

Greater Waltham Arc

Annual Report 2015

Celebrating 59 Years of Service 1956—2015

GWArc is committed to the inclusion of all people with disabilities. For information and assistance, please contact our main office.

GWArc is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt organization and an affiliated chapter of the Arc of Massachusetts and the Arc of the United States.



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www.gwarc.org





From the Chief Executive Officer

Greetings and thank you for your attention to this, GWArc's Annual Report for 2015. I join GWArc staff, participants and the Board of Directors in wishing you the best for 2016. We are all stakeholders in GWArc and your interest in



Roz Rubin, GWArc CEO, and Marcia MacClary, incoming 2016 Board President, plan for the coming year.

this agency is vital to our mission.

While we look back on a challenging and successful year at GWArc, we also look ahead to the start of our 60th year of service to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families/guardians.

This past year brought changes and challenges. GWArc welcomed new management staff—Chief Financial Officer, Chief Program Officer and Recreation Manager. The CFO has already brought modifications to our systems to make the agency more efficient in the areas of finances, human resources and technology. The Chief Program Officer has oversight of Day Habilitation, EPT, Recreation and Adult Family Care programs and is contributing energy and ideas to each program. If you have seen our quarterly recreation brochure, you know that GWArc and other community participants have had quite an active and varied menu of activities to enjoy this year. Several new direct care staff members have joined our team and they are welcomed and appreciated.

Our accomplishments this year represent changes—all for the better. See inside for the highlights of each program. To note a few, Day Habilitation continues changes to schedules, room composition and curriculum to best accommodate the interests and abilities of those we support. Community Based Day Supports (CBDS) has expanded activities with a significant number of volunteer activities and community trips. Recreation programming has added several staff to assist with these cost effective and accessible activities. And our Adult Family Care (AFC) program continues to grow, this year serving 30% more members who are caregivers to family members in their homes. I hope you enjoyed "Ciao Down for GWArc" and our 45th Annual Harvest Breakfast this year and met some of those we support—we love to have GWArc stakeholders with us.

While all this is happening, GWArc is excited to prepare for the agency's 60th anniversary! Two events are planned so far—a Diamond Anniversary Gala and a community Dance Party featuring the rock band Flame, both in December 2016. Watch for your "Save The Date" announcement and join us to commemorate a big year for our remarkable organization.

Yes, challenges continue—a difficult state funded budget, more space needed for current and future programming, and a population which changes, as we all do, as aging occurs. For all these reasons, we need your support and you are reminded to keep up with GWArc through our website, mailings and electronic messages. Your input is needed in all areas and I invite you to be in touch with me or other GWArc staff and Board members with your ideas.

Regards,

Roslynn Rubin, Ed.D Chief Executive Officer

Celebrating 59 Years of Excellence...

We are able to point with pride to important achievements which required a strong, capable staff and the support of GWArc's many friends to provide high quality service to over 300 individuals this year. Among our proudest accomplishments are:

Administration & Systems – Responsible for the business aspects of GWArc, including finances, accreditation, technology, structure of the agency and facilities and safety.

- Completed DDS Survey & Certification process
- Completed Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) survey
- Continued to investigate options for larger space in the community;
 responded to City of Waltham RFPs for use of the Fitch School
- Engaged KPM & Associates to conduct annual audit for 2nd year Participant Programming – Curriculum additions to enrich daily experiences, develop life skills and strengthen community connections.
- Volunteering in the community continued to be an important and enjoyable activity, providing an opportunity for participants to give back. Volunteer sites include Phinney's Friends (packaging pet supplies for elderly/low-income families), Meals on Wheels, meal preparation for The Salvation Army and gardening with Meadowscaping for Biodiversity, a community group
- Volunteering also included ongoing collaboration with the Waltham Rotary Club to help stock local food pantries. Rotary members donate funds at weekly meetings; GWArc participants use funds to shop for and deliver food to four Waltham food pantries. Our Rotary-GWArc Day of Service in July included shopping for \$900 worth of groceries and delivery to local food pantries
- Artists of GWArc arts programming continued with Music & Movement conducted by Tim Cohen, held twice a month at each site. Funding was provided by the Waltham Cultural Council and Waltham Community Foundation
- Interactive drumming with Mace Miller and Music Group with James Jones also continued twice a month
- Small groups from each site visited The Micheli Center for Sports Injury Prevention weekly for individualized exercise instruction. Our thanks to The Micheli Center for providing scholarships to allow our participants to attend
- Continued active use of 13 iPads, with adaptations for participants
- Participants and staff attended the Arc of Massachusetts Legislative Day at the State House
- GWArc held a City Leaders Forum with representatives of the Waltham Disability Services Commission and Waltham City Council to allow participants to share ideas and ask questions
- Community trips to educational/recreational sites grew in number and variety. Highlights include tours of Watertown Savings Bank and visits to Patriot Place, USS Constitution, art and science museums, The Butterfly Place, bowling, fishing and apple picking

Day Habilitation – Funded by the Department of Medicaid Assistance and Department of Developmental Services, our Day Habilitation program is located at 56 Chestnut Street, Waltham. Services include communication and motor skills development through exercise, music, crafts, cooking, volunteering and community trips.

- Began introduction of new curriculum and schedules
- Bentley Service-Learning students began volunteering daily
- Volunteer artist/art instructor Dan Dressler introduced participants to the art of collage

Employment, CBDS and Transitions – GWArc's day program located at 31 Woodland Road, Waltham. Employment services include independent community work and group supported employment at four local universities. CBDS program participants enjoy a curriculum of activities which include life skills such as communication, community safety, money management, volunteering and community trips. The School to Work Transitions Program works with Waltham Public Schools high school students to ensure meaningful future community involvement.

