

# The Arc of Howard County

*Achieving full community life for children and adults*

*with intellectual and developmental disabilities – one person at a time*

## July 2009

### Melting Pot Raises Funds for The Arc

**The Melting Pot** is hosting a special fundraiser for The Arc of Howard County on August 20, at its restaurant in the Wilde Lake Village Center. The restaurant is creating a special menu for \$35 per person, with 20% of the evening's total proceeds going to The Arc. For reservations, call 410-740-9988.

### The Arc Opens State's First LEED Platinum Home

Maryland has its first LEED certified Platinum home, located right here in Howard County. The house, one of the residences for people served by The Arc of Howard County, is on Torrent Row in Stevens Forest.

The Platinum rating is based on the home's design, water conservation features, energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality and other factors. The U.S. Green Building Council, the nonprofit organization that developed the Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) Green Building rating system, provides third-party verification in rating homes seeking certification.

Ellicott City architect Don Taylor of **dw taylor associates** designed the home, and **Columbia Builders** handled the construction. Columbia Builders president Jim Greenfield, a long time advocate and supporter of The Arc, arranged for many of the subcontractors working on the house to either donate services or provide them at cost. All work by employees of his Columbia-based company was done without charge. Funding for the project was provided by the **Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development**.

### Board Elections

**Robert Topper**, Vice President of Corporate Banking for M&T Bank, has been elected president of the board of The Arc of Howard County. He is a resident of Sykesville. Other officers are Ellicott City resident **Douglas Erdman**, vice-president; Highland resident **Phil Swanson**, secretary; and Laurel resident **Derward Brooks**, treasurer. **Joseph V. Murray, Sr.**, of Columbia is past president.

Members reelected to the Board of Directors include **Vince Grauso**, **Chip McAuliffe**, **Lori Powell**, **Robert Smith** and **Robert Vigorito**. **Jane Chambers** and **Suzanne Henig** were elected to their first terms on the board.

### Robert Vigorito Honored at Compassionate Leadership Award Event

Columbia Triathlon founder and organizer **Robert Vigorito** was presented the 2009 Jim Greenfield Compassionate Leadership Award at tribute in June. A member of The Arc Board of Directors and chair of its Resource Development Committee, Vigorito is perhaps best known as the founder and organizer of the Columbia Triathlon, the premiere sporting event in the county and the source of millions of dollars for nonprofit organizations since 1984.

Vigorito and The Columbia Triathlon head nearly every list of sponsors for The Arc's events, including the Chocolate Ball, raffles, golf tournaments and the bowling fund-raiser. He and his wife, Sharon, are major donors to the Silver Arc Legacy Fund, and the Columbia Triathlon supported the capital campaign to renovate and expand The Arc's headquarters in Ellicott City.

The Compassionate Leadership Award recognizes Columbia Builders, Inc. president **Jim Greenfield's** more than 30 years of service to The Arc, as a volunteer, fund-raiser and advisor.

## **Celebration of Excellence Awards Presented**

At its annual meeting in May, The Arc of Howard County presented 2009 **Celebration of Excellence** awards to individuals and groups which have provided innovative programs and opportunities for people with cognitive and developmental disabilities in typical settings.

Individuals recognized included **Stacy Spann**, Director of the Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development; self-advocate **Richard Lowry**; **Dr. Deven Shroff** of Dentistry for Children; **Julie** and **Mike Keough** of E-Structors, Inc.; **John Wyseman**, Transition Services/Work Study Teacher at Reservoir High School; student **Megan Maginnis**; good neighbor **Charles "Skip" Langford**; and **Patty Daley** and **Julie Foley** of Project Discovery.

**Marie Hicks** and **Julie Rosekrans** were named Employees of the Year by Executive Director Carol A. Beatty. Hicks, a Transportation Assistant, was cited for her attitude and generosity. An artist, Hicks has donated her work for raffles at The Arc's annual Chocolate Ball fundraiser and for staff appreciation events. Rosekrans, who is a Vocational Counselor, was cited for her outstanding service to individuals attending The Arc of Maryland Convention, for whom Rosekrans provided transportation and support during the convention.

Joseph V. Murray, Sr., Past President of the Board of Directors of The Arc of Howard County presented the 2009 President's Award to **DreamBuilders**, the interfaith coalition whose mission is to provide housing for those in need.

DreamBuilders has assisted The Arc on five projects. Modifications have included widening doors and hallways, renovating bathrooms, building ramps and making other changes to increase accessibility. Teens and adults from **St. John's Episcopal Church** in Ellicott City, **St. Mark's Episcopal Church** in Highland, **The Church of the Ascension** in Westminster, **Temple Isaiah** in Fulton, and **Trinity Episcopal Church** in Elkridge participate in the projects undertaken by DreamBuilders.

## **The Arc of Maryland Recognizes Four**

The Arc of Howard County was represented by four award winners at The Arc of Maryland State Convention. Past president **Cole Schnorf** won the Bernard A. Gould Award for outstanding volunteer service in governmental affairs. **DreamBuilders**, an interfaith coalition of teen and adult volunteers who have made it their mission to help provide suitable housing for people in need, was presented a Light the Fire Meritorious Award. People Power President **Matthew Plantz** was one of 10 people statewide to receive recognition as a Volunteer of the Year. **Christine Towne** won the Stanley Sidle Memorial Citizenship Award for her work as a self-advocate.

## **Joseph Murray Named Outstanding Volunteer**

At The Arc's annual volunteer recognition event, **Joseph V. Murray, Sr.**, Community Relations Director at Ascend One Corp. and past president of The Arc's Board of Directors, was named 2009 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year.

**Encounter the Gospel of Life**, named Outstanding Volunteer Outreach Organization, provided The Arc with 15 youth and an adult mentor who spent a week working with individuals in The Arc's programs, painting and doing yard work. **Rachel Harbarger**, who served as The Arc's Youth on Board was named Outstanding Student Volunteer. Long time advocate and active member of The Arc's Governmental Affairs Committee, **Dorothy Plantz** was named Outstanding Community Volunteer. **Robert and Fran McDonough**, who serve on the Logistics Committee for the Chocolate Ball and help at other events, were named Outstanding Event Volunteers.

The Outstanding Individual Volunteer recognition went to **Peter Della-Croce**, a member of The Arc's board and leader of Team Embrace, which raises money and awareness through athletes' participation in sporting events. The Outstanding Partnership Award was presented to **Bob Smith and BB&T**, which has been the presenting sponsor of the Chocolate Ball since 2005. **Charles Ecker** was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award. Ecker joined The Arc's board in 2000, and has co-chaired its Capital Campaign and chairs the Chocolate Ball.

## **New Partnership With Centennial High School**

A new partnership has been established between The Arc of Howard County and **Centennial High School**, which seeks to help students develop empathy for a broader understanding of individuals with special needs. Members of the school's Horizon Club, a student service organization, will volunteer at The Arc and its events and will participate in fundraising activities in support of The Arc.

**[www.archoward.org](http://www.archoward.org) | 11735 Homewood Rd. | Ellicott City, MD 21042  
PH 410.730.0638 | FX 410.730.0730**