



[What's New In June?](#)

A message from our President & CEO Russell Coleman



June marks Pride Month, a time to celebrate the vibrant diversity and resilience of the LGBTQ+ community. At Harc, we stand in solidarity with all who seek acceptance and equality.

Pride Month commemorates the 1969 Stonewall uprising, a pivotal moment in the LGBTQ+ rights movement that sparked significant progress toward equality and justice. The courage displayed during those events continues to inspire advocacy efforts today. Similarly, the movement for the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities has had significant milestones, such as the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990. Both movements highlight the ongoing struggle for recognition, respect, and equal rights for these underrecognized communities.

At Harc, our mission is to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in leading lives of quality, inclusion, and dignity. We take pride in providing a wide range of services that foster independence, personal growth, and community involvement. From creating safe and supportive residential environments to offering engaging day programs, meaningful employment opportunities, and comprehensive family support, we are dedicated to helping individuals thrive. Our commitment to inclusion ensures that everyone we serve feels valued and respected, and this is the impact we strive for every day.

Language plays a crucial role in shaping our perceptions and interactions. At Harc, we encourage everyone to use inclusive language that respects individuals' identities and experiences. How we speak to and about others can significantly impact how valued and respected they feel. By being mindful of our words, we can foster an environment where everyone, whether from the LGBTQ+ community or the community of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, feels accepted and embraced for who they are.

At Harc, we believe that everyone's uniqueness is their strength. This Pride Month, let's all celebrate our differences and stand together in creating an inclusive community where everyone is valued. By embracing who we are and supporting others to do the same, we contribute to a world where everyone feels respected and accepted.

To our staff, individuals, and their families who are part of the LGBTQ+ community, we embrace you, respect you, and are proud of you. We encourage anyone with a disability to feel proud of who they are. Your uniqueness is your strength, and at Harc, we believe in celebrating each person's individuality.

Let's all join hands in celebrating Pride Month and fostering an environment of acceptance and love. Your active participation is what makes our community stronger and more inclusive. Together, we can make a difference.

-Russell

Going, Going, and Its Gone! 



Harc

Hartford Yard Goats Dunkin' Park



Bri Throws 1st Pitch!



From Harc's Artisan Studio



The Hartford Yard Goats vs Akron Rubberducks game on Thursday, June 13th in downtown Hartford at Dunkin' Park had an amazing game! Harc's special guest, Bri , from Harc's Artisan Studio threw the first pitch to commence the baseball game! She did an amazing job and we have the footage to prove it. Thank you so much to TANGO, who provided us the opportunity to receive tickets for folks and staff at Harc. Harc is a member of TANGO (The Alliance for Nonprofit Growth & Opportunity) which provides free education and discounted services to its members through various for-profit partners.



A Quote From Bri's CCH Caregiver, Angie 🧑🏻‍🦺🧠:

"On June 13, 2024, Bruce and I were invited to a Yard Goat game to watch Bri pitch the ball. The staff of Harc, Inc made this a memorable day. They were all so accommodating, generous, warm and kind. After meeting them for the first time, they made us feel like we were a part of their group. I want to thank Harc and TANGO for making this game so memorable. I look forward in going to other events with you."

-Angie

It's Pride Month at Sockstarz 🏳️🌈



Shop Pride

The Tide Is High At LEP's Beach Themed Prom!



Everyone at our Life Enrichment Program had an unforgettable time at their beach-themed prom! The event was graciously hosted by Keith McGilvery from Fox61, who beautifully captured the essence of what Harc means to our elderly and retired individuals seeking a program that complements their lifestyle.

Prom is an annual highlight for our community, and this year was no exception. Special thanks to DJ Dale for providing fantastic music and to the Harc staff for setting up a stunning beach-themed venue. Their efforts created a memorable afternoon for all.

We are thrilled to announce that Allan and Deb from the LEP program were crowned King and Queen of the prom. They were overjoyed to receive this honor, and we have photos and videos below showcasing their happiness and the fun-filled atmosphere of the day.



Nyla's Story 📖

How did she get involved or know about Harc?

When Nyla was five or six, her family was looking for programs that cater to kids with disabilities. Once they went through an intensive Google search, Harc provided the services they were looking for.

What is her life story with having autism and being a part of Harc's camp? Nyla was diagnosed with Autism when she was three. She was staying in New York with her grandfather and grandaunt. They enrolled her in a daycare in New York where a daycare worker noticed that Nyla was not making eye contact with others. Harc's summer camp program was the perfect program for her because although Nyla was nonverbal, she loved to be a part of a group and to have something to do on a daily basis. The camp environment brought her out of that shell, and helped with some of her communication skills. Nyla was nonverbal up until the age of maybe seven.

How did Harc's camp help her grow to where she is today?

At an early age, Nyla learned what her limitations were, as far as safety. She learned how to share and play well with other children. As she got older, she in turn started to remember children from



camp and could not wait until the summertime to come back to camp.

How did her sister get involved with our camp?

