



A Message from the Board

by Geri Spencer

“

While most kids look at the end of summer with a certain sadness, ours look at it with hope and anticipation.

In the 21 years I've served on the Board of Directors at Larc School, I've found the end of the school year to always be the closing of one door and the opening of another. While we are always sad to say goodbye to our graduates, their growth and progress allows us to welcome new students who begin their journeys with Larc. Each child brings a certain warmth, creates memories, and leads to learning for us all.

This year, we will begin with 95 students from preschool to grade 12. While most kids look at the end of summer with a certain sadness, ours look at it with hope and anticipation. Each year Larc provides them with much needed therapies, chances to try new devices to better express themselves, and plenty of opportunities to make new friends.

This year will be no different as we expand programming in the building. Following a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, our children will once again go back into the community through our Community Based Instruction (CBI) program. This instructional program teaches functional living in real world settings like grocery stores, restaurants, department stores, libraries and other places. Our new curriculum, Unique Learning Systems, will help us to further build out this program by tying what's taught in the classroom to outside experiences, and by tailoring individualized lessons based on ability.

In September we are also anticipating using two new grants to add more sensory and communication experiences.

The first grant will bring sensory paths in the school. A “sensory path,” is a series of guided movements for students to follow, shown by markings on the ground or walls. Sensory paths can help to refocus and assist with self-regulation, and motor skills, including balance, hand-eye coordination and spatial awareness.

With the second grant, we'll install a large, weather-resistant, communications board on our playground to incorporate all abilities in play. Many of our kids depend on communication devices, which can be challenging to use when they are hard at play. Our kids will be able to communicate right in the moment by having a large board with photos, symbols, and illustrations that they can gesture, point to, or look at images.

In closing, we begin the school year with exciting new programs and tremendous hope, confidence, and unbridled enthusiasm. I know our staff is looking forward to another year of hard work on behalf of every child we serve. We are grateful for each and every one of them to have the opportunity to make their dreams a reality. ■

END-OF-YEAR STAFF DINNER

KUDOS TO THOSE WHO CELEBRATE SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES OF THEIR YEARS WITH LARC AT OUR END OF THE YEAR STAFF DINNER!

5 YEARS

John Capaldo, *Physical Therapist*
Nekia Diggs, *Paraprofessional*
Erin Feeney, *Substitute Teacher*
Laura Kaminski, *Paraprofessional*
Sandra Saler, *Kitchen Aide*
Jean Young, *Paraprofessional*

10 YEARS

Lydia Jenchura, *Assistive Technology Professional*

20 YEARS

Cathy Cannon, *Adult Program Assistant*
Mark Cheeseman, *Maintenance Supervisor*
Connie Cocciolone, *Paraprofessional*
Leslie Finerfrock, *Paraprofessional*

25 YEARS

Dawn Taylor, *Adult Program Assistant*

35 YEARS

Betsy Jane Thompson, *Speech Therapist*

Each year at the End-of-the-Year Dinner, the Heart of Larc Award is presented to one staff member to recognize his or her extraordinary contribution to Larc School and its students. This year's Heart of Larc Award was presented to Joann Viereck. ■



(from left to right) Stacie Halscheid, Educational Supervisor, Honoree Joann Viereck, Principal Melissa Carey, and Executive Director Stefanie Riehl celebrate Joann's hard work and dedication to our special Larc kids.



Ice Cream Makes a Great Day Even Better!

During one of the steamiest weeks of June on record, Camden County employees took a break to treat Larc staff and students to Mister Softee. Larc School staff and students thank our Camden County friends for the visit and the tasty treat: Commissioner Al Dyer; Commissioner Deputy Director Ed McDonnell; Ross Angilella, County Administrator; Dominic J. Vesper, Jr., Deputy County Administrator; Jim Rhodes, Deputy County Administrator; John Wolick, Public Works; Buff Givington, Public Works; Matthew Parker, Public Works; Joe Smith, Public Works. Larc also thanks the many kind and generous Camden County employees who donated to make the day possible. From the very bottom of our hearts (and our stomachs), we appreciate your kindness. ■

Above, Jayden beat the heat with chocolate ice cream...and he couldn't forget the jimmies (or sprinkles). Below, Camden County – (from left to right) Commissioner Al Dyer; Commissioner Deputy Director Ed McDonnell; Ross Angilella, County Administrator; Dominic J. Vesper, Jr., Deputy County Administrator; Jim Rhodes, Deputy County Administrator; John Wolick, Public Works; Buff Givington, Public Works; Matthew Parker, Public Works; Joe Smith, Public Works.





