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# GRADUATION

Where Perseverance, Joy, and Community Unite

June 12th was graduation day at The Larc Norcross School, filled with smiles, pride, joyful tears, and countless shared stories. Eight preschool graduates confidently marched and wheeled onto the stage, embraced by family and friends, to accept their diplomas and celebrate their transition to the Elementary Program.

Later on, our three Secondary Program graduates also took the stage. These students have dedicated almost their entire academic journey to The Larc Norcross School, making this graduation a bittersweet occasion. A huge congratulations to all of our graduates! ■





## A Message from the Board

by Edward McDonnell

“

...our extraordinary staff forms the essential fabric that weaves the daily miracles that unfold at Larc Norcross...

”

Years ago, I first wrote about my daughter Mandy, who still attends The Larc Norcross School. Mandy's four decades at Larc Norcross have taught us that miracles require tremendous effort. In the many years I have had the privilege of serving as Chairman of the Board of Directors, I have embraced the Board's nurturing role in supporting our dedicated staff to allow them to accomplish these beautiful miracles: illuminating young minds, celebrating as children take their precious first steps, sharing the joy when they speak their first words, and witnessing the pure delight of a simple smile. We select new board members carefully, choosing only those with unwavering belief in our mission and a deep conviction in our ability to achieve miracles - those like Alessandra "Lexie" Norcross and Jameka Walker.

Lexie is returning home to the Larc Norcross Board of Directors, having previously served with us. She launched PhillyVoice.com in 2014 as a media publisher embraced by millions of readers. Her roots with Larc Norcross run deep and strong, having volunteered at the Cooper Norcross Run the Bridge event while still in college, and always championing our cause with heartfelt dedication even behind the scenes. Lexie embodies the passionate spirit at the core of the Norcross Family's charitable endeavors and has always carried a devotion for this school that continues to inspire everyone around her.

Jameka Walker is brand new to the Board, but not new to education, with 16 years of experience. She currently serves as Executive Director at Catholic Partnership Schools. She has already proven to be a wonderful and inspirational collaborator, having worked with Larc Norcross on its lunch program and having helped the school to secure a contract grant writer. Jameka has unparalleled enthusiasm, a heart to match, and an inspiring presence that motivates everyone around her.

Lexie and Jameka will join nine of us who each have a heartfelt story to tell of how we were called to serve on the Larc Norcross Board of Directors. Some of us have devoted four decades together driven by love for our own children, while others were directed by an inexplicable force on their first steps in the building. Our backgrounds span from dedicated public service to leading major corporations, yet together we share a powerful, unwavering vision. We recognize that our extraordinary staff forms the essential fabric that weaves the daily miracles that unfold at Larc Norcross and we stand steadfastly ready to support their life-changing work. I invite you to join me in welcoming Lexie and Jameka to our remarkable community where, together, we witness and create miracles every single day! ■

# CULTIVATING CURIOSITY

## With Wind, Light, & Lava Lamps



On March 27th, The Larc Norcross School held its much-anticipated school Science Fair, bringing together students, staff, and parents for an exciting day of discovery. There were fascinating experiments on the power of wind, the mysteries of light, and an interactive journey through the Solar System. One of the most fun moments was when everyone got to create their own Lava Lamps! It was a hands-on experience enjoyed by all. ■



### A Mom & Son's Journey to 5K Glory

Congratulations to parent Rachel Hess for her incredible achievement pushing her son, Logan, in an adaptive racing chair through a challenging 5K course with Ainsley's Angels of America! Rachel conquered the course through Haddonfield, NJ, in the annual Adrenaline Run. Though the race was not easy, her unwavering spirit shone through, as we've always known she was a true hero in the real work of raising a Larc Norcross child. ■

## A SPECIAL MORNING TO RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO

# Inspire Us

On April 17th, The Larc Norcross School held its annual Appreciation Breakfast to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the school and its students. Our Board of Directors presented awards to Carole Miller and the South Jersey Transportation Authority and Jaime Roemer and the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters. As a special surprise, our Music Therapist, Bobby Davis, performed an original Larc-inspired song while a beautiful video tribute to our students played in the background. It was truly a morning of gratitude and celebration. ■



# WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We're a **Circle** participant  
and here's how you can vote for us.



1 Choose  
My Target



2 Tap  
Cast votes



3 Find us &  
vote

We're excited to announce that The Larc Norcross School is participating in the Target Circle Community Giving Program from **July 1 to September 30, 2025**, in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania market!

Here's how you can help: for every vote we receive from a Target shopper, we will earn a percentage of a grant pool. The more votes we

gather, the larger the unrestricted grant we'll receive, which will directly benefit our students and programs!

It's simple—vote for us through the Target website or app: Target Circle Community Voting.

