

Spring 2011

Name Our Newsletter



You are warmly invited to our
52nd Anniversary Celebration

Wednesday, June 15

Taunton Inn and Conference Center

(formerly the Holiday Inn Taunton)

700 Myles Standish Blvd.
Taunton, MA

Cocktail Reception at 6:00 pm
Dinner and Awards at 6:30pm
FLAME Concert at 7:30pm

\$25 per person for members of
The Arc of Bristol County
\$40 per person for non-members
Please RSVP by June 6, 2011

It's Here! New Brand Identity for The Arc of Bristol County Arrives

The Arc of Bristol County is proud to unveil our new brand identity along with renewed energy and dedication to providing opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. You'll find a dynamic new logo on our publications, Web site, and buildings and along with it a comprehensive new brand identity which will serve to unite affiliated chapters across the county under the banner "Achieve With Us." It's at once an invitation and a command, as it represents our movement's determination to achieve even more in terms of participation, inclusion, acceptance and respect for people with I/DD in the years to come.

With the logo change, we have decided to become "The Arc of Bristol County," accurately describing our entire service area in Massachusetts. Our Rhode Island office will still be known as "proAbility" with the addition of "A division of The Arc of Bristol County."

In the logo's design, you'll see the energy and determination The Arc brings to supporting and embracing people with I/DD and their families across their lifetimes and across many diagnoses. You'll notice a bold color combination of orange

and yellow chosen specifically because it is unique in the realm of nonprofit organizations, and can be exclusively associated with The Arc much like a specific shade of pink is associated with breast cancer awareness or red with The American Red Cross. This identity was developed over the course of a year including in-depth research, professional brand consultants and a dedicated team of individuals (including an advisory group of chapter professionals) inside The Arc who understands our mission and goals.

With respect to our mission, the elements of the brand represent a strong, energetic organization working to provide opportunity

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New Logo and New Newsletter!

We felt it was time to change "Community Links" to something that reflects our dynamic new brand identity. Please help us! Send your ideas for a name for our newsletter to pkirby@arcnbc.org or drop off your ideas to any Arc office by July 1, 2011, winner will receive a prize!

Achieve with us.

Welcome



Dear Friends of The Arc,
Our staff and friends have been saddened in the past week by the passing of two gentlemen

who were helped by The Arc for decades: Clarence and Phil. They join the many others who we have lost and hold their memories dear as part of our history. Both elderly men had severe health concerns, yet had spirits that were always cheerful and caring for others. I am proud that they were part of the Arc family and know that their lives were enhanced from services received by our compassionate and dedicated staff.

The Arc is celebrating 52 years of serving people with disabilities and their families, helping them achieve

a better quality of life. We are the same organization who helped Clarence and Phil, the same who helps over 2,000 people annually. As you will notice in this newsletter, we are adopting a rebranding so our organizational identity will be the same as The Arc USA and hundreds of Arcs across the nation. Our goal is to help The Arc be an easily identified brand for families in need, potential employees and other supporters. With the recent merger, we now span across all of Bristol County, hence, our new name as The Arc of Bristol County. Our affiliates will continue to use their local identify as part of our network. They include: The Arc of Greater Fall River, The Advocacy Resource Center of New Bedford, and proAbility. To launch this campaign, we have launched a new website at www.arcnbc.org that we hope will allow users easier access to information about supports and services.

The national news lately is grim as politicians try to slash already lean

budgets to fund healthcare for the disabled and the elderly. The Arc is among many groups pleading for decision makers to reconsider these cuts and continue to provide for people with disabilities. How can you help? 1. By becoming a member of The Arc you add your voice to thousands of others as we appeal on these vital issues. 2. Let your senators and congressmen know that you wish them to vote for continued care for our safety net.

