

Service and dedication to Schenectady ARC

“She was the best Director and was a good woman.”
 ~Demis, ARC Consumer

A tribute to Linda C. Lahaie

Dear Linda:

For an outsider to fully appreciate your contributions to Schenectady ARC, it is necessary to understand where we were when you started. When you came to Schenectady in 1983, we were operating out of two buildings, our Maple Ridge Center on Hamburg Street, and our first Pine Ridge Center (“old” Pine Ridge), which was located in an old elementary school on Carmen Rd, across from St. Madeline Sophie’s Church.

The only program for adults was the “sheltered workshop”, which was operating at both Maple Ridge and Pine Ridge. We served approximately 250 consumers at that time. The primary work was memo cubes and assembling “hospital kits” (a napkin, plastic knife, fork and spoon, and salt and pepper in a plastic sleeve).

The residential program was a fraction of its current size. In 1983, we owned three houses (Stiles, Kirvin and Lewis) and leased two others (“old” Westfall and “old” DeFilippo). We had a small number of people we were supporting in apartments and we had less than 50 people living in our houses.

The time line illustrates how much we’ve grown. Today, we own and operate 21 houses throughout Schenectady County. We have two major day sites (Princetown Ridge and Maple Ridge), our work center in Scotia (Pine Ridge), and our administrative and clinical offices in downtown Schenectady. We serve approximately 1000 consumers, we employ more than 500 people, and we have a budget of almost \$30,000,000 per year.

What the time line cannot measure is the contribution that you have made to the people we serve, to their families, and to our employees. Over the years countless crises and concerns have been addressed. Programs have been developed to meet needs that no one even imagined in 1983. We have opened a clinic to provide quality health care to our consumers, and we have developed innovative programs for aging individuals.

You also encouraged countless employees to grow and learn and to become leaders in the field. During your tenure, more than a dozen Schenectady ARC employees went through “Leadership Training” with the Chamber of Schenectady. Employees have been leaders of state-wide organizations and have presented workshops and trainings across the State. You have left a legacy that will endure well beyond the programs here in Schenectady. As the managers who benefited from your support and creativity (but who now have to live up to the high standards that you set), we want to say thank you, and wish you the best as you move on to new and different challenges.

Thank you for all that you have done!

Kirk Lewis Kirk Lewis
Sue Pinto Sue Pinto
Jen Cole Jen Cole
Jane Canale Jane Canale
Brian Dwyer Brian Dwyer



From the Board President

Dear Linda,

On behalf of all the past and present Board members it has been a pleasure working with you the last 23 years. Through your leadership, Schenectady ARC has grown and

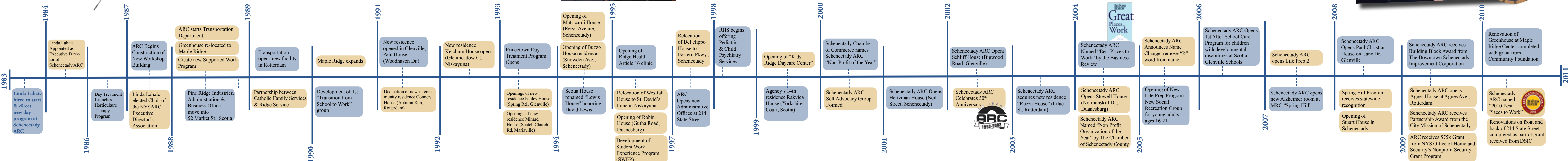
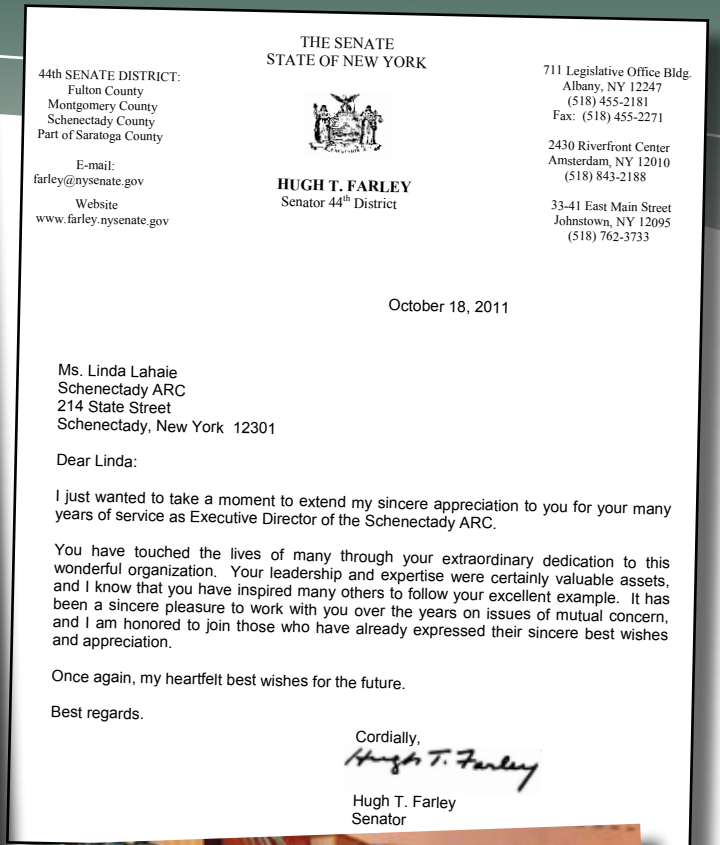
progressed to develop excellent programs and services for people with developmental disabilities and their families in the Capital Region.

