

SUPPORT FOR A LIFETIME





OUR MISSION

Harc provides special needs support for a lifetime to individuals with intellectual and related disabilities and their families so they may enjoy lives of quality, inclusion, and dignity.

WELCOME

Our vision for Harc is aspirational. We remain forward-thinking as we anticipate what the future of support will look like for people who are part of the intellectually and developmentally disabled community, and how we can create a more family-centric model of service. It starts with recruiting the best and most dedicated professional staff and fostering better relationships with community leaders and stakeholders. All of this done with the people we support at the forefront of our decisions. We strive to be the best example of what a health and human services organization should be. Our Harc family inspires us to always think ahead, remain on the cutting edge of care, and never lose sight of the value and meaning we hold in their hearts.

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WHAT WE DO

Harc was founded in 1951 by the visionary parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) who knew that their children had worth and were of value to society. They became fierce advocates fighting against exclusion, isolation, discrimination, lack of opportunity, unemployment, and low expectations. Their grassroots efforts forged lasting partnerships with generous individuals, foundations, corporations, and community leaders to raise the funding and awareness necessary to create life-changing programs.

Harc's guiding principle is to ensure that people with intellectual disabilities enjoy lives of quality, inclusion, and dignity. We do this through advocacy efforts and by providing community-based services that guide the people we support along the path to leading lives of integration and meaning.

Harc's services begin at birth and continue throughout the lifespan, with a range of supportive, enrichment, employment, and residential supports throughout Greater Hartford. To learn more, visit harc-ct.org.



CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES



BIRTH TO THREE

Connecticut's Birth to Three system strengthens families' capacity to meet the developmental and health-related needs of infants and toddlers with delays or disabilities. Birth to Three assists families and caregivers to enhance a child's learning and development.

An Early Interventionist's role is to identify a parent's priorities for their child's development. They determine what the parent already knows and is doing concerning the child's development. They share new information and ideas and work with parents to support the child's participation and expression of interest within everyday activity settings that provide learning opportunities.

Harc's Birth to Three early intervention program provides services across eighteen towns in the Greater Hartford region and serves families and caregivers of children with Autism and/or developmental delays.



CAPABLE KIDS CAMP

Capable Kids Camp is a six-week summer camp integrated with Hartford's Camp Courant. Children and youth (ages 5 - 21) with intellectual and related disabilities are able to share experiences with their peers of all abilities, cultures, and backgrounds.

There are fun-filled activities emphasizing literacy, fitness, and sports.

Capable Kids Camp is funded through grants and donations. There is a nominal registration fee.

CAMP BULOVA (RESPITE)

Camp Bulova is a Saturday respite camp held twice a month during the school year for children and youth ages 3 – 21 with medically complex needs who reside in the Greater Hartford area.

Diversely talented professionals offer sessions that include music therapy, pet therapy, massage therapy, and nursing services. When needed there is the capacity for a 1:1 staffing ratio for 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 of each child or youth.



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

EMPLOYMENT READINESS CENTER (ERC)

Our creative and innovative skill-building techniques prepare people for dignified and meaningful jobs in the community. The ERC bridges the gap between skills and interests, so our people can build stable and productive lives doing the work they desire to do.

The ERC offers task-specific training, vocational support, job coaching, social activities, and supported employment services.

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT

Harc's Employment Support reinforces vocational skills and provides ongoing training and support to people with intellectual disabilities, helping them succeed in community work placements. We strive to maximize each person's potential by focusing on job responsibilities, social skills in the workplace, safety, societal norms, and self-advocacy skills. Individual Action Plans assist in meeting goals. Additional support services include counseling, behavior management, and researching work opportunities for those who desire to work in the community.

HARC'S ARTSPARKS COMMUNITY BASED ARTISAN STUDIO

This newly created venture expands upon a 25-year-old art initiative. It incorporates a way for artists with intellectual disabilities to explore potential career or business opportunities selling the art and products they produce.

The center is an artistic hub. It provides creative exploration and discovery guided by professionals in the community, tailored to the complex needs and skills of people with intellectual disabilities to make the most of their accomplishments and dreams of financial independence.

