



# Timelines



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

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## REI Expands Employment Opportunities for People with Disabilities

**R**EI, the outdoor adventure gear store and our 2008 *Employer of the Year*, has just increased the number of individuals it employs through the Arc from two to five. What has made the partnership between REI and the Arc such a success?

“The support that the Arc has given us has been extremely crucial. Creating lists and other tools to ensure that particular employees are successful, that’s something we don’t have for any of our other employees and it has been tremendous,” said Kirk Peterson, Assistant Manager of the REI store at 279 Salem Street, Reading. “REI has a culture of inclusion that I think has been here for a long time, so that it’s easy to welcome anybody in the community in.”

Beth Celona, Job Developer for the Arc, agreed.

“It’s the ideal community placement. They’ve welcomed us with open arms. I’d like to encourage other businesses to make the same commitment,” Beth said.

Patty Bekkenhuis, Jeff Caturano, Steven Leigh, Peter Sitcawich and Chris Regan help with stocking and merchandizing at the store. They are the team keeping displayed coats buttoned and zipped, sizes in order and colors grouped together.

“It makes a surprising difference in the look of the store on the days they are here,” said Kirk.

Store Manager Bruce Jurgens agreed.

“It’s a cliché but it’s true, especially in today’s economy – you never get a second chance at making that first impression,” said Bruce.

Patty, who just earned her first paycheck



**The Outdoor Team - Front row, left to right: Jeff Caturano, Patty Bekkenhuis and Steven Leigh. Back Row: Kirk Peterson, REI Assistant Manager; Chris Regan; Peter Sitcawich and Bruce Jurgens, Store Manager.**

from REI, appeared to agree with FORTUNE magazine’s assessment of REI being one of the “100 Best Companies to Work For.”

“I love working here,” said Patty.

Jeff is the senior member of the Arc group with three and a half years of service at REI. His co-workers at the store also follow his art career and watched with great interest when he appeared with his artwork on Fox 25 last summer during the station’s Reading broadcast.

“He puts a smile on my face everyday,” Bruce said of Jeff, who is not opposed to some good natured ribbing of the boss.

The store is now getting ready for ski and snowshoe season. They are seeing increased demand for children’s gear and devoting more floor space to those items.

“There’s a lot of demand for gear for families to get out and have fun,” said Supervisor Amanda Smith.

What would the REI management team say to other businesses thinking of hiring people with disabilities?

“People with disabilities have a lot of talent. The enthusiasm they bring effects all of their co-workers. So, you not only get great results from the employees with disabilities, your whole team is better for having their involvement,” said Kirk.

*To learn more about how the Arc can help meet your business needs, please call Beth Celona at 781-942-4888, ext. 5023.*



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## The Arc of East Middlesex Board of Directors

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A Message from Michael Berardo,  
*Interim Executive Director*

## The Arc of East Middlesex Receives Top Marks during State & National Certifications

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." – Margaret Mead*

I am pleased to report that the Arc of East Middlesex (EMARC) this fall received the top certifications available from both the state

Department of Mental Retardation's (DMR) Office of Quality Enhancement, Licensure and Certification and the national/international Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

The Arc received its fourth consecutive certification of Two Years with Distinction, the highest ranking available from DMR, after a survey of its residential and day services for people with developmental disabilities last month.

"EMARC continues to strive to be an innovative and forward looking agency committed and responsive to the individuals and families it supports," the Quality Enhancement surveyors wrote in their report. "The agency is again commended for its exemplary health care in its residences."

The Arc also received the top Three-Year Certification from CARF, after a review of the agency's new Day Habilitation program, Life Choices, in Reading and Beverly.

"The program leadership is commended for developing excellent collaborations with colleges, fitness centers, businesses, schools, charities and other area resources that facilitate the persons served in achieving their community integration goals. The persons served have meaningful opportunities to develop relationships; express many valued adult roles such as volunteer, donor, artist, environmentalist, videographer, student, expert, friend, and partner; and learn skills that will enable them to pursue higher independence," the CARF team wrote in their report. The surveyors also complimented the agency for its international recruiting, which "has helped the organization create a diverse and experienced workforce to expand and fulfill the mission."

"These high grades from our certifying agencies provide well deserved recognition of the hard work and dedication of our staff," Maureen O'Brien, President of the Arc's Board of Directors, said in congratulating our team.

The survey results are a testament to our innovative approach to meeting the needs of the individuals we support. It was especially gratifying for the surveyors, who had 26 years of CARF experience between them, to give us an Exemplary rating on the Life Choices program model, a rating they had never before given to any organization. Kudos to our team for going the extra mile to support the individuals participating in our programs in meeting their goals.