Through the hiring of compassionate staff, family members feel secure that their sons, daughters, brothers and sisters are well cared for. Programs are constantly being developed to meet the changing needs of the consumers that Schenectady ARC serves.

You have been an inspiration in this field unlike no other and have taken Schenectady ARC to places we could only dream we would reach. You will be greatly missed. I wish you the best of success in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Mary Otter
 Mary Otter



FROM THE DESK OF
JAMES SCHLIFF

Dear Linda:

On a warm, sunny day in June 1979, our son Jim left home to take up residence in a new ARC home in the Bellevue section of Schenectady called "Kirvin House". This was a "real big deal" for Jim and for his family. We were all venturing into the unknown, knowing little about the ARC, and, more importantly, not at all sure about how Jim was going to handle this huge change in his life. Not long after that time my wife Barbara and I set out to learn more about this new organization, and, more specifically, Jim's programs and services. Since that time so many years ago, we have witnessed a huge transformation in programs and services. His programs and services have continued to expand over the years and he is engaged in activities now that we would not have thought possible 30 years ago. He also seems to be contented and happy in all the different environments that are now part of his life. He has been cared for and guided along this journey by many different direct care staff that we have come to respect greatly for their dedication and commitment to our people.

However, none of this progress would have been possible Linda, for my son and all our other consumers, had it not been for the constant leadership and direction you have always provided as Executive Director. You were always able to surround yourself with very capable immediate staff who have been your constant helpmates and very alert to the changing needs of our consumers so that the needed resources could be obtained to make new programs, services, and facilities a reality. During my years on the Board of Directors, I quickly learned how difficult it frequently was to achieve these milestones. There were always impediments and delays along the way that required a lot of persistence, determination, diplomacy and sometimes compromise to achieve results. Nevertheless, it all happened and without question, our agency would not enjoy the fine reputation it does today without the guidance you have provided.

So you see Linda, when I heard you would be leaving, it really was very personal for me. Until recently, you are the only Executive Director I have ever known and I owe you a huge debt of gratitude for what you have done for our family over the years. It is my sincere desire that in the months and years ahead you will look back often on your years as our Executive Director with a deep sense of pride and satisfaction for all you have done to improve the lives of our most vulnerable citizens.

My best to you always,

Jim Schliiff
Jim Schliiff



Thank you
for so many years of
support & partnership!

*Linda,
You have given generously of your time and energy to all. As a result, Schenectady ARC grew and prospered. Individuals within the agency participated in the community, made friends and had a great life. The Executive Directors Association became an organization that helped its members learn and lead their agencies. Your leadership was instrumental in helping many achieve their goals.*

Thank you for all you've done,
*Barbara Wale
President & CEO
The Arc of Monroe*



S

From The Desk of Bella Stuart

Dear Linda,

One of the greatest moments for me, as President of Schenectady ARC, was when I had the opportunity to offer you the position of Executive Director in 1984. I was on the search committee that reviewed all the applications. At that time, you were employed by Schenectady ARC to start and direct our new Day Treatment program, and you had already earned the respect of the Board for your accomplishments with that program. Although we reviewed more than 100 applications, your credentials stood out.

Since that time, it has been my pleasure to serve on the Board while you were Executive Director and to work with you as you led the agency to great accomplishments. You have led Schenectady ARC to be a leader in the field. During your tenure, we have expanded our services to reach individuals across the county and the Capital District. I have watched with pride as you have been recognized for your leadership abilities in the community and by your peers in NYSARC.

We will miss your leadership. One of your great qualities, however, was finding good people to work with, and we have great confidence in the leadership team that you have left at the agency. I will also miss your friendship. It won't be the same attending the conventions and meetings without you. However, I wish you the best as you start this next phase of your life.

