

VISIONS

For the friends of BCARC

Berkshire County Arc
Presents First Annual
Carol Craighead
Memorial Scholarship
Award and \$4,500 in
Scholarships



Group picture of the scholarship winners (left to right): BCARC Board Member Douglas Craighead, Lauryn Huban (Wahconah High School), Laura Cahoon (Pittsfield High School), Samantha Bissell (Pittsfield High School), Dylan Loring (St. Joseph's High School) and Joseph Woitkoski, President of the BCARC Board

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*"Supporting People,
Enriching Lives"*

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Summer
2011
Issue

Scholarship Award Winners

*“One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar.”
~Helen Keller~*



Laura Cahoon
Pittsfield High School
\$1,000 Scholarship
Plans to attend: SUNY
Potsdam College in Potsdam, NY



Lauryn Huban
Wahconah High School
\$1,200 Scholarship
Plans to attend: MonMouth
University in New Jersey and
major in Pre-Med



Dylan Loring
St. Joseph's High School
\$750 Scholarship
Plans to attend: Nichols
College

First Annual Carol Craighead Memorial Scholarship Award



Samantha Bissell
Pittsfield High School
\$1,500 Scholarship
Plans to attend: Emanuel
College in Boston, MA
and earn a degree in
Sociology and Business

All of us at Berkshire County Arc are heartbroken at the loss of our dear friend, Carol Craighead. As part of our family for over 40 years, we can think of no one that has had a greater impact on our programs, our individuals and our staff. Carol had a long career of volunteering and giving great support to the agency. Carol's warm, caring spirit and great compassion was truly an inspiration.

Berkshire County Arc is proud to recognize one student, Samantha Bissell of Pittsfield High School, with the first annual Carol Craighead Memorial Scholarship Award.

To quote Samantha, "While working in our Best Buddies program, I have met many students with developmental disabilities who have changed my perception of what it means to be disabled. I've gotten to know students with bigger hearts than anyone I know and meeting all of these students has made me want to dedicate my time to changing the public's perception of disabilities. In the summer of 2010, I began working as a Residential Relief staff at Berkshire County Arc. I can honestly say that I love my job. I meet people who inspire me and work toward a mission I believe in. Between my experiences with Best Buddies and BCARC, I know that in my life I want to work to better the social conditions for the disabled."

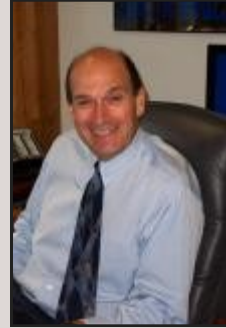
**Congratulations to all of
this year's scholarship
winners!**

Carol Craighead



From the Executive Director

Kenneth W. Singer



As our beautiful Berkshire summer comes to an end, I would like to take a moment to reflect on some of the important things that have taken place. The \$200,000 expansion of our Center for Development Program has been completed and we now have a new wing which has expanded the program size by a third. This specially designed area with a fully-equipped, handicapped accessible kitchen, a beautiful Sensory Integration Room and new program space, which includes a computer room, has allowed us to not only bring in additional individuals with developmental disabilities, but provides a new wing for Acquired Brain Injury individuals. Starting off with five new Brain Injury folks, this program is off to a great start and offers new opportunities for Day Services for people with Brain Injury.

Our Family Support Center ran a week-long camp at the Berkshire South Regional Community Center. This program offers exciting recreational activities for children in the community. Our Residential Department has arranged for many wonderful vacations for individuals, as well as numerous local activities such as the BCARC night at the Colonials Baseball game and trips to the Big E. All in all, it has been a fun summer.

On a sadder note, we have to say goodbye to Susan McLintock after more than 25 years of service as Director of our Finance Department. Susan is moving with her family to South Carolina and will truly be missed! It is impossible to measure the incredible contributions Susan has made in helping to make Berkshire County Arc the great agency that it is. We wish Susan nothing but happiness and appreciate all she has done for us.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of our staff for making this such a great summer here at Berkshire County Arc.

Ken

**Singer “Shout Out” Radio Show
With Ken and Christine Singer
Wednesdays and Fridays
at 4:00 p.m. FM 104.3**



This show focuses on **Advocating** and **Supporting** Human Service Agencies in Berkshire County. Guest speakers are spotlighted and there is useful information to be shared with our listeners. “Shout Outs” periodically recognize outstanding individuals in our community who have done something exciting that we want to recognize. If you have someone you would like us to do a “Shout Out” for, please contact:

Ken Singer, 499-4241, ext. 239.

