

PARC AVENUES

Exceptional Opportunities for People with Disabilities

PARC Celebrates 35 Years of Residential Program

*By Louis Lindenbaum, Deputy Executive Director and
Nancy Miringoff, Associate Executive Director*

A pioneer is a person who helps lead the way to a new idea and prepares others to follow to settle into a new place. The PARC group, who moved into the Ludingtonville Residence in 1975, were true pioneers in that they opened the first residence at PARC which now has 134 residents living throughout Putnam County. The residents were: Ed Degroat, Nick Vitale, John Brady, Charlie Meyer, Pat Rooney, Joe Reilly, James Pastor, Paul Harris, Richard Friedman, Norman Sherwin and Chuck Holder.

PARC's Residential Program is now an integral part of the services provided by PARC; however, 35 years ago, this was unknown territory and the residential model included a live-in couple in their own apartment providing 24/7 oversight.

The original residents all had varied backgrounds, but most had one thing in common: they had lived in an institutional setting, either Willowbrook or Wassaic Developmental Center, or both, for most of their lives. One resident, Pat Rooney, was told by his family that they were taking him on a visit to Wassaic for the weekend. Pat was 12 years old and the visit was really a placement for their child who had cerebral palsy and for whom they could not care for any longer. Pat was at Wassaic for the next 40 years before he moved out into the Ludingtonville Residence. Similar stories were repeated for some of the other residents.

John Brady and Nick Vitale both lived with their families or on their own in the community; however, both needed support in daily living so they agreed to move into Ludingtonville and become part of the PARC family.

Each one of these pioneers had their own background story, some similar and some different, but they all had one thing in common, the courage to be the first: the first to move out of Wassaic, the first to separate from family and move into their own place, the first to live in a new model which was just being developed. They paved the way for others and served as a role model for all of us.

The staff who cared for the original group of pioneers also blazed a trail for others to follow. These were un-chartered waters. They had a vision of how post-institutional life should be for these men, and they worked hard to achieve a home life for them.

Ludington represented the emergence of a partnership between New York State, which was under a legal mandate (the Willowbrook Consent Decree), and PARC (the local community agency whose mission embraced deinstitutionalization) to give people the opportunity to live more normal lives and exercise their civil rights. In fact, Susan Neal, Chief of Community Services, at Wassaic, was the mover and shaker behind many of the people who moved into the Putnam community. Our Neal House bears her name.

Despite the fact that many had not been in touch with their families for decades, parents and siblings worked with social workers and psychologists, like us, to give consent to placements for their siblings and children in the care of PARC. How frightening it must have been and how brave many of them were to give over the care of their loved ones to strangers.

When we spoke with Richard Friedman, he was very proud that he had been a part of PARC's history, and he was pleased that we would acknowledge his role in this way. He reflected back on the experience as "a new journey." Richard spoke from the heart: "I never knew I'd come this far. I never dreamed I'd come as

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PARC

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Susan Limongello

Lou Lindenbaum and I had the opportunity to visit Washington DC as part of the Disability Policy Seminar in April. The Seminar was hosted by The US Arc, and other nationally affiliated organizations. Each year we are addressed by a notable group of “movers and shakers” in the political world and the focus is strictly on the policies, bills and laws that affect people with disabilities in our country.

Last year, as you can imagine, much of the seminar was centered on the Health Care Reform. As it turned out, people with disabilities were treated fairly

in this new Law and very little of what we asked for was excluded.

The new Health Care Reform Law will:

- Prohibit pre-existing condition exclusions, lifetime and annual caps, discrimination based on disability and health status, and rescission of coverage;
- Require guaranteed issue and renewal of insurance policies.
- Establish a high risk pool to provide coverage to those that are not currently insured. This will continue until the new Insurance Market Exchange becomes effective in 2014.
- Provide significant subsidies to assist low income individuals to purchase coverage
- Include dental and vision care for children in the Exchange;
- Include coverage of critical disability related services in the Exchange.
- Expand Medicaid eligibility to 133 % of the Federal poverty level
- Increase Medicaid reimbursement to physicians and pediatricians to Medicare rates in 2013-2014
- Improve the coordination of care to those receiving both Medicare and Medicaid
- Require data collection and disparities for persons with disabilities
 - o to know where they receive their care,
 - o determine the providers that are accessible
 - o that their equipment meets the needs of individuals with disabilities, and
 - o determines the training of health care professionals in awareness and patient care.

