



Press

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HARC Welcomes Aetna Employees for United Way's Day of Caring 2011

(Hartford, CT) Friday, October 21, 2011 marked the 20th anniversary of United Way of Central & Northeastern Connecticut's Day of Caring.

HARC hosted an energetic team of young employees from Aetna who met at HARC's Woodland Avenue Family Community Residence in Bloomfield, to learn about HARC and its programs, meet the children who live at the home and do some serious sanding and painting of the home's deck.

According to the Aetna volunteer group's team captain, Matthew Thibeault who started at Aetna in June, 2011 in its IT Leadership Development Program, "Aetna has a great volunteer committee in each of its locations and they place great emphasis on United Way's Day of Caring, and on volunteering in general. Emails are sent to all employees when volunteer opportunities arise, making it easy for people to get involved. I signed up for this volunteer event because I was interested in learning more about HARC and people with

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intellectual disability. I was very pleased when Jenna Rompelman, our contact from HARC, extended the invitation to have dinner at the Woodland Avenue group home with the children, and to learn more about the scope of the project. Doing that gave me motivation and also helped me motivate the other volunteers as well. After all, this is about more than just sanding a deck, it's deeper!"

Matt Coronella, who has been with Aetna for seven years in Plan Sponsor Services, agrees. He had not heard of HARC before choosing the organization for this Day of Caring, but seeing the group home, learning about HARC's services to the community and meeting the children has made him want to get more involved.

Abena Sarpong, an associate business analyst with Aetna for a year, in Aetna Information Services, also agrees. As a recent graduate of Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, and new to Hartford she had not heard of HARC before, but is very appreciative of the opportunities provided by Aetna to become more familiar with her new community.

Catherine Gibbons Way, HARC's Director of Development states, "HARC is always interested in having volunteers from area corporations get to know our organization. It keeps HARC a vital part of the community and contributes tremendously to our mission of community education in the area of intellectual disability. The more understanding the community has regarding people with intellectual disability, the better it is for all of us."

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 remains a strong advocate for civil rights and opportunities, and is 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 celebrating its 60 years of service to the Greater Hartford community with many events during 2011.

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 its website, www.harc-ct.org <<http://www.harc-ct.org>> or call 860.218-6047

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Photo Captions:

AetnaGroupGood: The 2011 Day of Caring Aetna volunteers at HARC's Community Residence for Families on Woodland Avenue, Bloomfield

MatthewThibeaultGood: The 2011 Day of Caring Aetna Volunteers Team Captain, Matthew Thibeault

MattCoronellaGood: Aetna volunteer, Matt Coronella scraping the deck at Woodland Avenue Community Residence

Photo Credit: Photo by Jenna Rompelman







Harc
Changing lives, changing minds

Matthew

Days

Caring