Our look may be changing but not the organization that works to help people with challenges to overcome them, and achieve all they can. We are here for you and those you support. Thank you for your faith in us as we continue our mission for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Michael Andrade
President & CEO

Attleboro Couple Open Hearts and Home to Special Needs Adult

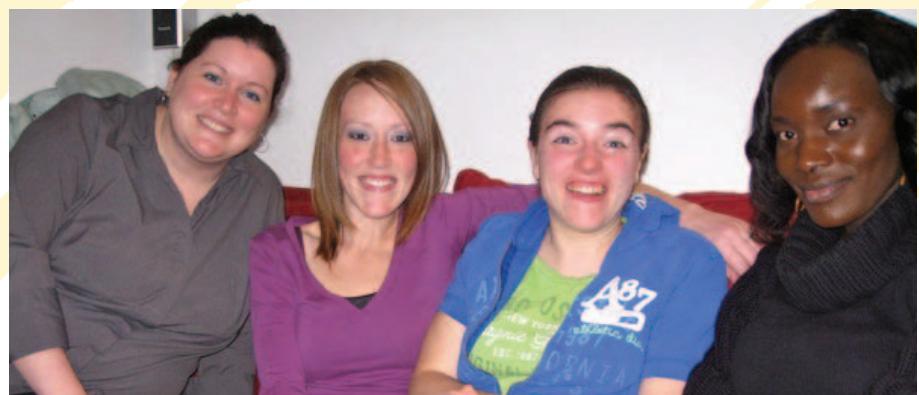
The joys of fostering an adult with special needs.

Reprinted with permission of AttleboroPatch by Melissa Reilly, Reporter

When Jean and Dan Thurber of Mansfield attended an information session on becoming foster parents, their daughter Kristen and her husband Robert Beaudry tagged along. The Beaudrys were interested in fostering, but it wasn't until they read about fostering an adult with special needs, that they became involved with the Arc of Bristol County's Adult Foster Care program in Attleboro.

The Arc's AFC program provides instruction and support for families willing to open their hearts and homes to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

AFC offers Massachusetts residents, who are eligible for MassHealth



and meet the state's eligibility criteria, an opportunity for a family-centered living experience. Program participants are aging and/or have a disability and require additional assistance with daily activities.

AFC also offers participants an opportunity to continue to live with their families and/or to live with an approved family. The goal is to help each participant to receive the assistance they need with personal care and activities of daily living so

they can remain as independent as possible.

Making the Match

Laney, an AFC candidate, was placed with the Beaudrys only after a process of interviews, spending time together and making the joint decision confirming a good match. All parties involved, including Laney, her parents/guardians, the Beaudrys and The Arc representative had to agree before the placement was made.

Finding Great Caregivers

Finding great caregivers is a huge priority for the Arc's AFC Coordinator Rebecca Barry, who presented at the Self-Sufficiency Coalition in Attleboro earlier this month. The purpose of the presentation was to speak with members of the Coalition about recruiting new caregivers for the AFC program.

The agency is always seeking compassionate and caring people to serve as caregivers. Barry manages a caseload of adult foster care participants. "Families participating in the AFC program have an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life while benefiting themselves from the relationship," she said.

Parents of adults with disabilities sometimes look for a new environment for their sons and daughters to enhance their growth and potential, according to Barry. "The parents themselves grow older and in some cases have difficulty caring for an adult who needs daily assistance," Barry said. "Similarly, this program is also for families who would like to keep their adult son or daughter at home rather than look into a residential placement elsewhere."

"An aging parent with physical needs and or intellectual ones may also be a good candidate for AFC," Barry added. "A family environment may be better than a nursing facility for this individual."

Although no special education background or prerequisite training is necessary in order to become an adult foster care provider, the Beaudrys had a great deal of combined experience working with special needs individuals in a variety of settings. Kristen Beaudry works with students with developmental disabilities at North Attleboro High School.

