Annual Banquet Celebrates Our Unique Abilities

A “can do” attitude. Perseverance. The desire to help others.

Those are a few traits shared by this year’s Greater Richmond ARC Annual Awards & Recognition Banquet winners, whose accomplishments were celebrated on November 29, 2018.

Close to 30 program participants, employees and community partners were recognized in an evening at Saunders Avenue filled with fun, friendship and good food. This is one of the best nights of the year. See for yourself in the following stories.

Individuals of the Year
ICDS and Afterschool

Jairon Miza Chonay is Individual of the Year in Infant and Child Development Services. Jairon’s joy is contagious and makes every interaction with him a memorable one, says ARC staff, noting his positive attitude during therapy to improve his speech and motor skills. And his hard work is paying off, as Jairon’s made significant improvements this year.

Harmony Maddy-Akers, looking festive at the holiday banquet, is Individual of the Year in Afterschool at Saunders, and a delight to everyone in the program. Harmony is having great success as she works hard to achieve her goals, and is displaying amazing growth.

Hannah Hinton is Individual of the Year in Afterschool at Camp Baker, recognized for continuing to grow in her social skills. She has also made significant progress in speech and is now using complete sentences.
Gerald Moore is Individual of the Year for Day Support at Camp Baker for increasing his interaction among peers and for helping people throughout the program.

Katie Stoyanoff is Individual of the Year for Day Support at Saunders. A familiar figure in ARC’s lobby assisting with bus duty, Katie has excelled this year in her end-of-day transitioning.

Eric Bartels is Individual of the Year for Day Support at Saunders Annex. Eric moved successfully from one program to another, and the Annex’s small group setting has made him more comfortable; he now enjoys playing the piano and singing to others.

Jacob Stroy has attended ARC for decades and is very deserving of Individual of the Year for Day Support at Westwood. Jacob continually works toward his goals, and staff say they look forward to seeing him each morning.

Jesus Irizarry is Individual of the Year for Adult Day Health at Staples Mill in recognition of the tremendous progress he’s made in learning how to safely express his thoughts and feelings, and being an active program participant.

Darryl Fonville is Individual of the Year for Day Support at Staples Mill. When Darryl first joined the program, he was shy and rarely participated in trips and activities. Today, he’s much more social with his peers and our staff, and has shown amazing progress.
This is Us

Scenes from ARC’s special night

1. CEO and President John Walker with Pat Robson
2. Raffle winner Janet Freeman
3. A young raffle winner and her prize
4. Adrienne Whitaker’s raffle reaction
5. L to R: Justin and Linda Adams (top) with Marsha Christian and Kathy Brown
6. Dancing queen Amber Dean
7. Stacy Hayes takes the dance floor
8. ARC’s Board enjoys the celebration
**Individuals of the Year**

**Summer Camp and Respite**

**Billy Stover** is the *Individual of the Year for Summer Camp*.

Billy loves camp and Big Foot (not necessarily in that order) and his excitement about “everything Camp Baker” is contagious, bringing joy to everyone.

**Javon Davis** is the *Individual of the Year for Respite*. Javon is always volunteering to assist his peers and staff, and consistently interacts with others in an appropriate manner. He never misses a respite weekend and serves as a role model for his peers.

**Individuals of the Year**

**ARC Employment Services**

**Charles Washington** is the *Individual of the Year for Workforce Development*. Charles has done a great job this year. He is meeting his goals and enjoys volunteering at Meals on Wheels. He greets everyone each morning with a smile; a great way to start the day.

**Damon Ferguson** is the *Individual of the Year for Production and Logistics Services*. Damon loves his work and is proud of his accomplishments. He has mastered many new tasks and is eager to learn new skills. He’s respectful, kind, and caring.

**Olga Hunt** is the *Individual of the Year for Off-Site / Federal Contracts*. Olga is a dedicated and dependable employee who is always willing to help her team. She consistently does the right things and in the right way. Olga has also been specially mentioned by the government’s Contracting Officer Representative as going well above and beyond the call of duty.

**Altwoine Nicholas** is the *Individual of the Year for Mobile Crew*. Altwoine is an exemplary employee, says ARC’s Mike Atkins, adding, “His dedication and work ethic make him an invaluable asset to the company. Altwoine is always willing to step up and go the extra mile. He starts each day in a positive mood and is quick with a smile and a laugh, a reassuring attitude for workers and crew leaders alike.”
Philanthropist of the Year is the Waltie Fund for its long-term support of ARC and other community organizations. It was created in honor of Waltie Street, who passed away at age seven in 1974, by his parents. ARC’s Kim Watson accepted the award on behalf of the fund.

Chesterfield County received the Champion Award for its ongoing support of ARC Employment Services. In 2018, the county hired ARC to provide residential grass cutting and roadside clean up, grounds maintenance for the county’s two convenience centers, a significant tree planting project in the Courthouse Road corridor, and landscaping at Thomas Dale High School. ARC’s Mike Atkins is shown here with Liz Stokes and the evening’s emcee Kat Simons accepting on behalf of the County.

