



Press

HARC, Inc.
Serving People with Intellectual
and Related Disabilities
900 Asylum Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105-1985
Phone 860-218-6000
Fax 860-240-7965
www.harc-ct.org

Contact: Diana Appleton
(860) 218-6047, dappleton@harc-ct.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Emma Kyzivat of Simsbury: Philanthropy Begins at an Early Age!

Hartford, CT Emma Kyzivat's twelfth birthday party was a lot of fun! She had friends over to her house for dinner and they all watched a movie. Typical for 12-year old girls. One of the things making this party *not typical* was Emma's request that in lieu of presents, friends make a donation to her charity of choice: HARC, an organization serving people with intellectual disability and their families.

Emma, who recently entered the seventh grade of Henry James Middle School in Simsbury, had heard about HARC when her parents attended a party hosted by friends, Carolyn and Chris Lech, also of Simsbury. That party, a fundraising benefit for HARC, had been arranged in honor of another Simsbury family, the Bentons, whose son, Alex, receives services from HARC. Alex regularly attends HARC's Camp Bulova, a Saturday play group for medically fragile children with multiple disabilities, designed to give children a fun day with many activities, and at the same time give their parents an opportunity to take a break from the rigors of caring for a medically fragile child. Families often use the opportunity to spend meaningful time with their other children, do errands, or simply have a little quiet time. Camp Bulova is a part of HARC's multi-faceted respite program for families.

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According to Emma, “Two of my friends have sisters with Down Syndrome, so I know a little bit about intellectual disability . . . and my soccer coach is Sara Allan.” Sara, another friend of the Bentons, has been an active member, since its inception, of the HARC Walkathon Committee, formed in 2003 to create HARC’s first Walkathon in 2004. Eventually, that Committee became the Golf Tournament Committee, going on to create yet another successful fundraising event for HARC. Seven Walkathons and two Golf Tournaments later, young Emma is following in the footsteps of this group of women and families in the Simsbury area, to make her own generous contribution to a tradition of philanthropy and activism.

Emma’s mother, Laurie Kyzivat, says, “I am very proud of Emma. This was her idea, and she was quite excited to come to HARC to present the checks from her birthday party.”

Dr. Stephen Becker, HARC’s President / CEO adds, “We are so gratified and proud to see young people, such as Emma, with this awareness of generosity and the desire to help others – the philanthropic spirit. And we are very appreciative that Emma’s generosity has led her to HARC. The HARC family welcomes her with delight and open arms!”

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

Photo caption: Emma Kyzivat (middle) and her mother Laurie (left), presenting donations to Dr. Stephen Becker, President / CEO of HARC.

Photo credit: Photo by Diana Appleton

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