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THE ARC OF WAKE COUNTY RECOGNIZES ACHIEVEMENT AND ELECTS NEW BOARD

Raleigh, NC Each year The Arc of Wake County recognizes individuals and businesses who make a significant difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families here in Wake County. The **2010 Arc Award Recipients** are:

Ashley Stone - Sibling of the Year. This is the first Sibling of the Year Award to be presented. The Board of Directors recognizes the incredibly important role a sibling plays in the life of someone with a disability. We thought it was time to start recognizes these amazing people.

Russelle Ruscak, Teaching Assistant with Wake County Public Schools - Direct Care Professional of the Year.

Darryl High, Wake County Public School Busdriver of Children with Special Needs - Direct Care Professional of the Year.

T.R. Goins & Jennifer Mock, Abilitations Childrens Therapy & Wellness Center - Professionals of the Year. T.R. and Jennifer are shining examples of business owners who give back. Each year they offer social and recreational activities like putting on "The Wizard of Oz" or forming a soccer league specifically for children with special needs. Volunteers give their time to help make these amazing activities possible.

Greg & Gina Hubert - Parent Volunteers of the Year. These selfless parents of three sons, all with autism, also find the time to volunteer at Crossroads Fellowship's Abilities Enabled Ministry and Respite Program.

DanaLee Fox, Governor Morehead School for the Blind Preschool Teacher - Teacher of the Year

Kim Upchurch, Wakefield Middle School - Teacher of the Year

Christine Killela, Panther Creek High School - Teacher of the Year

Miracle League of the Triangle - Susan Reed Distinguished Service Award. The Miracle League was nominated and recognized for the simple reason of their mission to give all children the chance to play baseball. As parent, Rachel Pack said, "When Tristan became a part of The Miracle League, he became a part of a miracle. At this ball field special needs, hospital trips, wheelchairs, therapies, and doctor appointments are replaced with laughter and cheers. When I look at Tristan on that field all I see is a kid playing baseball. I feel privileged to be a part of The Miracle League of the Triangle."

SAS VocalMotion Choir - Susan Reed Distinguished Service Award. The Susan Reed Distinguished Service Award is usually given to a group or person who is unanimously chosen by our committee. Choosing SAS VocalMotion was no exception. The fact that their highly entertaining live musical show "Oh What A Night" was a combination of raising public awareness, the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in the program, and fundraising made this a unique and exceptional way to partner with The Arc of Wake County. One of The Arc's goals is to make sure that people with disabilities are included in community activities. The opportunity that was given to The M'n'M Singers, The Arc's choir for people with developmental disabilities, by having them go up on stage and perform with VocalMotion, is a perfect example of that inclusion.

Mr. Charles Blanchard - President's Award. Charles Blanchard has not only served as president for The Arc of Wake County. He is a parent. And today, he is The Arc of Wake County's biggest supporter. Mr. Charles Blanchard was



president 42 years ago. He was the first chairman of our annual gala. He was also instrumental in helping The Arc to become a United Way Partner Agency. 42 years ago, things were very different for children with special needs. It was through the determination, and sheer will, of parents like Mr. Blanchard that laws and systems changed. That our children began to be treated with respect and care. That their future looked brighter. That they would be included in our community.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARDS

Community partners are instrumental in building new connections that increase the support, awareness, and quality of life for the children and adults served by The Arc of Wake County. This year, the board recognized seven partners whose collaborative efforts had a significant impact on the mission of The Arc of Wake County.

Crossroads Fellowship – for their continued work with developing an inclusive faith community

Executive Service Corps – for their guidance and consultation on The Arc’s strategic planning

Flemings Private Dining & Wine Bar – a new partner building awareness of The Arc among their customer base with a private wine event

Marbles Kids Museum – for their work on building a quarterly event for special needs children and their families at the children’s museum

Millbrook United Methodist Men – a new partner working with The Arc to host an annual fundraiser to support The Arc’s programs and services.

United Way - Teaming for Technology – for their 5 year partnership to deliver computers to children and adults with developmental disabilities. To date, Teaming for Technology and The Arc have placed over 350 computers with families in Wake County.

Villages of Wakefield Home Owners Association – a new partner who hosted their inaugural event to raise awareness and funds for The Arc of Wake County with the 1st annual 5k Run, Walk, or Ride race.

The volunteer board of directors is instrumental to The Arc’s community services. Elected for two year terms, beginning July 2010 are:

PRESIDENT-Robert Cooney Robert Cooney is President of eVision Partners, Inc., a management consulting firm focused on providing business improvement and information technology consulting services across the United States. He has been a member of The Arc of Wake County Board of Directors since 2008 and is currently the Chair of the Fundraising Committee. A resident of Wake County since 1991, Robert is the parent of a teenager with special needs.

VICE PRESIDENT- Lawrence Gould is an attorney with 17 years of experience in commercial real estate and general business law. He is currently an in-house attorney with TowerCo, one of the largest privately held owners of cellular telephone towers in the United States. Lawrence joined The Arc’s Board of Directors in July 2007. He sits on the programming committee, and has a particular interest in housing issues. Mr. Gould is a father of 2 boys.

SECRETARY- Sarah Smith is with The North Carolina Partnership for Children and work with local Smart Start partnerships across the state to help increase their capacity to serve the early childhood population. She learned about The Arc while volunteering in college at Duke when her sorority adopted The Arc of Durham County as its primary charitable partner.



TREASURER- Thomas Stanley works with Corporate Finance and Strategic Planning for Rex Healthcare. He's also pursuing an MBA from Campbell University with a concentration in Finance and is actively involved with the United Way of the Greater Triangle. Tom became interested in working with The Arc of Wake County when they attended the Valentine's Ball this past February.

PAST PRESIDENT- Jennifer Pfaltzgraff started her own graphic design business, pftographics, six years ago. She is the mother of two children, Madeleine, 10, and Ethan, 6. Jennifer began advocating for people with developmental disabilities when her son Ethan was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at 7 months old. She joined the board of directors of The Arc of Wake County in July 2007 and was elected president in July 2008, serving 2 terms.

New Directors, elected for three year terms:

Monica E. Barnes is the Community Affairs Director for ABC 11 Eyewitness News.

Nicole Caldwell is the partner and Clinical Director of Southeast Family Services, providing psychology, speech therapy, and occupational therapy for children and adolescents with developmental and cognitive disabilities.

Caroline J (CJ) Harper, works in local government and is employed by Wake County as a Program Planner and Analyst. She currently serves as the Research and Evaluation Manager for Human Services.

Wendy Whitener is the Business Development Director for Carnival Cruise Lines.

The Arc of Wake County partners with individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to help them achieve their life goals.

Formed in 1954, The Arc of Wake County was formed as a volunteer organization. Families were active in establishing the first classes for children with developmental disabilities in the public schools, special programs in churches, residential and employment programs, recreational opportunities and respite care services. Today, with a membership of nearly 250 individuals and families, The Arc provides programs and services to help individuals with developmental disabilities and their families:

- CAP Services
- Case Management
- Guardianship Services
- Supported Employment
- Retirement and Leisure Services for Seniors & Adults
- Transportation Training
- Advocacy, information, referral, and community education

FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ARC OF WAKE COUNTY, PLEASE CONTACT:

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