Compassion and Willingness

Barry stated that although the Beaudrys are certainly well qualified, an ideal caregiver only needs to have compassion for others and be willing to open their homes and lives to a person who needs daily assistance. They are responsible for ensuring a participant's human rights, safe guarding their well-being, providing daily assistance with skills, assisting as needed with medical and other appointments, providing support to ensure community access, participating in activities, and fostering positive relationships for the AFC participant.

"Our participants require different levels of support, supervision and assistance in activities of daily living," Barry said. "Therefore potential caregivers are screened carefully and provided with the appropriate education and training before any placements are made."

A caregiver's home environment must also meet certain standards. It must be in good repair, have a fire extinguisher and smoke and carbon detectors. The AFC program has been rewarding to the Beaudrys in many ways.

"Laney has taught me so much about patience, understanding and tolerance of others. I only hope I can teach her half of what she has taught me," said Kristen Beaudry.

If you are interested in Adult Foster Care in MA or Shared Living in RI, please contact John Neill at (508) 226-1445 ext. 3107 or jneill@arcnbc.org.

It's Here!

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for people with I/DD; opportunity for hope, opportunity for growth and opportunity for change.

We know a thing or two about change as we have been on the front lines of a movement that has ushered in dramatic changes in the law, in schools, in health care, in communities and often on a very personal level affecting families as well as individual's lives.

It's also an identity designed to communicate the collective power of a group of like-minded people who are embracing, determined and experienced in promoting and protecting the civil rights of as well as providing the services and support needed by people with I/DD and their families across the arc of their lifetimes and across many diagnoses from Down syndrome to autism and many more. In fact, The Arc is the nation's largest and leading organization for people with I/DD and their families with a 60 year history of fighting discrimination and providing people with I/DD the opportunity to live full, satisfying and self-determined lives as valued and contributing members of their communities.

As our brand becomes widely recognized and promoted on a national level, our local organization will benefit in terms of support from donors and volunteers and in the ease with which everyone will be able to identify with our mission. The new identity will take us forward as a movement and command the kind of respect and recognition on a national basis that our organization deserves. That respect and recognition, in turn, will allow us to continue to achieve our goals for people with I/DD. We invite you to Achieve With Us, today! Contact us to get more information about the new brand, the availability of new logos and artwork for those who work with us and how you can support us into the future.

Chamber Salutes Athena Award Winner Valerie Zagami

Reprinted with permission of *The Sun Chronicle*, JUDEE COSENTINO, reporter



Nearly 100 people attended the United Regional Chamber of Commerce's 12th annual Athena Award Ceremony and Luncheon at the Highland Country Club on Wednesday, March 30, 2011 where Norton resident Valerie Zagami received the award.

Since 2005, Zagami has been the chairwoman of the board of the Arc of Bristol County, a nonprofit organization providing support and services to individuals and families with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"She's a tremendous woman," said Jack Lank, the president of the United Regional Chamber of Commerce. "She's one of those quiet heroines that does her work in the background. She gives of herself and helps a lot of people."

The Athena Award, established in 1982, recognizes outstanding leaders who strive toward the highest level of professional excellence and community service, and generously assist women to reach their full leadership potential.

"I couldn't ask for a better person to work with," said Arc President Michael Andrade. "She goes out of her way to meet people, and she's

about not just being a leader, but part of a team."

Zagami was humbled to receive her award. "I really am amazed," she said. "It's very, very nice to be rewarded and acknowledged."

Zagami says volunteering was instilled in her by her grandmother, who volunteered her time at Pondville Hospital in Norfolk.

"On the way home, you felt so good about what you did," Zagami said. But the real reward lies in making a difference in people's lives, according to Zagami. "It's rewarding to know you're making someone's life better, ensuring that they're living life to the fullest and that their lives are free of stresses," she said.

In addition to her duties as the Arc's board chairwoman, Zagami has taught cooking classes, human rights classes, overseen social and sporting events as well as family support meetings. "It's a wonderful group of people to support and help," she said.