Overall, the Health Care Reform Law is a good law for people with developmental disabilities and we should all be proud of the advocacy we have done to ensure that our fragile population was included properly.

The Health Care and Reconciliation Act of 2010 is awaiting Presidential signature and will include the following to potentially reduce Medicaid while increasing independence and choice:

- The CLASS Act (Community Living Assistance Services and Supports), first introduced by Senator Kennedy. This Act creates a voluntary long term insurance program (funded by payroll deductions) to help adults who have, or develop, functional impairments to remain independent and engaged.
- Improvements to Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)
- Community First Choice Option will give additional Medicaid funds to States that provide this service to persons that are eligible for institutional care. This service will provide attendant care in the community and at home.

Moving forward, we will continue to fight for Employment, equitable pay for non-State workers, Education, Transition programs, Housing, and services for people with Autism.

In these difficult financial times, it is important to remember that we must continue to have our voices heard, here at home, and in Washington DC. Our cause is one for which we have fought for over 55 years, and we will continue. I thank you for your continued support and advocacy.

PARC Celebrates 35 Years of Residential

Continued from Page 1:

far as this.” His words are a testament to his courage and strength throughout his life.

Today, Richard is an avid Yankee fan, enjoys day trips throughout the Hudson valley, carries his own money, likes to eat out for lunch, is diligent about his workbook at Connections Program, and as one staff member told us, likes to play “Uno.”

In an interview with James Pastor, he remembered how he never truly felt “at home” during his years living in an institution. There were “no vacations, people would take my things, there were only staff on the grounds” with whom he could relate. Ludington presented him with the opportunity to go to the malls, to interact with people who cared about him, to go on vacation to Lake George, and to have “a lot of fun.” Ludington became truly “my home.”

And moving forward, as we commemorate the 35th anniversary of residential services at PARC, we say congratulations to all of our pioneers on their great and moving achievement!

TEAM WORK WORKS

By Donna Lombardi Slavin, Crossroads Activity Coordinator

The first ever Crossroads Olympics was held on March 4, 2010. The teams, the colors of the Olympic rings, marched in with their name tags and their flags held high. They were led by the torch bearer to the theme from “Rocky, Eye of the Tiger.” The excitement was high! First was the football throw, then bowling, followed by weight lifting, basketball toss, ring toss and finally, knock-down-the-bottle.

Each participating team member gave it their all, cheered on by their coaches and team mates. At the finale the points were counted. Blue Team, Yellow Team and Black Team were our Gold, Silver and Bronze winners. All Olympians received their Olympic medals because in the end they were ALL WINNERS!

This event would never have happened if the Crossroads Staff had not already been a team. Every day we make a decision to work together to enrich the lives of the people we work for. As a result we all benefit.



Pictured at left: Trophy Ceremony at Crossroads Olympics

Help PARC just by searching on the Internet. Go to **www.Goodsearch.com** and register to raise money for PARC with every search and with every purchase at major online retailers. Good for us, good for you. GoodSearch!

Taking Your Career to the Next Step: Highlighting the Professionalism in the Direct Support Professional

*By Pat Burdi, Director of Training & Staff Development
Pepi Diaz-Salazar, Director of Day Habilitation and
Hennie Fry, Director of Residential*

PARC's pilot program of learners successfully completed their first semester of The College of Direct Support this March 2010. A total of 8 students, a combination of Frontline Managers and Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), completed the course with representation from DayHab and Residential services. The College of Direct Support is an internet-based learning system for Direct Support Professionals who support individuals with disabilities. The curriculum is self-paced, self-directed studies, accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Dyson Foundation, based in Millbrook NY, is the generous benefactor of a \$20,000 grant to PARC to sponsor professional development and training for the Direct Support Professional. The grant will provide for tuition payments for the completion of study in a certification program. The curriculum, developed by the Research and Training Center on Community Living at the University of Minnesota, is geared toward the professionalization of staff to enhance the quality of services they provide to the people we serve.

