



## Message From the Board

By Patricia Egan Jones

**Over the years,** I have been asked to serve on numerous boards in our area and was happy to join and help. But none have my heart and soul like the board serving our school, its children and their families, and the Larc staff.

To be a part of the Larc family has always been special to me (and for all the board members, believe me) because we see the smiles of accomplishment on everyone's face for every new word, new step, or new day reached by our kids.

This school and everyone that is a part of it knows that a gentle touch and a happy face make us all feel better and, not surprising, work better. I marvel at every visit to Larc, seeing how our staff so seamlessly interacts with our kids, and how the administrative people share and enjoy all the day-to-day successes of the classroom.

My goodness! Many years ago, when I was first involved with Larc, we simply had a day program where I and other volunteers sat on the floor and played with our kids. It was a truly loving environment then, as it is to this day. As the school and its programming grew, it became important to formalize the school's structure, establish a board, and broaden our horizon. At about that time, two board members—Chas Higgins and Ed McDonnell—came along, as well as a legislator and his staff member. All were eager to help improve Larc's program. So off we went to Trenton for adequate funding, a school building of our own, and an adult program.

“ I marvel at every visit to Larc, seeing how our staff so seamlessly interacts with our kids, and how the administrative people share and enjoy all the day-to-day successes of the classroom.

It is such a pleasure to work for Larc alongside truly dedicated board members. We are so very pleased to play a part in the lives of all who come to Larc to learn, to work, or simply help. I thank Larc for the opportunity to serve, and all who help us reach Larc's goals.

Today, Larc continues to find new and better ways to serve the community, and I am very proud to be a part of this extraordinary family called Larc. Just imagine, I went from a legislative staff member to a legislator now serving in the Assembly Education Committee. How lucky can I be! And I know in my heart that my experiences at Larc School will inform my position as a legislator on the Education Committee in an especially positive way. For this I am most grateful. ■

*Larc School, Staff, and Board of Directors congratulate Larc Board Member Patricia Egan Jones on her election to the New Jersey General Assembly, November, 2015. "Pat has always been one of our greatest supporters," said Larc School Executive Director Susan Weiner, "and we are so pleased to have her as an advocate, in the New Jersey Assembly, for individuals with special needs."*



# Special Friend's Perspective

By Karen Leason

## My relationship with Larc School

grew slowly and steadily, unreserved and strong.

My first encounter with Larc was in 1994. I was working for a local bank in Bellmawr, and I attended an event at Larc, where the bank made a contribution to the school. I remember that visiting Larc just touched something in me—it pulled at my heart, the way the teachers and staff interacted with the students. I felt it was amazing.

I became active in the Runnemedede Bellmawr Glendora Rotary Club. As Larc was the Club's choice for non-profit fundraising, I became something of a liaison to Larc. I then moved from the area for a couple of years. When I returned to a new job in Bellmawr in 2000, I became active in Rotary again, and resumed my relationship with Larc. Susan asked me to be on a committee to help with the Run. Of course, I accepted, and I've been doing it ever since.

Larc is such a special place. The staff and students are always happy, and they accomplish so much. The staff is able to help students to a whole new level, a level parents never thought possible. Whatever the students' accomplishments are, they

are always met with encouragement and joy, and a sense of hope for the future. It takes a special person to be able to work with these wonderful children and help them achieve goals once only dreamed of. The staff at Larc are truly dedicated and special. I know. I've seen them in action.

Being active at Larc and having an opportunity to speak with parents at school activities, to hear of the struggles they have regarding transportation, insurance, obtaining wheelchairs and other equipment really reinforces for me the importance of what I do for Larc.

I've watched Larc grow, in their physical plant, their number of students, and the programs they offer, adding so much to the community. With it, support from the community has grown. I remember when the Run was about 300 people running around the school and into the town. Now more than 4,000 participants and hundreds more supporters are involved in the Run, which has expanded to running across the Ben Franklin Bridge! Support from community leaders has grown, as well. I think it's wonderful. Supporting Larc is the right thing to do. I simply feel that I can never do enough. ■

“ The staff at Larc are dedicated and special. I know. I've seen them in action.



