

# milestones

enrich • empower • educate

Fall 2011

## arc V.I.P.s

Providing a sense of purpose at the end of the day

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"I'm working! I'm working!"

Dominic's excitement was contagious as he walked down the hall. Grinning from ear to ear, Dominic gave the staff high-fives as he walked by.



Dominic is a member of the Arc's V.I.P.s (Volunteer Involvement Program). Led by Anna Garcia, director of day services at the Pam Stephens Center along with Andrea Fagarason, director of day services at West Avenue, the program promotes life skills and community involvement.

Garcia said this program has been in the works for some time and it is such a great feeling to see it come to life. "It is a way to give

our participants a sense of purpose at the end of a day," says Garcia. "I'm really excited about the V.I.P. pilot program. We see the excitement in our participants and in our staff. We see the pride in the work they are doing and it is very rewarding."

The purpose of the program is to give meaningful work to individuals with disabilities. The pilot program is set up in three units: community, business and life skills. Participation is voluntary and the members rotate through each unit. Each unit is a 4-week session. Garcia says that it takes about four

weeks for some adults with disabilities to really master a skill or concept.

The community unit works with other non-profits to provide volunteer services. "We are partnering with the Food Bank, Meals on Wheels and Project4Paws," said Garcia. "The participants really like this one because they are out in the community and helping others."

The business unit incorporates sorting, alphabetizing, copying class curriculum and distributing it to the classrooms as well as other simple office tasks. The life-skills unit works in the community lunch room at The Arc, setting up and breaking down table, rolling silverware in napkins and heating up meals.

Steve Enders, President/CEO of The Arc is pleased with the pilot project. "For the last few years, The Arc has focused on capital projects. However, now it is time to enhance our programs to help adults with disabilities of all levels to get the most from their experience here," said Enders.

Young adults with disabilities leaving the school system have several options for community outreach programs. It is important that the young adults continue their learning or else they may regress in their motor, social and/or vocational skills.

"This pilot program is an important step in enhancing our activities," said Enders. "We want to continue educating our adults and helping them grow and learn as much as they can. There is so much they can do if given the opportunity."

Garcia agrees. "This program challenges our participants to

*continued on page 3*



Serving People With Developmental Disabilities

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# the big picture



**Steve Enders, President/CEO**

I recently attended a briefing by members of the Bexar County congressional and state legislative delegation who were discussing the reductions in federal and state budget resources for human services. Their consensus, to no one's surprise, was that this trend will continue for the foreseeable future and that community non-profit service providers cannot depend on increased resources from the public sector. Yet, we all know that the demand for these services is growing and that the ability of many families to financially access them is shrinking.

But this isn't necessarily a new situation for San Antonio. As a city, we've always been challenged to provide services to a significant number of individuals who are struggling to get ahead.

And responding to these challenges is something this community has always done. If the public sector doesn't have the answer, we're fortunate to live in a community with many corporate good citizens, focused philanthropic organizations, and thousands of generous individuals. This city often comes together to find a way to meet its needs.

As we near the holiday season this year, please consider how you might respond to this challenge. The Arc, even in the face of public funding reductions, is committed to improving our programs by providing more diverse activities for our participants and better training for our staff. We must have a program that engages each of our participants and involves them in meaningful activities every day. If you are in a position to do so, please consider a contribution to The Arc as we near the end of 2011.



**I can promise you that your donation will directly benefit our children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities via improved curriculum, activities, and community service projects.**

*-Steve Enders*

V.I.P.S *continued from page 1*

push their limits. This group has so much potential that has not been recognized and the V.I.P.s motivate each individual to maximize their potential.”

There are currently 36 members of the V.I.P. program at the Pam Stephens center and 17 members at the West Avenue location.



Emily working at the Food Bank

“The group really enjoys going into the community and volunteering,” said Garcia. “Paul came to my office last week and apologize for missing his “work” because of a doctor’s appointment. This is very important to them.”



This holiday season, give the gift of hope for children and adults with disabilities.

Each year, The Arc works with over 7,000 families who are caring for children and adults with disabilities.

Your support provides:

**Quality after-school programs for children with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.**

**Day activities for adults with disabilities to continue learning.**

**Free case management to families who need help.**

**“I thank Heaven each day that I have a place like The Arc to go to”**

**--Tameka, 28**

*All we want for Christmas is...*

**A New Mini-Bus**

We’ve been saving our pennies for a new mini-bus and need your help!

Help us with our Christmas wish! Donate today.



# Hartman Humanitarian Award



The Arc of San Antonio Board of Directors is proud to announce the establishment of The Hartman Humanitarian Award. The inaugural award will be presented March 3, 2012 to Mr. Harvey Najim. The decision to name the award after the Hartman family was an easy one.

“The Arc has a long history of service in San Antonio and many individuals and families have supported our mission through the years,” said Debbie Kennedy, the 2012 Gala Committee Co-Chair. “But we came to a consensus that the contributions to our community from the Hartman family stood out, especially to an organization like ours that focuses on the needs of individuals with disabilities.”