The College of Direct Support provides courses for Direct Support Professionals, Supervisors and Managers. The curriculum for the Direct Support Professional is offered in two modules: Module 1 for Entry Level and the prerequisite for Module 2, both consisting of 11 courses. Core course work includes: Community Inclusion; Introduction to Developmental Disabilities; Documentation; Individual Rights and Choices; Positive Behavior Supports; Supporting Healthy Lives; Cultural Competence; Employment Supports; Medication Support; Personal Care and Working with Families.

Frontline Supervisors may take up to 4 courses during a semester some requiring prerequisite course work. Core courses for the Manager and Supervisor include Employee Development, Teamwork Coaching, Recruitment, and Training topics. The College of Direct Support frequently adds new courses and is updated regularly.

Our PARC learners are impressed with the course work and feel better prepared to implement their new knowledge and provide quality support to those we serve. Managers and Supervisors feel better prepared for recruitment, retention and developing realistic job descriptions. All the students have developed skills to integrate in daily living, to better understand and identify challenging behavior and put preventive actions into place. Effective communication and interaction with families and the teams the staff are working with is an integral part of awareness in the program.

PARC recognizes the career potential and fully supports the profession of the Direct Support Professional. The Agency encourages education and training and is committed to provide the administrative resources the student needs to succeed. The overall goal of the program is to implement a new Direct Support Professional staff training program that will result in greater job satisfaction, reduced staff turnover, and higher quality care to those we serve.

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Wanda Rakofsky April 1, 1925 - December 17, 2009

By The Staff of Birch House

Wanda Rakofsky came to the original Birch House in Mahopac in 1983. For 27 years she remained in PARC and lightened up the lives of those she met. We feel that this is an honor to write about Wanda and share the stories we continue to hold dear to our hearts.

The one thing that Wanda loved to do while at Birch was to go on outings, especially when we went shopping. You would hold on to this person in their 80s for her own safety as she was dragged staff down the aisle. Then all of a sudden, she would stop, bend over and pick up some dirt or paper off the floor. She was notorious for cleaning the local stores.

When you remember Wanda, you always include her pocket book. It was extremely heavy and it went with her everywhere she went, including the bathroom. She kept a sewing kit, a wallet filled with pennies, tissues, bobby pins, hair combs, religious cards and rosary beads. Wanda particularly loved going to church, visiting Graymoor and going out, one-to-one, for dinner.

Mary Jane started working with her in 1998 and that is when their unique relationship started. She holds many stories to tell about Wanda and has chosen a few to share with everyone. One thing that stands out was when Wanda had control of her poly grip. She would come out before she went to bed and say, "I can't get my false teeth out." Staff would have to put gloves on and loosen the grip on her gums and pull. The teeth would come out with all this glue hanging from it. She would then laugh and say, "Aww, I used too much poly grip."

Wanda and Mary Jane would always joke with each other. They loved the game of hide and seek. Mary Jane would hide in the pantry; other staff would hear Wanda calling, "Mary Jane, Mary Jane." It wouldn't be until the dog gave Mary Jane away, that Wanda would finally find her. Once she did, she opened the door laughing and saying, "I found you, Mary Jane!"

Wanda loved her chocolate and cookies. She would do just about anything for them. Her brother, knowing this, would send her a box of chocolates and a card for every holiday. He never missed a holiday; Wanda would always be waiting anxiously for the package. One memorable moment was during a snowstorm when the plow knocked the mailbox down. Staff went to the mailbox and found it lying on the ground. When the staff noticed that the mailbox was knocked down, they brought it up to the house and stood it in front of the kitchen door. Then they took Wanda out to the mailbox to retrieve her package of goodies.

We will always remember that grin she gave you before she went to bed and said good night to each staff individually. Stories of Wanda Rakofsky's kind and loving spirit will continue to be shared by all that have known her. She is truly missed and will always have a place in our hearts.



In Memoriam

Immaculate Nasirumbi Makokha Cunningham January 23, 1967 - March 23, 2010

On Sunday, March 28th 2010, we said goodbye to one of our most beloved and respected direct support professional staff members.