# calendar



### Friday, March 11, 2016

Designer Bag Bingo [Sold Out]

### Friday, April 15, 2016

Art Festival

### Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Appreciation Breakfast

### Friday, June 3, 2016

25th Annual "Help the Kids" Golf Tournament, at the Pennsauken Country Club

### September, 2016 (date TBA)

The Camden County Bar Association's Young Lawyer Committee (YLC) 7th Annual Event

### Sunday, November 6, 2016

2016 Cooper Norcross Run the Bridge Presented by AmeriHealth New Jersey

[facebook/larcschool](https://www.facebook.com/larcschool)



# friends

## OF LARC SCHOOL

*Larc School gratefully acknowledges these gifts from our caring friends—individuals, foundations, corporations—whose generosity makes it possible for Larc School to provide the very best for its students and their families. We extend our deepest gratitude to every donor.*

### Platinum – \$10,000 to \$24,999

Mr & Mrs Richard Hardenbergh  
William G Rohrer Charitable Foundation

### Gold – \$2,500 to \$9,999

Knights of Columbus, Council #6364  
Pellegrino Chevrolet

### Silver – \$500 to \$2,499

All Risk, Inc  
Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Bank of America Employee Giving Program  
Benevity Matching Gifts  
Brown & Brown Insurance of  
the Delaware Valley  
Mr & Mrs Michael Ciarroccki  
GlaxoSmithKline Matching Gifts  
Hardenbergh Insurance Group Family  
Mr & Mrs Thomas Heitzman  
Knights of Columbus, Council #674  
Knights of Columbus, Council #3352  
Knights of Columbus, Council #3532  
Knights of Columbus, Council #8718  
Knights of Columbus, Holy Child Bingo  
Mr & Mrs Steven Lazovitz  
Mr John Mackay  
Riverwinds Yacht Club  
Selective Insurance Group Foundation  
Matching Grant Program  
Voorhees Swim Club

### Crystal – to \$499

Mr & Mrs Richard Altieri  
Anonymous  
Atco Family Dentistry, PA  
Ms Therese Barringer  
Bellmawr Lions Club  
Mr & Mrs Louis DiAngelo  
Mr & Mrs Jerry DiDomenico  
Mr & Mrs Donald Fox  
Mr George Furman (FMC Good  
Government Program)  
Ms Barbara Galda  
Mr Jasper Garagozzo  
Mr Ralph Geary  
GlaxoSmithKline Matching Gifts  
Mr Herman Greenberg  
Ms Ruth Gubernick  
The King's Christian School, "Dress Down Day"  
Knights of Columbus, Council #1994  
Mr & Mrs Joseph Landwehr, Jr  
Ms Maureen McMenam  
Mr & Mrs Robert Metrione  
Newborn Nurses  
Mr & Mrs Michael Norton  
Mr & Mrs Howard Page  
Mr Rudolf Rotter  
Ms Sandra Sierakowski  
Mr Charles Warrington  
Mr Samuel Wick, Jr

### In honor of Katy Berg

Mr & Mrs Luke Nevius and Jen

### In honor of Robert & Elizabeth Bisaga

Technique Precision Employees

### In honor of The Colgan Family

Mr & Mrs Christopher Woodring

### In honor of Marie Daly

Ms Anita Rothstein

### In honor of Harry Flomenberg

Alan, Debbie, Ned, Lise, and the Boys  
Ms Bernice Gordon  
Mr & Mrs Irv Hark  
Ms Flossye Miller  
Mr & Mrs Donald Steinberg  
Ms Marlene Steinberg

