

Harc Today

STAFF AND FAMILY E-NEWSLETTER

What's New In September?

A message from our President & CEO Russell Coleman



The week of September 11 - 15, 2023—marks National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week. It is an opportunity for us to shine a spotlight on the incredible individuals who are the backbone of Harc, our Direct Support Professionals (DSPs).

Harc's mission has always revolved around creating opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families to enjoy lives of quality, inclusion, and dignity. Our DSPs are the embodiment of this mission. They are the champions of respect, integrity, innovation, and excellence, and they are dedicated to enriching the lives of our residents and program participants.

Throughout our residential, day, and employment programs, as well as behind the scenes, our DSPs work tirelessly to ensure the safety, health, and happiness of your family members. Their commitment goes far beyond mere duty; they are mentors, caregivers, teachers, encouragers, and advocates. They form genuine relationships and lasting friendships with those they serve, fostering an environment where everyone can thrive.

Our Direct Support Professionals are not just employees; they are the life and breath of our organization. They make it possible for us to fulfill our mission every day by supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities on their journey towards greater independence and fulfillment.

Let us remember that Harc's mission is not just a statement; it is a promise—a promise that our DSPs fulfill every day with passion and commitment. Together, as a Harc family, we can continue to create a world where individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families enjoy lives of quality, inclusion, and dignity.

Thank you, DSPs, for your outstanding contributions. Your work is truly appreciated, not just during this special week, but every day of the year.

Sincerely,

Russell

September is Direct Support Professionals Week!



Thank You!
**Direct
Support Professional
Appreciation
Week!**

We want to take a moment to let you know about – DSP Appreciation Week! The week of September 11 – 15, 2023, is celebrated as National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week. Harc's Direct Support Professionals are appreciated every day for ensuring your family members and loved ones' safety, health, and happiness with respect, integrity, and compassion. They enrich the lives of the individuals that we provide services to. They mentor, support, care for, teach, encourage, and advocate.

Harc's goal has always been 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. We could not do that without the dedication and caring DSPs working throughout our residential, community, day, and employment programs as well as our support staff behind the scenes.

Every day, our DSPs are making a profound impact. They are the bridge builders for people with disabilities, helping them lead full, meaningful lives. Their hard work helps individuals achieve independence, personal growth, and overall well-being. It is their unwavering support that truly makes a difference in the lives of those they serve.

We would like to encourage all members of the community, including support recipients, their families, staff members, community partners, and friends, to actively participate in recognizing and appreciating the exceptional work of our DSPs.

Other ways you can celebrate DSP Recognition Week

- Call on Congress to Recognize DSPs
- Advocate with [ANCOR](#)
- Follow Harc on Social Media for DSP Highlights

DSP Appreciation Week is an opportunity for us all to come together as a community to celebrate those who deserve year-round recognition for their hard work and endeavors. Let us unite and applaud DSPs at Harc and across the nation for their incredible dedication, passion, and unwavering support.

We asked multiple individuals, " What does staff mean to you?" As we celebrate, thank, and highlight the dedicated, innovative direct support workforce that is the heart and soul of supports for people with disabilities. Here is what they said about our Direct Support Professionals.

THANK YOU DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS!



“I like making pictures with them and they help me read the books I like.”
— Jackeline

THANK YOU DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS!



“I love to say hi to them and I love working with my staff. I like seeing them and they help me learn new things!” — Jamie

THANK YOU DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS!



“They help me do a lot and I like the special activities.” — Maria

THANK YOU DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS!



“They are awesome. I love seeing their faces every time I come to Harc. They make me so happy!” — David

THANK YOU DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS!



“The staff makes me happy and I like the music and activities they do with me.” — Tammy

THANK YOU DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS!



“I like working at Harc with them and they help me doing everything together.” — Alberto

THANK YOU DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS!



“I like them, they help me do activities and they make me happy.” — Saarin

THANK YOU DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS!



“They are awesome and nice people!” — Karlos

THANK YOU DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS!



“They are so nice, they're here for us. I think that they're supportive, responsible and nice. They take me to my doctor appointments that I need too. The staff at the group home love and support me and they have my back ... and make good dinner!” — Jordan

THANK YOU DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS!



