

Harc Family

STAFF AND FAMILY E-NEWSLETTER

What's New In November?

A message from our President & CEO Russell Coleman



As the leaves fall and the holiday season begins, we are reminded of how much we have to be thankful for. Thanksgiving is a time to gather with loved ones, reflect on the moments that matter, and appreciate the people who make a difference in our lives.

At Harc, our mission is to provide support for a lifetime to individuals with intellectual and related disabilities and their families so they may enjoy lives of quality, inclusion, and dignity. This mission is brought to life each day by our staff and families, who work to ensure that every person we support has meaningful opportunities and feels valued.

To our staff, thank you for the dedication and care you bring to your work every day. Whether you are helping someone toward greater independence, providing a moment of encouragement, or simply ensuring they have a meaningful day, your efforts make a lasting impact.

To our families, we are deeply grateful for your trust and partnership. Your involvement strengthens our shared mission and helps ensure that your loved ones feel valued and included.

As we enter this season of gratitude, let's continue to work together to create a community where everyone feels supported and appreciated. Harc is stronger because of you, and together we are making a difference.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Russell

Harc's 35th Annual Auction & Gala was a remarkable evening that not only celebrated the spirit of community but also raised an incredible \$160,000 to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This stunning achievement will directly help fund Harc's vital programs and services, empowering those who rely on the organization for support and opportunities.

An Evening of Elegance and Energy

Set in a breathtaking venue that exuded elegance, the gala was a vibrant blend of high energy and heartfelt generosity. The night kicked off with guests mingling over signature cocktails and savoring a delectable array of hors d'oeuvres and a gourmet dinner. The air was electric, and the excitement only intensified as the evening unfolded.

The talented Authority Band set the tone with their lively performance, keeping guests on their feet with upbeat music that filled the space. From the moment the first notes played, it was clear that this would be a night to remember, and the energy never waned as the crowd enjoyed the entertainment and each other's company.

The Auction: A Thrilling Success

As always, the Live, Luxury, and Silent Auctions were the heart of the evening. The silent auction offered guests the chance to bid on an array of exclusive items, while the live auction brought out the competitive spirit with its selection of once-in-a-lifetime experiences and luxury offerings. From private getaways to fine art and premium items, the auction provided something for everyone.

Guiding the auction was the charismatic Keith McGilvery, auctioneer and Fox 61 anchor, whose expert handling of the auction kept the energy high and the bids flowing. Alongside him was Erika Arias, whose enthusiasm and rapport with the crowd were infectious. Together, they helped transform the auction into a thrilling experience, with bidders eagerly raising their paddles to support Harc's important work.

Beyond the Stage: A Special Performance

The night's entertainment continued with an unforgettable performance by Harc's Beyond the Stage program. Jordan, Karlos, and Franny—three talented individuals supported by Harc—took the stage with a spirited rendition of Michael Jackson's "Smooth Criminal". The audience was captivated by their energy and creativity as they brought the song to life in a fun, interactive way. In a dramatic twist, Jordan, as the villainous "Ms. Moneybags," attempted to undo the good work of Harc. However, Franny and Karlos quickly turned the tide with an inspiring performance of "Beat It," which had the crowd on their feet, clapping and dancing along in support.

The performance was a powerful reminder of the talent, determination, and joy that Harc fosters in individuals with disabilities. The crowd's enthusiasm was palpable, reflecting the heart of the night—unity, celebration, and empowerment.

Franny's Story: A Powerful Message of Perseverance

A particularly moving moment came with the screening of a video that highlighted the story of Franny, a remarkable individual who attends Harc. The video shared Franny's inspiring journey, showcasing her resilience and determination despite the challenges posed by her disability. Carolyn, Franny's job coach at Harc, spoke tenderly about Franny's journey, saying, "Franny is no different in my eyes. She just has a disability, and sometimes struggles to show people that she's capable. But she's always proving herself."

The video brought many in the audience to tears, and when Franny and Carolyn took the dance floor together at the end, the crowd gave them a heartfelt standing ovation. It was a moment of pure emotion, and a true testament to the impact of Harc's programs.





Acknowledging the Generosity Behind the Success

The success of the 35th Annual Auction & Gala would not have been possible without the generosity of our donors, volunteers, and emcees. Keith McGilvery and Erika Arias were instrumental in keeping the crowd engaged and enthusiastic, ensuring that the night was not only fun but also impactful. Their expertise and warmth helped elevate the event, making it a celebration of both community and giving.

