

I want to tell you a story about Oshana.

Her nickname is NeNe. The fact that she is the ideal helper when the residents gather in the kitchen to bake a tray of their favorite muffins is a recent, joyous chapter in her life. NeNe came to us at age seven. At that time we were told, "She is what she is." For us, this was just not acceptable, even though we knew of the many challenges she faced. What we needed to know, NeNe couldn't tell us. For years, this sweet young girl had been trapped by her inability to communicate – not verbally, not in any way. Then something remarkable happened shortly after NeNe arrived at the group home. During an activity, an aide gestured to her using a hand sign. NeNe immediately signed back. Though she had no understanding of formal sign language, she was suddenly communicating and taking the first step in an amazing breakthrough. We'll never forget the smile on her face. She's making wonderful progress at



school now and continues to improve her signing skills. We see every day how much she enjoys life with her HARC family, and how well she's dealing with her ambulatory and learning challenges. We only wish we could bottle NeNe's smile. It definitely lights up our lives.

*Susan Noonan,
Director of
Resident Supports,
and Leilany Rivera,
Group Home
Coordinator, have
been caring for
NeNe since the day
she entered the
Woodland Avenue
Group Home.*



The 1,800 participants in the vital programs provided by HARC may not truly understand the power of your generous giving, yet they show the effects of it every day...in a smile, a laugh, personal discovery and triumph, an intellectual milestone, and yes, a perfectly baked blueberry muffin.

Thank you. And thank you for making us part of your family.

Your contribution to the 2012 Annual Fund/Membership Campaign not only allows us to continue our work at HARC, it helps us to continue working miracles.

Stephen Becker, President/CEO



HARC, Inc. was founded in 1951 by parents of children with intellectual disability, at a time when such programs and services were nonexistent. We advocate for their human and civil rights by providing life-long community-based services: infant education, family support, residential services, employment opportunities, respite care, recreation, summer camp, adult day services, a behavioral health clinic, and elderly enrichment. HARC serves 1,800 participants and families annually, and is a 501(c)(3) organization.