In her speech, Zagami thanked her friends and colleagues and quoted statements from Mother Theresa and Helen Keller as mottos that she lives by. "This is an amazing, amazing honor that I am very, very thrilled to be accepting," she said. "I did these things because they needed to be done."

Zagami also accepted citations of congratulations from the House of Representatives, as well as from U.S. Rep. James McGovern, D-Worcester, and state Sen. Richard Ross, R-Wrentham.

"When you work with people, you see their abilities, not their disabilities," said McGovern's spokeswoman Lisa Nelson.



The Arc
Greater Fall River

a division of The Arc of Bristol County

Spaghetti Dinner

Friday, June 3, 2011

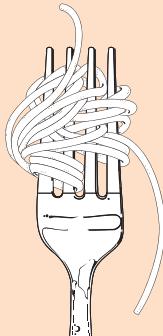
6:00-10:00 pm

The Elks

4500 North Main Street
Fall River, MA

\$10 per person
(Children 10 or under \$5)

Come enjoy Salad,
spaghetti, meatballs,
garlic bread and
dessert followed by
Karaoke!



Proceeds to benefit
The Arc of Greater Fall River

Tickets available at:
The Arc of Greater Fall River
405 Pleasant Street, Bld. 12
Fall River or call 508-679-0001

**Check out our
brand new
website at**

www.arcnbc.org

**Be sure to
sign up for our
email news.**

Middleboro Transition Program & Extended Day

The Arc of Bristol County is proud to announce the opening of our transition and extended day services in Middleboro, MA. This program is developed to encourage the active preparation of students with disabilities entering the adult world. As a participant in this program, students will have access to our top notch team of professionals to practice the skills that are proven to help youth excel as adults.

The Arc of Bristol County's transition program is developed with the mission to ensure that all students have access to affordable, quality out-of-school programs in their community. According to our

research, out-of-school programs are critical to children and families today, yet the need for programs is far from being met.

The Arc of Bristol County understands that parents need a safe, affordable, quality transition program to support the extended day needs of their youth. We designed this program especially to pick up where the school day leaves off. We offer students with a unique opportunity to receive the supports, experiences, and skills they require to become successful adults.

To participate in this innovative program you must be over 18



years of age, interested in services from 3-6 pm, and able to secure funding from your referral source. Registration is limited: For more information, please contact Matt Vaillancourt (508) 947-1393 or mvaillancourt@arcnbc.org.

The Arc's Acquired Brain Injury Services

The Arc of Bristol County was approved in November 2010 to provide services to adults with acquired brain injuries. What is an acquired brain injury? The waiver defines it as: all forms of brain injuries that occur after attaining the age of 22, including, without limitation, brain injuries caused by external force, which are often referred to as "traumatic brain injuries" (TBI). ABI does not include Alzheimer's disease and similar neuro-degenerative diseases whose primary manifestation is dementia.

The purpose of the waiver program is to move participants out of nursing homes or chronic or rehabilitation hospitals and back out into the community. There are two types of waiver programs. The Arc has been approved to provide services for participants to move out of the nursing homes and into their own home/apartment or to the home of a family member or someone else. Some of the services that The Arc will be providing to participants once they move to their own home/apartment include:

Homemaker: to help with light

household duties (cooking, cleaning, laundry, and shopping) for the purpose of maintaining a household.

Personal Care: provide assistance that is appropriate and necessary for the participant's health and well-being to enable the participant to accomplish fundamental activities of daily living, including but not limited to, eating, toileting, dressing, bathing, transferring and ambulation.

Adult Companion: Non-medical care, supervision and socialization services provided to a participant. The companion may also assist with light household tasks as meal preparation, laundry and shopping.

Chore Services: includes heavy household chores such as washing the floors, windows, and walls; tacking down loose rugs and tiles; and moving heavy items of furniture in order to provide safe access and egress.

