

# Harc Family

STAFF AND FAMILY E-NEWSLETTER

## What's New In October?

### A message from our President & CEO Russell Coleman



This October, we join the nation in recognizing National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), celebrating the contributions of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in the workplace. At Harc, we believe employment is more than just a job. It is about creating a sense of purpose, dignity, and belonging.

For the people we support, meaningful work allows them to contribute to their communities and to be seen for their abilities. Harc is dedicated to helping individuals with I/DD find fulfilling work through various employment opportunities like SockStarz, Artisan Studio, and Morning Brew. We are also collaborating with Futures, another nonprofit, on a grant to develop additional microbusiness-related job opportunities.

This idea of purpose, dignity, and belonging goes beyond people with I/DD. It applies to all of us. Inclusive work environments where people of all abilities are welcomed build stronger communities where everyone is uplifted. Together, we can create a culture where everyone knows they have a place and a role to play.

This month, let us take time as staff and families to consider how we can foster a sense of belonging in everything we do, whether in our daily interactions, work, or communities. Is there a place for our individuals at your company? Are there tasks in your department that you think one of our individuals would enjoy doing? Is your loved one interested in being an entrepreneur? Do you have an idea that could create more job opportunities for Harc program participants? When we embrace each person's unique strengths and contributions, we build a more inclusive, connected, and stronger community.

## Harc's Annual Meeting 2024: A Celebration of Resilience and Progress

Harc's Annual Meeting 2024 was not just an event; it was a powerful celebration of a year marked by resilience, growth, and impactful progress. This year, we gathered to honor our achievements and to reflect on how far we've come in our mission to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

### A Year of Growth

Over the past fiscal year, Harc has strengthened its programs, deepened its partnerships, and increased its impact on the lives of those we serve. Each department—

Human Resources, Day Program, Birth to Three, Residential, and Philanthropy—shared highlights that showcased our collective efforts and successes. It was inspiring to see how our work has resonated within the community and contributed to a brighter future for our individuals.

### Honoring Our Leaders

As part of the evening's festivities, we took a moment to express our gratitude to both current and outgoing board members. Their leadership and dedication have been instrumental in guiding Harc through challenges and triumphs alike. We also welcomed new board members, bringing fresh perspectives and enthusiasm to our mission.



### Awards and Recognition

The night continued with an awards ceremony that celebrated exceptional contributions across various areas. We presented awards for leadership, volunteerism, and corporate support, recognizing the outstanding efforts of staff, volunteers, and key community members. Each recipient's commitment exemplified the spirit of Harc, illustrating how collective efforts can make a profound difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities.

### Looking Ahead: The 2024-2029 Strategic Plan

The future of Harc is indeed bright, underscored by our newly unveiled 2024-2029 Strategic Plan. Our President and CEO shared an engaging presentation, outlining the vision and goals that will guide us over the next five years. As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to reach their fullest potential.

### Thank You for Being Part of Our Journey

As we concluded the evening, we expressed our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has been part of Harc's journey. Your support, whether through time, resources, or advocacy, has been vital in helping us achieve our goals. Together, we will continue to make strides toward a more inclusive and supportive community for all.

Harc's Annual Meeting 2024 was a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish when we work together with purpose and passion. Thank you for being part of this journey as we look forward to a future filled with hope, growth, and empowerment.

[View Harc's Strategic Plan \(Mini Version\)](#)

[View Harc's 2024 Impact Report](#)

## Celebrating Disability Employment Month: Rosa Rodriguez's Journey of Empowerment

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and we are excited to share Rosa Rodriguez's inspiring story, which highlights the difference we can make.

"I am now living my best life," Rosa said, reflecting on her path from being a dedicated stay-at-home mom to becoming a lunch aide at Classical Magnet School. Before joining Harc, Rosa faced challenges in her job search, struggling to find opportunities that matched her skills and passions. Now, she loves serving meals to children, bringing joy and smiles to their lunchtimes.

Rosa's supervisor can't say enough about her positive attitude, dedication, and infectious smile, calling her a fantastic addition to the team. Her story is a powerful example of how the right support and opportunities can transform lives.

As we celebrate National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Rosa's journey reminds us of the importance of workplace inclusivity. Let's continue advocating for opportunities that empower individuals with disabilities to thrive and make meaningful contributions to their communities.

Check out the video below to hear Rosa talk about living her best life with Harc.

# The Rosa Rodriguez Story

*"Living My Best Life"*



## Artisan Studio Fall Findings



# Fall

ARTISAN  
STUDIO



[www.sockstarzusa.com](http://www.sockstarzusa.com)

Autumn leaves and pumpkins, please! Our crafty Harc Artisans are busy creating some of your fall favorites, including Halloween-themed mugs, Oktoberfest beer mugs, and autumn-scented candles. Shop online at [sockstarzusa.com](http://sockstarzusa.com) or visit us in person at, 900 Asylum Ave at Harc to purchase all things fall!

