

THE AABR ADVANCE

AABR
Empowering People With Disabilities

AABR.ORG | 718.321.3800

@aabrnyc



AUTUMN | 2018



The Harvest Ball Wows Again

In October, the people served by AABR celebrated at the annual Harvest Ball, a prom-like event generously hosted and supported by Queens-based International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 3.

The evening, often called the event of the season by the AABR family, came complete with dinner, dancing, tuxes, gowns, and the sight of friends – both new and old.

From the limousines to the “paparazzi” as guests arrived, participants were thrilled. Upon entry, one attendee exclaimed “Come on, let’s go, they’re playing my jam!” The dance floor was packed, and the kitchen was abuzz with food processors preparing a spectacular meal for specialized diets.

The staff and volunteers go out of their way in every way to provide an exceptional experience for the people we support,” Kathryn Flood, AABR’s Assistant Executive Director said afterwards. “We look forward to doing even more in years to come for those who have particularly unique challenges.” What moved Ms. Flood most of all? “They were leaving that night talking about next year!”

Many thanks to the countless staff, supervisors, executive team, maintenance crew, and especially to the volunteers from IBEW local 3 - The night was a truly memorable experience, and a great time was had by all!

Read more about the Harvest Ball on AABR’s website, www.AABR.org.



HOW TO DONATE



Visit aabr.org and click the donate button on the upper right side of your screen.



Call 718.321.3800 and ask to speak to the Development Department.



Mail a check made out to
AABR Foundation to
ATTN: Development Department
AABR
1508 College Point Blvd.
P.O. Box 560247
College Point, NY 11356

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT



Visit our Treasure Box Thrift Store at 164-09 Hillside Ave, Jamaica, NY 11434 to shop or donate used clothing and household items. You can also call 718.558.0390 to arrange a pick up of large donation items.



Follow us on Facebook and Twitter
@aabrnyc



Taking CHANCES By Being Environmentally-Friendly



Marina Horan, CEO and Founder of CHANCES Environmentally-Friendly Products (EFP), a firm that creates employment opportunities for adults with Autism, knows first-hand the challenges and opportunities related to having a special needs family member. Horan's son Joseph was diagnosed with Autism, and CHANCES EFP offers him and others the chance to learn real-world skills.

How did Horan link Autism with sustainability? "The idea came about organically," Horan told The Advance. "I'm always thinking about Joseph and what he could do. I have a large Lavender garden and I dry the plants. I thought we could give our products as gifts and it grew from there," she said.

According to Horan, the products offered by CHANCES EFP are made of

ingredients that are put together by people with Autism. Products include Lavender sachets, sprays, "Sense-sational" Epsom salts, and Shower Spa Melts, to name but a few. Horan told The Advance that a Lavender Balm with Shea Butter was also in the works. Horan stressed that CHANCES EFP products are good for the skin, have aromatherapy properties and are good for the environment, but most importantly, buying these products gives people with Autism a chance to work.

This social enterprise, a business that uses business principles for social impact, employs people with Autism who have challenges finding gainful employment. Our hats off to Ms. Horan and her outside-the-sachet thinking!



Wellington Hall Pumpkin Contest

Congratulations to the 3 finalists and to the winners, the Computers Homeroom (Center)!



For more information on Horan's project, visit www.CHANCESEFP.com

Remembering Rose Weldon Teacher, Mentor and a Driving Force at AABR

AABR remembers Rose Weldon (August 2, 1943 -- August 2, 2018), a devoted and gifted teacher for over 50 years. Rose, the wife of Chris Weldon, AABR's executive director, was a substantive force in her own right. While we all have birth and end dates, it's what we do with "the dash" between the two that really matters. Rose Weldon was a person who made the most of her "dash".

During the agency's early days, she was a teacher at AABR's Children's School, where she taught children aged 5 to 21, fine motor skills. As AABR expanded, she developed curriculums for the organization's day programs, even going so far as to work in payroll. She remained a constant force behind the scenes at AABR even as she continued her teaching career and raised their two sons. She actively supported Chris in his lifelong dedication to people with developmental disabilities. The love, kindness and humor that was Rose is evident in the lives of those she touched during the "dash" of her life. Many within the AABR family took the time to speak with The Advance to remember her lasting impact:

"Relationship matters more to us and to God than the details. Details are important but not anymore important as relationship. She ran the race faithfully spending her years in prayer and service to others."