The Hartmans' record of outstanding community service in San Antonio goes back to Glen Hartman, a leader in city government and an advocate for progressive change in San Antonio during the 70's, 80's and 90's. His spirit of community giving has continued through the activities and philanthropy of his son Gordon and his entire family.

The Hartman Humanitarian Award will annually honor individuals whose community service and actions have demonstrated an extraordinary concern, commitment, and dedication to enhancing the lives of people living in the San Antonio area.

*and the award goes to...*

## Harvey E. Najim



Harvey Najim is the Chairman and CEO of Sirius Computer Solutions, Inc. Mr. Najim founded the company in 1980 under the name Star Data Systems. In 1997, Mr. Najim renamed his company Sirius, after the brightest star in the universe. Since then he has been working to make the company live up to its name. His innovative business vision has led Sirius to become a nationally recognized technology provider with 2010 proforma revenues of approximately \$1.1B., 1,100 employees and over 138 locations across the United States. Mr. Najim built the company by providing technology solutions from industry leaders such as IBM, HP, Cisco, Dell, and NetApp, as well as forming strategic business relationships with leading software vendors.

A successful businessman, Mr. Najim received numerous awards and recognition for his business achievements. In December 2006, Mr. Najim established the Harvey E. Najim Family Foundation to help children's charitable organizations in the greater San Antonio, Texas area. Mr. Najim has donated \$82 million to the Foundation, which supports various public charities that advance children's education,

children's medical treatment, medical research for illnesses and diseases affecting children, and other children's charitable purposes. His foundation has given out approximately \$25 million in grants and pledges during the past 3 ½ years.

Mr. Najim was inducted into the San Antonio Business Hall of Fame in 2009 and was inducted into the Texas Business Hall of Fame in November 2010. His extraordinary leadership traits have made him successful in the business world, the technology industry, and his community. Sirius employees share Mr. Najim's unwavering commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction.

# The Gala

## March 3, 2012

The Arc of San Antonio is raising the bar on an event that benefits children and adults with disabilities. The Gala, benefitting The Arc of San Antonio, will be held at the JW Marriot on March 3, 2012. This event raises much-needed funds to provide programs for children and adults with disabilities allowing them to maximize their abilities. Your support is greatly needed.

We are pleased to honor Mr. Harvey Najim, Chairman of the Board for Sirius Computer Solutions and President/Founder of the Najim Family Foundation, for his philanthropic role in the San Antonio community as our first recipient of the Hartman Humanitarian Award.

### Why support The Gala?

- The Arc works with over 350 children and adults with disabilities each day in our Life Enrichment programs
- The Arc case managers assist over 7,000 families each year who are caring for someone with a disability by connecting them to medical, therapeutic and/or funding sources.
- All funds raised at The Gala directly support the programs benefitting children and adults with disabilities.

The event features a live and silent auction along with a raffle. Corporate and individual sponsorships are available.

For more information, contact Beth Green at (210) 490-4300 ext. 127 or via email at [bgreen@arc-sa.org](mailto:bgreen@arc-sa.org).

The Arc of San Antonio plays an integral role in the lives of families by providing key services in San Antonio for those living with Down syndrome, Fragile X, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and other developmental disabilities. Recent cuts in public funding are stressing our ability to maintain these important services to the community of individuals with disabilities that we serve. This event is vital in helping us continue our mission.



### Featuring...



*Silent Auction*

*Live Auction*

*and more!*



# The Gala

## March 3, 2012

*JW Marriot  
Hill Country Resort  
6:00 - 11:00 pm*

*Ursula Pari  
KSAT Anchor  
emcee*

*honoring  
Mr. Harvey E. Najim*

Presenting

**The Gordon Hartman  
Family Foundation**

Platinum

**USAA**

**Valero Energy  
Corporation**

Patron

**Frost**

# planning for the future



An educational series of workshops designed to help parents and caregivers of children/young adults with developmental disabilities prepare for the future. All presentations will be held at The Arc of San Antonio, Pam Stephens Center, 6530 Wurzbach, SATX 78240

**TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT HEATHER LONG AT  
(210) 490-4300 EXT. 113 OR HLONG@ARC-SA.ORG**

## **THE BASICS OF TEXAS MEDICAID WAIVER PROGRAMS**

Representatives from the CLASS, MDCP and HCS Waiver Programs will present an overview of Medicaid Waiver programs – what they are and how they can help—followed by a question and answer session.

**When:** Saturday • January 14th, 2012 • 9:00am - 11:00am

## **GUARDIANSHIP AND SPECIAL NEEDS TRUSTS**

*Presented by Anna Torres, Attorney*

Participants will learn about special needs trusts including how beneficiaries can maintain money or property and avoid losing access to essential long term benefits. Differences between guardianship and power of attorney will also be discussed.

**When:** Saturday • March 24th, 2012 • 9:00am - 11:00am


## **DAY TO DAY LIFE AFTER SCHOOL: AN OVERVIEW**

Information will be available on a wide range of residential, day program and leisure options for individuals once they graduate or age out of the school system.

