



Timelines

MARCH/APRIL 2009

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A CALL TO ACTION

From the Interim Executive Director Michael Berardo

Throughout our history citizens have mobilized to advocate for what is right and this I believe is such a time when action is required. The stakes are high and we must act.

Martin Luther King, Jr. said "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter."

As expected, Governor Deval Patrick's House One budget recommendations for FY 2010 contains painful cuts to existing DMR/DDS programs, with an agency cut nearing \$70 million. Programs at risk for reductions include Family Support programs, some day and employment services, respite and transportation.

As an organization we attended a rally at the State House where over 400 people turned out to ask to stop the cuts as we met with our representatives in the House and the Senate.

It is up to the House and the Senate to help reverse what could be a devastating budget reality for all of us who have worked so hard to build a system of support over these many years. I ask you all to call your House and Senate representative and say stop the cuts to those that are most vulnerable.



We Endorse this Rally! – Interim Executive Director (bottom left) with EMARC staff attended the rally to support DDS services.

If you are unsure who your elected official is this web site can help: <http://www.wheredoivotema.com/bal/myelectioninfo.php>

Thank you so much for all your support and we **ALL** will be fighting to restore these budget cuts.

Protect Your Services!

Family Support is organizing meetings and letter writing campaigns to legislators so they will truly understand the impact these cuts have on your family. Contact Kerry Mahoney at 781-942-4888 Ext. 4015 or km@thearc.org to find out what you can do to protect your services.

This Rally was only the Beginning!

Over \$85 million in cuts translates into...

- 11,000 children and adults losing support services that keep families & lives together!
- 1,000 plus people will lose employment or day services! (includes Mass Rehab Comm-MRC)
- 200 children with Autism will lose partial or all services!

Thousands of Direct Support Professionals have been left out of the budget!

This economic crisis is tough enough without making it tougher for people with disabilities and their families!

Preserve independence and supports in the community.

<u>Priority Line Items/Services</u>	<u>Budget Cut</u>	<u>Total Needed</u>
5911-2000 Community Programs	45,204,684	192,074,452
5920-2000 Resid & State Op Prog	2,000,000	854,653,066
5920-3010 Autism Division	2,626,077	6,264,213
5948-0012 & 7010-0041 DESE-DMR	3,500,000	10,000,000 (language needed)
4120-3000 MRC Extended Employment	8,600,000	28,643,000 (language needed)
4000-0117 Salary Reserve	23,000,000	23,000,000
5911-1003 Administration	5,300,000	73,562,067



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The Arc of East Middlesex Board of Directors

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Journey to Independence Receives Flutie Grant



We are pleased to report that the Arc of East Middlesex has received a \$18,562.00 grant from the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism. Funds will be used to provide scholarships (approximately 45 slots) to families of teens and young adults with autism to attend the Journey to Independence Program (\$15,750). **We are now offering "Buy one weekend get one weekend free scholarships" while funds are available.**

Using a Real World House in Andover, the program offers

instruction in practical skills such as planning, leisure, safety and communication skills.

In addition, \$2,812 will be used to expand outreach to school systems with the goal of securing sustainable financial support for the program. Schools have expressed a particular interest in the skills assessment provided through the program. Two new school systems have provided some financial support for students to participate in the Journey to Independence this year. We now believe that with formalized outreach and education, school systems are our best hope to ensure the long-term affordability and sustainability of the program.

Through the support of families and organizations like the Flutie Foundation our programs continue to grow and continue to succeed in life after high school.

For scholarship information and program availability, please contact Nancy Desmond Nastasi at 781-942-4888, ext. 5036.



Congratulations, Paula Thompson!

Congratulations Paula Thompson, MSW, LICSW on completing the requirements to become a licensed independent social worker! With this license, Paula will now be able to complete Clinical Team Reports for the guardianship process at the Family Resource Center. Paula will be assessing the individual's need for a guardian and complete the necessary report. To make an appointment contact Paula Thompson paulat@theemarc.org, 781 942-4888 x 4039. The fee for this service is \$100.00. Please make checks payable to EMARC.

Remembering Gail Cripps

Gail Leslie Cripps, a beloved member of the Arc of East Middlesex family, died Friday, January 2, 2009, after a short illness. Gail was 53 years old.

Gail was the daughter of Lucie M. (Cottle) and Leonard B. Cripps of Rockport, one of the founders of the Arc. In addition to her parents, Gail is survived by her brother; Wayne Cripps and his wife Cindy of Norwich, Vermont; a niece Eleanor of Norwich; her best friend Cheryl Riley and the three Adriennes.

Gail was a lifelong resident of Reading, attending Reading schools, then graduating from Stoneham High School. She worked at several area businesses and was working at East Middlesex Industries at the time of her death. Gail was fond of horses; she enjoyed attending theater productions and doing jigsaw puzzles.

