

Harc Family

STAFF AND FAMILY E-NEWSLETTER

What's New In September?

A message from our President & CEO Russell Coleman



Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) play an essential role in Harc's mission to provide lifetime support to individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families. Their dedication allows us to ensure the individuals we serve can experience lives filled with quality, inclusion, and dignity. Our DSPs are the heart of that mission, working every day across our residential, community, day, and employment programs to make a profound impact.

DSPs wear many hats, from ensuring the safety of loved ones to enriching lives through care, mentoring, advocacy, and teaching. They are not just caregivers—they are companions and guides, helping individuals achieve independence, personal growth, and well-being. Their work bridges a more meaningful life for those we support.

The commitment and compassion of DSPs are felt by every person whose life they touch. Without them, we couldn't offer the level of support that helps families and individuals thrive. Their dedication truly makes a difference, and we are grateful for all they do.

As DSP Week, celebrated from September 9th through 13th, concludes, I want to personally thank each and every one of our DSPs for their tireless efforts and dedication. While this week highlights your vital contributions, your impact goes far beyond these few days. Every day, you provide unwavering support and transform lives with your care and compassion.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for everything you do. Let us continue to recognize the DSPs at Harc and across the nation for their passion, commitment, and tireless efforts. You are why so many lives are changed, and we are proud to honor you.

Celebrating Our Direct Support Professionals: A Week of Heartfelt Appreciation

At Harc, we believe in celebrating the exceptional individuals who make a profound impact on the lives of those we serve. Our Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are the heart of our organization, bringing unwavering dedication, care, and commitment to their roles every single day. Every year we dedicate an entire week to show just how much we appreciate their hard work and the incredible difference they make. Here's a look back at the special events and gestures that made DSP Week unforgettable.



Monday: A Symbol of Gratitude

We kicked off DSP Week with a gesture of appreciation that set the tone for the entire week. All staff were gifted exclusive Harc-branded shirts, as a way to show a meaningful token of our gratitude. These shirts are not just a piece of clothing but a symbol of the unity and pride we share in supporting Harc's mission. Seeing our DSPs wearing these shirts was a reminder of the collective effort that makes our work so impactful.



Tuesday: Tokens of Thanks

On Tuesday, we ramped up our appreciation with gift cards for all staff members. We wanted to express our thanks for the daily contributions and the extra miles our DSPs go to support our mission. Whether they are bringing smiles to those we serve or managing the many challenges that come with their roles, their dedication doesn't go unnoticed. This gesture was a way to acknowledge their immense contributions and to remind them that their hard work is deeply valued.





Wednesday: BBQ and Bonds

Midweek, we took a moment to relax and celebrate together with a delicious BBQ. The atmosphere was filled with great vibes, laughter, and heartfelt appreciation as we gathered to honor our incredible DSPs. Sharing a meal in such a positive setting was a perfect way to recognize the dedication and hard work of our staff, reinforcing the strong sense of community and support that makes Harc so special.



Thursday: A Refreshing Treat

On Thursday, we added a refreshing twist to our celebrations with a visit from the Kona Shave Ice truck. Our DSPs enjoyed a sweet, icy dessert as a delightful way to cool down and take a well-deserved break. This special treat was not just about enjoying a cool treat on a warm day but also about giving our staff a moment to unwind and celebrate their achievements in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.



Friday: The Grand Finale

We closed out DSP Week with a grand celebration at Camp Courant from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The event, catered by Bear's BBQ, was a festive culmination of a week full of appreciation. Highlights included the announcement of recipients of the prestigious Storm-Appleton Award and the Nesta C. and Charles J. Corso Award, recognizing outstanding contributions and long-standing dedication. Longevity awards were also presented to honor those who have been with Harc for many years, acknowledging their unwavering commitment and service.

The final celebration was not just about food and awards; it was a vibrant, joyous event that brought together all employees and participants to celebrate the heart and soul of Harc—our DSPs. It was a fitting end to a week that was all about recognizing and appreciating the incredible work that our staff does every day.

