

# ARC Broward Changing Lives

*She didn't  
know where to turn.*

Twenty-five years ago when Joan Hinden moved to South Florida, she needed to find an organization, or a school, or a group – anything – that could help her daughter Laura. Laura was a beautiful girl with a warm, smiling face, sparkling, shiny eyes, and an abundance of love to share... but she was developmentally disabled. Laura's abilities were as limited as Joan's choices as to what to do—until they discovered ARC Broward—The Achievement and Rehabilitation Centers, Inc. Laura is now 45 years old. She still has a warm, smiling face and the same sparkling eyes, but she now has a degree of independence, a part-time job, and an Adult Training Center to go to during the day. Laura lives in a group home that's a safe, warm environment surrounded by friends—she is thriving and enjoying life. Joan and her husband are now in their late sixties, early seventies. She explained, “My husband and I were concerned that we would have an adult child that would be a burden to the rest of our family.” They no longer have the anxiety of what will happen to Laura – and it's all because of ARC Broward.



## *In the Beginning*

To understand ARC Broward, you have to understand how it began. It was the year that Profiles In Courage won John F. Kennedy a Pulitzer Prize, the Broadway musical My Fair Lady influenced fashion, and the DNA molecule was photographed. The year was 1956; a year of new starts, exciting changes, a strong economy... but a year when public schools were not legally required to teach children with disabilities – and they didn't. It was a year where 25 committed parents of children with disabilities got together to establish a school to help their children learn, succeed and thrive.



*Now, 47 years later, ARC Broward employs over 450 dedicated people, operates on 10 separate sites across the county with 40 vehicles, and provides over 25 different services.*

They provide support and assistance to over 700 children and adults with disabilities. Dennis Haas, President and CEO of ARC Broward explains that today, "We provide service to people with developmental disabilities, including autism and related disabilities, Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy, mental retardation, and those with mental health issues."

In its conception, ARC Broward serviced four children. By 1957, there were 15 students. In 1961, the number increased to 35 children. But ARC Broward knew that children with disabilities grew into teens and adults with disabilities, and just because they were older didn't mean they needed less assistance. A pilot "workshop" began in 1961 with three adults. That was just the beginning. ARC Broward has continued to grow by incorporating new programs, innovative services and expanding the scope of what they're capable of doing to aid not only their students, but also families and the community.

### *PAT Makes a Difference*

Helping children with disabilities has always been a core at ARC Broward. One of their unique services is "Parents as Teachers," a.k.a. PAT, an award winning early childhood parent education program that has been implemented in more than 2,600 sites in 50 states and internationally. The Children's Services Council of Broward County funds the PAT program. Haas explained, "We looked for a national best practice model that's been tested elsewhere.

It worked extremely well in other parts of the country so we brought it to this community." The PAT program supports parents in their role as their child's first and most influential teacher, since the first few years in a child's life are crucial to his or her development. ARC Broward was the first organization in the country to adapt PAT to kids with special needs. Combining personal visits, group meetings, screening and access to a resource network, PAT continues to make a difference in the lives of children with disabilities and their families. Haas remarked, "We have seen tremendous success with the families served by PAT."



*Eric Stimson and Frank Saastrip, Skill Center Manager*

*"We believe in the goals of ARC Broward."*

*— Ron Castell, Senior VP, Huizenga Holdings*

### *Summer = Fun*

Another unique program ARC Broward offers is a summer camp program for disabled children called Kamp Krayola. Parents of children with disabilities can attest that, before ARC Broward, there was no summer camp for their children. Kamp Krayola provides a fun, safe environment filled with typical camp activ-



*Alphonso Risk*



*Sharon Sanford*

ities in which children with disabilities normally would not have an opportunity to participate, including arts & crafts, cooking, sports, center-based activities, swimming and water-play. Kamp Krayola also takes the kids out on daily field trips to places like the zoo, arcades, parks and museums. For kids ages 3-10, ARC Broward also offers CAMP S.M.A.R.T. (Speech, Mobility and the Arts) which integrates the skills of licensed Occupational and Physical Therapists and Speech Pathologists into a variety of summer camp activities.