She will be greatly missed by all of those whose lives she touched at the Arc of East Middlesex. Special thanks to Anderson-Bryant Funeral Home in Stoneham, for his many kindnesses to Gail's loved ones.



Remembering Mary DiCesare

Mary DiCesare of Reading, formerly of Malden, passed away on Friday evening December 12, 2008 at Wilmington Health Care Center in Wilmington. She was 81 years old.

Mary was born April 19, 1927 in Malden.

Mary loved sewing, books, puzzles and dancing. For several years she worked for a Box Company in Malden.

Mary was the loving daughter of the late Donato and Robina (Sallese) DiCesare. Dear sister of the late Josephine Vecchio, Alexander DiCesare, Louis DiCesare, Anthony DiCesare, George DiCesare and John DiCesare. Cherished aunt of many loving nieces and nephews. Mary was a long-time friend and housemate of Eileen Kelly, Marie Ryder and Ruth Doucette. She will be greatly missed by all the lives she touched at Arc of East Middlesex and all that cared for her for many years.



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

Friend - Gifts Up to \$100

United eWay, Janine Parks
United Way of Tri Country
Tully Appraisal Associates
Anonymous, *Reaching for the Stars*
Alana, Danny, Joe and Debra Casey
Sue Batson, *Reaching for the Stars*
Nicolo & Maria Damiano, *Reaching for the Stars*
Johanna M. Iafrate, *Reaching for the Stars*
Christian Freitag, *Reaching for the Stars*
John S. Kelly, *Reaching for the Stars*
Joan Morabito to *Life Choices*
Sarah Nastasi
Jerry Pothier
Brenda Shea, *Reaching for the Stars*
Marijane Welford A. Hancock and Karen Turnquist, *Reaching for the Stars*
Charlotte Anne Wood to *Life Choices*

Gifts \$101-\$250

Barbara Jackins to *Life Choices*

Gifts \$251-\$499

Gita Muni to *Life Choices*

Gifts \$500-\$999

Diane M. Bonanni, DMD

Gifts \$1000-\$2499

Margaret and Michael Curran and family
Gary and Janet Vacon to *Life Choices*

Grants

Massachusetts Bankers Association
Meridian Charitable Foundation Inc.
Piccolo Family Charitable Foundation Inc.

In-kind gifts

Burbank YMCA
Ceridian Corporation
Prosper-IT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph D'Amico
Michelle Faugno
Michael and Theresa Friedman
Ellen Groot
Amy Intille
William and Michele Landi
Wayne and Donna Leigh
Deb Lister
Linda L. Regan
Pat Simons
Vrattos Family
Denise and Alfred Yasi

Memorials

In Memory of Gail Cripps

The Card Family
Lucie and Leonard Cripps and Family
Simone A. Deon
Judith and Peter Doherty
Michelle and Wayne Faugno
Barbara and Paul Gates
Charlotte Verna Lantz
Kerry Mahoney
Barbara Cripps Mulcahy
Maureen A. O'Brien
Dolores and Milton Parks
Elena and Andrew Previte
Carol A. Scully and Family
Marie N. Tucker

In Memory of Chris Dhimitri

Marie N. Tucker

In Memory of Mary DiCesare

Peter P. Malatesta
James and Mary Ann Grayson
Marianne E. Principe

In Memory of Rosemary Labbe

Janine Parks

Honorariums

In Honor of Alyssa Conte

Kathleen R. Corso-Daloisio

In Honor of Conor Farrell

Terese Farrelle

In Honor of Dana Giardina

Robin and Stephen Giardina

In Honor of Arthur (Artie) Johnson

Myrna Johnston Audio
Douglass and Sarah Johnston
Margaret and John Kennedy
Sue Savery

In Honor of Christopher Regan

Deborah M. Regan

In Honor of Megan Sanphy

Michele and Matthew Sanphy

Gifts received through February 4, 2009

Making a Memorial or Tribute Gift

Use the pledge form on the fundraising page of our website (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. 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@info@theemarc.org. We're sorry; we are unable to accept clothing.
Thank you!

New Members Welcome to:

Paul Cummings, Kerri Gannon,
Roger Haase, III Zineb Haida,
Michael Jezowski, Anais Langley,
Kathleen Murphy



rEMARCable Finish!



Our rEMARCable Team!

Above and Beyond – Brian Hough was the rEMARCable's top fundraiser, reaching a goal of over \$5000.



No. 1 – Christine Arruda, Laura Morabito and Chenine Johnson stand proud holding the award they received for being the top fundraiser.

Congratulations to our incredible team that braved the frigid weather and water to participate in the Passion Plunge at Revere Beach last Saturday! Our team –The r"EMARC"ables consisting of 26 staff, families, consumers, board members, friends and volunteers raised over \$16,000 to support our Special Olympics athletes! A special thanks to Laura Morabito, Chenine Johnson and Christine Arruda from the Recreation Department for organizing this event! Check out our team photo!