Immaculate Cunningham died at Westchester County Medical Center on Tuesday, March 23rd, after a long battle with cancer. A number of PARC colleagues and Wiccopee residents attended her memorial service on March 28th.

Although Immaculate was a member of the Wiccopee team for the past four years, she worked in almost every house and supported many of our residents.

Immaculate had compassion, integrity, patience, grace and courage, and worked tirelessly to address every need, to answer each question and to resolve all issues that residents brought to her. She supported them in everyday life, giving them a sense of security and calm, being a true friend to all.

In October 2008, Immaculate received the NYSACRA Direct Support Professional Award, honoring not only her excellent job performance, but also acknowledging the beautiful person she was. Immaculate contributed to and improved the lives of all of our residents and was a shining example and mentor to many of her co-workers.

She leaves a legacy of service and dedication for all to follow and she will be sorely missed.



Norman Zwetchenbaum October 27, 1930 – January 22, 2010

Norman Zwetchenbaum, a long time resident of Patterson 22, moved into Patterson 311 in May 2009.

Norman was a gentleman who enjoyed sitting outside with his radio, watching the cars go by from the Patterson 22 porch. While residing at Patterson 311, he still enjoyed listening to his radio while sitting in the sun. He would sing or move to the music while it played.

Norman also enjoyed old westerns, especially movies with John Wayne. He enjoyed outings to the diner, where he would order his favorite foods. He enjoyed the wide variety of meals prepared at the house with chili and cornbread being one of his favorites.

For many years Norman attended UCP Day Program, where he was actively working

and participated in many activities. In his later years, he attended PARC Connections program. Norman liked to sit and watch others. Norman was a loving and gentle person who enjoyed what life had to offer.



Free to Speak Self Advocates Meet with New York State Assemblyman Greg Ball

By Joanne Carcare, Self Advocacy Advisor

A chance encounter in the community led to an exciting night at PARC Center. Free to Speak Self-Advocacy had their monthly meeting that included a guest speaker and their annual election with an interesting result.

Assemblyman Greg Ball came to speak to our group. We had about 25 people in attendance. Our officers and members took this opportunity to speak to him about their concerns with recent budget cuts and future budgets. Some of our members mentioned the lack of jobs and others just appreciated him taking time to speak to the group. Assemblyman Ball spoke to the group about the importance of being involved in the community. He spoke about the idea of “being in the room”, a political term meaning you have to be involved to make a difference. He spoke about the fact that people can’t evoke change by staying at home. However, when you get involved and speak up you can make changes. Our Officers mentioned to him our recent

addition to the agenda, Community Outreach. He seemed genuinely impressed by our group’s efforts to help the people in our community. In closing, Assemblyman Ball spoke about the importance of being involved with elections on both a national and community level. Coincidentally, this led us into the next important part of the evening, our elections.

For the first time in Free to Speak history, a person who is not living in PARC’s Residential Program was elected. Holly Whitlock was elected to be our Treasurer. Donald Hager was re-elected as President. Athena Lightcap is Vice-President, Jonathan Abbey is secretary, and Val Fidanque is Fund Raising Coordinator. Also, we added a new position of Community Outreach and Mary Hession was elected to that position. These positions will be held for one year.

The meeting was attended by several residents from several houses and a few from the apartments. The residents are always supported by their staff in order to attend these meetings. The meetings provide an outlet to voice concerns, speak with peers, learn how to advocate for themselves and others and to have fun. I urge you to stop by and see some of the PARC residents at their best and becoming their own advocates. Our meetings are held at PARC Center the third Thursday of every month from 6:30-8pm.



Left to right, standing: Jason McDonnell, Athena Lightcap, Holly Whitlock, Donald Hager, Assemblyman Greg Ball, Liz Rocks, Mary Hession, Val Fidanque; seated in front: Jonathan Abbey.

