



Press

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## **HARC's Sixtieth Annual Meeting Honoring Kathy and Jim Heffernan of Wethersfield: An Inspiration for Advocates of People with Intellectual Disability**

Hartford, CT HARC, Inc.'s sixtieth Annual Meeting took place on Thursday, June 23, 2011 at The Hartford Club in Hartford. Honored at the event were Kathy and Jim Heffernan of Wethersfield for their lifetime of dedicated service to people with intellectual disability and to HARC.

Honoring the Heffernans was Lieutenant Governor, Nancy Wyman, who spoke of their dedication as loving parents to their son Brian, a HARC client, who passed away several years ago. She also spoke of the Heffernans' dedication to helping people with intellectual disability, through service to HARC and as ambassadors and advocates at the Connecticut General Assembly and with legislators and other governmental officials.

Also speaking at the Annual Meeting were Patrice Calnen, Chair of the HARC board of directors, Mrs. Margaret Tedone, one of HARC's original founders; the Heffernans' close friend, Brian McLane of the Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University; their son John Heffernan, from New Jersey; Peggy Weber, a special educator from the Wethersfield School System; Dr. Terrence Macy, Commissioner of the Department of Developmental Services; David Hadden of

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Simsbury, a friend, fellow HARC parent, and advocate in his own right; Albert Lognin, a self-advocate and Dr. Stephen Becker, President and CEO of HARC.

Kathy Heffernan presented The JETS (Junior Engineering Technical Society) of Wethersfield High School with HARC's 2011 Youth Community Services Award, for their award winning inventions that help people with multiple disabilities.

According to Kathy, "We were so honored to be counted among the many people who have been effective advocates for people with intellectual disabilities. It was such an incredible honor, we are still just speechless!" Jim adds, "Kathy and I are forever grateful to the wonderful HARC staff who work so hard every day to provide a safe and loving environment for all our folks, and we wouldn't have been a part of all of this if we hadn't been blessed by having Brian in our lives."

## **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 captions:

HeffsMcLaneWymanGood: Kathy & Jim Heffernan with friend Brian McLane of Syracuse University and Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman at HARC's Sixtieth Annual Meeting.

HeffsWymanDrawingGood: Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman presenting her gift to Kathy and Jim Heffernan at HARC's Sixtieth Annual Meeting.

HeffsTerryProclamationGood: Kathy and Jim Heffernan with Commissioner Dr. Terrence Macy, presenting the Governor's proclamation at HARC's Sixtieth Annual Meeting.

Photo Credit: David Stephens

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