We look forward to another successful year of providing outstanding services for children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

# Tucker Dinner & Auction Honors National Leader *Raises Crucial Funds for Arc Programs*



**Family Celebration** - Back Row left to right Michael Berardo, Interim Executive Director; Joe Valenzano, Man of the Year; his wife Pat; their daughter-in-law Stefanie and their son Matthew Valenzano, Publisher of *Exceptional Parent Magazine*. Front Row: Matt's children Christian and Alexis.

The Richard Tucker Memorial Dinner & Auction, held November 10th at the Peabody Marriott, honored Joseph M. Valenzano, Jr., CEO and President of EP Global Communications Inc., the parent company of *Exceptional Parent* magazine and raised close to \$70,000 for the Arc. Mr. Valenzano was recognized for the outstanding information, support, and resources he provides to parents of children with disabilities and the public awareness he raises through *Exceptional Parent*.

The event would not have been possible without the leadership



**Winning Wally** – Jim McCarthy of Danversbank was the generous winning bidder on Jeff Caturano's painting of Red Sox Mascot "Wally" at the Arc Auction.

of John Mitchell, Chairman, Maureen O'Brien, Board President, and a dedicated team of staff and volunteers. Special thanks to the Boston Red Sox for lending us the World Series Trophies for the evening and to photographer Ned Costantino of Sports Shots for shooting the trophy photos; to Hank Morse our Emcee, and

to guest auctioneers David Andelman and Tony V; to Alyssa Hanwell, our Pianist; to Dave Mitchell, Pyxis Productions for donating his services to produce our videos and to Brian Vargo, of VER Video Equipment Rentals for helping us show them so well.

Our sincere gratitude to our Major Sponsors: Our Host, the Marriott Boston Peabody, Cathleen Wardley, General Manager; John Toolan, Executive Chef; and Janine Cabral, Director of Events; C & M Realty; The Andelman Family; The Boston Red Sox Foundation, Len & Bea Carpenter; Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation; Giant Glass; Tonneson & Company CPAs, PC; the Cimini Family; Circle Insurance Agency; Eagle Air; EP Global Communications; Ray Goselin; Leonard, Mulherin & Green, PC and The Massachusetts Council, Knights of Columbus.

We hope you will visit our generous tasting station donors at their locations in our service area:

- Bear Rock Café**, 26 Walkers Brook Drive, Reading
- Dockside Restaurants**, 229 Centre St., Malden and 1099 Main St., Wakefield
- Felicia's of the North End**, 423 Main Street, Stoneham
- Fuddrucker's**, locations including 910 Broadway, Saugus and Jordan's Furniture, Reading
- Gaetano's**, 271 Main Street, Stoneham
- Harrows Chicken Pies**, 126 Main Street, Reading
- Henry's Foods of Beverly**, 588 Cabot St., Beverly
- Just Desserts**, 209 Albion Street, Wakefield
- Kowloon**, 948 Broadway, Saugus
- Longhorn Steakhouse**, 39 Walker's Brook Drive, Reading
- Marriott Boston Peabody**, 8A Centennial Drive
- Mia Cucina**, 618 Salem Street, Lynnfield
- New England Coffee**, 100 Charles Street, Malden
- Piantedosi Baking**, 240 Commercial Street, Malden
- Ristorante Molise**, 464 Main Street, Wakefield
- Trader Joe's**, 358 Broadway, Saugus
- Venetian Moon**, 680 Main Street, Reading

## Remembering Richard Tucker

The Richard Tucker Memorial Dinner and Auction is named in honor of the late Richard Tucker.

Fifteen years ago, Dick Tucker responded to EMARC's call to raise badly needed funds by establishing the "Celebrity Breakfast & Auction." Shortly before the second event, Dick was diagnosed with cancer. He lived graciously and fully with cancer for four years and never waived from his devotion to EMARC, now known as The Arc of East Middlesex.

We miss you, Dick!





**Thanks and Best Wishes to Our Benefactor-** Michael Berardo accepts a generous check from Arnold Rubin in connection with the Atlantic Food Mart's *Sneaker Campaign*, which raised well over \$11,000 over the years to benefit our programs for kids and adults with developmental disabilities. We were saddened by the closing of Atlantic after 86 years of operation. The Arc of East Middlesex has benefited greatly from the support of Arnold, his associates and customers. We send our deepest thanks and best wishes to Arnold, Paul Duffy, Mike Corning, Jim Lee, Marie Esposito, Ralph Melchionda and the entire Atlantic Team.

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## Thank You!

After a happy stay of nearly eight years, I have accepted a new position at our sister organization, the North Shore Arc. It has been a privilege to be part of such an innovative, family focused organization here at EMARC. Thank you for your support!