Partners with PARC Presents ~ The Castles and Cottages Tour



October 2010

*Check for details in July at
www.PartnerswithPARC.org*



PARC participants and families treated to annual dinner from Applebee's of Brewster

PARC is proud to have the support of many community partners, especially Applebee's of Brewster. On February 9, 2010, the staff of Applebee's of Brewster, hosted its fifth annual "Dinner with Applebee's" for PARC's participants and families. Held at PARC Center in Carmel, more than 200 people were treated to a served, Italian-themed meal by five members of the Applebee's of Brewster staff, led by restaurant manager Nick DiMartino.

Since Applebee's first came to Putnam County in 2004, the franchise has proved a valuable business and community partner. Applebee's acts as an employment site for PARC participants, donates food to support PARC's many fundraisers and events, and hosts annual gatherings and dinners for PARC's participants.

"I applaud the staff of Applebee's of Brewster for taking the time and making the effort to create a great event for our participants," said Tom Paradise, president of PARC's Board of Directors, who attended the dinner with his family. "We truly appreciate Applebee's continued support of PARC and for being a helpful and continued community partner."

From the Applebee's website: "We value the neighborhoods in which we do business and strive to improve them with our presence. Our franchisees are a significant source of inspiration and commitment to our neighborhoods. In 2009, Applebee's franchisees' employees donated 54,000 hours of community service with an average of 30 employees per restaurant donating their time. We hope to make a difference by giving back in the communities where we operate. In its purest form, it is one way we say 'thank you.'"

Applebee's of Brewster is located in the Highlands Shopping Plaza, Route 312 and Interstate 84, Brewster. Hours of operation and menus can be found at www.Applebees.com.



Pictured at top left: Applebee's staff members Frank Hand, Jason Kilgour, Jan Eric Koehler, Nicholas DiMartino, Stu Davis take a quick photo break; top right: Shannon, LeighAnn and Board President Tom Paradise enjoy the Applebee's dinner; bottom left: Assistant Executive Director Louise Rheem and staff members Rob Bedwell and Beth Hurley; bottom right: Participants Tina Tomaselli and Selma Dumar stop for a photo before dessert is served.



Items assembled by participants at PARC Center in Carmel are sent to space; partnership with local company and NASA brings pipette tips from Carmel into orbit

Putnam ARC, the leading provider of services to people with developmental disabilities in Putnam County, is pleased to announce that items assembled by participants at PARC Center's vocational rehabilitation program were recently sent to space on board NASA's Space Shuttle Endeavor.

Shuttle Endeavor, which launched on February 8, 2010 for a mission to the International Space Station, carried with it pipettes for a number of planned experiments. The MLA D-Tipper pipettes, sold by VistaLab Technologies of Mt. Kisco, NY, are used in the field of laboratory science, to perform testing and deliver set volumes of liquid for experiments. The sterile plastic tips used on the pipettes are assembled at PARC Center in Carmel as part of PARC's vocational rehabilitation program for adults with developmental disabilities.

VistaLab, formerly MLA, has been a partner with PARC for more than 32 years. PARC participants do a number of jobs for VistaLab including seven different pipette tip assemblies. The work is done in PARC Center's main supported workshop space and in dedicated "clean rooms," also located at PARC Center. The majority of PARC Center's contract work is for VistaLab, according to Michael Miller, director of PARC's vocational rehabilitation program.

"We were excited to learn that there was a direct connection between our little corner of Putnam County and the work we do here and the International Space Station," said Miller. "This might be viewed as an example of how the world might be getting smaller but that people with disabilities are beginning to occupy a bigger portion of it. Even the sky may not be the limit for our dedicated and hard-working participants."

BRING YOUR SON/DAUGHTER TO WORK DAY AT THE PRESCHOOL

*By Marie Raptis, Sr.TA, Program Activities and
Carmen Greenstein, LCSW*

The Preschool participated in National "Bring Your Son/Daughter to Work Day" on Thursday, April 22, 2010. Seven children participated ranging in age from 10 to 16. Among this group, three were triplets who themselves attended the Preschool's Early Intervention Program and Inclusion classes. Currently 4th grade students in mainstream classes at their local elementary school, they provided a lovely, "live" validation of the efficacy of the Preschool's program and services. Other participants included the 10 year old daughter of our Occupational Therapist, 10 year old son of our Physical Therapist, 16 year old grandson of our Behavior Intervention Specialist and the 16 year old daughter of one of our Senior Teaching Assistants. Staff welcomed the children and spoke to them about our students and explained what their roles would be in the classroom. A pizza and fresh fruit lunch was served.