### *Daunting Figures*

According to the Department of Labor, there are more than 54 million Americans with disabilities that are unemployed. Their website states, "People with disabilities represent the single largest and most diverse minority in the United States and are a major untapped source of qualified candidates." Dennis Haas understands these figures only too well. "Seventy-five to eighty percent of people with disabilities that can work and want to work are unemployed. That's a huge number, so employment services are a key focus," said Haas.

Their Sunrise facility operates a skill center that provides sub-contract work for the consumers, who work on a variety of jobs including packaging, direct mailings, assembly and disassembly, collating newsletters and workbooks, special order fulfillment and heat sealing. "We contract with local companies to provide real work learning opportunities for our consumers, who learn and develop appropriate work attitudes and skills while getting paid for the work they produce," emphasized Jerry Motter, Director of Workforce. "It's a win-win situation. Companies get their work done at competitive costs, usually at less cost than having their in-house employees do the work." The skill center ensures the highest quality of performance upon job completion as each job is put through several quality assurance checkpoints before being released to the customer.

When not busy learning new work skills, consumers have the opportunity to learn skills that will help them improve the quality of their lives. Examples of skill areas include safety in the workplace, safety at home, exercise and nutrition, managing money and basic computer skills.

ARC Broward also provides mobile work crews. If a company wants the work performed in their facility, a crew of up to six workers and a supervisor comes on-site. The supervisor, trained by the company, trains

### *Children's Services*

- PRESCHOOL EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENTAL TRAINING
- EARLY INTERVENTION & INFANT STIMULATION
- SPECIALIZED AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM
- YOUTH LINKS—TRANSITION AND ADVOCACY FOR STUDENTS AGED 16 TO 22 YEARS OLD
- PHYSICAL, OCCUPATIONAL AND SPEECH THERAPY
- SPECIALIZED RESPITE CARE SERVICES
- IN-HOME PARENT TRAINING (P.A.T.)

### *Behavioral Health Care Services*

- APPLIED BEHAVIORAL ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT
- FACILITY AND COMMUNITY BASED BEHAVIORAL SERVICES
- SPECIALIZED SUMMER CARE

### *Other Support Services*

- EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT & STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE
- TRANSPORTATION
- SOCIAL SERVICES
- INFORMATION & REFERRAL



Mary Davidson



Larry Cooper

and supervises the crewmembers and provides transportation. "We placed people in jobs, and ARC Broward is available on an ongoing basis," said Motter.

He is diligently working to get the word out to the Broward business community about their programs. "There are so many companies that don't know our services exist." Motter has dedicated himself to establishing business relationships with companies in the community.



*Jasmine Rienna and Jay Stewardson*

## *Life Terms*

"Stability" is a crucial word at ARC Broward. That word applies to the organization itself, its dedicated staff, the families involved, and its Board members. Haas quipped, "Being on the board of ARC Broward is a lifetime commitment."

Joan Hinden, a retired teacher and parent, attended meetings for years before she became a Board member 25 years ago. She believes that "ARC is on the cutting edge on important movements and trends."

Jacob C. Richter, a CPA, has served over 20 years. He said, "It's an excellent program that continually changes to meet the needs of the community. It's a good group of folks and the staff is excellent. I'm happy to be involved."

C. William Laystrom, Jr. III, lawyer-lobbyist, has been active since 1985. Laystrom puts it simply, "I enjoy what I do for them." The first time he toured the facility he went to a preschool classroom where the youngest kids had very little muscular motor control. The kids were joyfully dancing and singing "Mickey Mouse" songs. That changed his heart in an instant and he's been involved ever since.

"It's critical for a non-profit to have that kind of Board stability and we are extremely fortunate," Haas expressed. What's the secret to keeping its board members? Haas' answered, "There's something about the individuals the organization serves, and the unusual dedication of our staff, that generates longer commitments from people. It is incredibly rewarding on a personal level to be able to contribute."