Shop Now

## SockStarz Subscription Box

**Mystery sock subscription service!**

**\*\$13.99 per month with free shipping**

Don't forget to get your Mystery Sock Subscription box! For only \$13.99 you will get an awesome sock from our collection; this price includes free shipping. Hand picked by our Harc SockStarz employees, and specially packaged for you and your loved ones!

Get Your Monthly Box Today!

## A Lasting Legacy: New Recliners Brighten Our Life Enrichment Program





Picture of Paul Klausen



We are deeply grateful for the generous gift of new recliners for our Life Enrichment Program. This wonderful addition will enhance the comfort and joy of our participants, helping them engage even more in the activities they love.

As we celebrate this exciting improvement, we also take a moment to remember Paul Klausen, a beloved member of our Life Enrichment Program whose spirit brightened every day. Paul's laughter, kindness, and energy touched everyone who knew him. In an incredible act of generosity, Paul's family included Harc in their estate planning, making it possible for us to acquire these recliners.

Paul's legacy of warmth and joy lives on through this gift, and we are honored to carry forward his memory in the work we do. These recliners will be a constant reminder of the lasting impact he had on our community, and we'll continue to honor him by enriching the lives of others.



## Celebrating Community Connections: Highlights from the 'What's In Your Neighborhood' Event





Franny with Classical Magnet School Band at "What In Your Neighborhood" event

### Celebrating Community Connections: Highlights from the 'What's In Your Neighborhood' Event"

On September 28th, the "What's In Your Neighborhood" event took place bringing together community members in a vibrant celebration of local offerings. The atmosphere buzzed with excitement as attendees strolled along the sidewalks, stopping by Harc to discover the diverse programs and services available to them—truly something for everyone!

Families enjoyed engaging games, creative crafts, and lively music from the Classical Magnet School, all contributing to the festive ambiance. This event was not just a showcase of local resources; it fostered a strong sense of community spirit and connection. Residents came together to share experiences and explore all that their neighborhood has to offer. Here's to many more days like this, where community bonds are strengthened and local resources are celebrated!

Additionally, Harc was part of the Opportunities Fair at the Classical Magnet School, providing valuable resources such as headshots, resume writing assistance, and other job-related services. Harc was present to share information about our employment opportunities, with this part of the event generously sponsored by the Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association.





## Harc's 35th Annual Auction & Gala!



CELEBRATING THE JOY & THE POWER OF MUSIC

[Buy Tickets Here!](#)

FEATURING SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY THE BAND

# Authority



# AUTHORITY

AROUND TOWN  
LIVE MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT



Join Us for Harc's 2024 Auction & Gala!

Get ready for an unforgettable evening at Harc's 2024 Auction & Gala, themed "Let the Good Times Roll!" Guests are invited to don their finest **cocktail attire** for a night filled with excitement and memorable moments. Enjoy live entertainment from the band Authority, exciting silent and live auctions, delicious food and cocktails, and a special performance by the talented cast of **Harc's Beyond the Stage!**

We are thrilled to announce that **NFP** will serve as the chair for this year's event! As a leading provider of benefits, insurance, and wealth management services, NFP is also one of Harc's trusted health insurance brokers. We look forward to their leadership and support in making this Gala a resounding success!

We are equally excited to welcome back **Keith McGilvery**, Emmy-nominated Fox 61 Morning Anchor, as our Emcee for the evening. Keith has been a cherished part of many Harc events, including our annual Walk N' Roll and Harc's Life Enrichment Program's Prom. Having served as the Emcee for our 2023 Gala, we are delighted to have him return for another exceptional evening!

To purchase tickets, simply click the button below. For more information about tickets, sponsorship opportunities, or placing an ad in our program journal, please contact **Eloise Mongillo** at [emongillo@harc-ct.org](mailto:emongillo@harc-ct.org) or call 860-218-6048.

## Introducing Our Emcee & Auctioneer

# Keith McGilvery



## Are You Enjoying Bonusly?



We think you are amazing and we want to recognize you for the meaningful contributions you are making to Harc every day.

With Bonusly, everyone can publicly recognize anyone else by giving small bonuses that add up to meaningful rewards. Each month you will receive an allowance of "Harc points." You can use that allowance to give your teammates small bonuses to celebrate success in real time. We think you will love giving recognition that is candid, social, and expressive!

As you earn bonuses, you can redeem your points for gift cards to major retailers, donations to charities, and more! If you are not signed up, or have any questions, ask your direct supervisor or manager.

Happy bonusing!

[Access Bonusly Here](#)



# Upcoming Events



## SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 9, 2024 Auction and Gala  
Saturday, May 10, 2025 Walk N' Roll

Donate