“ They did my birthday with a cake and had a nice party at Harc... they had my Diet Coke and Diet Ginger Ale too!”
— Essa

THANK YOU DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS!



“The staff make me dance and I like to listen to music. They are there for me and make me happy.. I'm 64 years old ya know!”
— Gerald

Stay Hydrated Harc!

As DSP Week continues, we wanted to make sure our Harc staff stay refreshed and energized on their incredible journey of care and support. On September 12th, we were so excited to hand out exclusive Harc Water Bottles to show our gratitude for their hard work.

We thank our DSP's for quenching the thirst for knowledge and compassion every day!



Harc's DSP Appreciation BBQ

At 900 Asylum Ave, in honor of DSP Appreciation week, we provided a great meal for our staff. As we express our deep appreciation for all the DSPs dedication and hard work. Their commitment to supporting individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families is truly outstanding, and we want to acknowledge and honor their unwavering efforts.





Harc's DSP Appreciation BBQ

As we continue to celebrate DSP Week, on September 15th we celebrated our Direct Support Professionals by going to Camp Courant and had a catered picnic by Bear's BBQ.

This event was a way for Harc to show our heartfelt appreciation for our Direct Support Professional's, unwavering dedication to our mission, and to recognize their outstanding contributions. We also honored our colleagues who have reached significant staff longevity milestones here at Harc.

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Harc's Hawaii Themed Cold Treat For DSP Appreciation Week!

On September 15th, we have made it to the grand finale of DSP Week! We went all out with Hawaiian-themed fun and a delightful surprise. Harc got into the tropical spirit by wearing their favorite Hawaiian leis and aloha shirts.

But that's not all! To sweeten the deal, we've arranged for the Kona Shaved Ice truck, and we indulged in a delicious cold dessert that made our staff's taste buds dance with joy!

We thank all of Harc staff, for their dedication and compassion. They are truly remarkable, and we appreciate everything they do. Happy DSP Appreciation Week!



A fall breeze and Autumn leaves is all we need! Shop our Fall collection at Sockstarzusa.com today!



Fall Collection



www.sockstarzusa.com

Shop Now



Upcoming Events

Camp Bulova September 2023

Direct Support Professionals Week September 10th to September 15th

Birth to Three 30th anniversary, Day-long celebration on September 19th 2023

Asylum Hill Job and Career Fair September 28th from 3pm to 6pm

Annual Auction 2023, Our annual fundraising auction is on November 11, 2023

Welcome to Harc!

Jada Monaye Acoff - Job Coach

Taneka Boyd - Resident Support Assistant

Kristyn DeConti - Teacher Birth to Three

Brianna Mona Mcknight - Resident Support Assistant

Khelley Simpkins - Job Coach

Cheyann Alicia Smith - Resident Support Assistant

New Harc Employees!

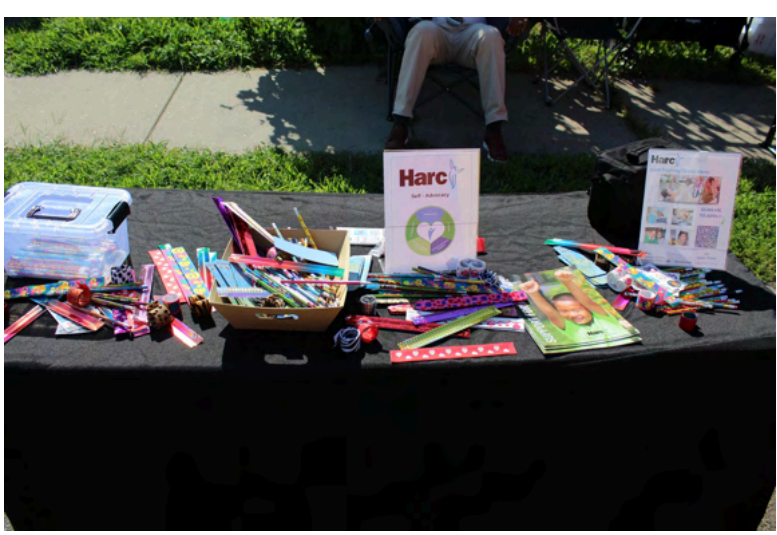


South Marshall Street Block Party

The South Marshall Street Block Party was a free event in Hartford, Connecticut. It was held outside of The Salvation Army's Marshall House Family Shelter, for neighbors on South Marshall and adjacent streets. The Salvation Army's Marshall House, the event's founder, has operated on [225 South Marshall Street](#) for 25 years. It provides a safety net of emergency shelter services to families and single women in crisis due to homelessness. Although the primary objective of the program is to provide residents with emergency housing and nutritious meals at its 50-bed facility, it offers much more than that, with an array of services designed to reduce the trauma of being homeless and empower residents to secure and maintain stable housing. Marshall House also provides services for those at risk of homelessness through its Homeless Prevention Program, and for those transitioning to more stable housing through its Housing 1st program.