## *Hook, Line & Sinker*

Before becoming President and CEO of ARC Broward, Dennis Haas was an attorney in Broward. Because he did a lot of human services work, friends suggested that he get involved with ARC Broward. Originally, he said

## *ARC Broward Electronics Recycling Services*

Corporations that do not fall into the "small business" category are required by environmental regulations to be particularly cautious about how they dispose of their computers, cell phones and other electronic equipment. Environmental regulations are changing and a higher degree of responsibility and care must be taken to assure that end of life electronics are properly handled, so that they do not end up in dumpsters or foreign countries in a way that may be environmentally unwise or unsafe.

Chief Information Officers, Chief Financial Officers, Chief Operating Officers, Risk managers and CEO's are making the decision to contract with ARC Broward's Electronics Recycling Services, to assure they are protected and can demonstrate to regulators if necessary that they have taken reasonable precautions to utilize an environmentally responsible service to dispose of such equipment.

ARC Broward offers a menu of services and prices depending on location, volume and the services desired. For example, one option deals with wiping computer hard drives clean to assure protection of sensitive proprietary and other confidential information. This is especially important in order to comply with recent Healthcare Information Privacy and Portability Act (HIPPA) regulations. Much of the cost is offset by the fact that ARC Broward is a non-profit Section 501(c)3 tax exempt organization.

Simply donating your old computer to your favorite charitable organization often results in the unused equipment going into the dumpster. This exposes the organization and the original corporate owner to potential liability. Greater care is required under emerging regulations, and ARC Broward's Electronics Recycling Services has determined how to fill that need and turn it into a way to enhance employment options for individuals with disabilities.

### *Residential, Small Business and Governmental Entities, Free of charge at the following locations:*

ARC Broward Station  
10250 NW 53rd St.  
Sunrise, FL 33351

M-F 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Broward County North Collection Center  
2780 N. Powerline Road

Saturdays 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

*Larger private business entities call for additional information:*

954-577-4160

*email:  
electronicsrecycling@arcbroward.com*

"No," due to all of his commitments, but his colleagues persistence paid off and Haas checked out ARC Broward. And just like the phrase, "Hook, Line & Sinker"—Haas was in. He served on the Board of Directors for 12 years before accepting the position of President/CEO seven years ago. His tenacity and drive to make the organization the best it can be is evident in the diverse services it provides and the hundreds of lives it positively touches every year. When faced with a challenge, it appears Haas has incorporated a philosophy of President Abraham Lincoln when he said, "Determine that the thing can and shall be done, and then we shall find the way."



*Myna Sazal and Mark Soloman*

### *Forward thinking*

ARC Broward has never rested on its laurels. With its continued success, they could easily sit back and let "business take care of itself," but that's not their belief. One initiative that they've taken on that benefits

*"Want to change the world, there's nothing to it."*

— Willie Wonka

both the community and the individuals is an Electronics Recycling Services. In cooperation with Broward County's Office of Integrated Waste Management and partner cities, they are providing a means for governmental entities, residents, small business and large businesses to recycle their electronic equipment. ARC Broward collects, refurbishes and/or de-manufactures end-of-life electronics. This is an environmentally safe alternative for reuse and recycling of retired electronics. Materials that are accepted include: computers, monitors, key boards, modems, televisions, VCR's, telecommunication devices, copiers, printers, fax machines, and other small appliances.

Jerry Motter, Director of Workforce Development, explained, "There are so many people who have computers that don't work or they don't use. They just put them in a corner in their home where they collect dust and are forgotten. If they are broken, we can recycle them, and if they're still working, they can be used here in our programs."



*Ben Jones*



*Mark Soloman*

ARC Broward Electronics Recycling Services provide valuable work opportunities for individuals as they learn how to disassemble CPU's, test monitors, prepare and package electronic devices, and more. Motter explained, "There are three very good reasons to use our Electronics Recycling Services: One, It's a great program to help the environment; two, it allows people to clear out old, unused electronic equipment that's taking up space, and three, it's tax deductible!"

