



the Crusader

Official Newsletter of Arc & Matson Community Services

Sentinel & Enterprise: Editorial

You can help complete the Arc

Mary Heafy, President and CEO of Arc Community Services, beamed as she took us on a tour of her operation in downtown Fitchburg last week. Everywhere she brought us in the rambling property, clients and workers exclaimed, “Hi, Mary!” She knows everyone, and many of their family members.

The nonprofit, which provides employment, training and services to hundreds of developmentally challenged people in the region, is a very busy place. While the property undergoes a \$5.1 million renovation, more than 200 workers complete tasks subcontracted from local companies, including assembling paint cans, and folding and gluing packing boxes. In another section of the property – which includes the former Sears and Roebuck building on Main Street and the Parke Snow building next door – dozens of clients receive “day habilitation,” including crucial social interaction, recreation activities, lunch and counseling.

Many workers who excel at their jobs at Arc are given employment opportunities elsewhere, such as at Fitchburg State University and the Fitchburg Intermodal Transportation Center.

Arc is no longer ARC, an acronym, Heafy explained, because the organization has eliminated the “R-word” – retarded – from its vocabulary. The current name is a much more accurate visual. An arc suggests a journey from one place to another, and Arc Community Services provides a bridge to greater independence for people who decades ago would be institutionalized – and largely forgotten.

She made that point standing among the dozens of wooden chairs that have been painted by artists for Arc’s upcoming fundraiser chair auction to be held May 6 at the Fitchburg Art Museum. All of the chairs came from the shuttered Monson State Hospital in Palmer. The symbolism of this event is clear: Each chair is unique and represents a mind given the opportunity to run free. Heafy says the artists could paint over anything on the chairs except the “Monson State Hospital” stencil under the seat, to serve as a reminder that the chair – and patients – received new life after the facility closed. (See a photo gallery of the chairs and learn more about the fundraiser at www.arc-matson.org/chairs.)

The auction will help Arc as it raises its final \$1.3 million for the renovation, after the organization received a major boost in February, when an anonymous donor gave \$600,000. Think about that: Someone wrote a check for more than a half-million dollars and wants no credit for it. Heafy said even she does not know who gave the money.

Recently, housing provider HH Gagnon stepped up, pledging \$125,000 to the cause. But it wants to see the community respond first – and donate \$2 for every \$1 it gives. These donations can be made through Arc’s Donate a Square fundraiser, in which donors can contribute \$150, which will pay for a square foot of the first-floor renovation. Several donors can bundle their donations to make the \$150, Heafy noted.

Mary Heafy and her staff are true community heroes. They won’t rest until Arc makes good on its commitment to growing jobs in downtown Fitchburg by completing this renovation, and she is thankful for the community’s contributions – both large and small. We urge everyone who believes in the values of compassion, work and independence to help Arc reach its goal.

- Charlie St. Armand, Editor
Published: 04/13/2011



**ARC & MATSON
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FY2011**

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Each and every day, I know how privileged I am to hold the position of CEO at Arc and Matson. I get to work with an amazing and dedicated staff and enthusiastic and committed volunteers all of whom are working to provide the best possible opportunities to the individuals and families who are a part of this organization.

So many good things have happened in recent months:
•A Young Athletes program was launched with a 10-week session for 5-8 year olds scheduled to take place this fall. This new program was initiated by volunteer Marci

Haneisen with support from our Family Supports director

- We have increased the community's awareness of the great work of the organization through extensive TV, radio and newspaper coverage including two front page articles and an editorial in the Sentinel
- An Artistic Chair Auction was held at the Fitchburg Art Museum and raised \$10,000 and 150 new friends. Our Development Director and Sales and Marketing Director spearheaded this event
- Our residential programs, day programs, and Supported Community Living programs excel in responding to the ever-changing needs of our clients with creative problem solving and deep compassion
- Our home based support/shared living programs are expanding and making excellent matches between providers and individuals looking to live in a family setting

And all this is happening along with progress on our building renovation. We have hired John F. Smith, an experienced construction project manager with 30 years work history in non-profit management, to drive the renovations to completion. You will see changes to the building each time you enter it.