Individual Support and Community Habilitation: Regular services designed to develop, maintain and/or maximize

the participant's independent functioning in self-care, physical, and emotional growth, socialization, communication and vocational skills to achieve objectives of improved health and welfare and to support the ability of the participant to establish and maintain a residence and live in the community.

For more information, or if you know of someone who may qualify for the program through the waiver, please contact Lesley Azzinaro at 508-884-2971 or lazzinaro@arcnbc.org.

**Join The Arc on
our 2011 Trip**

**October 20-23 in
Washington D.C.**

Deposits needed soon!
Contact Terry Braun at
508-679-0001
[or tbraun@arcnbc.org](mailto:tbraun@arcnbc.org)
for more details.

National Inclusion Project Supports Project Kids Connect

The National Inclusion Project has partnered with The Arc of Bristol County to implement Let's ALL Play—Inclusion in Recreational Programs. The partnership will allow children with developmental disabilities to enjoy a successful recreational experience in an inclusive setting. As part of this initiative, the National Inclusion Project will provide a program model, training, expertise, and an award of \$8,000.

The National Inclusion Project has been actively developing its Let's ALL Play Program since the program's inception in 2004. In 2011, the Project is partnering with 55 recreational programs in 27 states. Teaming with The Arc of Bristol County is another exciting step toward their goal of full inclusion. "We feel that working with The Arc of Bristol County will help us further our mission to open doors in communities nationwide for children with disabilities to experience everything life has to offer," says Jerry Aiken, Executive Director.

Let's ALL Play helps bring an inclusive recreational experience to children with disabilities. It gives children with developmental disabilities the same experience as those without. Children with disabilities and their peers who are typically developing come together to participate in recreational activities such as swimming, arts and crafts, community service, physical fitness and more.

Project Kids Connect Corner



Coming Events

Art Classes

The next session which will feature Kaleidoscopes, is taking place now. This is to be held at the Middleboro Arc Day Habilitation site. Melissa Morrison will be the instructor.

Summer Vacation Club

PKC will be hosting activities during school vacation this summer. We will be exploring state and local parks in our area. Join us for adventures in the forest and at the beach. Related activities are planned for each destination. Day trips will depart from The Arc in Attleboro.

Watch for dates to be announced soon!

Sports Program

PKC recently wrapped up a skill building T-ball program. There were 15 participants including mentor children. This included kids 4 - 10 years old and was held at the Merrill school in Raynham. Some families are planning to move on to participate in their own community leagues.

Family Fun Day

The Arc's Family Support program hosted FFD on February 27th, 2011. This was held the Newman Y in Seekonk. Over forty people of all ages and abilities attended. The Y opened their facilities up for our exploration and enjoyment. Many enjoyed some time in the pool swimming. While others

enjoyed what the gymnasium had to offer. There was something fun for everyone! There was free play in the gym and all had opportunity to use a jumpy, a parachute, basketballs, hula hoops as well as other sport offerings of their choice. Families also enjoyed a healthy snack. We had some assistance from the Seekonk Boy Scout Troop, who supported all in having fun!!!!!!

On going ways we support inclusion within our communities

- Ability Awareness training is available please call to schedule a presentation for your school, organization or group
- Distribution and Presentation of the book My Friend Mikayla to elementary school libraries and students in our service area
- Volunteer/Mentor opportunities offered and available

For more information on these and other activities contact Sandy Boyer at 508-226-1445 or 1-888-343-3301. Ext. 3123

28th Annual State Representative Cup

to benefit the Advocacy Resource Center of Greater New Bedford

 **The Arc**
Greater New Bedford
a division of The Arc of Bristol County

Monday, June 13, 2011
12:00 noon Shotgun
Country Club of New Bedford
North Dartmouth, MA

Please call Lisa Furtado at 508.996.8551 for more information.