At the end of the day the participants gathered to discuss the day. They were asked what they enjoyed most and found most challenging. They all enjoyed playing with the preschoolers and they unanimously felt the most challenging part of the day was when students transitioned from one activity to the next. A Certificate of Participation was presented to each attendee.

Amidst the activity at the Preschool, one classroom was observed quietly celebrating Earth Day, also April 22nd, by planting sunflower seeds outside on a perfect spring day.

Winter/Spring Photo Round-Up, clockwise from top right: Jonathan Abbey and Heather Lee at Senator Vincent Leibell's office for Advocacy Day; students of the preschool enjoy visits from siblings during "Take Our Children to Work Day" in April; Doreen Taylor and Ed and Sally Enright at Senator Leibell's office for Advocacy Day; participants and staff from Day Hab's Enhancement's program taking in the sun during an Easter Egg Hunt; Provident Bank's Mary Shanley presented a check to Board President Tom Paradise and Executive Director Susan Limongello to support PARC's Traumatic Brain Injury programs; Susan Limongello and Frank Maglino celebrate receiving the keys to Ridge Road. The house on Ridge Road in Carmel will replace the current rented Poplar House; Anthony Liotta and MSC Michelle Perotta are all smiles at the annual Applebee's Dinner.



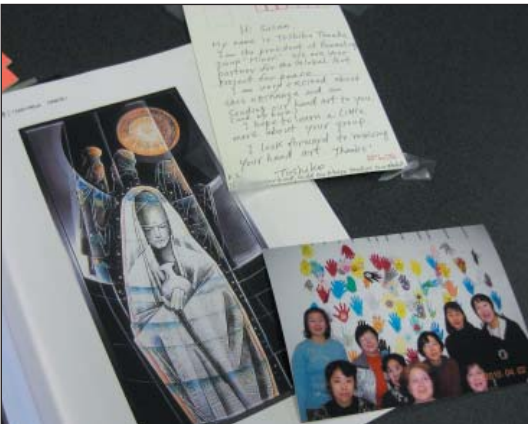
Global Art Project Comes to PARC



The Global Art Project is an International Art Exchange for Peace – An expression of the idea: We Are All One. PARC Day Hab has taken part in this Global Art Exchange for Peace since 1999.

Our DH members create a work of art in any medium, expressing their vision of global peace and goodwill. Global Art Project then organizes an international exchange by matching participants—group-to-group and individual-to-individual. The exchange occurs April 23-30 biennially, resulting in thousands of people sending messages of Peace around the world at one time—visions of unity simultaneously encircle the Earth.

This year our partners were both close to home and far-flung around the world. Crossroads Day Hab was partnered with an art studio group in Hiroshima-City, Japan. Connections Enhancement Day Hab group was partnered with the Boxhill Community Arts Centre, Australia.



The WithOut Wall's Seniors II Day Hab group exchanged art with a senior's home in Prien, Germany. Community Awareness Young Adult group's partner was the closest to home – Gathering of the Minds, Inc. Wilton, CT.

Pictured at left, top: Crossroads participant Gina Astrologo displays the Crossroads art project that was exchanged with our friends in Japan.

Pictured at left, bottom: artwork, a letter and photo from Global Art participants from Hiroshima City, Japan.



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Good for us, good for you...GoodShop!

PARC Leads the Way in Transition Planning

By Nadine Zeigler, Educational Advocate

Under the leadership of Teddi Barry, Director of Educational Services at PARC, the Putnam Partnership for Special Needs was developed. The PPSN is a coalition of personnel from local school districts and agencies serving families residing in Putnam and Northern Westchester Counties.

Prior to the PPSN, a Transition Community Group began meeting in the fall of 2008 with representatives from a few agencies, including PARC, Putnam Independent Living, CAREERS for People with Disabilities, and the Putnam County Office for People with Disabilities. Within a few months, additional agencies joined the efforts of the Transition Community Group with the goal of raising public awareness of the services available in Putnam County. By the spring of 2009, many school districts joined the coalition, and the PPSN was formed.