As we bring DSP Week to a close, we want to express our deepest gratitude to our Direct Support Professionals. Their dedication, heart, and care are the pillars of Harc, and we can't thank them enough for the lasting impact they make on the lives of those we serve. DSP Week was a testament to their extraordinary efforts and a reminder of how much we value and appreciate their hard work.

Artisan Studio Fall Findings



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 or visit us in person at, 900 Asylum Ave at Harc to purchase all things fall!

Shop Now

Sockstarz Pop-Up at Brown's Harvest



Sockstarz made its way to Brown's Harvest Sunflower Festival in Windsor, CT, bringing a pop-up booth packed with cool finds! We showcased a variety of fun items, including novelty socks and unique creations from Harc's Artisan Studio, such as handmade candles, beautiful artwork, greeting cards, and more. Brown's Harvest celebrated its 7th annual Sunflower Festival, offering attendees a memorable on-farm experience with 4 acres of stunning sunflowers, local vendors, live music, and family-friendly activities for all to enjoy.

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Rosa's New Job Opportunity





Rosa is an individual at Harc who started at our Group Supported Employment Program a little over a year ago. Since August, she has been in the Individual Supported Employment Program and was able to start a new exciting career.

Rosa is enjoying her new job as a food server at the Classical Magnet School in Hartford! "It's great that she's found a position that she loves after a period of job searching since July 2023." (Melanie, Harc Employment Manager) Her role seems to be a great fit, with responsibilities like managing the cash register, food prep, and serving—tasks that keep her engaged and busy. She looks forward to continuing to work for the rest of the school year and gaining more skills and experience in the workforce, with the guidance of her manager, Awilda.

Harc's 35th Annual Auction & Gala!



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Enjoy a fun-filled night of entertainment, bid on silent and live auctions, cocktails, and a performance from our talented cast and crew of, "Harc's Beyond the Stage!"

FEATURING SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY THE BAND

Authority

AROUND TOWN
LIVE MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT

Join us for an unforgettable evening at Harc's 2024 Auction & Gala, featuring 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.' It's sure to be a night filled with excitement and memorable moments!

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 Emmy-nominated Fox 61 Morning Anchor, Keith McGilvery, 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!

Adding even more energy to the night, Connecticut native and host of the Hartford Yard Goats, UConn Football, and UConn Men's and Women's Basketball, Conor Geary—also known as GameDay Conor—will serve as our Auctioneer. Known for electrifying stadiums and arenas across the state, Conor is sure to bring the same excitement and flair to our Auction & Gala, making it a night to remember!

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 or 860-218-6048

Introducing Our Emcee
Keith McGilvery

MEET OUR AUCTIONEER
Conor Geary

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.

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- **Collaborative Team**
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Harc 

Changing lives, changing minds

Do you know a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist looking for a new opportunity? The Birth-to-Three program at Harc offers a range of attractive benefits, including a flexible work schedule, 401K matching, and more. Ready to make a difference? Scan the code or click the "Apply Now" button below to start your journey with us!

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Sales donated excludes alcohol, gift cards, tax, and tip. Not available on 3rd party orders.
For more information visit fundraising.ontheborder.com

Join us on September 24, 2024, and support a great cause. Harc will receive 20% of all sales* during this fundraiser! Simply show this flyer to your server at the Rocky Hill On the Border location, or use the digital fundraiser code when ordering online.

Maker Family Correction | Karaoke Story

As you may have read in our last issue of the Harc, Inc. Staff and Family E-Newsletter, our Day Programs recently received a new karaoke machine. Even though Matt, who resides in our Prospect home, does not typically come to Day Programs, his Mom, Emily Maker and her husband David Maker graciously donated the karaoke machine. Matt's Mom and Step-Father and his Father, Bill Kwolek and his wife Teri are always ready to step in and help out whenever needed. We mistakenly referred to Emily Maker and her husband David Maker as "the Kwoleks" but that's not correct. Our apologies for the misunderstanding, and rest assured that we will make every effort to make sure that our Harc families are recognized properly.



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 9th, 2024 Auction and Gala

Donate