**When:** Saturday • April 14th, 2012 • 9:00am – 11:00am

\* Childcare option: Respite Care of San Antonio offers Family Day Out at the PSC on Saturdays 9am-4pm. You MUST be registered with Respite Care to utilize this service. Contact Oralia Waldron at (210) 737-1212 ext. 15.

## Summer Resource Fair

 Saturday, February 11, 2012  
9:00 am - Noon

The Arc of San Antonio  
6530 Wuzbach, SATX 78240

Come see what is available this summer for recreation, respite agencies and support groups.

For more information, contact Heather Long, hlong@arc-sa.org or call (210) 490-4300 ext. 113.



## Outreach Events

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OR TO RSVP, PLEASE CONTACT PAMELA RESENDEZ AT 210.682.4200 OR PRESENDEZ@ARC-SA.ORG

**Holiday Dance  
December 13th  
6:30pm – 8:00 pm  
6530 Wurzbach**

**Valentine's Dance  
February 7, 2012  
6:30pm – 8:00pm  
13430 West Ave.**

# celebrating 33 years!

Pam Stephens, Director of Outreach for The Arc of San Antonio is celebrating 33 years of service to The Arc of San Antonio!

In 2008, The Arc of San Antonio opened a second facility and named it after Pam for her continued commitment to serving children and adults with disabilities.

Pam works with families to help connect them with the variety of services, especially when the child transitions out of the school systems.

"I didn't choose this profession," said Pam with a smile. "It kidnapped me." The Arc is grateful for her dedication. Congratulations Pam!



## The Arc of San Antonio Needs Your Support

Each year, The Arc of San Antonio helps over 7,000 families in San Antonio with family members living with an intellectual and/or developmental disability (I/DD). From our day habilitation program for adults to after school care for school-age children to case management services, our comprehensive program is one of the largest in Texas.

### You can support The Arc of San Antonio in many ways:

**Cash Gifts:** Support The Arc with cash, check or credit card. It is the quickest way to see immediate results of your donation at work.

**Honorary & Memorial Gifts:** A thoughtful and wonderful way to recognize a person's life and accomplishments. When you make an honorary or memorial gift to The Arc of San Antonio, we will notify the honoree or next of kin with a special note.

**Planned Giving:** Create a living legacy by including The Arc of San Antonio in your estate planning. You can do this several ways:

- Name The Arc of San Antonio as a beneficiary in your will
- Create a Trust to help fund programs at The Arc
- Create a dual-benefit gift such as a Charitable Remainder Trust. You receive fixed payments based on your age and desired interest of return. You also receive a charity tax-deduction. The Arc is the beneficiary of your trust principal.

**Designate stocks, bonds, real estate or life insurance to The Arc of San Antonio.**

**To make a donation, please use the enclosed envelope and return to The Arc of San Antonio, Inc. For more information on how you can help The Arc of San Antonio, contact Beth Green, Director of Development, (210) 490-4300 ext 127 or [bgreen@arc-sa.org](mailto:bgreen@arc-sa.org).**

### Memorial Gifts

In memory of  
**Joan Cook**

Solveig Storhoff

**Frances Hill**

Roger Hill, Sr.

**Brian Lee Lawrence**

Susan & Bill Symons

**Cheryl "Blitz" Tuttle**

Dianne & Kenneth Lawrence, USAF,  
Col. Ret.

**Chip Wood**

Patricia & Charles Wood III

**Tillie Persyn**

Nancy & Mike Reimherr

### Honor Gifts

In honor of  
**Christopher Scianna**

Mr. & Mrs. Nick Ghawi

Give the gift that will last longer than a paisley tie. Make a holiday gift in honor of your friends, family and/or business.

Your gift provides long-lasting returns to children and adults with disabilities.

**Thank you for your support!**



## Tameka's Blog: [www.arc-sa.org](http://www.arc-sa.org)

Have you met Tameka? She is 28 years old and has been coming to The Arc of San Antonio for almost six years. Tameka is the editor of The Arc Times, a monthly internal newsletter. She also creates flyers for the clubs in the Life Enrichment programs and is our newest blogger for our website. Tameka produces all of her writings through her communicator.

Tameka has cerebral palsy. CP is an ailment that affects body movement, posture and speech. Tameka is an amazing writer and has a great style. Here is part of one of her first blogs talking about The Arc's programs:

*"The Arc's Life Enrichment Program participants also go on outings into the community to practice being a part of society. We go to places such as Clay Casa, where we get to make pottery; America's Incredible Pizza, (my favorite place) where we get to play games with our friends; and the Magik Theatre where we go to watch great plays like "Charlotte's Web" based on the book by E.B. White.*

*The Arc of San Antonio is a wonderful place to come for someone who has been born with developmental and/or physical disabilities. Being surrounded by friendship and happy, helpful, and caring staff members makes the Arc a very loving environment.*

*I thank Heaven each day that I have a place like the Arc to go to."*

We thank Heaven for you Tameka! Check out her blogs at [www.arc-sa.org/news](http://www.arc-sa.org/news).