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20 November 2009

Dear Friends,

For more than 50 years, The Arc of New London County has provided a chance for families of individuals with intellectual and related disabilities to take an occasional break from the tremendous pressures of providing daily care. This care often amounts to a full-time job for parents already fully employed in Southeastern Connecticut.

We all know a family or two in this situation and have often wished there was a way to help. Please read the enclosed letter from the Walstra family to discover how critical your support is to our local families.

Recreation, Respite and Camp are three very important programs, but they are costly to run and the first targets of government cuts – particularly now, when deficits loom from every direction. Thanks to the success of our last two Pirate Parties, we have kept the family portion of the cost of 5 nights at Camp Harkness at \$700 for two years running. *It is our goal to offer camp with no increase for 2010 because families already have been hard hit with social service cuts this year.*

PLEASE HELP! The Arc's Board of Directors is NOW planning the 3rd Annual Arc Pirate Bash. Pirates will assemble at the Mystic Arts Center on **Saturday April 24th, 2010** for a night of grog, wonderful food, entertainment and a delightfully fun silent auction!

We are delighted that Chelsea Groton Bank is on board at the *Captain* sponsorship level for the third year running. *Please see the enclosed Pirate Party Sponsor Fact Sheet for details on how you can help families – sponsorships are tailored to fit your business size and needs!*

All sponsorships received by **December 15, 2009** will be included in all printed materials and advertisements. If you cannot assist with a cash sponsorship we hope you will consider donating goods, services and/or gift certificates for our live and silent **auctions**. An auction donation form is enclosed for your consideration.

If you have questions or would like to call with your pledge, **please contact Kathleen Stauffer at the Arc: (860)889-4435 ext. 102**. Many thanks for your consideration of this critical project! We are so grateful for your support, and we look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,



Karen DiSaia
Chairman,
The Pirate Bash 2010

Diane Aubin
President,
Arc Board of Directors

John Fournier
Treasurer

Kathleen Stauffer
Executive Director