



What's New In July?

A message from our President &

CEO Russell Coleman I hope everyone had a great 4th of July and that you are enjoying the summer season. As we navigate the changing landscape of supporting individuals with disabilities, I want to reflect on the power of change and the opportunities it brings. At Harc, we embrace change as a catalyst for growth and progress. It leads us to new avenues and unlocks new opportunities, welcoming fresh faces and ideas that enrich our organization and expand our

perspectives. I'm pleased to announce that despite the recent closure of our SockStarz store in West Hartford, SockStarz will continue to thrive as a microenterprise. We've decided to focus on selling our novelty socks online and at pop-up events. This change allows us to adapt to evolving market trends and reach a wider audience while supporting Harc's important work. Furthermore, we're excited to explore the possibility of establishing new microenterprises. These ventures will provide employment and skill-building opportunities for the individuals we support while also contributing to our mission of fostering quality, inclusion, and dignity. We're committed to constant innovation and adaptation to serve our community better, and these new microenterprises will play a vital

I want to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. The Harc family is an extraordinary force of compassion, dedication, and resilience. Your hard work and unwavering commitment continually allow us to make a positive impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities and the families we support.

Explorative Day Program

role in that vision.



The Explorative Day Program was created in 2022 to address the interests and needs of individuals who do not fall under Employment Services or are not a match for the Bulova Center that specializes in supporting individuals with enhanced needs. The program allows people to explore various interests through a variety of activities that are offered daily. Explorative Day implements skills building through a curriculum that includes, social skills training, ground level technology technology training, art, math, science, reading, and writing. Through volunteer opportunities the program aims to promote community engagement, job training, and service. The goal is to provide individuals who have interest in work, develop their skills that will assist them with transitioning into the Employment program. Currently, the Explorative Day is working on a number of community service projects that include Auer Farm, Horace Bushnell Food Pantry, Fresh Start, Salvation Army, and Knox Garden. We are always open to and searching for new opportunities that encourage those we support to give back while jump starting their path to

SockStarz Closing Brick and Mortar Moving To E-Commerce



We regret to inform you of the closure of Sockstarz, our cherished social enterprise that has served as a symbol of inclusion and employment for individuals with intellectual and and will closed our physical store on Lasalle Road in West Hartford on June 25, 2023, due to financial challenges, the impact of the pandemic, and rising inflation. However, we want to assure you that SockStarz will continue to thrive as an online and pop-up store.

Shop Now



Day In The Life Of...

Carren James

Job Title: <u>Job Coach</u>

When did you get involved with Harc?

Miss Carren started at Harc on July 1, 2013. What attracted you to our mission?

career change and wanted to work with individuals who experience significant cognitive and physical involvement. She says that she loves helping the individuals, and it brings her joy, and wants to give them love as if they were her own family. What motivates you throughout the day

Before she came to Harc, Carren wanted to be a nurse. She made a

The happiness of the individuals are so important to her, and seeing them laugh and smile keeps her motivated to wake up and come to work everyday. Of what contribution or achievement are you most proud?

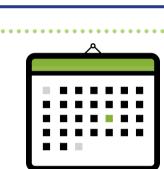
She takes pride in her work, and makes sure that the individuals are clean and taken care of. She is also most proud of being the second recipient of the Appleton-Storm Award.

Do you have an anecdote/story about Harc that really moved you? At first, Carren started working at Camp Bulova with the help of Dawn Allen. She said that Dawn was eager and encouraged her to work in the Bulova Center where she was appointed to be in charge of the PCA's. She was also asked by one of the parents to be their daughter, Zoe's 1:1 support. She has now been Zoe's 1:1 for over five years, and she would make songs that would help her to be calm and she would listen more, laugh, and smile. Zoe has made tremendous improvement ever since Carren has been with her.

Fun Facts about me: She loves to cook and says, "I love to smile!"



SnackStarz will still be open for you to purchase snacks, beverages, and more!