Over the Edge



On the roof top of the Hyatt Regency in Boston awaiting my descent.



As many of you may already know, I wear many hats at Berkshire County Arc, i.e. Family Advocate, Visions Newsletter Editor, Down Syndrome Family Group liaison, Representative of our BC Arc Self-Advocacy groups and Head Coach for our Berkshire County Arc Titans. I love all aspects of my job, but being a coach has always held a special place in my heart. I love watching our athletes giving it their all during a Special Olympic event. I am constantly fundraising for our team so they can attend the Special Olympic assessments and state games. When I found out about the Over the Edge fundraiser...I just had to do it.

Over the Edge was a thrilling fundraising event that provided participants the once in a lifetime chance of rappelling down a building in Boston, the Hyatt Regency, which also hosted the event. Participants rappelled down 22 stories to raise money for their athletes.

I was absolutely wowed by the amount of support I got. Thanks to all the awesome support and donations I received, I ended up raising a total of \$1,624.24. A special shout out goes to all of the staff, individuals and houses for their help in our successful bake sale that we had to help raise the money I needed to participate in this event.

Thank you to Ken Singer, BC Arc's Executive Director, for giving me the ok to take part in this event (He still thinks I'm nuts)! I also want to say thank you to all the Over the Edge staff, Special Olympics' staff and the many volunteers who helped make this event run smoothly. It gave me a chance to unleash my adventurous side.

*Christine Ferrari
Visions Newsletter Editor &
Proud Coach of the Berkshire County Arc Titans*



(Left) In harness preparing to rappel

(Right) Scaling down the Hyatt Regency 22 stories



Many, many thanks to people that helped me achieve my fundraising goal!

The Roving Reporters

The Roving Reporters is a new feature to our Visions Newsletter. Ashley McNair and Norma Santos came to their first committee meeting armed with a great idea. They thought it would be a fun to have a section that focuses on our BCARC programs, i.e. residential houses, day programs or BI houses. It's a great way to let everyone know what's been going on and feature some of the wonderful things that people are doing or working on.



The program that they chose first was Elberon Avenue in Pittsfield. They had a great time going to the program and hanging out for awhile. So keep an eye out for Ashley and Norma. Who knows which program will be chosen next?



Upon arrival to Elberon Avenue (A.K.A Rose Manor), one sees a cozy home nestled within a retirement community. However, don't be fooled...the gentlemen who live here are far from being retired. The men at this program are very active in their community. Activities such as bowling and going to the movies are high on their priority list. The staff who work here strive to make sure that they are healthy, happy and living their chosen lifestyle.

***Say hello to the gentlemen of Rose Manor.
From left: Tom (standing), Albert, George, and
Jim (standing)***

From The U.S. Capital



Ken and Christine Singer joined Commissioner For The Blind Janet LaBreck and her husband Russ, along with family members Ron and Debbie Gallagher (on left), on a recent private tour of the West Wing of the White House. Arranged by Commissioner LaBreck, this was an exciting opportunity to see the operations side of the White House. The West Wing was filled with important memorabilia from Massachusetts, including a number of pictures of James Taylor and a recently loaned Norman Rockwell Museum painting of Ruby Bridges entitled, "The Problem We All Live With".

The Spotlight



Joan Tegan just celebrated her 10th anniversary as an employee of the Ponds at Foxhollow in Lenox, MA.

On August 25th, her employer had a luncheon for Joan where she received a plaque for her 10 years of service. As Nancy Anderson, Executive Housekeeper states, "I have known Joan for these past ten years. She works hard, does a good job and is part of our work family here."

Congratulations Joan for your success for being such a reliable employee!

(Left to Right) - Tony Barnhill, Nicky Benson, Alan Belman, Joan Tegan, Amy Smith, Danielle Loring, Jeff Murray, Kathy Clark and Rick Hawes

A Big Thank You!

September 6, 2011

Zucchini's
1331 North Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Dear Lynne Soldato,

My name is Carol and I belong to the Self Advocates Committee with BC Arc. I am writing to you to thank you and everyone at Zucchini's for fixing the step making it easier to get in and out of your restaurant.

We have enjoyed having our dinners there for several years. Being able to just wheel myself in was the "icing on the cake!"