Warmest Regards, *Susan Ring Brown*

## Got Books

We now have a **Got Books** receptacle to the left of the EMI entrance at 20 Gould Street, Reading. Got Books, a North Reading company, will pay us for donated Books, Cds, DVDs and Videos. This has been a good fund raising venue for another disability provider and we're hoping it will raise some important new dollars for the Arc of East Middlesex.

If you have any Books, Cds, DVDs or videos you would like to donate, please stop by and put them in the receptacle.

No other types of items please.

Thank you!

### The Arc of East Middlesex is Pleased to Acknowledge Gifts from the Following Donors...

#### Friend - Gifts Up to \$100

Susan Grant to fund Artist Supplies  
Sandy and Bruce Neff to fund Artist Supplies

#### Gift \$500 - \$999

Atlantic Food Mart, Sneaker Campaign

#### Gift \$1000 - \$2499

Sharon Borggaard, to fund Artist Supplies

#### Grants

Pediatric Physicians at Children's Hospital to fund recreation programs for children  
Project Bread to fund food pantry expenses  
Samantha's Harvest to fund color copier charges

#### In-kind gifts

Joseph and Linda Morabito  
Albert Spadafora, Anthony's of Malden

#### Memorials

##### In Memory of Peter Rousseau

Eastern Bank Charitable Fund matching gift, Ginette Tentindo

##### In Memory of Edward Surette

Adele M. Surette

Gifts received through November 18, 2008

#### Making a Memorial or Tribute Gift

Use the pledge form on the fundraising page of our website ([www.theemarc.org](http://www.theemarc.org)) to remember a loved one or honor a friend or relative for a special occasion. If you do not have internet access, please call 781-942-4888, ext. 4010 to request that we mail Memorial/Tribute envelopes to you.

#### Wish List

The Arc of East Middlesex is looking for donations of furniture and household items in clean, good condition. Please email a description of the furniture or household item(s) and your name, location and phone number to [mberardo@theemarc.org](mailto:mberardo@theemarc.org). Our Residential group

homes are in need of fax machines (fax all in ones) and flat (thin) LCD computer monitors. Please email fax and computer gift information to Paula Vrattos at [info@theemarc.org](mailto:info@theemarc.org). We're sorry; we are unable to accept clothing.

Thank you!

#### New Members Welcome to:

Karen Anastasi  
Laurie Blake  
Kenneth DeGrazia  
Toni Dunleavy  
Laurie Dunnett  
Katya Farrell  
Cathy Gulino  
Victoria Kam  
Monique Napolitano  
Laura Rosengarten  
Pamela Russo  
Beth Santos  
Carmen Tetrault  
Paige Wallis  
Dorothy Wells

## Service Exchange Project Concludes

Many thanks to those of you who participated in our Service Exchange pilot project. The project was designed as a possible way to keep participation in the Journey to Independence program affordable. We thank the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism for funding this pilot. Unfortunately, the economic climate and low number of participants have prevented continuation of the Service Exchange project. We pledge to continue to explore creative ways to keep our programs accessible to all.



**Red Sox Nation** – Deepest thanks to the Boston Red Sox for adding a special touch to our annual gala by lending us the World Series Trophies for the evening!

## Upcoming Programs & Events

### FROM THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

#### **Maneuvering the Maze, January 7, 14, 21, 28** **7:00-9:00 PM**

Perkins Hall, Melrose -Wakefield Hospital  
No Fee Contact Kerry Mahoney (781) 942-4888 x 4015  
or email [km@theemarc.org](mailto:km@theemarc.org)

When a child has special needs locating supports and services can be an overwhelming process! Presenters will provide an overview of available services, and how to access them. Learn about government benefits, family support, leadership and advocacy, working with school systems, and special education laws. This workshop is especially helpful for parents of children ages 2-10. These workshops will be led by Kerry Mahoney, Family Resource Center at The Arc of East Middlesex, Gail Havelick, Department of Public Health, Susan Nadworny, Mass Families Organizing for Change, Elizabeth Bostic, Educational Advocate, and representatives from DMR, Metro North Area. Co-Sponsors include Malden-Everett Family Network, Medford Family Network, North Suburban Family Network, and Riverside Community Care.

