



Press

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Serving People with Intellectual
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Kathleen & James Heffernan of Wethersfield
to be Honored at HARC's 60th Anniversary Annual Meeting
on Thursday, June 23, 2011**

(Hartford, CT) HARC, Inc. is pleased to announce that **Kathleen and James Heffernan of Wethersfield will be honored for their many years of dedication and service to HARC and people with intellectual disability at HARC's 60th Anniversary Annual Meeting, which will take place at 5:30 pm on Thursday, June 23, 2011, at The Hartford Club.**

Jim has served on HARC's board of directors for the better part of 18 years, assuming numerous leadership positions, including *Board Chairman* for four years. He currently serves as Chairman of the Connecticut Council on Developmental Services.

Kathy was a math teacher in the Wethersfield School System for many years, and worked hard with Jim to increase awareness and support for people with intellectual disability and their families. The Heffernans agree that Wethersfield Public Schools provided outstanding educational opportunities for their son, Brian, and other students with intellectual and

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developmental challenges. Kathy and Jim have served on numerous boards, task forces and committees to improve the quality of life for individuals with intellectual and related disabilities. They have been strong advocates for families facing extraordinary challenges related to disability.

The Heffernans participate actively with the Connecticut General Assembly, for improvements to services, budgets, and rules and regulations, addressing virtually every salient issue on the docket through letters, phone calls and meetings with elected representatives.

For years, the Heffernans met personally with legislators and other governmental officials to advocate for family support, day programs and residential options as well as to advocate for caregivers and community providers of services for people with intellectual disability.

In all these contexts, Kathy and Jim have been outstanding spokespersons and ambassadors for HARC, bringing together family and friends in support of HARC, and also participating in every HARC fundraising initiative.

In all areas of work required to meet HARC's mission: administration, governmental affairs, public policy and service programs, Kathy and Jim have actively participated with intelligence, passion, creativity and kindness. The loss of their beloved son, Brian in 2006, did not deter them at all in their quest for a better life for people with disabilities. In fact, it only provided more momentum to continue the legacy of love, hope and opportunity, which they embody.

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 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 the website: www.harc-ct.org <<http://www.harc-ct.org>> or to receive an invitation for the 60th Anniversary Annual Meeting contact Michael Morrissey, (860) 218 - 6112 or **mmorrissey@harc-ct.org**.

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