### In honor of Ian Hall

Ms Diane Preston

### In honor of Joy Hampton

Mr & Mrs Kevin Greene

### In honor of Michael Heins

Mr George Glaesser, III

### In honor of Christopher Heitzman

The Mayher Family

### In honor of Sophia Horiates

Mr & Mrs Jerry Kappatos  
Mr Karl Mueller

### In honor of Daniel Kennedy

Mr Alexander DiCarlo

### In honor of Ryan Kruger

Mr & Mrs Tom Lenweaver

### In honor of Larc School Staff

Ms Vicki Keen

### In honor of Colin Leight, Jr

Mr & Mrs Howard Leight

### In honor of Amanda McDonnell

Ms Laura Chudd  
Ms Eileen Lish  
Mr Gary Tomar

### In honor of Edward McDonnell

Mr & Mrs Gerard Iannelli  
Ms Eileen Lish  
Mr & Mrs Matthew Moeller

### In honor of Emily Meagher

Mrs Dorothy Johnson

### In honor of Alex Norcross

Dr John Norcross

### In honor of George & Sandy Norcross

Mr Edward McDonnell  
Dr John Norcross

### In honor of Lexie Norcross

Mr Edward McDonnell  
Dr John Norcross

### In honor of The Norcross Foundation

Mr Edward McDonnell

### In honor of Mark & Leslie Pellegrino

Mrs Robin Cutuli  
Mrs Janice Shaw

### In honor of Matthew & Patrycia Pellegrino

Mrs Robin Cutuli  
Mrs Janice Shaw

### In honor of Brian Popso

Mr & Mrs James Hartshorne, Jr  
Mrs Frances Popso  
Mr Robert Popso  
Mr & Mrs Herbert Schaffer, Jr  
Mr & Mrs George Walls, Jr

### In honor of Jim Power

Ms Marie Daly

### In honor of Trevor Rodriguez

Mr & Mrs Ralph Swift

### In honor of Nicholas Sheply

Ms Helen Graziano  
Mr & Mrs Joseph Wolk

### In honor of Andrew Smith

Mr Richard Raychert

### In honor of Sydney's Wedding

Ms Toby Weitzman

### In honor of Darcie & Jackson Waicus

Mr & Mrs Paul Waicus

When remembering those  
you love, remember Larc



Make a donation to Larc School – the perfect remembrance for all occasions:  
birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, congratulations, and condolences.

### Contributions may be sent to:

Larc School  
1089 Creek Road  
Bellmawr, NJ 08031

(Envelope enclosed) or donate online at [www.larcschool.org](http://www.larcschool.org)

**In honor of Sarah Weiner**

Ms Patricia Bourke & Dr Robert Downie

**In honor of Susan Weiner**

Feldman Family Foundation

**In honor of Mr & Mrs Zonon's Grandson Colton**

Mr & Mrs Harry Flomenberg

**In memory of Jonathan Braccio**

Ms C Terry Jeffers

**In memory of Gerald Browne**

Mr Jeffrey Browne

**In memory of Zelda Bryen**

Ms Susan Weiner

**In memory of Catherine Burkert**

Sheet Metal Workers' Local Union #19

**In memory of Doris Burns**

Mr & Mrs James Schumann

**In memory of Mildred Cavallo**

Mr Michael Procacci  
Mr & Mrs Michael Procacci, Jr

**In memory of Marion Chorley**

Ms Marie DiMatties

**In memory of Joan Lee Cram**

Ms Kathy Ventura Davis

**In memory of David Duncan**

FWW Post 7410 Mens Club

**In memory of Michelle Fothergill**

Avery, Bailey and Caleb Fothergill

**In memory of Joan Geary**

Mr Ralph Geary

**In memory of Kimberly Hardenbergh**

Ms Donna Rell Croker  
Mr Brian Desrochers  
Ms Christine Desrochers  
Mr & Mrs David Desrochers  
Ms Judith Desrochers  
Ms Lynne Desrochers  
Ms Lisa Hager & Daughters  
Mr & Mrs Richard Hardenbergh  
Utica National Insurance Group