#### **January, 7, 14, 21 and 28.**

**9:00 AM -12:00 Noon IEP Clinic** (By Appointment)  
Elizabeth Bostic, founder of The Parent Coach will be offering information, support and training for families who have children with developmental disabilities in regards to their educational plans. IEP clinics will be held weekly and will provide a one hour meeting for individual consultation. A current copy of the child's IEP and evaluations are required one week in advance. The fee for each clinic is \$20. Please include a check payable to EMARC with your IEP. Please note- all records reviewed will be returned to you after the IEP clinic. Elizabeth is also available for phone calls to provide information.  
Contact Elizabeth Bostic 781 942-4888 x 4019 or email [elizabeth@theemarc.org](mailto:elizabeth@theemarc.org)

#### **January 7th 7-9, February 4th 7-9** **"Letting Them Grow and Letting Them Go"**

Do you have a son or daughter 16-22? Do you struggle with how to keep your kids safe in the world but wanting to support their independence? Then this group is for you! Facilitated by Kerry Mahoney and Michelle Faugno. Contact Kerry at [km@theemarc.org](mailto:km@theemarc.org) for more information. Or 781 942-4888 x 4015

#### **Saturday January 10th**

School age Sibshops for brothers and Sisters ages 7-13. Meets at the Sibling Center in Danvers 10:00-2:00. Register by contacting [sibshopcollaborativene@gmail.com](mailto:sibshopcollaborativene@gmail.com)

#### **Thursday January 15th**

##### **Resource Center Open until 8:00 PM tonight!**

Come and check out what the Family Resource Center is all about! Discover the latest books from our lending library on Autism, Down Syndrome, parenting kids with special needs, sensory integration and brothers and sisters. Get information on Transition, benefits and services. For more information contact Kerry Mahoney 781 942-4888 x 4015 [km@theemarc.org](mailto:km@theemarc.org)

#### **January 21, February 18**

##### **10:00 -12:00 Noon Senior Support Group**

Monthly meetings for older caregivers over 60, who have adult family members with developmental disabilities. Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month in the Family Resource Center. Contact Michelle Faugno 781 942-4888 x Ext. 4018 or email [fam2fam@theemarc.org](mailto:fam2fam@theemarc.org)

#### **Saturday, January 24**

##### **Preschool Sibshop 9:30-12:00**

For brothers and sisters ages 4-6. Register by calling Christine Lubawski at 781 942-4888 x 4021 or [sibshopcollaborativene@gmail.com](mailto:sibshopcollaborativene@gmail.com)

##### **Family Dance- Time TBD**

Chase the winter blues away and bring the whole family to dance the night away! Back by popular demand the Family Dance will be held this year at Most Blessed Sacrament, Wakefield. Co Sponsored by The Arc of East Middlesex, Riverside Community Care, Project Cope, Autism Support Center and Mass Families Organizing for Change. Check out our web site- [www.theemarc.org](http://www.theemarc.org) and click on What's Happening for all the details or call Kerry Mahoney 781-942-4888 x 4015

#### **January 28, February 25**

##### **7:00-9:00 PM Let's Chat**

Does your son or daughter use assistive technology to help communicate? Bring your child's communication device and share tips, resources and "how to's" with other parents. Facilitated by Anna Hegarty and Paula Thompson. Contact Paula [paulat@theemarc.org](mailto:paulat@theemarc.org) for more information

#### **January 29, 2009**

##### **10:30 AM Special Friends Story Time**

Join the Arc of East Middlesex and Barnes and Noble Booksellers, Saugus for story time in the children's room. Learn about differently abled kids and have fun doing a simple craft project. Contact Pat Simons 781 942-4888 x 4032

For a complete listing of our groups, workshops and special events check out our website [www.theemarc.org](http://www.theemarc.org) and click on "What's Happening"

The Arc of East Middlesex  
20 Gould Street  
Reading, MA 01867-2927

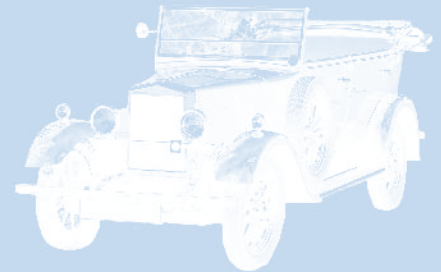
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## On-line Car Donation Program

To donate a car online, visit our web site at [www.themarc.org](http://www.themarc.org), click on vehicle donation at the bottom of the left hand column of our home page and follow the instructions that pop up. Be sure to designate The Arc of Massachusetts, Waltham as your charity and email us at [info@themarc.org](mailto:info@themarc.org) so that The Arc of East Middlesex is credited for the donation.



## The Arc of East Middlesex Membership Application

Membership includes of our *Timelines* newsletter; the Arc US newsletter; the Arc MA newsletter, *The Advocate*; access to our Recreation and Advocacy programs; invitations to Arc of East Middlesex events and an opportunity to nominate honorees for our Annual Spring Awards Ceremony.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply:

Family Member     Professional     Interested Friend

Family Member Served (used to send mailings for age-appropriate events)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues:** \$40 per year. Please make check payable to **The Arc of East Middlesex.**



*Making A Difference* - Steven Leigh helps keep REI's Reading store looking good by maintaining merchandise displays.