All the Best,

Bella Stuart
Bella Stuart
Past President
Schenectady ARC
Board of Directors

Thank you for sharing your time with us.

You will be greatly missed.

Fondest Wishes,
Dennis, Noreen, Michael Joseph and Francis
The Meehan Family



www.siapros.com

*Linda,
It has been a great privilege to work with you
and Schenectady ARC. Your presence in the community
will be missed.*

Your friends at

Providing Insurance Solutions Since 1913.



A small piece of Heaven



RIVER STONE
MANOR

*Linda, it has been a honor and a
pleasure working with you and
Schenectady ARC throughout the years.
You will be greatly missed.*

1437 Amsterdam Rd. Glenville NY 12302

www.riverstonemanor.com | 518.382.8322

River Stone Manors 1st Annual
Joint Holiday Party

Thursday, December 8th 2011
6:00pm - 11:00pm

Featuring
the Grand Central Station Band.

Let us make your office party
an event to remember.

Reservations Only!

Please contact Rivers Stone Manor
for additional details.

“ I think Linda is a wonderful person. She was nice to all the clients. She did a lot for us. She helped us with a lot of things and worked hard. She did things for people and helped them find places to live. I knew Linda for a long time. I met her at Liberty Enterprises. ”

~Barbara, ARC Consumer

“ Linda was good. I knew her for 22 years. She worked at Pine Ridge & her daughter was a supervisor here a long time ago. Linda cared and she was always there and she was always nice. I have nothing but nice things to say about Linda. She did an excellent job and I hope whoever takes over does as good a job as she did all those years. ”

~Betty, ARC Consumer



Thank You

For your leadership and dedication to Schenectady ARC. We would not be here today without your guidance.

Kirk, Sue, Jare, Jen & Brian

ARC UPDATE

Schenectady County Chapter New York State Association for Retarded Children

March 1985

March 18th
Membership Meeting:
"REUNION AND
REJUVENATION"

Don't miss the March 19 membership meeting! It promises to be an entertaining and informative evening.

The event will begin with a wine and cheese social time, followed by the ever-popular covered dish supper which has proved so successful in the past. After dinner, members will be treated to a special showing of the 30-minute film *The Adirondack* — *The Land Nobody Knows*.

The movie is being shown purely for entertainment. It will hopefully provide some respite from day-to-day stresses of dealing with the handicapped. The film, which has received wide acclaim across the state, will take you into some of the most beautiful and least explored areas of the Adirondack wilderness.

A short business meeting will be held after the movie. Members will also have an opportunity to become better acquainted with our new Executive Director Linda Lahaie.

The theme for the meeting — "Reunion and Rejuvenation" — signifies our hopes for a large membership turnout.

Join us for an informative evening of fun and reunion on March 18. For details on making your reservation, see the enclosed insert.

Committee members: Gerald Stowell

LAHAIE NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Linda Lahaie has been named executive director of the Schenectady County Association for Retarded Children. The appointment was announced on December 10 at a meeting of the agency Board of Directors.

Linda replaces Acting Director John Wyle, who had been serving in that capacity since the resignation of former Executive Director Carl Hawkins last August. John now remains in his position as director of the Finance Department for the agency.

Linda Lahaie joined the ARC staff in April 1983 as director of the Day Treatment Program at Maple Ridge Center on Hamberg Street. She had served in that position until her promotion to the chief executive spot.

A special board committee conducted an extensive multi-state search for qualified candidates prior to selecting Linda from within the agency.

In her new post, Linda will supervise operation of the ARC's five residences, and the workshop and day services for the mentally and physically handicapped at the Maple Ridge and Pine Ridge Centers. The Schenectady County ARC employs a staff of approximately 100 and provides daily services to more than 250 clients.

A graduate of Russell Sage College, Linda received her master's degree in rehabilitation counseling in 1979 from SUNY at Albany. She has served at various rehabilitation counselor



Executive Director Linda Lahaie

positions at both state and private agencies. Before joining the Schenectady County ARC, she was employed as a standards compliance analyst for the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities at C.D. Heck in Schenectady.

Her husband Philip is an associate counselor with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in Albany. She has three children: Meredith (4), Beck (10), and Rachel (10).

and Pig Baza have developed a new simplified renewal procedure that requires minimal effort. Dues remain five dollars per member per year. Additional renewal packets may be obtained by calling Maple Ridge Center at 353-2791.

March is Membership Renewal Month!

Watch for your membership renewal packet in the mail. All Schenectady County ARC memberships expire over the period of April 1 through March 31 of the following year.

Committee members: Gerald Stowell

special
arc
section

a special tribute to

Linda Lahaie
Schenectady ARC
Executive Director
from 1983 to 2011