



Press

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## **HARC's Summer Camp: Fun for Hartford Area Youngsters!**

Hartford, CT Thanks to grants from United Way of Central and Northeastern CT, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and the City of Hartford, HARC was able to provide a summer camp program to Greater Hartford youths with intellectual and related disabilities.

Held in conjunction with Camp Courant, at the Camp Courant facility in Farmington, during the months of June and July, 2011, HARC's summer camp offered an inclusive camping experience to both Camp Courant's and HARC's youngsters, ages 6 to 21. Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, HARC's campers are treated to programs in swimming, arts & crafts, sports, nature, and the biggest hit of all, ice cream at the end of the day!

According to Sarah A. Richard, coordinator of Community Services for HARC, "This camping experience is so important for our children, and their families. They absolutely love the activities and the chance to run and swim and play with other children. HARC's 'family' philosophy is very evident at camp and it's been great to see campers from both HARC and Camp Courant developing life-long bonds with each other and with their counselors. It's also been wonderful to see the many small ways in which HARC's campers have been truly welcomed to Camp

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Courant.” Omari, age 13, one of HARC’s campers puts it another way: “I love swimming and my counselor!”

Another HARC camper, David, age 17, says, “I’m not so afraid of swimming anymore. I can put my head in the water now!” Camp Courant’s head lifeguard, Pat Scelza, puts it yet another way: “These children bring so much joy to my life!” It’s clearly a winning situation for all involved.

Our thanks go out to Camp Courant, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and the City of Hartford. These wonderful experiences would not have happened without the support of each of these generous donors.

## **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 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.

HARC is celebrating its 60 years of service to the Greater Hartford community with many events during 2011. *For further information about HARC go to its website, [www.harc-ct.org](http://www.harc-ct.org) or call 860.218-6047*

Photo credit: PowerStation Events; Heather Colt

Photo captions:

OmariPool2Good: HARC camper, Omari, enjoying the pool during the summer camp.

SarahDashaun2VeryGood: Sarah Richard, Coordinator of Community Services for HARC, and

Dashaun enjoy a swim at HARC's summer camp.

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