Upcoming Events

<u>Capable Kids Camp</u>, Began June 26th and ends on August 4th Birth to Three 30th anniversary, Day-long celebration on September 19th 2023 Annual Auction 2023, Our annual fundraising auction is on November 11, 2023



- Fabiana Abrams RSA Brentmoor • Regine Gedeon - RSA Asylum • **Kereen Guy** - RSA Brentmoor
- Dorval Phipps RSA Prospect • Niphaphone Khotpanya - Business Office

Staff Committee Volunteer Opportunity!



Steppingstones Birth to Three Program Update



Through the partnership with families, Connecticut's Birth to Three system is committed to supporting infants and toddlers with delays and disabilities to develop and grow through everyday routines. The system provides equitable access to all families and connections to resources within the community. - Connecticut Birth to Three Mission Through equal opportunities and access to equitable services, families are empowered to further support their child's developmental skills,

These are the updated Connecticut Birth to Three mission and vision statements. Our Steppingstones team fulfill these statements in our day to day engagement with all families and children we serve in the community. In honor of our efforts, and those of the entire Connecticut birth to three system, all galleries at the Connecticut Science Center have been reserved by the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) for a day-long celebration on **September 19th 2023.** Birth to three in Connecticut is having its 30th anniversary! Stay tuned for more information on how to

health related needs, and advocate for their child and family. -Connecticut Birth to Three Vision

Steppingstones is participating in this July's OEC family coach training with Dathan Rush, Ed.D., CCC-SLP & M'Lisa Shelden, PT, Ph.D. Coaching in early intervention promotes adult learning strategy by advancing 'the learner's ability to reflect on his or her actions as a means to determine the effectiveness of an action or practice and develop a plan for refinement and use of the action in immediate and future situations'. (Rush & Shelden, 2004)

strengths and use participatory learning opportunities and participation to accomplish desired outcomes. The consequences of using such practices strengthens and promotes children, parent, family, and community member . . . abilities to engage in development-enhancing opportunities or address challenges in sustainable ways." (Wilson, 2006) We wish our new family coaches well as they advance toward fidelity in this most exciting practice!

Coaching is also in accordance with the birth to three capacity building mission as "capacity-building practices focus on interests and

Capable Kids Camp News



Monday-Thursday. Our campers are integrated into various activities with their peers throughout the day. Activities include: arts and crafts, STEM, music, health and wellness, and swimming. On Fridays, we venture out into the community. Trips include: Lupa Zoo, CT. Science Museum, bowling, movies, Quassy Amusement Park, and the Dr. Seuss Museum. On July 11th, the campers will participate in a mentoring project here at Harc in the mornings before they head off to camp. Projects will be a flower basket and a hot air balloon craft and also a scavenger hunt.

Exciting News In Advocacy



independent so they may enjoy lives of quality, inclusion, and dignity.

A Day In the Life of... Bob & Gerry Once 12:00pm hits, it's LUNCH TIME! Both of

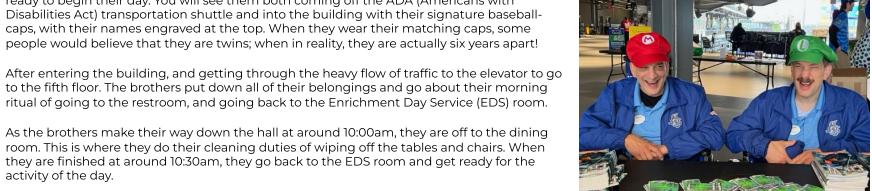


school Walkman radios; but absolutely, "NO Country music", Bob announces with passion. Depending on the day, if it was a Wednesday, the brothers will go to the Horace Bushnell Children's Food Pantry to volunteer for about an hour to an hour and a half. If it was a Friday, they would do their

their favorite lunchtime food are peanut butter and jelly sandwiches by the way. At 12:30, the duo go back to the EDS room and do some of their favorite activities, like drawing and coloring. They will also listen to soft rock and contemporary on their old

well-deserved Community Activity with their At 1:30 sharp, Bob and Gerry head down to

up. When the brothers are not at Harc, they spend their nights and weekends working at Dunkin Donuts Stadium, Home of the Yard



room. This is where they do their cleaning duties of wiping off the tables and chairs. When they are finished at around 10:30am, they go back to the EDS room and get ready for the activity of the day.



the lobby and wait for their ride to pick them Goats.