- Added Group Supported Employment (GSE) site at Babson College with 4 participants. 24 GSE participants continued work at Brandeis and Bentley Universities and Lasell College; 16 individuals worked at supported job placements in the community
- In addition to volunteering and community trips, CBDS participants enjoyed gardening and cooking activities
- School to Work Transitions served 31 students during the school year, with 20 holding part-time community jobs or volunteer positions. The Transitions Summer Program was held at Bentley University

Adult Family Care Program (AFC) – Medicaid funded tax-free financial support to families caring for their adolescent/adult children with disabilities and/or the elderly in their homes.

- AFC now serves over 40 Members. AFC staff attended many area events to reach caregivers who can benefit from this program
- Materials in Spanish and for caretakers of the elderly were created Recreation – Recreation Program activities for adults, adolescents and children in the community and for GWArc participants. Community-based activities with experts leading the events are emphasized.
- Quarterly Recreation brochure produced, with 128 activities offered, including classes, day trips and 3 overnight events. New and varied activities, as well as longstanding favorites, were very popular
- Implemented community service activities with the support of a grant from the Jones Partnership Fundt

Workforce Development – Staff training and development.

- Staff training was provided in American Sign Language (ASL), Alzheimer's Disease, Low Vision, Prevent (management of challenging behavior), Diversity/Cultural Competency and iPad usage and apps.
 Grant funding for ASL training was provided by CHNA-17
- Staff recognized at Annual Meeting and given a gift

Watch City Self Advocates – Members of GWArc's Day and Employment Programs who join together to learn how to make and how to influence better choices in their lives.

- Attended the 18th Annual Mass Advocates Standing Strong Conference, which was themed "Self Determination: The Will to Achieve"
- Monthly meetings featured State Representative Tom Stanley on his work at the State House, Dani Patrick from REACH on healthy boundaries in relationships, and the Waltham Fire Department on fire safety

Marketing and Development – Ensures regular communications, updated web and print materials, annual fundraising events and activities, participation in grant opportunities and recognition/support of the agency.

- 45th Annual Harvest Breakfast and 6th Annual "Ciao Down for GWArc" fundraisers were successful, with strong community support
- Received \$43,000 in grants, including \$27,000 from Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation for our 12-passenger van and \$5,000 from the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation in honor of Mace Miller

Board of Directors – Oversees agency well-being including agency stability, finances, future planning and community connections.

- Welcomed new Board Members Peter Dixon and Kelly Hill in January
- Heard presentations by various GWArc staff members and agency consultants

Our Mission

GWArc's mission is to serve children, adolescents and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in the community, utilizing a personcentered planning approach. We provide quality, flexible programs, services and supports which maximize independence, foster inclusion, promote self-advocacy and build community connections. GWArc programs are based upon self-determination, sound teaching practices and the latest technology. GWArc is committed to advocacy and legislation to influence attitudes and perceptions so individuals may choose and achieve life goals.

GWArc programs are funded by the Division of Medical Assistance (MassHealth), the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and private fees. The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) accredits the Day Habilitation and EPT CBDS Programs. Day Habilitation and EPT CBDS programs are licensed by the Department of Developmental Services Survey and Certification process.

Referrals are received through the Department of Developmental Services, Department of Medicaid Assistance, Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and Massachusetts Commission for the Blind. GWArc also accepts private pay.



The Rotary-GWArc Day of Service for Waltham food pantries helped families in need during the summer.



The GSE crew at our new work site at Babson College.



Day Hab participants visit The Butterfly Place (left).

Transitions students in the Summer Program at Bentley (right).



Greater Waltham Arc Day Habilitation Program 56 Chestnut Street Waltham, MA 02453 781-899-1344 781-899-8555 (TDD)

Blanche I. Battaglino Center Employment, CBDS and Transitions Program 31 Woodland Road Waltham, MA 02451 781-899-2206 781-899-4710 (TDD)

Greater Waltham Arc, Inc. Summary Statement of Revenue and Expenses July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Revenue

Government Contracts	2,819,109
Commercial Sales and Contracts	352,295
In-Kind Contributions	84,662
Fundraising	152,344
Fees for Service	14,463
Investment Return	23,228
Total Revenue	<u>3,446,101</u>

Expenses

Staff Wages, Taxes & Benefits	1,815,640
Client Wages, Taxes & Benefits	223,555
Occupancy and Depreciation	357,505
Program Services	787,976
Administrative	205,539
Total Expenses	3,390,215

Complete audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015 are available on request.

GWArc financial statements are audited by: Kevin P. Martin & Associates, P.C.

GWArc Board of Directors 2015

GWArc is governed by a Corporate Membership of 51 volunteers who elect a 15-member Board of Directors to oversee corporate operations. These volunteers represent the Greater Waltham community, including participants in GWArc programs, family members, the professions, local businesses and local service organizations. They provide valuable expertise, linkages and support to the organization.

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Jody Doucette, Vice President
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Don Willfong, Secretary
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Arthur DeVincent (deceased)
Robert Donoghue
Jean Poirier Foster
Russ Malone
Anthony Mangini
Frederick Tortola (deceased)

A Special Thank You to Our Generous FY2015 Donors

Generous donations throughout the year in support of our appeals and special events are so important as they help to provide the many extras that make GWArc's programs and services so special. Community trips, Artists of GWArc art workshops taught by local artists, music therapy, healthy cooking classes and adaptive equipment are just some of the many inspired additional offerings that set our agency apart. Thank you to our donors and volunteers.

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This list includes donors from July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact the Development Office with any corrections or edits at 781-899-1344 x4147. Thank you.