#RTB4Larc

Run the Bridge for Larc November 6, 2022

With special gratitude to our dear friend George Norcross, we invite you to join us for the 2022 Cooper Norcross Run the Bridge presented by AmeriHealth New Jersey! What started as a small, flat, neighborhood foot race, has grown into a nationally recognized 10K run and two-mile bridge walk. Since its inception, the event has raised nearly \$5 million for the children of Larc School!

Once again, on Sunday, November 6, 2022, the historic Ben Franklin Bridge will close for 4,000 runners and walkers to Run the Bridge while they are cheered on by spectators and friends. We are also keeping a virtual option for those who would like to participate in the 10K or 2 Mile Walk from a location of their own choosing. Participants will receive a participant bag, a free long sleeve shirt, finishers medal (runners only), and other amenities.

We say it every year, but we can't say it enough. We are so touched by the outpouring of love and support that we all feel on race day.

For more information on sponsorships contact events@larc.school.org or visit <https://www.runthebridge.org/>. ■





Hundreds Turnout to Help the Kids

On June 3, 2022, nearly 180 golfers came out to support the Larc School Help the Kids Golf Tournament at the Pennsauken Country Club. Golfers from as far away as Florida, New York, Washington DC, and from our own South Jersey backyard all gathered together....to support Larc's very special kids. At a cocktail reception, guests recognized the outstanding work, stewardship, and friendship of Anna Marie Wright and Sam Ross who were respectively presented with the Paul Porado Humanitarian Award and Lauren Higgins Hope Award. Everyone played a part in making the tournament a success, and ultimately, life a little bit better for a child with a disability. On behalf of Larc's Board of Directors, families and friends, thank you to everyone who made our 31st outing so successful! ■



Top, congratulations to Larc's first-place winning team! Larc parent, Craig Reiner, and his foursome pose for a picture to celebrate their win! Craig and his team donated their winnings back to the school. Above left, Board Chairperson, Ed McDonnell presented Anna Marie Wright with the Paul Porado Humanitarian Award for her service as lead volunteer coordinator for Larc's annual RTB event. The run would not operate smoothly if not for Anna Marie's help. Above right, Board Member, Charles Higgins, awarded Sam Ross (left to right) with the Lauren Higgins Hope Award for Sam's devotion and love for the Larc Kids. THANK YOU!

thank you

6.3.22
help the kids
31ST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
Benefiting the Larc School

Larc School Sincerely Thanks the Sponsors of the 31st Annual “Help the Kids” Golf Tournament

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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.

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In memory of Aunt Margie Stangl

Big Ed & Kathy & Amanda & Kate McDonnell

In memory of Margaret Stangl

Althea F Lazun

In memory of Lucille Tenuto

David A Spector

In memory of Kathleen Wade

Thomas J Wade

In memory of George B Williams

Amy Cooley

In memory of Barbara Wood Rivell

Larc Speech Department

In memory of Barry Wright

Ed McDonnell

Listed above are contributions from January 1, 2022 through July 8, 2022. Please let us know if a name was omitted, and we'll be sure to print it in our next issue.



LARC LENDS ITS LEGS

Ainsley's Angels is an organization that pairs local runners in the community with children and adults who would like to participate in local road races, but cannot do so independently due to varying needs. More information about Ainsley's Angels is available at www.AinsleysAngels.org or SouthJersey@ainsleysangels.org. ■

Executive Director, Stefanie Riehl (middle) ran to help Kai cross the finish line at the Pinelands Striders 10K Independence Day Race. The Larc School is looking forward to having the Ainsley's Angels at our annual Cooper Norcross Run the Bridge event in November.



WHEN REMEMBERING THOSE YOU LOVE, REMEMBER LARC

A Tribute or Memorial Gift to Larc School is an especially meaningful way to recognize friends, family, business associates, and special occasions, while at the same time helping Larc School.

Your contribution will be acknowledged with a personalized letter sent to the honored individual or family. In addition, the donor's name, and the name of the individual being honored will be listed in the Larc Newsletter.

Tribute Gifts mark special occasions such as weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, and graduations. Or celebrate a holiday with a gift to Larc in the name of someone special.

Memorial Gifts express your sympathy to remember a loved one.

CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE SENT TO:

Larc School, 1089 Creek Road, Bellmawr, NJ 08031

(Envelope enclosed) or donate online at www.larcschool.org



1089 Creek Road
Bellmawr, NJ 08031

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Graduation Day

June 10, Graduation Day at Larc School was a very special day when two Educational Program Graduates and seven Pre-school Graduates ventured ahead, ready to experience their next achievements with determination and pride.

Congratulations Graduates! ■



Larc School Principal, Melissa Carey was delighted to present Bashir with his diploma. Bashir and his classmates are excited for what's next at the Larc! Congratulations to Michael and James (left to right) on their graduation from the Larc School.