



Press

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**The JETS of Wethersfield High School
to be Honored at HARC's 60th Anniversary Annual Meeting
on Thursday June 23, 2011**

(Hartford, CT) HARC, Inc. is pleased to announce that the **Junior Engineering Technical Society** or **The JETS**, of Wethersfield High School, will be honored for their inventiveness and achievements in assisting people with physical and/or intellectual challenges to participate fully and comfortably in community life. The group will receive the *2011 Youth Community Services Award* at HARC's 60th Anniversary Annual Meeting, which will take place at 5:30 pm on Thursday, June 23, 2011, at The Hartford Club.

The JETS designed assistive technology devices which placed in the top five at the National Engineering Design Challenge in Washington DC for two years in a row. The first was the Easy Access Transport Systems or *EATS*, a structure with a hook to help secure a backpack to a wheelchair, allowing easy access for its user. The second was the *Walken* which features a motor to help people using walkers go up and down stairs.

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HARC's *Youth Community Award* recognizes the integral role that young people play in creating an atmosphere of acceptance and helping to improve the lives of their classmates and other people with disabilities, within our community. The JETS' mission "to support new and creative ideas, embolden youth to create change and above all to make people smile," exemplifies the compassion, direction and ingenuity honored by this award.

The JETS were nominated for the *Youth Community Award* by Kathleen and James Heffernan, also of Wethersfield, who are also being honored at HARC's Annual Meeting. The Heffernans have been community leaders devoted to improving life for people with disabilities and active members of HARC, for over 25 years. Several years ago, the Heffernans lost their beloved son, Brian, who had been a HARC client for many years.

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 call Michael Morrissey, 860.218.6112.

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