



Press

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Serving People with Intellectual
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***Hoffman Auto Group Presenting Sponsor
at HARC's Seventh Annual Walkathon on
Sunday, September 18; Rentschler Field, East Hartford***

HARTFORD, CT, July 2011 HARC, Inc. will hold its seventh Annual Walkathon, on Sunday, September 18, in its new location at Rentschler Field, East Hartford. Registration is at 9:00 am and the Walk begins at 10:00 am. This event, which is part of HARC's 60th Anniversary Celebration of service to the Greater Hartford Community in 2011, brings together HARC's participants, staff, families and community supporters for an inclusive day of family fun - with attractions such as music, massage, racing cars and drivers, a children's tent with face painting, and once again, NBC Meteorologist, Bob Maxon, as host of the day!

HARC is delighted to welcome Hoffman Auto Group as lead sponsor for Walkathon 2011, and is pleased to be one of Hoffman Auto Group's community partners. According to Bradley Hoffman, "As a leader in our community, Hoffman works to give back wherever and whenever we can. HARC is a tremendous asset to the Greater Hartford area, and we are thrilled to be a part of this exciting event."

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Co-chairs for the seventh Annual Walkathon are Deborah Meier Kleinman of Hartford and Gregory P. Calnen of West Hartford. Ms. Kleinman has been a long-time supporter and volunteer with HARC. She has served on HARC's board of directors since 1997, and on the Development Committee for many years. She also served as Auction Chair and Annual Fund Chair, each for several years. Ms. Kleinman states, "We are all very excited to be partnering with Hoffman Auto Group to bring this wonderful event to East Hartford."

Mr. Calnen has been an active volunteer with HARC for two years, and also has been involved for many years with HARC's Walkathon. He formed a large team of walkers, named *Jane's Knights*, in honor of his Aunt Jane. Mr. Calnen comes from a family background of activism and advocacy for people with intellectual disability: his grandfather was among the early founding families of HARC, and was active in the intellectual disability movement at both a community and state level. Mr. Calnen says, "I'm very pleased to be involved in the Walkathon, and in growing it as an event. Over the years, there has been active community support for it, and the interaction that it engenders, between HARC's clients and the event participants, is so wonderful – and so important. Carrying on the family tradition for this cause just feels right."

Proceeds from Walkathon 2011 will be directed to HARC's programs that help families face the daily challenge of intellectual and related disabilities.

To register, or form a team for the Walkathon, which is free and open to the public, visit HARC's website at www.harc-ct.org or call Jenna Rompelman at (860) 218-6089.

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.

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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Media: Please do not print the names of the photos – they are for identification purposes only.

Photo Credit: Steve Brimmer Photography

Photo Captions:

JanesKnightsI: Gregory Calnen (center back row) and his team, *Jane's Knights*. His Aunt Jane is third from the left in the front row, and his mother, Patrice Calnen, Chair of the HARC board of directors, is second from the right, front row.

BobMGreat: Host of the HARC Walkathon Bob Maxon, Meteorologist of NBC CT