A heartfelt thank you is also owed to everyone who attended the gala. Your support extends far beyond an enjoyable evening out—it has made a tangible difference in the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The funds raised will go directly toward sustaining and expanding the essential services that Harc provides, ensuring that more individuals like Franny have access to the resources they need to thrive.

Looking Ahead: A Bright Future for Harc

As we reflect on the success of the 35th Annual Auction & Gala, we are filled with gratitude and optimism for the future. Your generosity enables Harc to continue its mission, fostering a more inclusive world where all individuals, regardless of their abilities, can reach their full potential.

Thank you to everyone who made this year's event truly unforgettable. Your contributions have not only helped make a difference this year but have also paved the way for even greater success in the future. Here's to continuing the work that strengthens our community and empowers individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Together, we're creating a brighter, more inclusive world—one bid, one donation, and one story at a time.

Harc's New Website Launch Featuring Franny's Inspiring Journey



As part of our ongoing efforts to empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, we are excited to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website! The updated site makes it easier to explore the programs we offer, learn about the impact we're making in the community, and get involved in our mission.

We invite you to visit our fresh, user-friendly platform and discover all the exciting features, including Franny's inspiring story. At Harc, we are proud to support individuals who demonstrate remarkable resilience and determination in the face of challenges. One such individual is Franny, a 25-year-old participant in our Day Program, who has shown incredible strength in overcoming the obstacles posed by her disability. Franny's journey is a powerful reminder of the strength within each person when given the right resources and encouragement. Her story showcases the importance of perseverance, hard work, and a strong support network.

You can watch the video and read more about her journey by clicking on "[Franny's Story](#)" on our new website.

Thank you for your continued support of Harc as we work to create a more inclusive world where individuals like Franny can thrive. Visit us at harc-ct.org and let us know what you think of our new site!

[Visit Our New Website](#)

Volunteering to Make a Difference in the Community With CHRA

At Harc, we are proud of our individuals who continue to volunteer their time and efforts to help those in need. One of the most impactful ways they give back is through their partnership with the Connecticut Harm Reduction Alliance (CHRA).

Our individuals work alongside a skilled trainer from CHRA to create harm reduction kits that are distributed throughout the community. These kits contain essential items that help individuals who are at risk of substance use or experiencing homelessness, providing them with the tools and support they need to stay safe and healthy. From clean needles to naloxone, the kits offer life-saving resources that can make all the difference in critical moments.

By actively participating in this initiative, our individuals are not only making a direct impact but also learning valuable skills in community service, harm reduction strategies, and public health. Their involvement exemplifies the power of compassion and collaboration in building a healthier, more supportive community for everyone.

As the kits go back out into the community, it's a testament to the dedication and hard work of Harc individuals, who are proud to be part of this important effort to help those in need.



Sockstarz and Harc's Artisan Studio: Black Friday and GivingTuesday Sale

SOCKSTARZ

Black Friday & GivingTuesday Sale!

Upcoming Sale

Get **25% OFF**

November 29th through *Your Entire Purchase



The season of savings is almost here! Black Friday is around the corner, and so is GivingTuesday. From November 29th through December 3rd, Sockstarz is offering 25% off your entire purchase – a perfect opportunity to get a head start on your holiday shopping! Whether you're looking for cozy, festive socks, candles, jewelry or unique holiday cards from our talented artisans, we've got you covered. And this year, you can make your gifts even more special by giving back while you shop!

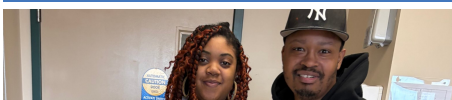
Shop

SockStarz Subscription Box

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!

Meet Our Employment Services Manager: A Journey of Passion, Growth, and Dedication at Harc



Khelley Simpkins

When did you start with Harc? I started in August 2023



Khelley and Chris

How has it been going so far? Working here has been great! It's definitely a great place is you are passionate about social services, caring for others, and looking for a place to elevate

What were you doing before coming to Harc? Before Harc, I was working from home full-time for a mortgage servicing company and doing Homecare part-time.

What attracted you to our mission? Partly, my dad because he's been here for 5 years now, and he encouraged me to apply. I used to work at a daycare where I worked with different age groups and kids who were on different levels of the autistic spectrum. I enjoyed working with them because I saw firsthand how some teachers looked at them as problem children instead of trying to learn from each of them as individuals to interact with/ teach them at their level of need. So, I figured, why not give it a shot with adults with intellectual disabilities and now I know that I love it here.

What are you most looking forward to? I am really looking forward to all individuals being cared for and interacted with by staff based on their individual needs, interests, and wants.

