

# Harc Today

STAFF AND FAMILY E-NEWSLETTER

## What's New In August?

### A message from our President & CEO Russell Coleman



As mid-summer arrives, Harc is immersed in a season of growth and community, dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals with diverse abilities. This month's spotlight on Deaf Awareness illuminates the unique challenges and triumphs experienced by participants we support who are deaf. Effective communication lies at the heart of our commitment, driving us to equip our staff with sign language skills despite the scarcity of this expertise among potential candidates. Our dedication to optimal care remains unwavering as we navigate this challenge, seeking innovative solutions to ensure our interactions are informed and effective.

In one of our group homes, we support a resident with an intellectual disability who is deaf, emphasizing the significance of clear communication. We recognize this challenge as an opportunity for growth, continuously refining our practices to create an environment of understanding and learning.

We are excited to announce Harc's Birth to Three program will join in the celebration of Birth to Three's 30th Anniversary, honoring three decades of pivotal early intervention services in Connecticut. Our deep gratitude extends to Camp Courant, our dedicated partner who hosts Harc's Capable Kids Camp, exemplifying the strength of collaboration and shared goals. This partnership, built on dedication to supporting people with intellectual disabilities, strengthens our commitment to fostering a sense of belonging, inclusion, and community.

In August, the Probus Club of Greater Hartford invited Harc's group homes to their annual cookout at Camp Courant on the 27th. The Probus Club is a partner of Harc's, supporting quality of life for those with disabilities. This event reflects our mission for empowering experiences of quality, inclusion, and dignity.

In closing, I want to thank our dedicated Harc family. Your unwavering commitment to understanding, growth, and inclusivity for individuals with diverse abilities is truly inspiring. Let's continue transforming challenges into opportunities, shaping a brighter future where every voice is valued and celebrated. Thank you for your tireless work in fostering this remarkable community.

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## Day In The Life Of...

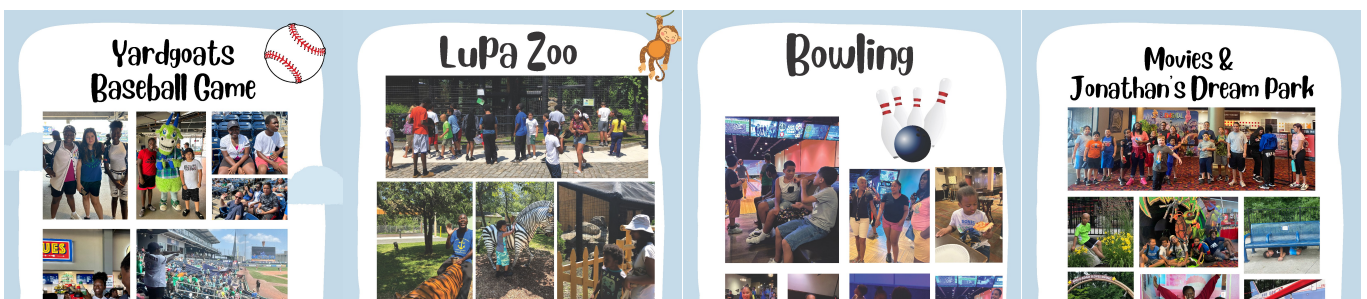
### Anthony Watkis

We interviewed Anthony Watkis, who is Harc's Job Developer. We asked him a few questions about himself and what his day is like working at Harc.

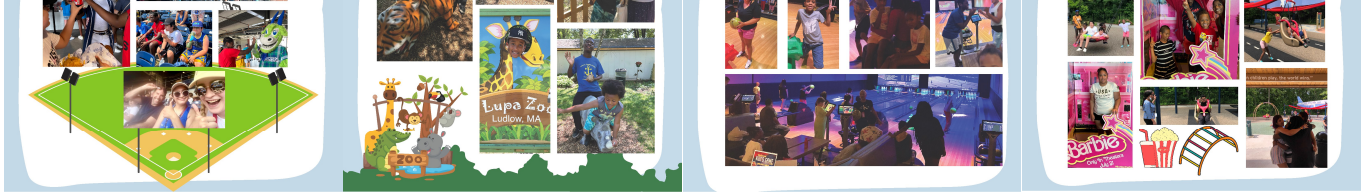


## Capable Kids Camp

On August 4th, our Capable Kids Summer Camp came to an end. The children had so much fun and got to enjoy activities which included the Springfield Museums, a trip to Aurefarm, a Yard Goats Baseball game, Lupa Zoo, fun at the movie theater, Jonathan's Dream Park, bowling, and activities at Harc. Also, the Ucal Foundation Soccer Camp begins from August 14th to August 18th. The Soccer & Health Camps are for girls and boys ages 8-18, they are fun yet intensive sessions that encourage developing and enhancing an individual player's skill, talent, technique, and tactical awareness -- all while also fostering an enduring love of the game. They welcome a range of game experience, including first-time players. 6 of our children from our Capable Kids camp are attending from 8:30a.m to 3:00p.m. Don't forget that Camp Bulova starts this September!







## Upcoming Events

**The Ucal McKenzie Breakaway Foundation Soccer & Health Camp** August 14th to August 18th

**South Marshall Street Block Party**, August 22nd

**Camp Bulova** September 2023

**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

## Steppingstones Birth to Three Program Updates



Time to celebrate!

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

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



**Expanding upon our Birth to Three mission and vision, let's dive into more about our program!**

### How do families find us?

A referral for an evaluation is the first step. Anyone can make a referral including, parents, foster parents and guardians, teachers, childcare providers, healthcare providers, case workers, and relatives or family friends. Evaluations and services are free of charge. Children with a significant developmental delay based on standardized test or a diagnosed medical condition that's likely to result in a developmental delay, qualify. We are here to help! Call 1-800-505-7000.

### Where in the community do we provide services?

Our services are provided in children's natural environments. These are places where children with and without developmental delays or disabilities spend their time; the family home, daycare, preschool, park, library, grocery store, restaurant, or the home of a friend or relative. Strategies embedded by families and caregivers into everyday routines and activities in these environments are most effective at enhancing children's learning and development.



## Career Day



On July 27th, Keith McGilvery from Fox61 came to Harc for our Supported Employment's Career Day. Our individuals learned so much about news broadcasting and what it takes to be a news anchor and reporter. Everyone had their own question to ask Keith and he did an amazing job of answering each one of them. Our folks were so thrilled to have him as a special guest. Each month, supported employment has a career day and a special guest would come to Harc and tell our individuals about their jobs. Some of the previous guests included Paramedics, Police Officers, and Firefighters. We are excited to find out who next month's guest will be... stay tuned!



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