**In memory of Lauren Higgins**

Mr & Mrs Richard Brant  
Dr & Mrs Soumya Chakravarty  
Mr & Mrs Frank Esposito  
Ms Maria Gasparro  
Mr & Mrs James Schumann  
Mr & Mrs Theodore Walter  
Mr & Mrs WH Wiler

**In memory of Kevin Larsen**

Mr & Mrs Daniel Kelly  
Ms Patricia White

**In memory of Wendell Leonard**

Ms Patricia White

**In memory of Virginia Marks**

Mr & Mrs Anthony Micciche

**In memory of Henrietta Mayer**

Mr & Mrs Harry Wright

**In memory of Ida Melograna-Pettit**

Ms Donna Ferrer

**In memory of Lorie Muraca**

Mr & Mrs William Kneller  
Mr Giuseppe Muraca  
Mr Robert Van Etten

**In memory of Anthony Negro**

Ms Marie Mansor

**In memory of Frances Procacci**

Mr & Mrs Michael Procacci, Jr

**In memory of Nancy Rhodes**

Ms Nancy Sheeran

**In memory of Mary Rivard**

Mr James Rivard

**In memory of Samuel Ross, Sr**

Mr Edward McDonnell

**In memory of Andrew Spevak**

Ms Kathleen McDonnell

**In memory of Kathleen Wade**

Mr Thomas Wade

**In memory of John Weaver**

Mr & Mrs James Schumann

**In memory of Joel Weiner**

Mr & Mrs Larry Buxbaum  
Mrs Judith Friedman  
Mr & Mrs George Horne

**In memory of Jake Weitzman**

Mrs Judith Friedman  
Ms Jill Voshell

**In memory of Dylan White**

Ms Kathleen McDonnell and Mandy

**In memory of Theodore White, Sr**

Mr & Mrs Daniel Kelly  
Ms Patricia White

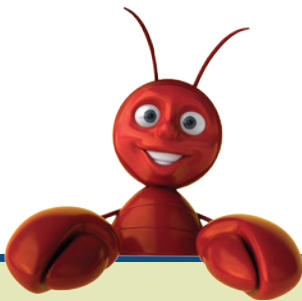
**In memory of Laura Willits**

Ms Norma Lambert

**In memory of Bruce Zeidman**

Mrs Elizabeth Zeidman

*Listed above are contributions from July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. Please let us know if a name was omitted, and we'll be sure to print it in our next issue.*



## The 6th Annual Young Lawyer's Lobster Bake, Where Everyone Had A Wonderfully Delicious Time!

### The Camden County Bar Association's Young Lawyer Committee (YLC) 6th Annual Lobster Bake

hosted 112 guests at **The Tap Room**, in Westmont, this past September, raising \$4,500 for Larc School.


Pictured here is YLC's resident lobster lawyer and **YLC Member David Hasner**, where he is joined by **YLC Members** (back row, left to right) **Michael Dennin, Adam Gersh, Michael Madden, YLC President Abraham Tran, and YLC Member Matt Rooney**; and, to either side of Larc School Executive Director Susan Weiner (front row, center) are **YLC Members** (left to right) **Rachel Licausi, Jenny Kasen, Rachael Brekke, and Jeanette Kwon**.



[facebook/larcschool](https://www.facebook.com/larcschool)



# 2015 RUN THE BRIDGE

Over 3,600 participants registered for the 2015 Cooper Norcross Run the Bridge Event Presented by AmeriHealth New Jersey, including runners, walkers, and kids—plus a few costumed runners taking advantage of the fact that the Bridge Run was held November 1, the day after Halloween. But there were no tricks ... it was all treats as more than 200 volunteers assisted the day of the Run, and many more offered support behind the scenes leading up to Run, helping to make it a successful and fun day. Remembering last year's 40 m.p.h. wind gusts, all were grateful for an unmemorable weather picture this year—mild, with little sunshine ... and no wind or rain! The race itself, however, was very exciting—the first place runner crossed the finish line at 29 minutes and 50 seconds, with second and third place runners less than a minute behind! Please like us on facebook/runthebridge to keep in touch for the 2016 event! 