Throughout the fall of 2009 and the winter of 2010, the PPSN planned their first Transition Fair for families of students, 14-21, who would be transitioning into adult services. This fair was held at the Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES campus in Yorktown Heights during



the evening of March 23rd. It was truly a successful event. Thirty vendors representing a variety of agencies were available throughout the evening to speak with numerous families and school personnel attending the fair. At PARC's table, representatives from our Educational Services, Vocational, and Clinical Departments were available to speak with families and explain our many services. A formal program consisted of a keynote address by Adrienne Arkontoky, a special needs/guardianship attorney and parent of two special needs children. Following the keynote address, representatives from state and federal agencies provided a panel overview on transition services. There were also three break-out sessions on transition, mental health, and guardianship, so families could attend a session based on their own personal needs. Throughout the evening, light refreshments were available, courtesy of Hannaford, Turko's, and Jen & Jerry's Deli.

PARC's involvement in the planning and execution of the Transition Fair was instrumental in its success. The evening was informative and very well received by all attendees. The PPSN plans to make the Transition Fair an annual event.



Pictured at top: Adrienne Arkontoky from Littman Krooks LLP talks to a group of parents about Guardianship.

Pictured at bottom: PARC Staff Michael Miller & Joanne Pasquerello staff PARC's resource table at the fair.



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Collaboration between PARC and Putnam Hospital Center: Planning for the Future

By Nancy Miringoff, Associate Executive Director

The key to surviving this challenging and ever-changing economic and political environment may very well be found in PARC's approach to working with other community organizations: collaboration. At three recent conferences, the Putnam County Public Health Summit, the Not-for-Profit Leadership Conference, and a Housing conference at Westchester Institute for Human Development, forming partnerships was a constant theme. Towards that goal, for the past year, PARC and Putnam Hospital Center have been working together to promote interagency cooperation and strategizing about how best to meet the needs of the people we serve when they are patients at the local hospital, whether on an inpatient or outpatient basis.

We have held two large meetings, one hosted by the hospital and the next one hosted by PARC, where executive and middle management level staff have discussed topics of mutual concern: home care; education and training needs; discharge planning; sitter services when people are hospitalized and what is the role of our staff; consent for procedures and who is the decision-maker; notifications and appropriate contact people; emergency medical treatment and responsiveness; mental health services and the use of the psychiatric inpatient wing for our participants, etc.

We have shared what we do and the wide array of services that PARC provides in this community, (including a tour of PARC Center which was very well-received) while Putnam Hospital Center staff have provided PARC with the opportunity to tour the new wing of the hospital, the Cancer Treatment Center, and other state of the art technologies that are now available.

We developed inter-agency committees to address specific concerns, and they have met with success! Specifically, PARC has put in place a new Face Sheet with information that is essential to hospital admission, and the hospital has developed a procedure for admitting our participants to the psychiatric floor when they present with the need for inpatient treatment. In addition, Joanne Pasquerello, Assistant Director of Clinical Services, and Hennie Fry, Director of Residential Services, have provided inservice training to emergency room staff and doctors.

When Hennie Fry and I attended the Housing Conference at WIHD, there was discussion of the National Core Indicators Project which New York State is participating in. This project is measuring the quality of care for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities in New York State and across the country.

Interestingly, the four key indicators of quality of care are: Home, Health (which includes diet and exercise), Relationships, and Productivity (work, employment, voluntarism).

At PARC, we support people in these areas through our residential services program and our direct support staff; our nursing services, our nutritional services, our therapies, our clinical, social and recreational services and programs, and through work opportunities that we offer, whether they be in-house, in community employment, through volunteer opportunities. The quality of our care can be measured by the efforts we undertake to ensure the highest level of health and medical services for our people.

In all of our health efforts, on behalf of the people we serve, we are working with our community partners. In fact, another area where we have seen positive results is with Medworld, the pharmacy that provides services to our residential constituents. Several interagency meetings have taken place; meetings between the head pharmacists and key PARC staff; including our nurses and our day assistants who are the team responsible for the communication about the medications, re-fills, stocking medications, and administration of medication.