The challenge of raising the final million dollars is our most pressing issue and I need your help! We received \$600,000 from an anonymous donor and H.H. Gagnon has put forth a generous challenge grant. For every two squares that members of our communities renovate, H.H. Gagnon will renovate one square up to a total of \$125,000! If the challenge is successful, we will have raised \$375,000. In addition to the Gagnon challenge, a condition of refinancing our properties through MassDevelopment is that we must have raised or have pledges for \$1.3 million dollars by the end of 2011.

How can you help close the gap so we can finish the building?

- If you have not yet renovated a square, please consider doing so.
- Tell your friends, neighbors, co-workers, classmates about the challenge and ask them to make a donation. Donations of all amounts are needed and smaller donations will be combined to renovate squares
- If you belong to a civic group who might be interested in donating, invite me to come to speak to the group. I recently spoke to the Holy Name Society of Saint Anthony's Church in Shirley and they made a generous donation!
- Celebrate a birth, birthday, anniversary, promotion or other milestone by renovating a square

I will continue to submit grant requests and meet with foundations and major donors; however, we will be successful when each and every supporter of Arc and Matson steps forward to raise the funds needed to successfully close the capital campaign. Together, we will make this happen!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Heafy".

Mary Heafy
President and CEO

**Help us
Save Trees!**
Sign up for our electronic
newsletter at:
www.arc-matson.org

In keeping with our dedication to green initiatives and on-going efforts to pare down expenses without compromising our goals, we will be mailing a smaller version of the Crusader newsletter in the future with a full version available online.

Please help us accomplish this by signing up online.

Memorial Donations

We are grateful to the families who have designated Arc & Matson Community Services as the recipient of donations in memory of their loved ones in lieu of flowers.

In memory of Archie Cataldi

Mr. and Mr. Michael Persons
Bacon Wilson Attorneys at Law
G & R Properties LLC
Lusek Associates, Inc.
Mr. and Mr. Arnold Elman
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Landry
Mr. and Mrs. John Moynihan
Mr. and Mrs. Leopauldo Turini
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Pucko
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Philbin
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Schuh
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Paul
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Latini
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Duvarney
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Deaton
Mr. Austin Sheridan
Ms. Carol Ann Hamilton
Ms. Congetta M. Lind
Ms. Diane Bercovitz
Ms. Eleanor Dowd
Ms. Pamela Norris
Ms. Patricia Whitney

In memory of Catherine Longley

Ms. D. Quintiliani & Ms. Kathleen Daly
Ms. Carol MacKenzie

In memory of Dorothy Ring

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Russell
Ms. Dorothea Comer

In memory of Iris Aubuchon

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Amico
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Gamache

In memory of Iris Aubuchon

Ms. Emily Amico
Ms. Jeanne McConologue and Patty Corby

In memory of Jack Keating

Chief Kevin Roy
Mr. and Mr. Edward Hytinen
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Eckstein
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Babineau
Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Fowler
Mr. and Mrs. James Belliveau
Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Clouthier
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Champagne
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Nowd
Ms. Laretta Conlon

In memory of Lawrence Joslin Sr.

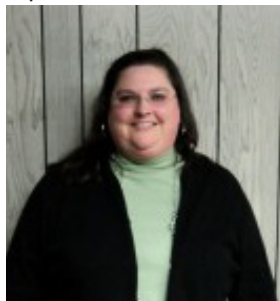
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Bedard
Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Jorgenson
Mr. and Mrs. George Potvin
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Thibaudeau
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth LaBrack
Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Schneider
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hertel-Therrien
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Raymond
Mr. Paul Leblanc Mr. Stephen Leblanc
Ms. Cheryl Bedard
Ms. Claire Bedard
Ms. Karin Thibaudeau
Ms. Mary Joslin
Ms. Virginia Raymond
Regional Resource Group, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hertel-Therrien
Mr. Dan Mylott
Mr. Malcom Lillie Sr.