SOCKSTARZ (HARC'S SOCIAL ENTERPRISE)

SockStarz, a novelty sock retailer, is a social enterprise owned by Harc. It expands Harc's capacity to serve people with intellectual disabilities through income and job creation. The earned income from SockStarz augments and diversifies other sources of revenue that fuel Harc's mission. SockStarz also provides competitive employment opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities. Learn more about SockStarz at www.sockstarzusa.com.



DAY PROGRAMS

LIFE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM (LEP)

The Life Enrichment Program allows older adults (ages 55 and up) with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities that keep them invigorated and engaged. The program is open to people with various needs and levels of ability. Participating in LEP gives these older

adults a sense of purpose. There is a feeling of family when you are a part of this program, and many form strong bonds and friendships with one another. We also specialize in memory care for those who are diagnosed with dementia. LEP is a popular place for our visitors and volunteers to spend time.



BULOVA CENTER

The Bulova Center focuses on enhancing the life skills of people over the age of 16 who have significant cognitive and physical involvement.

The Center provides activities in various domains, including physical restoration, educational activities, social adaptation, vocational skill development, fine motor enhancement, leisure activities, personal care, safety skills, and community involvement.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Community-based recreational activities promote socializing, making new friends, and building relationships. Staffing is generally 1:5, however additional staffing is available to those in need for an additional fee.

RESIDENTIAL SUPPORTS



RESIDENTIAL SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

Among our families' top concerns is where their loved ones will live when it is time for the next step toward independence. We provide residential support in a variety of settings that focus on the unique needs of each person and their family.

Harc works with the entire family to determine the best future for their loved one and assist with the emotional and practical issues associated with making a successful residential transition. Everyone has a carefully developed Individual Plan (IP). All areas of life are considered, including medical, self-help, cooking, banking, transportation, personal care, and recreation. Harc supports individuals with state funding as well as those who privately pay for services.

TYPES OF SUPPORTS:

Individual Home Supports – provide support to a person with I/DD in their apartment or family home. These supports are individualized to meet the needs of the person to live as independently as possible, or to help a family maintain the loved one at home.

Community Companion Homes (CCH) – individuals reside in a community member's home with structured monitoring and supports from Harc. These are caring families with whom the person with I/DD is matched based on the unique needs of both the family and the individual. Each family is licensed and goes through an extensive background check to ensure quality and safety.

Community Living Arrangement (CLA) – is a group of four to six people living in a home with a warm and supportive environment. CLAs are typically staffed 24-hours a day to ensure that all the supports provided enhance the person's life, including advocating for them when necessary. The people who live a CLA are active members of the community and participate in local social events.

Continuous Residential Supports (CRS) – individuals and their families pool their resources to create a shared home for three or fewer people. This arrangement offers a variety of flexible supports tailored to the people who live together.

VOLUNTEER/GIVING BACK

VOLUNTEER AT HARC

Harc depends on dedicated volunteers as they are an integral part of how we achieve our mission. Their time and expertise are a tremendous asset to our programs and the people we support, and without them we would not be able to offer many fun activities and enriching experiences.

Volunteers work directly with the people we support and learn about the programs and services they rely upon. Each volunteer activity is personalized to fit the needs of the individual or group.



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GIVING TO HARC

Private donations are an indispensable component to Harc's fundraising. Without the support of our generous donors many of our programs simply would not be possible. Private donations combined with corporate giving and grant funding enable Harc to provide a diverse selection of the highest quality programs for our families.

There are many ways you can give to Harc.





ADVOCACY

Harc advocates for the human and civil rights of people with intellectual disabilities and their families so they can live their best lives with the support they need to be as independent as possible. Harc educates policymakers, key stakeholders, and the community about the needs of the people we support and advocates for legislation that furthers our mission.

Each year Harc establishes an advocacy agenda identifying the barriers that prevent people from achieving independence, full community involvement, and appropriate services.

Harc's Self-Advocacy group, What's Happening? empowers people with intellectual disabilities to have a voice in their community. They advocate for the services they need to live more self-determined lives.

Self-Advocates help train new employees, advise Harc's boards and committees, influence public policy and Harc's advocacy agenda, and share their stories.





Harc

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For more information on Harc's programs
and services contact info@harc-ct.org or
call 860-218-6000