Arc of the South Shore

371 River St.  
N. Weymouth, MA 02191

Phone: 781-335-3023  
Fax: 781-335-3682



# Membership

## Arc of the South Shore Membership Join or Renew Now!!

Become a member of the Arc today and be an advocate for tomorrow.

As a member, you join us on a local level in support of more than 1,500 individuals and families served annually by the Arc of the South Shore. It also gives you automatic membership in the Arc of Massachusetts and the Arc of the U.S., providing statewide and national advocacy efforts on behalf of children and adults with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. One hundred percent of your dues will go towards making your voice heard on state and national levels and making sure those we serve are well protected.

Help us help others; your membership fee supports our actions and entitles you to member benefits including:

- ~Discounted – Group Auto, Home & Renters Insurance
- ~Discounted – Group Term Life Insurance & Major Medical Insurance
- ~Participation in Community Support Program activities and outings
- ~Reduced costs for selected special events
- ~Financial Planning Information & Assistance to families with children with special needs
- ~ MetDESK Division of MET Life
- ~Quarterly mailings of the Beacon newsletter
- ~Name listed in the Arc of the South Shore Annual Report



.....  
 Yes! I want to become a new member       I would like to renew my membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### I am a:

- \*Professional in the field of human services
- \*Corporate Supporter
- \*Parent/Relative\*
- \*Community Supporter
- \*If you are a parent or relative, please indicate the name of the participant \_\_\_\_\_ and birth date \_\_\_\_\_

### Type of Membership

- Membership \$25.00
- Business Membership \$100.00
- Associate Membership \$\_\_\_\_\_ (other)

Call 781-335-3023 or email: [info@arcsouthshore.org](mailto:info@arcsouthshore.org)

# Community Supports

As many Arc supporters are aware, Governor Deval Patrick's proposed budget for Fiscal year 2010 does not bode well for Human Service agencies. There will be budget cuts for most agencies and departments. Most damaging to Arc programs are cuts in line item "5911-2000, Community programs".

This line item holds the budget for Day/Employment services, Transportation, and Family Support/Respite. Where once Family support/Respite was its' own line item that is no longer the case. The Governors proposed budget would cut the Community Programs by \$45 million. In the words of Arc of Mass Executive Director, **Leo Sarkissan**, "The cut in this line item cannot be overstated. DMR has limited choices in dealing with the reduction. One option would be zoning out all Family support services..."

If Family Support were to be eliminated over 400 families on the South shore would lose services, including Case management and Respite. As far as the Community supports department goes, it means the elimination of the Saturday Children's respite, the Friday night Young adult respite, and the Companion Saturday day and night respite. It would also mean the loss of three families who receive Case management through Community Supports.

For those of you who utilize the respite programs and case management it is imperative that you voice your concerns about the potential demise of these programs. Please contact you local Representative and the Governor himself and let them know how important these programs are to you. In the past, when budget cuts seemed imminent, money has always been allocated and services restored. In today's economic climate, that may not be the case this time. Families with Special needs children spend most of their lives advocating for their child and it is very exhausting, sometimes disheartening. The Arc of the South Shore is asking ALL of our supporters to please take a few precious moments and advocate for Family Support. A brief note or phone call is better than none.

## 2009 Passion Plunge

Once again, the group from The Arc of the South Shore took home the prize for "Best Group Costume" at the Special Olympics MA Passion Plunge.



This year's event was held on a blustery cold Valentine's Day at Nantasket Beach.

Participants raise money for Special Olympics and the Arc of the South Shore training programs. After a refreshing dip in the Atlantic, participants, family and friends enjoyed festivities inside a heated tent where it was announced that they had won their prize!



### **Executive Director**

Daryl Ann Cook

### **Executive Vice President**

Anne Holton

### **The Arc of the South Shore Board of Directors**

#### **Officers**

Maria Traniello, President  
Jim Lawson, Vice President  
Maria Plante, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Theodore J. Skrypek, Treasurer  
Louise Voveris, Secretary/Clerk

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Brian Madden  
Marie Poulin\*  
Normand Racicot  
Graham Sida  
Marianne Towle  
Scott Towne

#### **Honorary Director**

Richard Frye

\*Self advocate

#### **Contact Us:**

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**Email:** [info@arcsouthshore.org](mailto:info@arcsouthshore.org)

**Web:** [www.arcsouthshore.org](http://www.arcsouthshore.org)

*22nd Annual Louis Barley Golf Outing  
June 15th, 2009  
12:00pm to 8:00pm  
South Shore Country Club  
Hingham, MA*



*57th Annual Dinner Dance  
April 17th, 2009  
6:00pm to 11:00pm  
Lantana Function Hall  
Randolph, MA*



**save the dates for**  
The Arc of the South Shore invites you to



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The Arc of the South Shore's mission is to provide the highest quality services and advocacy for children and adults with mental retardation and cognitive, physical or developmental disabilities.