The Alliance for Resource Management

is proud to welcome our newest leadership for the agency:



Sue Gallant
*Director of
Residential
Services of the
North Central area*



Laura Casey-Black
*Director of
Enhanced Adult
Foster Care*



Raymond Edi-Osagie
*Director of
Residential Services
of the Worcester &
Pepperell areas*



Ellen Messier
*Director of
Home Based Supports
(Shared Living)*

READ NEW LEADERSHIP BIOGRAPHIES ONLINE AT: WWW.ARC-MATSON.ORG/LEADERSHIP



24th Annual Scapparone-Ficarra Memorial Montachusett Area Rotary Golf Tournament

“Friends of Mike” Scholarship Raffle
for the benefit of the Arc Community Services Weekend

Recreation Program Scholarships

Tickets \$10.00 each or 3 for \$20.00

***One Week Time Share in Orlando, Florida or One Week
Condo at Misty Harbor, Lake Winnepesaukee, NH -***
Leo Gould, Christian Party Rentals (\$1,500 value)

Certificate for Preparation of “Simple” Will -
Reynolds Law Offices

\$500 Savings Bond - Leominster Credit Union
\$500 Savings Bond - Leominster Credit Union

4 Ski Passes including use of Daily Private Ski Suite -
Wachusett Mountain Ski Area (\$500 value)

\$200 Savings Bond - Enterprise Bank
\$200 Savings Bond - Enterprise Bank

Three Month Membership - Orchard Hills
Athletic Club, Leominster (\$242 value)

\$100 Savings Bond - Leominster Credit Union
\$100 Savings Bond - Leominster Credit Union

Three Month Membership - Global Fitness
Gentleman’s Watch - Duvarney Jewelers, Fitchburg

“European Chocolate” Gift Basket - Scapparone Family
(\$200 value)

Overnight Accommodations w/breakfast for 2 -
Four Points Sheraton, Leominster

Overnight Accommodations - Wachusett Village
Inn, Westminister

\$100 Heating Oil Coupon Pack- Cleghorn Oil Inc., Fitchburg
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\$100 Gift Basket - New Waves Salon, Leominster

\$100 Kohl’s Gift Card - Lynn Sarao

Massage Package- (1 hr. massages) - Simonds-Hurd Care
Center - HealthAlliance Fitchburg Campus

Massage Package -(1 hr. massages) - Simonds-Hurd Care
Center - HealthAlliance Fitchburg Campus

Art Work Entitled “Fresh Sushi”- Century 21 Realty Team
Leominster, Nick Storrs

“ Childrens Fun ” Gift Basket - Joanie Michel
AAA Gift Bag with 1 year membership - Triple A
Fleece Jacket - HealthAlliance
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Four hour DJ Service - TNT Gal

Scratch Tickets - Rich and Suzanne Michel

\$50 Gift Certificate Sean Patrick’s Rest.-
Keystone Center Leominster

\$50 Gift Certificate - Windmill Florist, Fitchburg

\$50 Gift Certificate - Windmill Florist, Fitchburg

\$50 Angler Restaurant Gift Card - Cindy Roche

\$30 Gift Certificate to the Longhorn Restaurant -
Tony & Michelle Gasbarro

\$30 Gift Certificate to the Ninety-Nine Restaurant -
Tony & Michelle Gasbarro

\$50 AMX Gift Card - A Friend of Mike

\$50 Lowe’s Gift Card - A Friend of Mike

\$25 Gift Card Olive Garden - A Friend of Mike

\$25 Gift Certificate - Ladyfingers Nail Salon, Leominster

\$25 Gift Certificate - Sheared Madness Hair Salon, Fitchburg

\$25 Gift Card HealthAlliance Gift Shop -
HealthAlliance Leominster Campus

\$25 Gift Card HealthAlliance Gift Shop -
HealthAlliance Leominster Campus

\$25 Gift Card HealthAlliance Gift Shop - Friend of Mike

\$25 Gift Certificate - Bootlegger Restaurant, Lunenburg

\$25 Gift Certificate - McNally’s Restaurant, Westminister

Tech Guys on Call Gift Certificate - 1 hour on site

Gift Pak - Mulligan’s MiniGolf Sterling

and more....