The banquet also honored Pat Robson, who received a Board of Directors Service Recognition Award after retiring this year from serving on Greater Richmond ARC’s Board of Directors for three decades, along with being Chair from 1994 to 1996. Robson was honored for his longtime services with an inscribed paver in the ARCpark.

Linda Adams is ARC’s Family/Caregiver of the Year. Linda not only advocates for her son in ARC’s Day Support, but also for the services he and others receive. “Linda tells a poignant story that explains why a community program like ours is so critical for families,” said Kim Watson, ARC vice president of community engagement. “Her dedication to her son and her perseverance are inspiring.”

Melissa Powderly of the Henrico Community Services Board is Case Manager of the Year, recognized by ARC staff for “putting her clients first in everything she does. She is an incredible human being with the biggest heart and the ability to make those around her feel comfortable.”

Merrick Davidson is Volunteer of the Year. “You would never know he is a volunteer to watch him in action,” says ARC’s Alison Jones-Nassar. “He is fully engaged and takes his role seriously, and his contributions make a meaningful difference in people’s lives. Merrick is a valued member of the ARC family.”

Vendor of the Year, Making Strides of Virginia, received the honor for providing adaptive horseback riding and carriage riding to campers. Robin and Paul Langerhans head the equestrian nonprofit.
Staff Awards

Danny Kenyon, a supervisor of Day Support Services is Employee of the Year. “From early on, it was obvious that Danny was going to forever change Day Support to be the best in Central Virginia,” said Assistant Vice President of Day and Residential Services Emily Lehmann. “He genuinely cares about his staff and the clients we serve. Danny is a leader who listens to his staff and has created an environment where creativity is both valued and encouraged.”

Kris Smith, Family Partner of the Year, works in partnership with families as an Intake Coordinator, taking the time to ensure caregivers understand their options and that every individual’s needs and choices are understood and met.

Matt Hulcher is Dream Maker of the Year for helping to implement a new therapeutic summer horseback riding program at Camp Baker along with weekly tent camping. He is director of respite and camp services. Pictured are his wife and son accepting the award, which Hulcher says is one of the greatest honors of his life.

Vice President of Community Engagement Kim Watson was also honored for her 35 years of service at ARC. Among her extensive contributions, she oversaw fundraising initiatives for the construction of ARC’s headquarters on Saunders Avenue that opened in 2010; expansion of the dining hall and other facilities at Camp Baker, the latest of which is the construction of a new multipurpose building to be completed this year; and the opening of ARCpark in 2015.

Kathy Brown and Michael Grammer are Team Players of the Year for embodying the spirit of cooperation in everything they do. Brown provides administrative support for ARC @Staples Mill and Grammer is a custodian at the Defense Supply Center.

A Peek Behind the Curtain

What makes a winner? We are all extraordinary in our own way. Receiving an “Individual of the Year” award though is a special honor. Every year, ARC program directors fill out a questionnaire identifying the client “who has shown the most growth and progress throughout the year, including meeting or exceeding his or her personal goals” for an award. Only one person is selected per program. Nominations for Caregiver, Philanthropist, Community Partner, Vendor of the Year and staff awards are also submitted and reviewed by ARC’s Executive Team; those selected have made significant contributions over the year or the course of many years to help us achieve our mission. These awards are held annually, so there’s plenty of time for the possibility of one day seeing yourself featured in this special edition. Dream big!
In 2018, we made great strides. Literally. Not only did we partner with Making Strides of Virginia to provide campers with horseback and carriage riding (a first), we made significant progress elsewhere as you can see.

- ARC opened its first Henrico County location at 8030 Staples Mill Road, site of the former A Grace Place, with key funding from the United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg, the Community Foundation, and 28 other individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations, who helped divert a crisis for adults with disabilities and their families.

- Our annual Ladybug Fund Winetasting & Silent Auction attracted a record crowd at the Richmond Raceway’s Torque Club, with monies raised to support children in ARC programs. This year’s is Saturday, March 30, 2019.

- Ground was broken for the construction of a critically needed multipurpose building at ARC’s Camp Baker with completion slated for late this year.

- The Richmond Times-Dispatch applauded ARC for its “good job” in forging partnerships with employers across the region to provide jobs for people with disabilities. PBS’ Virginia Currents featured Camp Baker.

- The ARCpark celebrated its third anniversary by winning a 2018 Virginia by Design Award and continuing to attract thousands of visitors annually.

- ARC volunteers donated more than 6200 hours of mission-critical service in all operational areas.

- Efren Calata from ARC Employment Services was named a 2018 capABLE RVA model by The Next Move.

- ARC Executive Vice President Julee Fletcher was a finalist in the Virginia Business’ Virginia CFO Awards and Emily Lehmann, assistant vice president of day and residential services, a 2018 Chamber RVA HYPE Icon Awards finalist.

- In 2018, our organization provided services and support to more than 1,300 people with disabilities.
Welcome, 2019

Thanks to everyone who made 2018 a winner.

We see great times ahead. (For proof, just look to your left.)

Our future is bright!

Damon Ferguson celebrates his win at the annual banquet.