

Spring 2024

# HarcToday

Changing Lives, Changing Minds



You've seen the resilience in the individuals and families we support and heard their stories. They are nothing short of extraordinary. They represent strength, inspiring us every day to strive for a world where inclusion and dignity are paramount. At Harc, we are privileged to stand alongside them, providing the essential support that enables them to lead lives of meaning and fulfillment.

But let's not forget the vital role that YOU play in our mission. You're the driving force behind our efforts, the linchpin that turns dreams into reality. Your steady support fuels our determination, empowering us to think big and push boundaries, all while making a significant difference in the lives of those we serve.

As we celebrate Developmental Disability and Autism Awareness this Spring, Harc wants to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our supporters – from the dedicated volunteers to the generous donors, from the compassionate companies to the inclusive work sites. Your steadfast support propels us forward as we strive to create a more inclusive society for all.

And to everyone who has shared our message and advocated for our cause, thank you for helping us raise awareness and build a more inclusive society.

Every act of kindness, no matter how small, contributes to our collective efforts to make a difference. Your support is what makes what we do imaginable and allows us to think broader, dream bigger, and challenge ourselves while changing lives and changing minds.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Harc family.

Russell Coleman  
CEO & President

## EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Harc's Employment Services is in need of more job sites. Employment provides opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities to be a part of their local community. With your help, you can make this possible

### Benefits To Employers

- ✓ New Job Opportunities
- ✓ Gain Skilled Employees
- ✓ Tax Benefits

#### CONTACT:

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## A Longterm Friendship With Robinson & Cole



Almost 40 years ago, Robinson & Cole started something revolutionary that would change not only the company culture of the law firm, but impact the lives of many. Robinson and Cole started a supported employment program partnership with Harc in 1990. Which gave individuals with intellectual disabilities a chance to work. Robinson and Cole was Harc's first professional job site. The Senior Partner, David Hadden (2009), helped pilot Harc's Supported Employment Program. David has a special place in his heart for Harc, as his children, Jamie and Sam who, had intellectual disabilities. Rhonda Tobin, the firm's Managing Partner explains, "The individuals have been a key part of the firm, partnering with Harc has been a continued great relationship for us."



This summer, Robinson and Cole will be relocating from 280 Trumbull Street in Hartford to a different office building. They are hoping to have construction at the new building wrapped up by June, 2024. An important question came to Rhonda's mind when she heard about the news of moving to a new building. She wanted to confirm that we would continue to have Harc's individuals involved in our work environment. "The answer was an astounding yes! Currently, there is a workspace and office area for the Harc individuals to complete their assignments and work as a group or independently. During the day, some of the work tasks include stocking office supplies, handling the recycling, and assisting with the mail.

Rhonda is happy to say that, "they are very busy and take their job very seriously. Whether they are at the firm with their dedicated Job Coach to help supervise them, or working in their own office area. Having a workspace opportunity for the individuals really makes them a part of our operations. They perform their duties and always have a smile on their faces." For Harc individuals, working at a corporation, like Robinson and Cole, gives them more independence and confidence. Harc is forever grateful for Robinson and Cole. They give the individuals purpose, life skills, and inclusion in today's society in the workforce through the supported employment program.

**Harc** Save the Date  
LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL  
Harc's 35th Annual Auction and Gala  
~ COCKTAIL ATTIRE ~  
**DANCING THROUGH THE DECADES**  
Saturday at 6:00pm  
November 9, 2024  
Hartford Windsor Marriot Airport  
28 Day Hill Rd, Windsor, CT 06095





## Have You Met Mary?

Mary is 30 and a resident of Wethersfield, CT. She is a graduate of Wethersfield High School, The Transition Academy at the University of Hartford, and has completed Project Search at UConn Health through Favarh. Mary is currently employed at Harc's Artisan Studio and works with other artisans with disabilities. One of her favorite things to make at the Artisan Studio is Jewelry. "I love doing jewelry, especially the necklaces and bracelets," Mary states with joy.



Mary also enjoys singing, acting, and dancing. She is going to be a triple threat by doing all three at Harc's Beyond the Stage in July 2024. Harc is joining forces with TheaterWorks in Hartford to showcase our talented singers, dancers, and actors. Mary states that she loves making friends at work and all over the Harc building, "I get to socialize, do activities like painting and the Artisan Studio is a fun job."

## Ready, Set, Walk N' Roll!



Harc's 20th annual Walk N' Roll is a highly anticipated event where everyone comes together to join the Harc community for a morning filled with games, activities, snacks, and more! Registration is free, and there will be fun for all ages and abilities. This year, this event will take place at the Hartford Yard Goats Dunkin' Park on May 11, 2024 from 10AM till 12PM.

Harc's 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. But we can only fulfill our mission with your support.

When you register, you'll have the opportunity to create a fundraising team or donate to an existing team to further Harc's mission during our annual Walk N' Roll event. By creating a team, you'll be able to mobilize your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers to help the Harc community. Your support of an existing team will help us expand employment and recreational activities for the people we serve, and reach everyone in our community who needs Harc's programs and services. Proceeds from this year's Walk N' Roll, will help us purchase a new lift van for our individuals!

[Register Here](#)

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**Camp Bulova and John H. & Ethel G. Noble  
Charitable Trust**



Harc is honored to receive a grant in support of Camp Bulova from the John H. & Ethel G. Noble Charitable Trust. Camp Bulova is a Saturday respite camp held once a month, during the school year for children and youth ages 3-21 with medically complex needs who reside in the Greater Hartford area. Thanks to their generous support we are now able to offer camp twice a month!

Diversely talented professionals offer sessions that include music therapy, pet therapy, massage therapy, and nursing services. When necessary there is the capacity for a 1:1 staffing ration got each child or youth who needs that level of support. Specially trained staff and a registered nurse are present for each session to address the medical and emotional needs.

This is a chance for our individuals to have fun and thrive in an environment that is capable of supporting their needs.



Camp Bulova provides an avenue for individuals to experience a variety of activities. Our staff create fun themes and an engaging curriculum; which recently included an Easter egg hunt, holiday crafts for St. Patrick's Day and more.

The camp currently costs \$125 per session, and depending on a family's financial circumstance, they may be eligible to receive a discounted rate. The fee is based on a sliding scale where some families will pay the entire \$125, others will get a \$50 discount and some others may pay nothing at all. It is a wonderful program, which many of our individuals look forward to every year, and we are very thankful to the John H. & Ethel G. Noble Charitable Trust for helping make camp bigger and even better.



Thank you to Harc's generous donors who have been leaders in carrying on the vision of our founding families, keeping Harc strong and assuring that our organization continues to be an innovator in its field.

### **Individual Donors 2023**

#### **Harc Family Circle \$10,000 and Above**

Ms. Diana M. Appleton  
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**Thank you for your support!**

*If your name has been misprinted or omitted in error, please accept our apologies, and let us know by calling the Development Office at 860.218.6048.*



*Changing lives, changing minds*

