



What's New In June?

A message from our President & CEO Russell Coleman



As we approach the summer season, I wanted to take a moment to update you on the exciting activities and opportunities that await us at Harc. Summer is a time of adventure, growth, and making lasting memories, and we are thrilled to offer a range of programs that provide both respite for families and caregivers and engaging experiences for the people we support.

Firstly, as our Weekend Camp Bulova for this year comes to a close, I want to assure you that it will return in September. This program has been a tremendous success, providing much-needed respite and enjoyable experiences for all involved. We appreciate the support and enthusiasm we have received, and we eagerly anticipate the camp's return later this year.

Additionally, we are delighted to announce our continued partnership with Hartford's Camp Courant for our annual six-week Capable Kids Camp this summer. This integrated summer camp brings together Harc and Camp Courant, allowing for a diverse range of activities and ample opportunities to forge new friendships. Our dedicated and experienced staff will ensure that the camp is filled with both exciting recreational and educational activities. We can't wait to witness the joy and growth that will result from this collaboration.

Furthermore, I am pleased to inform you that Harc has embarked on a strategic planning process that will shape our organization's direction over the next five years. As we reflect on our accomplishments and growth thus far, we are filled with pride, but we are even more excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. The strategic planning initiative will help us build upon our strengths, identify new avenues for development, and ensure that Harc continues to make a positive impact in our community.

Join our team! We're hiring dedicated professionals who share our passion for supporting individuals with diverse abilities. By growing our team, we'll enhance our services' quality and reach. If you know someone who aligns with our values, encourage them to explore our open positions.

Stay informed through our monthly newsletters as we share the latest updates and happenings at Harc. Your ongoing support is invaluable, and we're grateful for our dedicated Harc family. Together, we'll create meaningful experiences, empower lives, and build a successful and fulfilling future for the people we support.

May your summer be filled with warmth, joy, and exciting new adventures!

Trinity College's Arts Action Lab on the Disability Employment Project

In the 2023 Spring Semester, select students of Trinity and Capital Community College came together to work with the Liberal Arts Action Lab on the Disability Employment project in conjunction with Harc Inc.

Our Community Partner

Our Community Partner, Harc, is a nonprofit that provides a variety of support services for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), including assisting them in their search and maintaining employment.


[Read More](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



[LGBTQ+ Pride](#), June 1st is the start of Pride Month

[Juneteenth](#), We will be closed June 19th in observance of Juneteenth

[Annual Auction 2023](#), Our annual fundraising auction is on November 11, 2023





Our Birth to Three department is set to soar to new heights with the launch of a fully customized electronic platform! Valuing the benefits of early intervention and the unique needs of our early intervention team, Harc, Inc. chose to partner with Protective Harbor to develop this transformative system. Efficiencies amid the new platform will greatly serve our families, along with our clinical and administrative team.

Key features include:

- Digitized forms with pre-population of common items for rapid entry
- Electronic signatures with instant access amid the team
- Appointment scheduling with auto email and text reminders
- Compliance tracking
- Storage management, protection, and support

A big thank you is extended to Daniel McLaughlin, Ramona Rancourt, Sheila Murihy, Robert LaBun, Russell Coleman and the team at Protected Harbor: Richard Luna, Nick Solimando, and Shivam Santosh for their expertise!



Nonprofit Alliance Day at the Capitol 2023



Harc was selected amongst 47 other organizations to participate in Nonprofit Alliance Day at the Capitol on May 16, 2023. This flagship event of The Alliance provided the opportunity for Connecticut nonprofits to set up a booth on the first floor of the State Capitol in Hartford, to educate policymakers and the public about the exceptional work Harc does for the community.

This event highlighted the diversity and impact of work that community nonprofits do to enhance the quality of life for all residents and families of Connecticut. We were also able to meet and educate individuals from different nonprofits, including some of our legislature that was at the LOB.

We filled out "leave-behind-forms" to tell leadership and the Governor to support increasing funding for nonprofits by 9% in FY24 and 7% in FY25 and that they will only support a budget that includes funding increases for Harc and other nonprofits of this sector.

LEP Prom 2023



Welcome to HARC New Employees!



Tracy Coro - Birth to Three Professional

Erica Goode-Gordon - RSA

Lashay Harris - Job Coach

Shawna Aaron - RSA

Alisha Mahon - Job Coach

Michael C. Campbell - RSA

Kimberly Douglas - Summer Camp

Avery Hansley - RSA

Employment Readiness Center



Every Thursday our Employment Readiness Program will meet and topics are given to the individuals in the beginning of the week. On special occasion there are special guest that will come to HARC and attend via Google Meet to speak to our individuals. On May 11th Commissioner Scheff joined us and the topic was "If you could pick any dream job, what would it be? and why?"

The purpose of this series is so that the advocates have a platform to discuss various topics that are important to them on a personal level. These discussions are typically facilitated by the advocates themselves. This series is important to them because they have a few days to journal about the topics and do research. As the series advances Other topics include:

- How have you changed since last year? ...
- How do you think others would describe you? ...
- What brings joy to your life? ...
- What face do you show to the world? ...
- What makes you unique? ...
- What are the best elements of your personality? ...
- Who are the people you admire the most?

