



Press

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David Nassau of Simsbury: Finding a Way to be Involved

(Hartford, CT – November 2010) David Nassau of Simsbury, a sales representative for AstraZeneca Pharmaceutical Company, was ready for the Hartford Marathon this year. He had been training for weeks and was confident that he would be able to do well. While he was looking forward to the event, he felt that he wanted something more from his run. He wanted it to benefit a worthy cause. He was sure that friends and family would gladly donate in honor of his run, but wasn't sure what cause to choose, from the multitude in the Greater Hartford area.

Luckily, his sales position had brought him into contact with Dr. Carol Starr, Medical Director of the Behavioral Health Clinic at HARC, Inc., an organization serving people with intellectual and related challenges, and their families. Dr. Starr had shared information with Nassau about HARC's mission and work, and also gave him a personal account of how the organization was helping her own son on a daily basis with supported employment, volunteer and recreation programs.

Nassau relates that because he also has a neighbor whose child has intellectual disability, Dr. Starr's story hit home for him. So he decided that he would run for HARC, in support of the organization that is helping over 1500 people a year face the challenges of intellectual disability.

After the Marathon, Nassau came into HARC to get a tour, and deliver his donations. "I was bowled over

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by the range and scope of the programs I saw . . . day programs, including occupational and physical therapy for people with substantial support needs, and an elderly program. I also heard about their residential, recreational and employment programs throughout Greater Hartford.” Nassau continues, “While I accomplished what I originally set out to do, I’m thinking about other ways I might be interested in getting involved with HARC. I had a few other fundraising ideas, and in discussing those with people in HARC’s development department, I think I may be able to help out in other ways.”

Jennifer Meligonis DeJohn, HARC’s Director of Development couldn’t be more pleased! “It’s terrific that David chose HARC to receive the benefits of his Marathon run, and we’re doubly excited that he’s considering getting involved in other ways, for his philanthropic efforts! When we have someone from the community who has had no previous experience with HARC, come in with a desire to be involved, it just doesn’t get any better than that! We totally welcome personal and community involvement in our organization and will do everything we can to make sure we find the right niche for each person!”

About HARC

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 programs that span the entire lifetime: early intervention (Birth-to-Three), family support, respite care, employment and day services, residential, recreation, behavioral health and elderly services.

HARC is a Community Investment Partner of United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut and serves Greater Hartford.

For further information about HARC go to the website: www.harc-ct.org <<http://www.harc-ct.org>> or call 860.218.6047.

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