



Helping People Develop Their Abilities Since 1959

Volume 3, Issue 4

Winter 2007

**Save the Date:**

**Hog for Hope '08 Ride:**

April 19, 2008

**Annual Chamber**

**Business After Hours:**

May 29, 2008

**Bikes, Blues & BBQ:**

June 6, 2008

**10th Annual Evening of**

**Thanks:**

November 21, 2008

**Merry  
Christmas**

**ARC  
Programs**

Adult Day Training

Early Intervention

Residential

Senior Program

Supported Employment

Supported Living

Transitional Skills

# THE VISION

## A Rising Star in Our Midst



Stella Parton poses with Kimie

Kimberly LaGreca always dreamed of being a feature vocalist and recently her dreams have started becoming reality. The 22-year-old has been a part of ARC's Supported Living program for four years and says her favorite thing about ARC is her Supported Living Coach, Miss Wendy.

Kimie loves to sing, and started performing at age 5. Her most memorable singing experience was in front of her whole family at her uncle's wedding. Kimie recently met up with Dolly

Parton's sister, Stella, (pictured left) who encouraged and inspired her to continue in her dreams of singing full-time. Stella also invited her to record at Attic Entertainment in Nashville this winter. (Contact Ocala Models & Talent at 352-369-1212 for more info).

"I came to ARC, because my Mom wanted me to be more independent," said Kimie. "I am very happy. Everyone in my family is so proud of me in what I have become." Kimie, we at ARC are pretty proud of you, too!

## Campana Awarded Employee of the Year

During the recent Evening of Thanks, Gine Campana was named ARC Employee of the Year for 2007. Gine serves as a Non-Residential Support Services Coach and a Supported Employment Coach for ARC Clients. She began working at ARC 12 years ago and has prior experience in the mental health field. "Gine was an easy choice for this year's award," said Troy Strawder, CEO of ARC Marion. "She always has a smile on her face, and her bubbly personality is contagious for all who come in contact with her, especially our clients." Gine's reaction to winning the award was priceless as she couldn't stop weeping for joy and did not want her photo taken for fear her make-up was a mess. As Emcee, Commissioner Jim Payton said, "Gine, we've never heard a better acceptance speech."



Gine accepts her award from Troy Strawder and Tom Falanga

## ARC Employees Have Record United Way Giving

During the Annual Employee In-Service in October, Troy Strawder with assistance from Allison Campbell, presented the United Way vision to over 75 ARC employees. We are proud to say that giving among ARC employees has risen to 50% participation, and grew by 40+ persons over prior year giving.

Thirty-five of ARC's clients would not be able to receive services at ARC if it weren't for the United Way campaign year after year. We are grateful to what the United Way does for our community and for our clients.

It's not too late to give to the 2007 campaign. For more information about the United Way campaign, call (352) 732-9696.

**A publication of ARC Marion, Inc. and the Heart of Florida Hope Foundation, Inc.**



**Anagail on Halloween as an Indian Princess**

## Look at Me Now

Anagail Collier first came to EIP in February of 2007. When Anagail started at EIP, she was not verbalizing and had very low muscle tone. After nine months at EIP, Anagail is standing independently, signing to communicate, dancing in place and talking and jabbering to everyone with her sweet, beautiful voice. We have recently been able to enjoy watching Anagail stand, dance and sing to her favorite circle-time song "Gray Squirrel."

Anagail's parents, Cecil and Lisa Collier, are extremely pleased with her progress. "We enjoy every waking moment with Anagail," said Lisa. "She brings both tears and joy to our lives, especially when she successfully accomplishes another milestone developmentally." Lisa continued, "Thanks so much to ARC and all the wonderful staff at EIP. We look forward with great anticipation to see what further progress the next six months will bring."

As Anagail becomes more independent and continues to take steps and learn more words, all of us at EIP are very happy to play a role in her amazing success!

## Evening of Thanks a HUGE Success

During the Ninth Annual Community Celebration titled An Evening of Thanks, 118 people feasted on delicious Golden Ocala food while learning more about ARC and the Hope Foundation and the partners who support our organizations.

ARC awarded the Schultz Team of Remax Realty with the Community Support of the Year award for their work given to ARC clients in the Adult Day Training



**Troy Strawder and Tom Falanga award Art & Brigitte Schultz**

program, and Co-Corporate Support of the Year Awards went to Merillat and Bailey Industries for their recent donation of three completely new oak kitchen cabinet sets including installation for ARC group homes.

The Hope Foundation also recognized the Platinum Sponsors for Hog for Hope 2007.

Scholarships for Hope was presented for the first time and raised \$340, and through ticket sales and the fabulous Silent Auction, \$8,000 was raised for the Waliga Administration Building Fund.



**Eli Bailey of Bailey Industries with Chad Miller and Carla DeFrank of Merillat receive their awards.**

## Gearing up for Hog for Hope

Mark your calendars for Hog for Hope 2008! The Poker Run will be held on Saturday, April 19, Chamber Business After Hours on Thursday, May 29, and the Bikes Blues & BBQ event will be Friday, June 6. The custom Harley Davidson Street Glide is already at Viking Cycle Art getting customized, and tickets for the bike go on sale in February. Check our website often, [www.HeartofFloridaHope.org](http://www.HeartofFloridaHope.org), for the most up-to-date info and pictures.