The next steps with the Hospital Center are: a tour of our day habilitation and residential services; continued discussion and monitoring of the emergency room treatment and crisis admission process; meeting on home care; meeting with the Hospital pharmacy director. Our next meeting will be hosted by the hospital and should take place in the fall.

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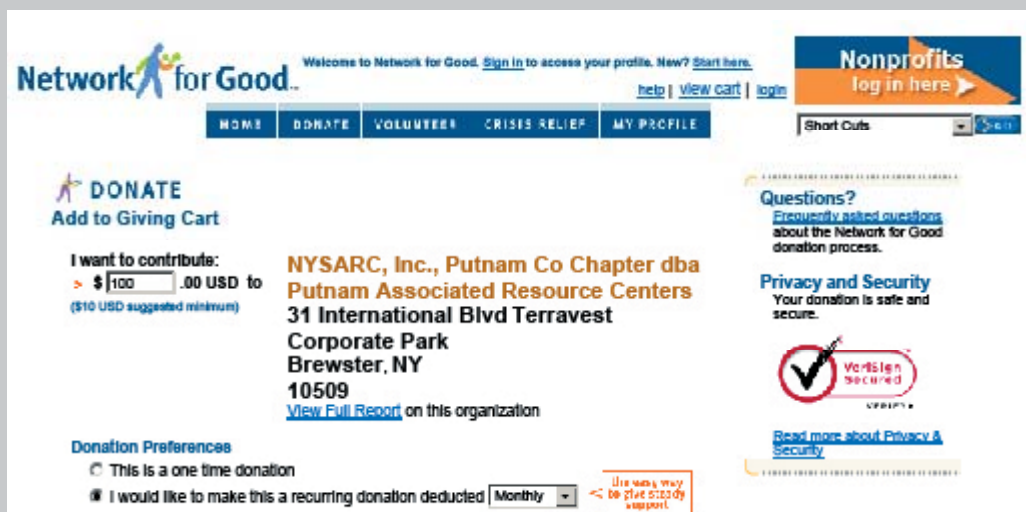
In order to make online donating even easier, PARC and Partners with PARC are now working with the well-respected Guidestar and Network for Good to safely and securely process online donations.

The website, www.NetworkforGood.org, is very easy to navigate and allows donors to both PARC and Partners with PARC to make donations during the year, on a monthly or quarterly basis, and even to allocate funds to a designated program or service.

PARC's donation page is shown below, so you can see what the format is like, prior to making your secure, online donations.

From Network For Good's *About Us* page: Imagine what the world would be like if every time you were inspired to help someone or something, you could -- with just a few clicks of a mouse, anywhere online. That's the mission of Network for Good. We make it as easy to donate and volunteer online as it is to shop online, and we make it simple and affordable for all nonprofits, of any size, to recruit donors and volunteers via the Internet.

Learn more about Network for Good and the \$250 million in donations this non-profit has processed for charities at www.NetworkForGood.org. The "Ways to Give" section, at the bottom of the homepage, is very helpful.



The screenshot shows the Network for Good website interface. At the top, it says "Welcome to Network for Good. Sign in to access your profile. New? Start here." with links for "help", "view cart", and "login". A "Nonprofits log in here" button is also present. A navigation menu includes "HOME", "DONATE", "VOLUNTEER", "CRISIS RELIEF", and "MY PROFILE".

The main content area is titled "DONATE Add to Giving Cart". It features a form where the user has entered "\$100.00 USD" and a note that "\$10 USD suggested minimum". The recipient is listed as "NYSARC, Inc., Putnam Co Chapter dba Putnam Associated Resource Centers, 31 International Blvd Terravest Corporate Park, Brewster, NY 10509". A link to "View Full Report on this organization" is provided.

Below the form, there are "Donation Preferences" with radio buttons for "This is a one time donation" and "I would like to make this a recurring donation deducted Monthly". A note states "Use web may be give steady support".

On the right side, there are sections for "Questions?", "Privacy and Security", and a "VeriSign secured" logo.