Children were able to receive free books and book bags for back to school. There was also food, games, and activities for everyone who attended. There were also other nonprofits that attended that had their own booths to provide individuals information about the many resources that are made available to them.





Birth to Three Celebration!



Time to celebrate!

Birth to Three in Connecticut is having its 30th anniversary!

Join us at the Connecticut Science Center on September 19th 2023

The Heart of Parenting and Early Intervention: Creating Connected Relationships

Presented by Dr. Megan Miller-DeLeon, BCBA-D, IBA, an expert in behavior analysis, early intervention, and autism

spectrum disorders.

Sept 19th 10:00am-12:00pm; CT Science Center and Remotely by Zoom Registration

FREE: [TRAINING LINK](#)

Continuing with more about our Steppingstones Birth to Three program:

How much does early intervention services cost?

Birth to Three has no out-of-pocket costs for families! Supports are funded by Connecticut and federal budget allocations, as well as commercial insurance. Other than regular insurance premiums, there is no cost to families for early intervention services.

How are services decided upon?

Following an eligibility evaluation, a service coordinator connects with the family/caregivers to mutually develop an individualized family service plan (IFSP). This plan will describe the real-life outcomes you want for your child and family.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Don't miss our celebration of three decades of work!

Join us in celebrating the many accomplishments of the Birth to Three system after 30 years of service to Connecticut families! Our special panel and meeting on this essential statewide program is not to be missed.



WHEN:
September 19, 2023

TIME:
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

WHERE:
Science Center

RSVP:
To register, please visit:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/birth-to-three-30th-anniversary-conference-tickets-67072328327?aff=orcid>

OEC | We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Harc Employment Scavenger Hunt



Explorative Day and Transitional Academy teamed up to learn more about Harc. They worked together on a Scavenger Hunt Relay race in which each team was given clues on job responsibilities throughout Harc.. Once they identified the person associated in that job role they were able to ask that person 2 questions and get the next clue for the next team. This activity provided skills in team work, critical thinking and Job exploration within our building.

It was another great opportunity to get them up and out of their seats to meet the people who support them and our mission.



Day In The Life Of...

Amaryllis Sanchez



Job Title: Nurse

When did you get involved with Harc?

Amaryllis was hired to work at Harc on February 1, 2022 as a Occupational Therapy Assistant.

What attracted you to our mission?

The fact that she would be able to *physically* help people with different abilities, drew her to our mission.

What motivates you throughout the day

The smiles on the individuals' faces motivates her. "Their cheerfulness is my cheerfulness", Amaryllis explains.

Of what contribution or achievement are you most proud?

"I was working in the school systems as a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant. I had just recently learned how to modify battery-operating toys to make them accessible through the use of buttons. One day, I created a cause and effect activity on a computer and large white board screen and created a "mouse house" for the computer mouse so that it could be activated like a button. We had a child with CP who couldn't purposefully use his hands (or his feet), but we were determined to figure out how we were going to help him access a way for him to communicate. He was non-verbal, and I had noticed he would look at whomever was speaking to him. So on this day, I placed the button next to his cheek, he turned his head away from the button, as if winding up for a pitch, and "SMACK," he hit the button and the class went WILD! We were all so excited for him! A week later, he and his wheelchair were being fitted for a moveable arm that would hold a communication device up to his face for him. The excitement of that day will forever be etched in my heart."

-Amaryllis Sanchez

Do you have an anecdote/story about Harc that really moved you?

Just the fact that people, both staff and individuals at Harc can come to her at anytime about anything, moves her.

Fun Facts about me:

She LOVES being creative and loves learning how to make things, not just for herself, but especially for other people.

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