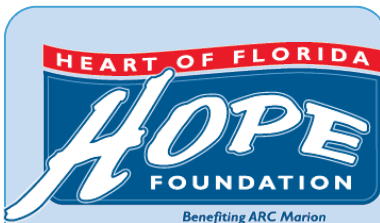
## Scholarships for Hope

Fundraising has begun for Scholarships for Hope, a new initiative of the Heart of Florida Hope Foundation to fund clients of ARC who aren't able to afford services. Already \$340 has been received. For more information how you can get involved, call (352) 351-2479.

### Annual Costs for ARC and Hope to Administer Services Per Client:

Group Home— \$42,000	Adult Day Training (ADT) —\$8,700
Supported Independent Living Coach—\$11,300	Transportation to/ from ADT—\$6,200
Supported Employment Coach—\$10,000	Non-Residential Support Coach—\$18,200

The Heart of Florida Hope Foundation, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3). A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state. Ref. # CHI5741



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## Spotlight on Consumers

A whole new world has opened up for Terri Jackson. A client in our Intensive program, Terry was born with cerebral palsy and is nonverbal, leaving her little to no option for communication...until recently. Terri is now using a Dyna-vox Communication computer daily in Adult Day Training. She uses a pointer that is mounted on headgear and is able to communicate with our staff and all of her friends. ADT staff even have their names programmed on the computer. By using the pointer to touch one of many pictures, Terry can now let staff know with whom she wants to communicate and what she needs. She can tell staff if she wants to go to computer or recreation class or needs more supplies for her contract work.

New words, phrases and questions are added to her computer often so that communication between her and staff is increasing daily. "Terry has really become a social butterfly," said Jennifer Danford, Program Director for ADT. "She loves her daily walks where she can now communicate with her ARC friends. She continues to amaze us all everyday!"



**Terri Jackson at her "talking" monitor**

## Florida Feast Is the Biggest Ever

The Marion County Roadbuilders Association's annual Florida Feast was once again a huge success. With over 1,000 people attending and four charities receiving assistance, the Florida Feast continues to be one of Ocala's hottest tickets year after year. We at ARC value the partnership we have with MCRA and look forward to working with them again next year for Florida Feast 2008!

## ARC Pal Program Needs Volunteers

Calling all adults in the community, post high school and older, interested in being a friend with another adult (21 years old and older) who has special needs. Through this new program, volunteers will commit to meet with a "pal" once a month for one year.

"Our goal is for people to build friendships with wonderful ARC clients while having lots of fun," said Jodie DeSantis, community volunteer and co-coordinator of the program. "We can all learn from each other."

Through months of research of several national organizations we have found that developmentally disabled adults benefit in many ways from a programs like this one," said Troy Strawder, CEO of ARC.

If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering for this wonderful program, please call Jodie De Santis at 572-4813 or Troy at ARC at 387-2210. A detailed information session will be held sometime early in 2008.

## ARC Remembers C.L. "Red" Bailey

C.L. "Red" Bailey served ARC as a Board Member for seven years. He served on the Personnel and Nominating Committee.

"In typical Red Bailey manor, he was joking and never lost his sense of humor right up till the end," said Troy Strawder, CEO of ARC. "His love for our clients and our organization are irreplaceable. They'll never be another one like Red."

"Red was blessed with the gift of family, but I was blessed with the gift of his friendship," said Tarn Thompson, Hope Foundation Board Member. "There is no greater honor in this lifetime outside of the gift of family and faith than the gift of friendship. It was an honor to call Red, the 'Govna,' my friend!"



**C.L. "Red" Bailey**  
11/19/29 - 11/16/07



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### Chief Executive Officer

Troy Strawder

## Message from ARC's CEO

You may have noticed throughout the newsletter that my title has changed from Executive Director to CEO. Many non-profit agencies have made this change so that this position in the company will be better understood in the corporate world. Thanks for helping us make this change, too.

Recently, we lost another member of the ARC family in "Red" Bailey. Red was not only a board member, but he was also my friend. I will miss his humor, wisdom and grace. Though I couldn't play golf with him as often as we both would have liked, every time we did was special and always an adventure. God-speed "Govna."

Christmas is upon us again and a lot of people in the community have stepped up to help our clients have a memorable one. Special thanks to: Fran & Dot Moore for hosting our annual client Christmas party, Lockheed Martin & Signature Brands for taking on the ARC Angels Christmas project, and Munroe Regional Medical Center for supporting the Early Intervention Program and their students. A special thanks to the anonymous donor who bought Thanksgiving dinners from Felix's for over 200 clients and staff. It was delicious and greatly appreciated by everyone!

In a time where the cost of doing business continues to rise, and our funding continues to be cut, it is so important that we receive support from our community. Our clients are loving, caring people who just need a little help to lead productive and active lives. If you received this newsletter in the mail, you are already a part of our family. If you picked it up elsewhere, please give us a call and find out how rewarding it is to be involved with the greatest people on earth!

I hope everyone has a joyous and happy holiday season, Merry Christmas to you all!!!



Troy Strawder

\* Would you like to become Member of ARC? The annual dues for membership are \$15 for a single person and \$25 for a family. Please contact Jeri Langford at (352) 387-2210 for more information.



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