—Jack Weldon,
Rose's Son

"My mother was a woman who loved teaching. Everything she did was 110%. Even when she was sick and in the hospital, she was learning more about her disease. She loved AABR and she loved my father. My mother's spirit is still with us, but most of all she is watching over us all at AABR."

—James Weldon,
Rose's Son

"Rose's memory lives on in everyone she touched and knew."

—James Moran,
A Member of the AABR family

"She was extremely creative. As a teacher, she was always looking for new ways to teach. As much as she shared, she never stopped learning for herself. She was a true educator with a terrific sense of humor. She was a wonderful support to others. She was always right there. Whoever needed, that person was her sole focus."

—Debbie Van Cura,
Community Coordinator, AABR

"Rose's intellectual curiosity, exuberance and commitment to empowering her students inspired my daughter who just graduated from college with a degree in Environmental Biology and Education. As she charts her course, Rose is a constant presence and inspiration. It was a privilege to know her."

—Mary Uva,
A Former Student of Rose

She changed my career. I observed her in her classroom years ago when I had only been at AABR for 4 years. She took the time to mentor me, to hone my skills."

—Mary Frank,
Director of Education & Training, AABR

At Water Street, AABR Exceeds Expectations Once Again



After a stellar review of one of AABR's intermediate care facilities (ICF), the organization has once again lived up to its 62-year reputation of providing excellent services and care for individuals with developmental disabilities.

At AABR's Water Street ICF in Manhattan, both staff and management received fervent accolades during a recent routine audit of the home, showcasing the gold standard practices exhibited by staff.

During the morning routine at the residence, staffers Marie Claude Joseph, Nadege Calixte and Shanelle McDowall provided exceptional care for those with especially severe challenges. There was conversation, spot-on anticipated needs for those who had difficulty communicating, and a flow of interaction as they shared breakfast. Staff took their role seriously in teaching tasks that involved showering, dressing, meal preparation, setting the dining table, and having the individuals become more independent in feeding themselves.

The review resulted in no citations of any kind, and the auditor offered their congratulations saying, "It couldn't have gone any better". Hezikegh Elliott, AABR's Director of Residential Services, stated "This wasn't just something that happened at the time of the audit. In order for this to go so smoothly, this is something that they do each and every day."

Our thanks and congratulations to the staff and management at AABR's Water Street ICF, one of the many ICFs that AABR operates throughout the metropolitan region - Keep up the great work!

Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC) has recently undergone changes that will result in a more specialized, person-centered process than ever before. For over 25 years, AABR has been providing these supportive services to families living within the five boroughs of New York and on Long Island.

Now aptly named Care Coordination, Care Managers complete a "Life Plan", an intense 4-hour assessment, for each of the 25 to 30 individuals with developmental disabilities they serve. The Life Plan is derived from the IAM assessment, a concept which touches every part of the person's life.

According to Kymm Elliott, AABR's Care Manager Supervisor, "the Life Plan helps Care Managers and Service Providers know exactly who the person is, and what they want out of life." Elliott noted that the new approach allows for individuals to have more of a say in what they want to do and accomplish. "This is a more person centered approach than ever before," she said.

MSC to Care Coordination Evolving to Meet Your Needs



THE ARTHUR RUSSELL RESIDENCE AT HANID NEEDS YOUR HELP!



DONATE TO THIS WORTHY CAUSE AT AABR.ORG OR BY RETURNING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE

One of the many ways AABR has been addressing the social and recreational needs of the individuals we serve has been giving them the opportunity to spend time at this very special location. It is truly a house for all seasons, tucked within the rambling woods and open fields of Long Island's beautiful North Fork.

Without your continued generosity, our home away from home will not be able to continue its regular operations throughout the next year. AABR is making every effort to keep this recreational facility open. But we cannot do it alone – Your contributions can help prevent the closure of a special location that is known to our individuals as an exciting "home away from home."

Learn more at aabr.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

AABR, Inc
1508 College Point Blvd.
P.O. Box 650247
College Point, NY 11106

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FLUSHING, NY
PERMIT NO. 1449