



HARC, Inc.
Serving People with Intellectual
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center HARC's 2010 Employer of the Year

Hartford, CT HARC, Inc. is very pleased to announce **Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center**, as the recipient of its **2010 Employer of the Year Award**. The award, which will be presented at HARC's 59th Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 24, at Tumble Brook Country Club in Bloomfield, is presented to a company or organization to honor outstanding effort and achievement in including people with intellectual disability into the workplace.

Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has partnered with HARC to host a Supported Employment Team in its cafeteria dish-room since 2007, as part of HARC's Supported Employment Program. The group is responsible for running the pot-washing operations and soup-portioning five days a week, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The charter group includes five participants, ranging in age from 25 to 50. The job coach is an integral member of the team, and maintains quality assurance.

Antonijah Kezic, HARC's job coach with the team since it began in 2007, says, "We have been so welcomed into the Saint Francis community. Everyone on the Saint Francis staff has gone out of their way to help us be successful. They all really adopted us!"

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Shirley Boron, Vice President of Employment and Day Services at HARC says, “We are so grateful to Sister Judy Carey, who was instrumental in the development of this employment site. She truly facilitated its development by getting the right people together and engendering discussion about the possibilities, to make the right job match.”

Sister Judith Carey, RSM, PhD, Vice President of Mission Integration at Saint Francis adds, “Supported employment sites are critical in order for people with disabilities to have jobs within the community, interacting with other employees. Supported employment helps individuals not only with their job skills, but also with their social skills. Having HARC’s team here at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has been a blessing, and the staff love having them with us. They are part of the Saint Francis family. Their presence and interaction educate others to see their abilities, not just their disabilities.”

President and Chief Executive Officer of Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Christopher M. Dadlez, says, “We are honored to support HARC's vital community mission. The team members and job coach who serve in our cafeteria each weekday are making direct contributions to the quality of care that we deliver to our patients and their families. We are grateful for their dedicated service.”

Susan Pinkham, Director of Food and Nutrition Services at Saint Francis agrees. “This has been a win-win situation for both groups from the start. The team with their job coaches have become a part of the Food and Nutrition services team and the partnership has proven to be successful.”

About HARC, Inc.

HARC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of people with intellectual disability and their families. It was founded in 1951 by families, long before community services

were available and institutionalization was the only option. HARC is now a strong advocate for civil rights and opportunities, and a major provider of clinical and supportive services which span the entire lifetime: early intervention, respite care, family support, recreation, advocacy, employment and day programs, residential, elderly services and behavioral health and social services.

HARC currently operates 11 group homes and condominiums and 28 supported employment sites throughout Greater Hartford. HARC is a Community Investment Partner of United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut and serves Greater Hartford.

For companies and individuals interested in learning more about HARC's supported employment program, contact HARC's President / CEO, Stephen Becker at sbecker@harc-ct.org or (860) 218-6111.

For further information about HARC or to purchase tickets to HARC's 59th Annual Meeting, Thursday, June 24, 2010, 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Tumblebrook Country Club, Bloomfield, CT; \$35/person go to HARC's website: www.harc-ct.org <<http://www.harc-ct.org>> or call Jenna Rompelman at (860)218-6089.

Photo Caption: Left to right: Willie; Michael; Chef Luis Guzman of Saint Francis; Alan; HARC job coach Cassandra Weatherbee; Chris; Kimberly and HARC job coach Daniel Gutierrez

Photo Credit: Photo by Joe Driscoll

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