Once again, thank you for all you do. It was really appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Carol Lee Neuhaus

Every year we organize a nice dinner for all of our Self-Advocates as an appreciation for all the hard work they do. Everyone looks forward to going to Zucchini's Restaurant, which is located in Pittsfield, MA. This year when we called to organize the dinner, the owner told us they were doing construction outside but that it would be done in time so it wouldn't interfere with our dinner.

We asked her, since she was doing renovations, if there was any way they could fix the little step to get into the doorway so that it would be easier for our individuals in wheelchairs to maneuver in smoothly. She said it shouldn't be a problem. The night of our dinner we discovered that the step was removed and the sidewalk was now flush with the door.

Carol Neuhaus, member of our Southern Berkshire Advocacy Group, was so happy about this that she wrote a letter to Zucchini's thanking them. Thank you Lynne and Mickey Soldato for your compassion and for listening to our voices!





Stepping Stones



On August 16, 2011, Sammy Lane staff Matthew Frary and Patrick Moriarty had the privilege of taking Mark Paone and Ray Puchalski down to Fenway Park to see the Red Sox take on the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Even though there were a few scattered showers, everyone had a great time. They enjoyed hot dogs, sausages with peppers and onions, and they even participated in “the wave.”

Just before Jacoby Ellsbury hit his third homerun in the third inning, Ray leaned over to staff and predicted the outcome before it happened! Ray and Mark seemed to have been good luck charms as the Red Sox eventually won with a score of 3-1.

The only question they have now is, “When can we go back?”



From left: Mark Paone, Matthew Frary and Ray Puchalski pose inside of Fenway Park

Betsy and Cathy's Corner



True Art

I have a few friends that paint for Community Access to the Arts (CATA). All these artists that paint are very talented. The reason I know this is because we all go to the same day program. The artists are: Myles Tosk, David Gardner, Carol Neuhaus, Julie Raymond and Cathy Crofut. This year we have a new-comer to this group, Francis Amanti.

Each artist paints their paintings in their own unique ways. Our Director Debbie was at the CATA I Am Part of Art opening with her friend Barb Henry and they were very impressed.

Our artists work with an art teacher who is a tracker. This means that each individual tells the art teacher/tracker where to put the paint on the canvas. This way the artists can get help to express their creativity.

Everyone looks forward to their art sessions because it gives them an outlet to express their feelings on the canvas.

Written by: Betsy Carlotto

Friends Remembered



“When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.”

~Author Unknown~

Ralph David Chilton
May 18, 1940 - July 30, 2011

Visions

Down Syndrome Family Group Summer Picnic



BCARC Night At Wahconah Park



Ron Hutching's Golf Shootout



Visions

Family Support Summer Camp



CFD Carnival



Residential Picnic



Food Drive



Visions

Summer Happenings



Fenway Park Boston, MA



Mystic Aquarium, Mystic, CT



Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, MA



Krispy Cone, Lanesboro, MA



Hershey Park, Pennsylvania

Goodbye, Congratulations and Welcome !



Susan McLintock



Blanca Durant



Cheryl LaFleche

Saying goodbye is never easy. With over 25 years of service as BCARC's Director of Finance, we had to say goodbye to Susan McLintock. Susan has been an instrumental part of BCARC and will definitely be missed! Susan moved away with her family out of state, and we wish her all the best of success.

Congratulations are in order for Blanca Durant as the new Director of Finance. Blanca has been a dedicated employee for over 13 years, and we are excited to promote her to this position.

We would like to welcome aboard Cheryl LaFleche as the new Accounting Supervisor. Cheryl comes to BCARC with extensive accounting and managerial knowledge and experience. When you are in the office drop on by to say hello to Cheryl.

Employees of the Quarter



Janet Stone
Habilitation Specialist
Crossroads Day Program



Jennifer Smith
Brain Injury Multi-Site
Residential Support



Nancy Willey
Community Advocate
Residential Department



Way To Go!!



Staff Appreciation Picnic





**Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Pittsfield, MA
Permit No. 121**



Save The Date!

**Annual Meeting
Friday, November 18, 2011
Itam Lodge, Pittsfield, MA
7:30 AM**

The main announcement is enclosed in a thick black rectangular border. In the top left corner of this border is the BC Arc logo. The text "Save The Date!" is centered at the top in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. Below it, the event details "Annual Meeting", "Friday, November 18, 2011", "Itam Lodge, Pittsfield, MA", and "7:30 AM" are listed in a bold, black sans-serif font, centered on each line.