



Press

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UConn's Beta Theta Pi Comes to HARC

Hartford, CT As part of its **60th Anniversary Celebration** community outreach, HARC was pleased to welcome the forty-seven members of **UConn's Beta Theta Pi** fraternity for a day of painting and clean-up followed by a get-together cookout at the HARC headquarters on Asylum Avenue.

Thanks to an introduction by long-time HARC parent, Board member and past chair of the Board, **Jim Heffernan of Wethersfield**, Beta Theta Pi fraternity brothers selected HARC to continue their tradition of good works, and community involvement. According to **Ryan Cybart**, a sophomore, and the person in charge of community outreach for the fraternity, "We really enjoy doing this type of community service. Last semester we did activities with school children around the holidays, and we will be doing a huge Twister event on the UConn basketball court in which the proceeds will be donated to St. Jude's children's fund."

The fraternity brothers who came to HARC represented a wide range of majors. **Shegz Afolayan**, a freshman biology major who grew up in Nigeria, plays soccer and wants to be a surgeon, said that so far, this visit to HARC was his favorite community service yet. **Dave Wanik**, a senior in environmental engineering, was happy to relate that he will be employed at Northeast Utilities when he graduates this year. **Andrew DeBarge**, a freshman in actuarial

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science, has volunteered with Special Olympics CT in Wethersfield for many years and so, was happy to expand his knowledge of intellectual disability by coming to HARC. **Anthony DiNicola**, a sophomore in business management, was stunned to realize that he had visited the HARC building as a child, when it was an office building. **Andrew Porter-Price**, a senior, voiced excitement about working with the fraternity professionally after graduation as a leadership consultant. And **Matthew Dempsey**, a sophomore in special education with a minor in Spanish, was surprised and delighted to reconnect with Saarin, a HARC client who was one of the campers at Camp Hemlocks, where he had been a summer counselor.

It was a terrific day, enjoyed by all in attendance, and HARC was very, very pleased not only to have been the recipient of all the good work from the brothers of Beta Theta Pi, but also to see the knowledge and awareness of intellectual disability carried by these young men into so many different fields of expertise in the community!

About HARC, Inc.

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 now a strong advocate for civil rights and opportunities, and a major provider of clinical and supportive services which span the entire lifetime: early intervention, respite care, family support, recreation, advocacy, employment and day programs, residential, elderly services and behavioral health and social services.

HARC currently offers community based supports with 11 group homes and condominiums and 28 supported employment sites throughout Greater Hartford. HARC is a Community Investment Partner of United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut and serves Greater Hartford.

Photo captions:

- HARC participants Albert, Saarin and David with Ryan Cybart (second from left) of Beta Theta Pi

- The Beta Theta Pi fraternity brothers at HARC

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