## LARC SCHOOL SINCERELY THANKS THE SUPPORTERS OF THE 2015 COOPER NORCROSS RUN THE BRIDGE PRESENTED BY AMERIHEALTH NEW JERSEY

### Naming Sponsor

Cooper University Hospital  
The Norcross Foundation

### Presenting Sponsor

AmeriHealth New Jersey

### Hosts

Campbell's Field  
Delaware River Port  
Authority/PATCO

### Planning Partners

Rutgers-Camden  
Camden County  
Haddonfield Running Co  
Cooper's Ferry Partnership

### Refreshment Sponsor

Brown's Family Shop Rite

### Media Sponsor

PhillyVoice.com

### Prize Sponsors

The Campaign Group, Inc  
The Michaels Organization  
Whitesell Construction Co

### Finish Line Sponsors

Brown & Connery LLP  
Gary F. Gardner, Inc  
Identity Gear  
Normandy Real Estate Partners  
PHL17  
Phoenix Advisors, LLC  
Verizon/NJ SHARES

### Clock Sponsors

CME Benefits Consulting  
Camden County Dept. of  
Corrections PBA Local #351  
Gibbons PC  
Hardenbergh Insurance Group  
Laborers' District Council  
Merrill Lynch  
Ravitz Family Foundation

### Gold Sponsors

All Risk, Inc  
Beach, Greenwald & Lampitt  
Bernard & Shirlee Brown  
Concord Engineering Group  
Conifer Realty, LLC  
Falasca Mechanical, Inc  
French & Parrello  
Associates, PA  
Holman Automotive Group, Inc  
Holt Logistics Corp  
IBEW Local 351  
IUPAT District Council 711  
Joseph M. Sanzari, Inc  
KMS Development Partners, LP  
Laborers' International  
Union of North America  
- Eastern Region

M&M Realty Partners  
Meridian Property Services, Inc  
Mount Construction  
Company Inc  
NFI  
PSE&G  
Parker McCay PA  
Parson Associates  
Pellegriano Auto Group  
Plumbers & Steamfitters  
Union Local #322  
Ragone, Lacatena,  
Fairchild & Beppel PC  
Rotary Club of Runnemedede,  
Bellmawr & Glendora  
SBARs/Domenica Foundation  
Senior Care Centers of America  
Sheet Metal Workers'  
International Association  
Local #19  
Stradley Ronon Stevens  
& Young LLP  
Taylor Wiseman & Taylor  
Title America  
Torcon, Inc  
Utility Line Services Inc

### Silver Sponsors

Acacia Financial Group  
Bowman & Company LLP  
Calvi Electric Company  
Carr & Duff Inc.  
Cozen O'Connor, PC  
Designer T's  
Diggerland USA  
FC Kerbeck & Sons  
Florio, Perrucci, Steinhardt  
& Fader LLC  
Garrison Architects  
Holcomb Bus Service  
Jack Robinson Waste Disposal  
Kulzer & DiPadova, PA  
Law Offices of Lynda L. Hinkle  
LIVE Nation  
Madden & Madden, PA  
Melitta USA  
Rowan University  
Sign Pros  
Surety Charitable Foundation  
Tile, Marble & Terrazzo  
Local Union No. 7  
UBC Local Union #255

### Bag/Table Sponsors

Battleship New Jersey  
Broad Street Run  
CGI Racing  
Dave & Buster's  
Delaware Riverkeeper Network  
Odyssey Half Marathon  
Phila Massages