ImPRESSive Award – Center for Emerging Artist's Instructor Dave Olsen with daughter Danielle are pictured with Dave's Award.

CEA's Dave Olsen Receives Top Honors

Congratulations to the *Center for Emerging Artists* Instructor Dave Olsen who received *The New England Press Association Award for Best Illustration of 2008*. The award was presented February 7, 2009 at the Boston Park Plaza. Dave received an award for "Highest Skill and Artistry in Illustration" for his commemorative Celtics poster pictured right. For more information on Dave's artwork please visit www.daveolsenartwork.com.



Meridian Charitable Foundation Inc.

Meridian Charitable Foundation Inc. awarded the Arc of East Middlesex \$2,500. Meridian Charitable Foundation was established in 1997 by EBSB to provide funding to support charitable causes and community development activities within the communities in which EBSB maintains a branch office. Since its inception, the Foundation has provided over \$534,725 to deserving charitable causes.



Charitable Donation – Keith D. Armstrong, Senior V.P. Consumer and Business Banking, Al Turco, Wakefield Selectman and Brian Scalisi, Wakefield Branch Manager present Michael Berardo, Arc Interim Executive Director with a check for \$2500 from the Meridian Charitable Foundation.

Programs & Events

FROM THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

March 4th 7-9PM, April 2nd 7-9PM

"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! Monthly meetings offer speakers, discussion and resources on a variety of topics. Facilitated by Kerry Mahoney and Michelle Faugno. Contact Kerry at km@theemarc.org for more information. Or **781 942-4888 x 4015**

March 3, 11, 18, 25

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

March 5, 12, 19

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Transition Series -the Road to 22

Learn about the IEP, Transition Laws and what is available for Adult Services- eligibility and benefits. Meets at the Family Resource Center. Contact Michelle Faugno fam2fam@theemarc.org **781 942-4888 x 4018**.

March 25, 2009

7:00-9:00 PM Let's Chat Guest speaker – Dynovox Technologies

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 for more information.

April 29th- Guest speaker Katie Krusinski from Easter Seals Assistive Technology Regional Center. This Center assists

people in making informed decisions about AT they can use at home, on the job or in school. Sample devices will be available to try.

March 26, 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 x4032

The Do -It Yourself Guide to Creating Housing Options

This four part workshop series focuses on helping parents explore ways to create individualized Supported Living arrangements for their sons and daughters. Meets Wednesdays, **April 15, 29 May 6, 13** (no meeting April 22). **7-9PM** at The Arc of East Middlesex. Fee \$25 for the series. Pre-registration is required. This workshop fills quickly, so register early.

Contact Michelle Faugno at 781-942-4888 Ext. 4018 or email fam2fam@theemarc.org

For a complete listing of our groups, workshops and special events check out our website www.theemarc.org and click on "What's Happening"

FROM THE CENTER FOR EMERGING ARTISTS

February 13th - April 10th

My Low Carb Life, 136 Andover Street, Danvers, MA. Solo Show TBA.

February 13th - April 10th

DMR, 27 Water Street, Wakefield, MA. New Group Show in both conference rooms.

April 3rd - April 5th

Melrose Arts Festival, show hours are Friday April 3: 7:30-10PM, Saturday April 4: 11AM to 5PM, and Sunday April 5: 11AM to 5PM. The Melrose Arts Festival includes live musical entertainment throughout the weekend and catered food in a café setting. Memorial Hall is an extremely attractive historic Melrose landmark, centrally located and easily accessed by public transportation. Based on past experience, almost 2000 visitors are expected to attend this free public event. The Melrose Arts Festival, now in its 4th year, has become eagerly anticipated in the community and there will be very extensive local and regional advertising, including Boston and Cambridge.

The Center for Emerging Artists will have an art table with merchandise and jewelry for sale.

For a more information about The Center for Emerging Artists or Natural Elegance jewelry please contact Heather Weikel at 781-942-4888 Ext. 5029

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

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Host a Natural Elegance Jewelry Party

Hosting a Natural Elegance party is fun and easy! Let us take care of the planning and all you do is invite your friends and family. As a host you'll receive invitations, a complimentary piece of jewelry and an experienced jewelry designer attending your event. Support a worthy cause while enjoying a great time with friends and family. To book your party today contact Heather Weikel at 781-942-4888 Ext. 5029 or by email at CEApromo@theemarc.org.

Masthead photo on page 1 - *Glamour Girls* - Marina Simons, Maria Muir, Ashley Mulvanity and Emily Swanson danced the night away at the Winter Ball on January 23 at the Reading Unitarian Church.

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 and invitations to Arc of East Middlesex events.

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.**



Watch out Picasso - Kitty Hansen creates a new mixed media piece though *Life Choice's Fine Arts Tracks* program.