Harc's 2023 Senior Leadership

Russell Coleman, *President & Chief Executive Officer* - Russell joined HARC in 2022

Josh Labonte, *Chief Financial Officer* - Josh joined HARC in 2021 and was promoted to CFO in March 2023

Marian Leist, *Chief Operating Officer* - Marian has been with HARC for 20 years

Sheila Murrilhy, *Senior Director of HARC's SteppingStones Birth to Three Program* - Sheila has been with HARC for 26 years

Christopher Brothers, *Senior Director of Human Resources* - Chris has been with HARC for almost 10 years and in his current role since August of 2022

Eloise Mongillo, *Chief Philanthropy Officer* - Eloise joined HARC in August 2022

JOIN OUR TEAM!



WE'RE HIRING

RESIDENT SUPPORTS, ASST COORDINATORS & COORDINATORS

Provide daily enrichment to people with IDD in their homes

Harc



WE'RE HIRING

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS + DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANT THERAPISTS

Join a family of hard-working professionals dedicated to early childhood advancement

Harc

Direct Support Professional – Sign on bonus for Job Coaches, Residential Support Assistants, and Individual Day staff. \$1,000 after 30 days of employment and an additional \$1,000 after 6 months of employment.

A Day In the Life of ...



Will Sykes

Job Title: Community Volunteer Opportunities Developer

When did you get involved with Harc?

Will was hired on September 2012

What attracted you to our mission?

He believes that the mission brings the community together. It keeps everyone accounted for and inclusive. Will says, "there is in 'us', in the word 'inclusive.' He is a strong advocate for parents who are raising a child with IDD. It was not in his original career plan to work at Harc. Since he has been employed," it is not just a job, the mission of Harc became my reason for being employed here, and is now my career", Will explains.

What motivates you throughout the day

Throughout the day, being able to make people happy is very important to him. Will exclaims, "everyone has a right to be happy. If I can contribute to people's happiness, then that's what motivates me."

Of what contribution or achievement are you most proud?

Winning the Corso Award was his biggest achievement he is most proud of. The qualification for winning the award includes someone who goes above and beyond their regular work duties, and who is overall an employee who is a role model for not only the other staff but including the individuals we support.

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

"A story that moved me has nothing to do with Harc, but it is a story of Harc's leadership", Will begins to explain. Five to six years ago, a car came down the street and crashed into his house. Causing him and his wife to be displaced from their home until the house's infrastructures were fixed. For two weeks, he was spending \$65 a night at a hotel that he was finding difficult to afford. So, Will talked to his supervisor, and asked if there was any type of assistance that could help him and his wife during this tough time. The CEO and COO got wind of his situation and put him and his wife in an apartment at Burnwood group home for four months. This amazing opportunity allowed him to get back on his feet, and he found a new appreciation and love for Harc, and was so grateful for the kindness that was shown to him.

Fun Facts about me:

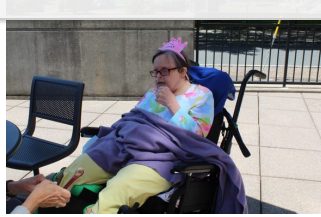
- He likes the outdoors and wildlife
- His Godfather was the first African American Senator of Massachusetts

Harc Goes to the Capitol on Nonprofit Rally Day Lobby Day



On May 24th, over 50 individuals and staff from Harc arrived at Hartford's State Capital to rally for meaningful funding increases for community nonprofits in the final state budget. The Alliance (Voice of Community Nonprofits) provided us with green Lobby Day t-shirts, stickers, and signs as we rallied with fellow nonprofits, community partners, and supporters in the state for increased funding for nonprofits! The turnout was incredible, and we are proud that our voices were heard that day!

Happy 71st Birthday Janey!



On Thursday May 25, Liz D'Attilio, Mary Delaney and Maureen DiMatteo, sisters of Janey Delaney, invited all Harc staff and individuals to celebrate Janey's 71st BIRTHDAY! There was an ice cream truck to celebrate a wonderful, fun, and delicious day with the birthday girl. A big thank you goes out to Liz, Mary, and Maureen for making this day so special and memorable for Janey and all her friends at Harc!

Thank to everyone who participated at our annual Walk N Roll!



Take Survey

Representative Maryam Khan Visits Asylum Group Home



Harc Sockstarz employee and self advocate, Jordan Andreini, gave Representative Maryam Khan a tour of the Asylum Avenue group home in West Hartford where she lives. Jordan shared her story and how Harc has helped her to be independent.

While touring the Asylum Avenue group home, Russell Coleman (President and C.E.O.) and Marian Leist (C.O.O.), discussed House Bill No. 5001 (An act concerning resources and support services for persons with an intellectual and or developmental disability) with Representative Khan. It is imperative that we receive increased funding for the services we provide our individuals and families. We are honored that Representative Khan took time out of her schedule to visit and we hope to host more legislators and representatives in the future.

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