### Bronze Sponsors

Boilermakers Local #28  
Cement Masons &  
Plasterers Local #592  
Construction & General  
Laborers' Local #172  
Dembo, Brown & Burns LLP  
Gardner Funeral Home  
Greyhawk  
Holmes & Company LLC  
Iron Workers Local #399  
Law Offices of David  
A. Capozzi, Esq.  
Lewy W. Scanton,  
ARM, CPA, CRIS  
John C. Norcross, Ph.D.  
Paul's Custom Awards  
& Trophies  
Platt Memorial Chapels, Inc.  
RP Consulting, LLC  
SK Strategies, LLC  
Shimberg & Friel PC  
Sora Northeast  
Vitarelli's Catering  
& Restaurant

### Supporters

3D Engineering & Construction  
Awaken Your Mastery LLC  
Community Foundation Of NJ  
Horizon Blue Cross  
Joe's Auto Repair  
JRS Strategies  
Ken & Loretta Schatz  
Foundation Trust  
M&C Insurance Agency, Inc  
Maley & Associates  
Markeim Chalmers, Inc  
Martin, Gunn & Martin  
Mercer Gasket & Shim  
NJ Public Employees Council #1  
NJM Insurance Group  
Ray Angelini, Inc  
Raymond J Zane  
Campaign Fund  
Salem County Democratic  
Committee  
Sheet Metal Workers  
Local No 25  
Stradly, Ronon,  
Stevens & Young  
Susquehanna Bancshares, Inc  
T & M  
Teamsters Local 97  
The Hampshire Companies  
The John F Scarpa Foundation  
The Maxwell Strawbridge  
Charitable Trust  
Vahan Gureghian, Esquire  
Wade, Long, Wood &  
Kennedy, LLC

### Individual Supporters

Mr Patrick Abusi  
Mr Richard A Alaimo  
Mr James Allen  
Dr Peter S Amenta  
Ms Joyce Gabriel Anderson  
Mr Ross Angiella  
Mr Brian Bauerle  
Ms Kevin Becica  
Ms Robyn Block  
Mr Bradley Borneman  
Mr Joseph Buckelew  
Mr Joseph Cairone  
Mr & Mrs Joseph Campbell  
Ms Margaret Carter  
Mr & Mrs Edward Chinchillo  
Ms Arlene R Chiumento  
Ms Joyce Chmielenski  
Honorable Riletta Cream  
Ms Susan Croll & Paul  
Monasevitch  
Ms Laurelle A Cummings  
Hon James M Davis  
Mr & Mrs Max Delgado  
Mr James Deutsch  
Mr Eric Dezi  
Mr & Mrs Louis P Diangelo  
Mr Joseph DiBella  
Mr Angelo DiCamillo  
Mr & Mrs Edward Dion  
Mr & Mrs Tony D'Orazio  
Mr Martin Fallaro  
Mr Tom Fanelle  
Ms Carol Fario  
Ms Mary Gamon  
Mr Robert Gamon  
Ms Karen Gismonde  
Mr & Mrs Philip Glick  
Ms Generosa Grana, MD  
Ms Elizabeth A Green  
Mr Jared Greenberg  
Mr David N Grubb  
Mr & Mrs Don Harrison  
Mr Glenn Henkel  
Ms Lisa Hensiek  
Ms Melissa Holliday  
Mr Joseph Hrubash  
Ms Susan Hudson  
Mr Harry Johnson  
Mr & Mrs Mark Jones  
Mr Michael Joyce  
Dr Joseph M Juliano  
Ms Linda Kassekert  
Ms Adrienne Kirby  
Mr & Mrs Dennis Klein  
Ms Kris Klepper  
Mr & Mrs Benjamin Kruger  
Ms Maris Kukanis  
Honorable Joseph M Kyrillos  
Ms Jill Lawlor  
Mr Ian Leonard  
Ms Susan Bass Levin  
Honorable Sara Lipsett  
Mr Ira Lubert