What is your favorite part of your day? My favorite part is when I actually finish my work for the day and can leave my office to actually interact with the individuals and staff.

What are the biggest projects currently on your plate? The biggest project I am currently dealing with right now is really just learning the ins and outs of my new position as an Employment Services Manager

Of what contribution or achievement are you most proud? I am most proud of accomplishing my goal of elevating within Harc and taking on my new position as an Employment Services Manager, because I know that once I get the whole job down to a science, it'll be easier for me to assist with making changes that'll make Harc better for staff, individuals, and families.

What are some fun facts about you? Some fun facts about me are that I am a mom of two beautiful girls I enjoy being creative. I am a visual/ hands-on-learner. I also give hugs daily, because I like to spread love and positivity.



Khelley and Jessica



Khelley and Angel

What do you do in your spare time? During my spare time I hang out with my kids, my family, try to keep up with my self-love/self-care, and I do hair (braids) as a side job.

What is your communication and learning style? My communication style is definitely assertive because I respect direct, clear, and honest dialogue. I like to understand other's thoughts and perspectives without belittling them and I look for that in return. My learning style is more visualization because I must see something done a couple of times and do it myself a few times, to feel like I have mastered something.

GivingTuesday Is December 3rd!



GIVINGTUESDAY

"Being part of this global movement reminded me of the power of community. Never underestimate how small acts of kindness can create big change!"

Charlie A., GivingTuesday volunteer



On December 3, 2024, we invite you to participate in Giving Tuesday, a global day dedicated to generosity and community spirit. This year, let's come together to make a meaningful impact in the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

As a valued member of the Harc community, your support is essential to our mission. Your contributions empower us to provide vital programs, including our Day and Employment Programs, which offer personalized support and resources that enable individuals to thrive in their communities.

Every donation, no matter the size, has the power to create lasting change. Whether it's helping someone secure meaningful employment, engage in enriching activities, or access essential services, your generosity makes a difference.

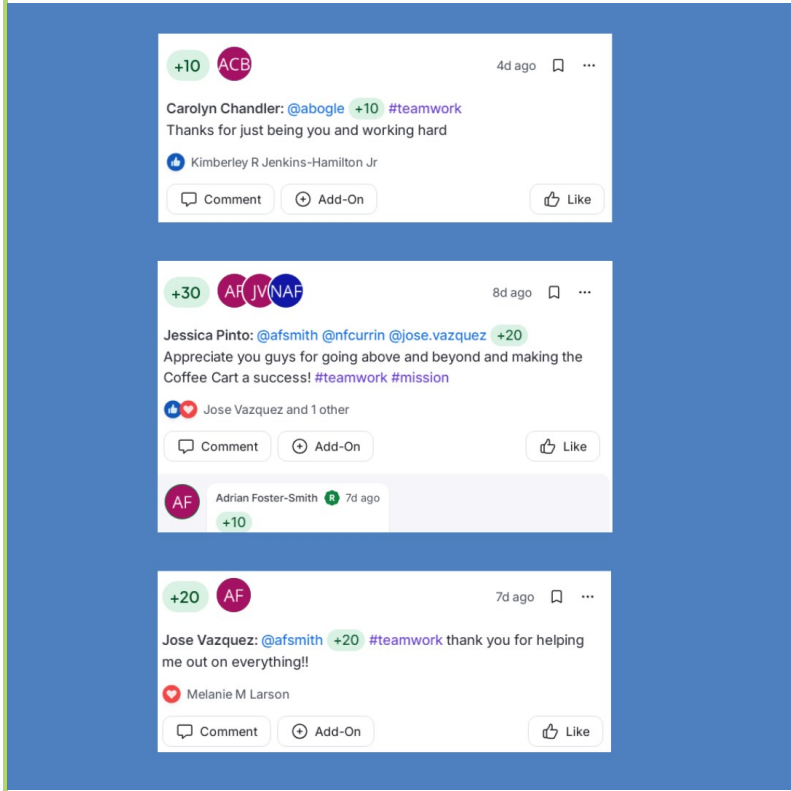
Help us spread the word about Giving Tuesday and inspire your friends and family to join in. Together, we can strengthen our community and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

To make your gift, please [visit our website](#) or contact Eloise Mongillo at emongillo@harc-ct.org or 860-218-6048.

Thank you for your continued support and for being an invaluable part of the Harc family! Stay tuned for more information as we approach this exciting day of giving!

Give Today

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

Friday, February 14, 2025 Have A Harc Day
Saturday, May 10, 2025 Walk N' Roll

Donate