News from The Arc of Greater New Bedford

We have also been working toward the opening of the New Bedford Area Resource Center. Thanks to start up funds provided by the Bristol County Savings Bank, we have purchased equipment and furnishings, rented space at the Inter-Church Council at 412 County St in New Bedford and are now busy putting the final touches on the program design. The Resource Center will follow the successful model of the Taunton

and Fall River Resource Centers and offer educational, social and life enrichment activities to teens and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities from the greater New Bedford area. Community trips, life skills training, computer classes, a dinner and a movie night as well as games and Wii championships are just some of the opportunities to be offered. Contact us at (508) 996-8551 for more information.

proAbility's Adult Shared Living Program *Enhancing Lives.....Making a Difference!*



proAbility would like to highlight our Shared Living Program for the individualized opportunities it provides to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our Shared Living Program is built on the caring and compassionate supports that our providers extend to those individuals that they invite to live in their home and share a family environment with.

proAbility offers individuals opportunities to live in the community with a host family. These arrangements offer the person an opportunity to live in a family setting with supports provided by the family or person who has become the Shared Living provider. The Shared Living Provider offers shelter and care to the individual residing in their home. Together they share a home as the individual grows in the areas that are deemed important to the individual's personal health and growth.

proAbility Staff work closely with the Individual and the Shared Living Provider assisting both as needs arise and provide resources and support on an ongoing basis.

proAbility is proud of the difference that all of our programs make in the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are excited and pleased that our Shared Living Program continues to grow and most importantly continues to enhance the lives of individuals we provide services to.

As one individual who resides with one of our Shared Living Providers stated: "This is my home." I really care about everyone that I live with; they care about me too."

Those interested in Shared Living Arrangements, as either a recipient of the service or those who may be interested in becoming a Shared Living Provider, are encouraged to contact proAbility for more information.

For more information about any of proAbility's Services, contact Darlene James, Director of Services at (401) 233-1634 ext. 12.



Susan Lachapelle

Employee of the Quarter

Since her hire in the summer of 2010, Susan Lachapelle has not only learned her assigned duties with ease, but strives to assist every program within the agency with an eagerness to learn something new every day. Her reliability and willingness to grasp new challenges is commendable.

Sue has been instrumental in the reorganization of several data bases and her skills have helped this agency become more proficient for quality assurance maintenance. She has assisted with every program provided by our agency. Whether it be an order of supplies, information about an upcoming event, program meetings, completing an agency application, navigating through a current dilemma, or simply getting a hot cup of coffee, Sue is certain to practice a prompt response.

Sue's appearance and demeanor are utmost in professionalism while her rapport with the individuals and families supported by The Arc is overwhelmingly compassionate. Her commitment in providing genuine respect and quality service is obvious when witnessing her interactions. Every guest and staff member walking through the Administrative Office is met with a positive attitude and a smile.

Her commitment embodies the core values of The Arc that include: People First, Democracy, Visionary Leadership, Community Partnerships, Diversity, Integrity and Excellence.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

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Attleboro, MA 02703
Tel: (508) 226-1445 • Fax: (508) 226-1476
Toll Free: (888) 343-3301
Web: www.arcnbc.org