Mr Frank A Lynch  
Mr James Lynch  
Ms Carole Mack  
Mr & Mrs James Maitland  
Mr Dominick F Manno  
Ms Elizabeth McBride  
Mr Gene McMenamin  
Mr & Mrs Glenn Mekles  
Mr & Mrs Louis R Meloni  
Mr Wesley Merkle  
Mr Hank Milgram  
Mrs Diane Molle  
Mr & Mrs Bart Mueller  
Mr John F Muscella  
Mr Howard E Needleman  
Mr Thomas Nolan  
Philip & Carole Norcross  
on behalf of  
Jeffrey Winitzky  
Marilyn Gilletto  
Ms Lynn Nowak  
Ms Kristin Nowell  
Mr & Mrs Kevin O'Dowd  
Ms Rose V Patterson  
Mr C Scott Payne  
Ms Phyllis Pearl  
Mr Glenn Prince  
Mr & Mrs Raman  
Ms Ramona Ramona  
Dr & Mrs Joseph Reichman  
Honorable & Mrs Joseph Ripa  
Mr & Mrs Marc Rowan  
Mr Ronald Rubin  
Dr Robert Saporito  
Ms Phyllis M Saraceni  
Mr & Mrs Ralph Saraceno  
Ms Maureen Saraullo  
Ms Joyce Scheer  
Ms Francesca Schiavo  
Mr Richard Schlegel  
Ms Barbara Smith  
Ms Judith Smoller  
Dr Robert A Somer  
Dr Gary Stahl  
Mr Gene Stern  
Mr Bradford Stokes  
Ms Vicki Stropes  
Ms Maria Surgner  
Ms Linda Szczesniowski  
Honorable & Mrs Ricardo Taylor  
Ms Geraldine Tobako  
Mr Gary Tomar  
Mr Steven Touh  
Mr & Mrs Terrence J Tracy  
Mrs Helen Albright Troxell  
Ms Connie Visconti  
Mr Franz Wagner  
Ms Barbara Wallace  
Mr & Mrs Guydon Wiegand  
Honorable Gilbert Wilson  
Ms Christine Winn  
Mr W Kirk Wycoff  
Ms Patricia Zepp

# Traveling Across The Globe To Run The Bridge

Note: Article excerpts courtesy of PhillyVoice.com

For a seasoned marathon runner and Ironman competitor like Tim Gunton, traversing long distances is routine. But when he crossed the finish line at this year's Cooper Norcross Run the Bridge 10K on November 1, Tim completed a journey unlike any even he has run before.

That's because Tim came to Philadelphia all the way from Tasmania, Australia, to participate in the race. And he did it all for one special young man: Larc School's Christopher Nelson. Larc School, located in Bellmawr, New Jersey, serves students with a wide range of disabilities and is the beneficiary of the annual Run the Bridge event.

Last year, his mother, Suzanne Owens (a runner herself), came across the nonprofit organization *I Run 4 Michael*, which pairs athletes from around the world with physically handicapped people. Athletes dedicate their workouts and races to their buddies who cannot run themselves.



Larc Student Christopher (front, center right), Larc School Executive Director Susan Weiner (center, back row) share a smile as friends and family pose with Tim Gunton (front center left) at the finish line.

"When you're running a marathon, or a long run when the legs are starting to hurt ... you start to think about people like Christopher who will never have that chance—to move like that. It gives you the determination to go on," says Tim.

And in one of those magical moments of serendipity only found in sports, the stars aligned for Chris and Tim to finally meet in person. Tim and his wife Sharon had planned a trip to the U.S., and, after learning about the Cooper Norcross Run the Bridge 10K from Suzanne, the Guntons made a last-minute change to their itinerary so that Tim could run in it.

"It's a rare opportunity to actually see one of Tim's runs," said Suzanne. In her eyes, Tim's efforts illustrate the impact that just one person can have. "You don't have to fly across the world. You can make a difference in the life of a child in a small way. I hope this inspires others."