***Drawing will take place on June 16, 2011
at the Golf Tournament; winners will be notified
by phone or mail.***

***Please patronize all of the businesses
that support our raffle!***

“Friends of Mike” Raffle

Please make checks payable to Monty Broc Rotary Club and mail to PO Box 1683, Fitchburg, MA 01420

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please make checks payable to Monty Broc Rotary Club and mail to PO Box 1683, Fitchburg, MA 01420

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

**On Friday, May 6, 2011,
Arc & Matson Community Services
held an elegant and successful
Artistic Chair Auction at the
Fitchburg Art Museum.**

There were so many superlatives of the evening - The Courtyard by Marriot's outstanding food and the venue of the Fitchburg Art Museum that complemented the amazing talents of local and regional artists - but the best outcome of the evening was connections with so many wonderful supporters while raising more than \$10,000 towards the renovation of our Main Street Fitchburg facility. We are not done with this event. At the close of the evening, a number of chairs remained available for bidding. We are currently accepting offers on all the remaining chairs. View the SOLD and AVAILABLE the chairs at www.arc-matson.org/chairs. Arc & Matson Community Services would like to extend our sincere thanks to our sponsors, the artists, the volunteers, supporting staff, and the attendees of the event - the event would not have been a success without YOU.

Read full story at: www.arc-matson.org

A Special thank you to Rose LaPlante as she retires from her years of service on the Alliance for Resource Management Board of Directors.



Picture above from left to right: Christine Binkunski and Rose LaPlante, Board of Directors; Mary Heafy, President and CEO

Artistic Chair Auction Sponsors



**Arc & Matson Community Services
Employee Recognition Awards**

September 2010
Bennie Gonzales
Jennifer Taylor

January 2011
Denice Hopper
Shelly Muskatangas

October 2010
Linda St. Jean
Vicki Briggs

February 2011
Becky Owens
Antony Mathu

November 2010
Jennifer Peck
Amah D'Almeida

March 2011
Sandra Hurtubise
Elude Mwangi

December 2010
Cheryl Robillard
Fred Boateng

April 2011
Stuart Conquest
Jim Marshall

Volunteer Recognition Night

We would like to invite you to make nominations for our upcoming Volunteer Recognition Night that will take place late September 2011. Nominations are being accepted for:

Volunteer of the Year Shining Star Award

Shining Star awards go to those that go the extra mile

Please forward your nomination to
j.peck@arc-matson.org

with the following information:

Nominee name and Address information
Nature of nominee's contribution to the agency and reason for your nomination.

Submitted by, your name and address

Please submit by September 1, 2011

Want to Love Your Job? Come Join Us!

Work in a unique, supportive, enjoyable environment where your contributions are valued and respected.

Competitive salary & great benefits

View current positions at:

www.arc-matson.org/jobs

and/or call Stacey LaPlante at (978) 345-6301.

All applicants must have a valid driver's license and receive an acceptable CORI check.

*The Alliance for Resource Management is an
AA/EOE/MF Employer.*

EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF RECEIVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WHILE PROVIDING LIVE-IN CARE TO YOUR ADULT FAMILY MEMBER!

Are you or someone you know struggling to care for a loved one at home? If so, we may be able to help. Matson Community Services is now accepting applications for Home Care Providers and Program Participants for the Enhanced Adult Foster Care Program.

This program pays family members - or non-family members - to be care providers for family member (either an elder or an adult with disabilities) (over age 16) in their home or in the provider's home. Parents (as long as they are not legal guardians), children, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, friends, etc. already caring for or thinking about caring for a loved one at home are encouraged to apply.

Please note that this is a Mass Health funded program therefore individuals must be a current Mass Health member or be eligible for Mass Health.

To learn more about the program or to apply call Laura Casey-Black at 978-345-6301

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Arc and Matson Community Services are looking for two new members to join their Human Rights Committee. This is a regulated committee by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) that ensures that the rights of the people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are being met by our organization.

The volunteers needed are **one family member** and the **other** by definition from the DDS regulations must meet the following:

A psychologist or masters level practitioner with expertise in developmental disabilities, mental illness, or applied behavioral analysis.

Meetings are typically held 4-5 times a year, subject to quorums, on the 1st or 2nd Monday of the odd numbered months. The meeting takes place at our Cascade Street office in Fitchburg. The meeting includes discussion and review of current medications, behavior plans, supportive and protective devices that need due process.

To inquire or more information,
please contact:

Susan McClurken at 978-345-6301
or Cheryl Robillard 978-343-6662

Arc Community Services
564 Main Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 209
Fitchburg, MA

Agency Mission

To create lifetime opportunities for person with disabilities to reach their fullest potential by providing advocacy, education, employment, Residential, and recreational services.

