



Press

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***HARC's Sixtieth Anniversary Poster Exhibit:
A Poignant Story of Then and Now***

HARTFORD, CT, November, 2011 As part of its Sixtieth Anniversary celebration, HARC, Inc., an organization serving people with intellectual and related disabilities and their families, has created a poster exhibit highlighting the vast strides made in the lives of people with intellectual disability since the organization's founding in 1951.

The poster exhibit features black and white photographs (reprinted with permission) from a book by Burton Blatt and Fred Kaplan, named *Christmas in Purgatory, A Photographic Essay on Mental Retardation*, produced by the Human Policy Press of Syracuse University first in 1966 and then again in 1974. The photos reveal the sad reality of the self-fulfilling prophecy as applied to the world of intellectual disability: if people with intellectual disability are thought to be beyond help and are treated that way, the outcome will live up to and confirm that assumption. The photos show sad, desolate lives in nearly inhumane conditions.

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In sharp contrast to those disturbing photographs, the posters also show contemporary color photos of HARC participants enjoying a full range of inclusive activities in Greater Hartford. Whether portraying a young child engaged in play and learning activity in HARC's SteppingStones early intervention program, or young adults performing their jobs at supported employment sites or playing in HARC's unified athletic programs, the photos clearly show that people with intellectual disability are able to learn, and live productive lives when provided the right type and amount of support. These photos show stories of challenge, success, joy and potential!

According to Dr. Stephen Becker, HARC's president and CEO, "Our 60th anniversary milestone is a time to reflect upon our achievements and to envision the work that still needs to be done. HARC's participants are living lives that are vastly different from those pictured in the Syracuse University book, and our families experience hope and happiness in seeing their loved ones flourish. The need for HARC's services continues to grow, and we always look to strengthening our valued community partnerships and forging new ones."

We extend thanks to the area corporations and businesses which have already hosted the photo exhibit including: 280 Trumbull Street, Hartford; Northeast Utilities, Berlin, CT; Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company, Hartford; West Hartford Town Hall, Lincoln Financial, Hartford; and One Financial Plaza, Hartford. Future dates are planned at ING, Windsor; The Mandell Jewish Community Center, Bloomfield; the Glastonbury Library; the Hartford Library and the Legislative Office Building Concourse in April 2012.

We invite companies and organizations to schedule a time to exhibit the posters at their office or exhibition space. The posters will be brought to your locale and installed on easels, and then will

also be picked up for removal when the exhibit is over. **Arrangements for the poster exhibit can be made by contacting Mike Morrissey at (860) 218-6112 or mmorrissey@harc-ct.org.**

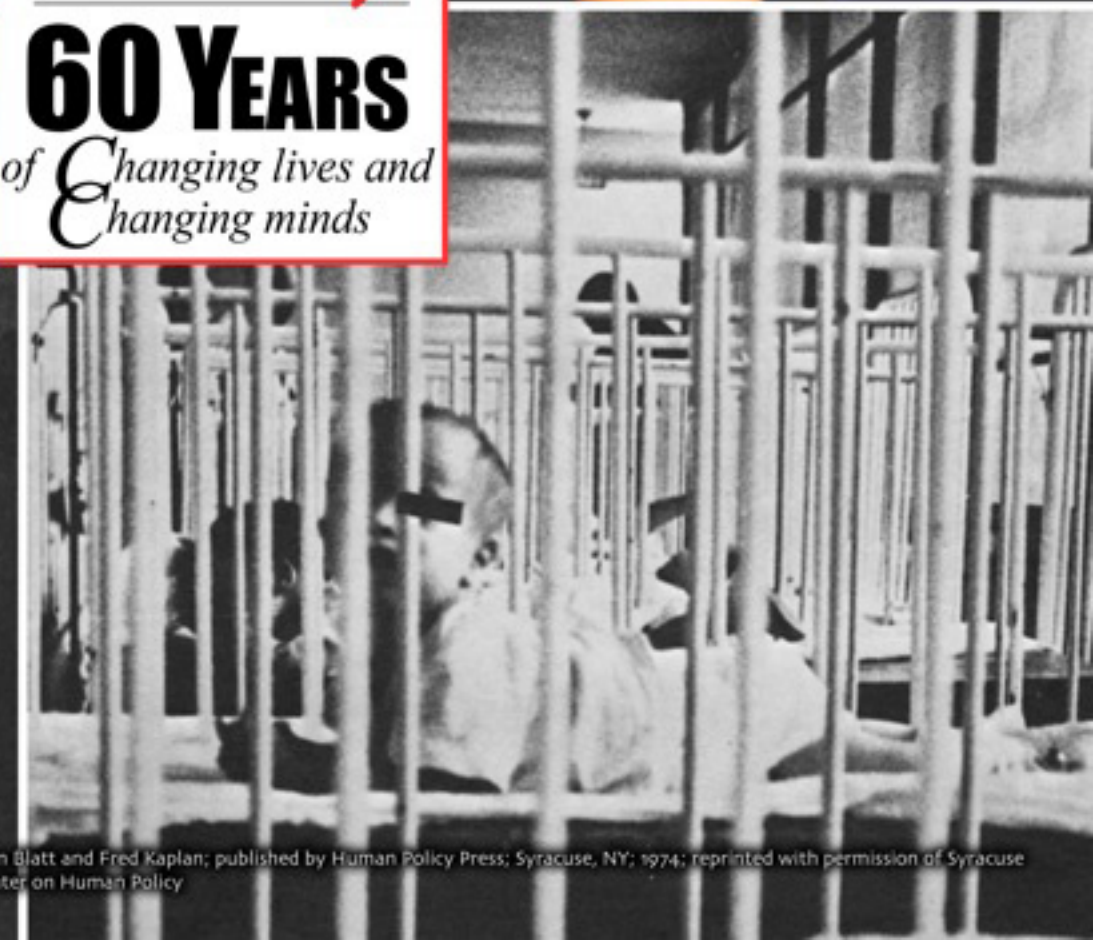
About HARC

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 visit its website, www.harc-ct.org or call 860.218-6047

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Harc
60 YEARS
*of Changing lives and
Changing minds*

Black and White Photos from Christmas in Purgatory / A Photographic Essay on Mental Retardation, by Burton Blatt and Fred Kaplan; published by Human Policy Press; Syracuse, NY; 1974; reprinted with permission of Syracuse University Center on Human Policy



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Black and White Photos from *Christmas In Purgatory / A Photographic Essay on Mental Retardation*, by Burton Blatt and Fred Kaplan; published by Human Policy Press, Syracuse, NY; 1974; reprinted with permission of Syracuse University Center on Human Policy

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