Nyla's sister Nicole is 3 years younger, as soon as she was of age she attended camp with her sister. Nicole is developmentally delayed and very shy. Going to camp brought her out of her shell where she is not so shy anymore the environment is very welcoming.

What is Nyla doing with her life now, after attending camp?

Nyla still attends camp and when the new and younger children attend throughout the summers, she looks out for them; but the kid in her still cannot wait until camp starts again. Nyla is in the 11th grade and attends Classical Magnet High School. She is an honor student, and she tells everyone about camp and always said she cannot wait to see her friends.

What impact did Harc have on her development as a woman with autism?

At camp, Nyla is greeted with the same dignity and respect as her peers. As she grows into a contributing member of her community, Nyla's involvement with Harc enabled her to express her feelings, hobbies, and future interests. Nyla loves to be at home doing the things she loves like helping with chores around the home. When she talks about Harc camp, it is one of her favorite childhood memories that she mentions proudly. She loves the fact that she is in pictures in the Harc newsletters or you seeing her on the jumbotron at one of the trips at a baseball stadium.



A Special Note From Nyla's Mother:

I just wanted to add that it has been such a tremendous joy to witness the growth in Nyla and her younger sister Nicole. They are really the veterans of Harc's summer camp program, make the new campers feel at ease, and are very helpful. Nyla and Nicole participated in the Ucal McKenzie Breakaway Foundation (UMBF) Soccer & Health Camp for two years. This camp is a week of strenuous workout and training for children interested in soccer. Nyla won an award for most improved the first year she attended. Once she puts her mind to something, she is very dedicated. Nyla loves to sing and dance as well. She can be heard singing the Frozen song "Let It Go" all day long during camp. Love that girl...

-Laura

Harc's Beyond the Stage Dance Rehearsals! 



Harc's Beyond the Stage Crew recently had their first dance rehearsal with choreographer Darlene Zoller Co-Founder / Co-Artistic Director of Playhouse Theatre Group, Inc! Our talented dancers are hard at work, preparing for their big onstage debut. This year's show features the exciting theme of "Michael Jackson's Smooth Criminal."

The storyline revolves around an evil developer, played by one of our actors, who schemes to tear down Harc and replace it with a nuclear power plant. Our "Smooth Criminals" must thwart his plans and save the day.

Mark your calendars for Thursday July 18th and Friday July 19th and get ready to witness an incredible production featuring the individuals you know and love!

[Get Tickets Here](#)

Let's Give Harc's Day Programs a Tune-Up!  



Let's Give Day Program a Tune Up!

We are incredibly grateful for everything you do for our Harc community—whether it's volunteering, donating, or sending words of encouragement. Your support means the world to us, and we truly appreciate you.

We'd love to sing your praises, but we need your help! Our day programs are missing a key ingredient for some musical fun: a karaoke machine. Do you have an old karaoke machine that you no longer use? If so, consider donating it to Harc. Your generosity will have us singing your praises all summer long!

For more information, please contact Lucy at linghilterra@harc-ct.org. Thank you for your continued support!



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Harc's 35th Annual Auction & Gala!



Save the Date

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL



Harc's 35th Annual Auction and Gala

~ COCKTAIL ATTIRE ~

DANCING THROUGH THE DECADES

Saturday at 6:00pm
November 9, 2024

Hartford Windsor Marriott Airport
28 Day Hill Rd, Windsor, CT 06095



Harc Receives \$1 For Every Reusable Bag Purchased At Big Y!

We are so excited to share that, for the entire month of June, Harc has been selected by store leadership to benefit from Big Y's Community Bag Program, which makes it easy for shoppers to contribute to their local communities.

Whenever a \$2.50 reusable Community Bag is purchased at the Big Y located at **772 North Main St., West Hartford, CT** in June, \$1 will be donated to Harc. This is a great way to broaden awareness and help our cause.

Let's get started! Share the news with friends and family. Call, send emails, and post on social media. The more people who purchase the Community Bag in June, the larger the donation we will receive!

[Learn More](#)

Stay Cool This June!



Kick off summer with a reusable bag! This **June**, pick up a \$2.50 Community Bag at our selected Big Y to send our organization a \$1 donation.



bigy.2givelocal.com
Community Bag Program

Are You Enjoying Bonusly?



We think you are amazing and we want to recognize you for the meaningful contributions you are making to Harc every day.

With Bonusly, everyone can publicly recognize everyone else by giving small bonuses that add up to meaningful rewards. Each

month you will receive an allowance of "Harc points." You can use that allowance to give your teammates small bonuses to celebrate success in real time. We think you will love giving recognition that is candid, social, and expressive!

As you earn bonuses, you can redeem your points for gift cards to major retailers, donations to charities, and more! If you are not signed up, or have any questions, ask your direct supervisor or manager.

Happy bonusing!

[Access Bonusly Here](#)

Upcoming Events



SAVE THE DATE

July 18th & 19th, 2024 Harc's Beyond the Stage
Saturday, November 9th, 2024 Auction and Gala

[Donate](#)