### *Educating For Excellence*

The ARC Broward Staff Training Institute is a good example of iden-

tifying a need and filling it. Haas explained, "We provide training to other organizations and their staff – they come from all over the State." Organizations that provide social services need specialized training – ARC Broward provides this at costs that are substantially less than other such training programs. Rod Davis, Training Manager, explained that usually community social service agencies don't have the

resources to train their staff. As an example, the majority of the group homes in the community are required to have specialized training. Before the ARC Broward Staff Training Institute, these organizations would have a difficult time locating the required classes, which were often at a great distance and a high cost. Davis said, "Training at ARC Broward can be provided at a minimal cost, and it's close by."

Another factor that makes the ARC Broward Staff Training Institute unique is that classes are offered in the day, evenings and weekends. "We can meet anyone's scheduling needs," Davis explained. "If they can't come to us, we can go to them. And, we are very considerate of other's budgets. We customize and tailor training to meet their needs, at no additional cost. We strive to educate for excellence and I feel that the ARC Broward Staff Training Institute has met and exceeded that goal."



*Raylene Sgroi and Nancy Bier*

### *Courses At Arc Broward's*

- STAFF TRAINING INSTITUTE
- ABUSE/NEGLECT
- APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS
- BACK SAFETY / ERGONOMICS
- CABA PREP COURSE
- CONFLICT RESOLUTION
- CPR BLS ADULT
- CPR BLS PEDIATRIC
- DEVELOPING COMMUNICATION SKILLS
- DIVERSITY TRAINING
- DIRECTG SUPPORT CURRICULUM
- FIRST AID
- HTV/AIDS
- HUMAN RESOURCE ISSUES
- MANAGEMENT / LEADERSHIP SERIES
- PROFESSIONAL CRISIS MANAGEMENT
- PCM RE-CERT
- SEXUAL HARASSMENT
- VERBAL BEHAVIOR

### *Change Is Not Always Easy*

ARC Broward is a private, not-for-profit charitable organization, primarily depending on charitable donations and grants to operate. According to a recent report from the independent Barna Research Group, "giving to charities, churches, and other nonprofit organizations is down about 20 percent compared to last year." ARC Broward has felt this shift, and, like any challenge it faces, has come up with creative means to overcome these tight times. One way to increase funds is their annual "Community Driver's Children's Golf Challenge." Last year the event was held at the beautiful Don Shula's Golf Club. This extremely popular event brought together prominent community leaders, elected officials and local businesses to try their luck on the greens. Haas

### *Arc Broward Mission Statement:*

TO HELP PEOPLE ACHIEVE THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL BY PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL, EMPLOYMENT, BEHAVIORAL, HEALTH CARE, SOCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL SUPPORTS AND SERVICES.

said, "We invite elected officials to play as our guest, and to head up a team. We let people know what celebrities are on each team so the earlier you sign up, the more chance you have of selecting who you want to play with." The event also included a cocktail party, a silent auction, and an awards banquet.

Participants and community businesses donated unique and distinctive items for the silent auction making this a tremendous success.



## Special Screening

Another unique fundraising event that raised awareness as well as need funds was a Special Advanced Screening and cocktail reception for the movie, "I AM SAM." The movie, starring Michelle Pfeiffer and Sean Penn, about an individual with a developmental disability raising a child, was shown at the Las Olas Riverfront. A cocktail reception followed at Murphy's Law with over 350 people in attendance.

## You Can Help

ARC Broward's mission is to help children and adults with disabilities by providing opportunities for achieving their fullest potential. They are able to achieve this through the financial support of corporations, foundations, families, and friends. There are ways to partner with ARC Broward to help change lives in the community including charitable giving and sponsorship opportunities. "There are other ways a person or company can help," Haas expressed. "You can contract with our work center, hire individuals we serve, contract with our Electronic Recycling Service, or volunteer your time. You can make a difference in someone's life who will appreciate it. ARC Broward does this every day – it's changing lives and communities for the better.

## From a parent

"We want you to know how deeply we appreciate your professionalism, your creativity, and your uncompromising commitment to the growth and development of your students... but, most importantly, we are eternally grateful for the unconditional love you have given to our son for the past two years! We'll never forget you..."

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\*teletype machine required

[www.broward.org/bct](http://www.broward.org/bct)



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