For his part, Tim has been able to draw plenty of inspiration from Christopher. The most exciting moment of Tim's trek across the globe took place on Sunday as he charged across the finish line at Campbell's Field and was greeted by Christopher, the inspiration behind why he runs. "People think we're doing a great service for the buddy," said Tim, "but people don't realize the inspiration we get from them." ■



“When you're running a marathon, or a long run when the legs are starting to hurt ... you start to think about people like Christopher who will never have that chance—to move like that. It gives you the determination to go on.”

Suzanne immediately thought of Christopher. "I thought that hopefully he could inspire someone, too," she remembers. In June 2014, a few months after Suzanne signed Christopher up, he was paired with Gunton.

Since then, the two have communicated regularly via Facebook, learned about one another's families, and exchanged birthday cards and other gifts. Tim kept on dedicating his workouts and races to Christopher, even scribbling Christopher's name on his forearm before races, and looking down at it to summon energy when he's feeling depleted.

PLEASE LIKE US ON FACEBOOK/RUNTHEBRIDGE TO KEEP IN TOUCH FOR THE 2016 EVENT.



The following e-mail was sent by Tim Gunton to Executive Director Susan Weiner and Christopher's mom, Suzanne Owens a few days following the Run.

**From:** Tim Gunton  
**To:** Susan Weiner, Suzanne Owens  
**Subject:** Thank You

Tue, Nov 3, 2015  
11:07pm



Hi Guys,

I am just writing a note to tell you something that you should already know—that you have a truly amazing school. My very good friend Christopher Nelson is a student at your School. Last week, my wife, Sharon, and I, who are visiting from Australia, were privileged to be involved in a couple of events at your School. Firstly we had heard such positive feedback about Larc School from Suzanne (Christopher's Mom) and her mom, Patricia, and then we were lucky enough to visit your School for the *Trunk or Treat* held on Friday. From the minute we walked in the door and Suzanne signed us all in at the office, there was something about the School that I have never experienced in a school before. This was carried over while we witnessed the *Trunk or Treat* (this is something that does not happen in Australia and was an amazing experience). We were then fortunate to be given a tour of the School by Susan Weiner where this feeling continued.

This feeling that I witnessed, and felt myself, was generated by the entire staff and volunteers at the School and it was a feeling of love and happiness. From the moment we walked in the door, everyone was smiling and happy. I could tell that everyone wanted to be there and help the students—it was an incredible feeling. There were so many positive vibes that the students must pick up on it every day and feel fantastic knowing that they are going to such a loving and caring School. Also, the way Susan greeted and interacted with many of the students during our tour was simply amazing.

Finally my wife and I were both fortunate enough, thanks to Suzanne, to compete in the *Run the Bridge* on Sunday, November 1, where, once again, Susan gave up some of her valuable time to talk with us. It was also fantastic to compete in a run where the funds raised are going to help your School.

While some of your students may be doing it tough at times, the vibe of the school must certainly help them and their families.

Larc—a place where dreams come true, a place where you can feel the love.

Thank you for making me feel part of your School.

Tim (and Sharon) Gunton





1089 Creek Road  
Bellmawr, NJ 08031

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Susan Weiner

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Edward McDonnell, *Chairperson*  
Carol Parker-Elbert, *Vice Chairperson*  
Charles Higgins, *Treasurer*  
Geri Spencer, *Secretary*

Reginald Beckett  
Patricia Egan Jones  
James J Madden, Esq  
Alessandra T Norcross  
Peppe Piperno  
James Rhodes  
Sheila Dyan, *Editor*



United Way Member Agency E.O.E.

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Bellmawr, N. J.  
Permit No. 440



# Happy 48th Birthday, Larc School!

This year we celebrate **Larc School's 48th Birthday!** During a week long celebration, Larc shared fun facts about the school with staff, students, and families. The week ended with a big birthday party and an even **BIGGER** birthday cake. Here is the birthday card the staff and students made for us—each leaf was created from a student's fingerprint.

Help make our birthday wishes come true! Please consider helping us celebrate by making a donation at <http://www.active.com/donate/larcschool>