Your support means the world to us and will make a huge impact on the lives of our students. Please share this with friends and family to help us make the most of this incredible opportunity! ■

**Tip: Be sure to set your store to one near the 08031 zip code for your vote to count!**

*Thank You!*

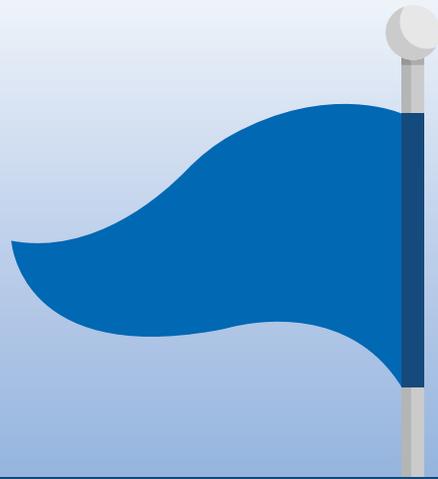
## Students Enjoy Spring Formal FIT FOR A KING...OR COWBOY

The Larc Norcross School students put on their country western attire and smiles for a memorable spring formal held at the Bellmawr Community Center on May 2nd. The venue, graciously provided by the Borough of Bellmawr, served as an ideal setting for the western-themed celebration. The evening featured line dancing, laughter, and memorable moments that created an atmosphere of contagious joy throughout the event. DJ Blake spun the hits and the generous support of the UPS, Club Diner, and



the Bellmawr Police Department made the night one that won't be forgotten. ■





# FORE-CAST DOES NOT DAMPEN SPIRITS AT 34TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

On June 9th, nearly 180 golfers from as far away as Texas took part in The Larc Norcross School's annual "Help the Kids" Golf Tournament at Ramblewood Country Club. Although the weather was damp and dreary, the spirits and attitudes at the 34th annual outing were bright. A standout moment of the day occurred when Lance Gonzalez from PIMCO achieved a hole-in-one, winning a cash prize that he graciously donated back to the School. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all our sponsors, donors, and volunteers. Your kindness has made a significant impact, enabling a child to learn, communicate, walk, and achieve so much more. ■



# Thank You!

6.9.25  
**help**the**kids**  
34TH ANNUAL GOLF tournament

## The Larc Norcross School Sincerely Thanks the Sponsors of the 34th Annual “Help the Kids” Golf Tournament

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# friends

## OF THE LARC NORCROSS SCHOOL

\*Recognizing donations received from January 14, 2005 - July 11, 2025

*The Larc Norcross School acknowledges these gifts from our caring friends whose generosity makes it possible for us to provide the very best. We extend our deepest gratitude to every donor! There are many ways to support our mission, including planned giving and charitable donations through required distributions. Amounts donated may be excluded from taxable income. For more information about our donation opportunities, please contact Kim Cowperthwait at [kcowperthwait@larc.school.org](mailto:kcowperthwait@larc.school.org).*

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### In honor of Jimmy, the Larc Family Dog

Mr & Mrs James Hartshorne Jr  
Michael Lasanta

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Eileen Lish

### In honor of Jason Bell

Linda Schaffer

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Janet & Donald Brunswick

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Sally McDonnell

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Thomas & Carl Lucarini

### In memory of Jane Gehl

Chas & Gail Higgins

### In memory of Lauren Higgins

Frank & Marlene Esposito

### In memory of Kevin Larsen Jr & Sr and Theodore White Sr

Patricia White

### In memory of Wendell Leonard, Theodore White, and Kevin Larsen Jr & Sr

Joan Leonard

### In memory of Lorie Muraca

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### In memory of Joseph Petitti

Chas & Gail Higgins

### In memory of Laurie Ann Richman

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### In memory of Gabriel Popso and Mr & Mrs Herbert F Schaffer III

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### In memory of Dan Spinelli

John Mastin Sr

### In memory of Bari Ungerleider

Tracy Drucker  
Gary Lieberman  
Victory Athletic

# Larc Norcross Shines at Special Olympics Bowling

After a hiatus due to the pandemic, Larc Norcross brought back its Special Olympics Program in a big way when six athletes were awarded medals at a January 27th competition at Westbrook Lanes. The Larc Norcross cheering section was by far the biggest and loudest of the many schools that competed that day.

"We all exchanged stories of happiness, resilience, and success. The dedication our kids and adults showed was

genuinely motivating, as they took part in many practices to prepare for the big day. We couldn't be more proud of our community and everyone who contributed their time to help us get ready," said Jenna Gravenstine, head coach and Larc Norcross Wellness Coordinator.

A huge thank you to Healthcare Quality Strategies, Inc. for funding meaningful programs like this one as well as other wellness programs. ■



## Little Hands, Big Impact

### Camden County's Take Your Child to Work Day Gives Back



As Take Your Child to Work Day approached in April, Camden County's Director of Public Works, Bob Harris, got to thinking about ways to engage his staff and their children in a meaningful teambuilding activity. This led him to reach out to The Larc Norcross School.

Following the recommendation of the school's Occupational Therapy Team, over the course of the day Camden County created eight Stew Kit Games - two for each season of the year! The kits are designed to assist students in adhering to a "recipe" for making a seasonal-themed pretend stew. Taking turns, sequencing, counting, and improving fine motor skills are all part of the fun.

"Some students might really enjoy using tongs to carefully grab small items or a switch adapted pourer to gently add ingredients into a bowl. Others may find it fun to stir their stew with a

spoon. Each activity is carefully crafted to support their growth while keeping the experience fun!" said Larc Norcross Occupational Therapist, Lacey Carney.

Following the completion of the kits, members of the Public Works Department got the chance to visit the school, meet the students, and see the kits in action.

"Our Take Your Child to Work Day was an outstanding event at Public Works. All of the children had a fantastic time putting the kits together as one of their activities. It was so rewarding to see the kits being used. We hope they will continue to provide joy and learning for years to come," said Bob Harris.

A big thank you to the Camden County Department of Public Works for such a meaningful use of a special day. We are excited to turn this activity into a beloved tradition for many years ahead. ■