THE ARC OF GREATER FALL RIVER

405 Pleasant Street, Bld. #12, P.O. Box 1943
Fall River, MA 02722
Tel: (508) 679-0001 • Fax: (508) 679-9375

DAY HABILITATION SERVICES

205 West Grove Street
Middleboro, MA 02346
Tel: (508) 946-2121 • Fax: (508) 946-2195

**THE ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER OF
GREATER NEW BEDFORD**

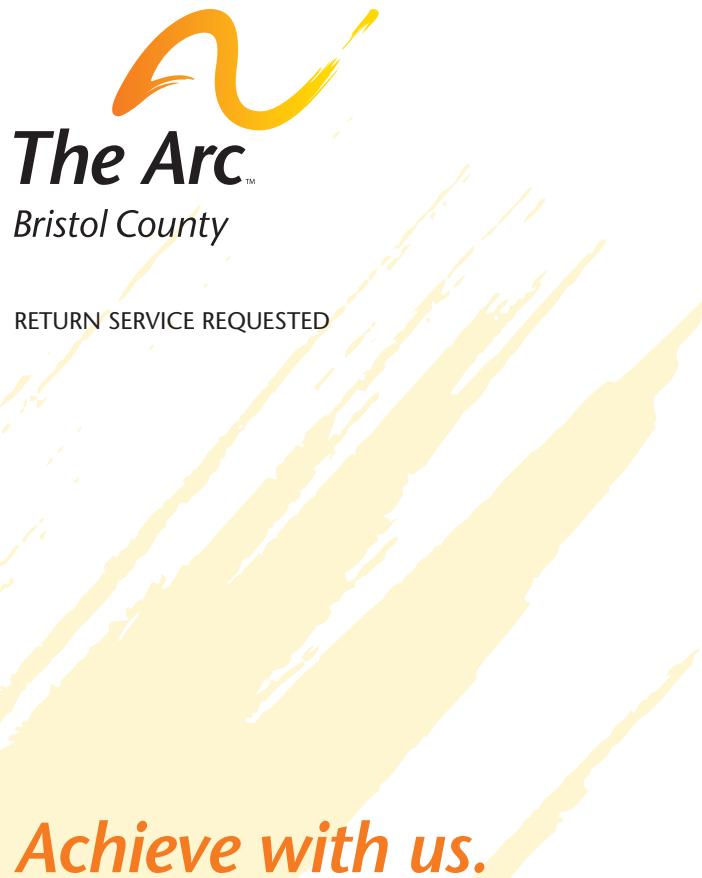
412 B County Street
New Bedford, MA 02740
Tel: (508) 996-8551 • Fax: (508) 996-8553

PROABILITY

333 George Washington Hwy.
Smithfield, RI 02917
Tel: (401) 233-1634 • Fax: (401) 233-1674

TAUNTON AREA RESOURCE CENTER

437 Bay Street
Taunton, MA 02780
Tel: (508) 884-2971 • Fax: (508) 884-2964



Thank You to the Share Foundation at Umass Dartmouth

By: Barry Bushika, Michael Cleary, Noel Levasseur, Matt Miller, Charles Turnesa, Joe Andrade and Phillip Riley with support from Keith Little

The staff and clients at The Arc of Northern Bristol County Day Hab in Middleboro owe a debt of gratitude to the fine gentlemen of the Share Foundation of at UMass Dartmouth. Thanks to them, the sounds of clicking mouses and internet music are once again alive in our building. These kind individuals were able to restore our older computers back into a perfectly functioning state.

"It's good to have them back..." says Noel "now it's much easier to hear about what's going in the world. I also got to work on my classic country power point presentation." Noel is very proud of this project. He looks forward to showing to everyone here.

He is far from being alone in this feeling joy. We have a sign-in sheet for computer usage that gets filled on a daily basis. Aside from the news and Powerpoint, the clients here use the computers to listen to all kinds of music, watch Youtube videos, play games, and write papers. The computers are one of our most valuable resources, from education to entertainment.

Joe, another client here, is still learning how to use the computer. "I like watching the Home Fix-it-yourself videos."

Phillip has a grocery list of personal interests. He uses the computers for everything from pictures to movies, wrestling and so on. "I'm happy the pictures were fixed. They are fun."

It should also be noted that the computers are extremely useful for staff. We do computer classes here multiple times a week. The clients learn at their own pace, but gradually they are becoming more and more computer literate. It's a very important skill to have.

The gentlemen at UMass Dartmouth have shown us a unique kindness. They took time out of their busy schedules to do us a special favor. We should also mention this favor was completely free of charge. They accepted no money. We are offering them everlasting gratitude. Our hope is to one day repay the favor, somehow. Once again...we are most thankful!!!