

# The Arc of Howard County

*Achieving full community life for children and adults*

*with intellectual and developmental disabilities – one person at a time*

## March 2009

### Chocolate Ball is Out of This World

Chocolate Ball 2009, "Infinite Possibilities Boundless Opportunities," presented by BB&T, garnered \$150,000 to benefit The Arc of Howard County. This fabulous event would not have been possible without the sponsors, volunteers and guests.

In addition to BB&T, the sold-out event was supported by Chocolate Indulgence sponsor, **The Columbia Triathlon Association**, and its founder and director and board member of The Arc, **Robert Vigorito**. Robert has been selected to receive the 2009 Greenfield Compassionate Leadership Award on June 11. Chocolatier sponsors included **Canada Dry** and **Manekin, LLC**, and French Silk sponsors were the **Bolduc Family Foundation, M&T Bank, and Nagle and Zaller**. Chocolate Lace sponsors included **Ascend One, Carney Kelehan, Columbia Builders, Human Services Benefit Company, Kaiser, Maryland State Lottery, Patrick's, S&W Management** and **The Zukowski Family**. Sponsors are critical to the Chocolate Ball's success, and we are grateful for their generosity.

The People's Choice Award winner was **Howard Community College Hospitality and Culinary Management**, which was voted the best of those presenting the dazzling chocolate creations from the wonderful area bakeries and restaurants supplying desserts: **Angel's Bakery, The Cake Faerie, Charm City Cakes, Elkridge Furnace Inn, The Melting Pot, Naron Candies, Oh, What A Cake!, Sweet. a bakery & café, and Sugarbakers Cakes**. Thank you to each and every one!

**Axios Wine** donated wine for all the tables and bars. Black Bag contributors included **Naron Candies, Linganore Winery, Bistro Blanc, Melting Pot** and **Maryland State Lottery**.

We also want to thank Chocolate Ball Chair **Dr. Chuck Ecker**, Logistics Chair **Chip McAuliffe**, and Silent Auction Chair **Fran McDonough**. The Arc's Resource Development Department was the glue that held everything together: Director **Kari Ebeling**, Coordinator **Bryan Sorrentino**, Volunteer Coordinator **Linda Congedo**.

Finally, kudos to the **Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory**, which went out of its way to make the 2009 Chocolate Ball a night to remember.

### "Bowling for a Change" Was A Lot of Fun

**Columbia Triathlon Association** was the presenting sponsor of "Bowling for a Change-One Pin at a Time," a new benefit for The Arc of Howard County, held last month at Brunswick Columbia Lanes. It raised almost \$12,000.

Among the bowlers, **Jeff Webking** of the **Knights of Columbus** team had the top score and the most strikes (20). The Knights of Columbia team was the top scoring team, as well. Other members included **Vince Grauso, John Roth, Paul Blanchard, Hans Wiedig** and **Keith Thompson**.

**Carney Kelehan** sponsored the team that raised the most money for The Arc, with **Tom Meachum** the top fundraiser. Other team members included **Kevin Kelehan, Stacie Irish** and **Julia Mathis**.

Lane sponsors included: **BB&T, Betty Family, Bouland & Brush, Broadway Services, Inc., The Business Monthly, Carney Kelehan, Cellular Plus, Columbia Builders, Columbia Triathlon, Damon Foreman, Document Mill, Dream Builders, Eberhardt Family, ESA, Eyre Bus, Tour &**

**Travel, Hallmark, Vail A. Kaufman, Sharon Kenney, LeaseWright Commercial Real Estate, McCabe Insurance Associates, Inc., Merrill Lynch, MET Laboratories, Inc., Moon-Singleton Family, Nightmare Graphics, Oracle, Pixel Workshop, Plantz Family, Remax Allegiance-Garth and Julia Mattis, Salt Creek Landscape Design and Construction, Sam & Elsie's, Sun Nurseries, SuperBookDeals, and William's Custom Cleaning.**

The event was such a success, it is going to become part of the annual calendar of events to benefit The Arc.

### **Going to Annapolis for DD Day**

A group of self-advocates, volunteers, Board members, and staff from The Arc of Howard County traveled to Annapolis for Developmental Disabilities Day at the Legislature on Feb. 25. After an inspirational briefing by the Developmental Disabilities Coalition (including The Arc of Maryland), the group visited members of the Howard County delegation to urge support of Senate Bill 729/House Bill 791-Alcohol Tax Increase for Developmental Disabilities. "5 Cents Makes Sense" was the theme for DD Day. Increasing the alcohol tax by five cents will generate an estimated \$80 million which would go towards the Waiting List and Direct Support Worker's wages. Legislators were also asked to support House Bill 20 - Rosa's Law - that would change the term "mental retardation" to "intellectual disability" in the Annotated Code and on state health and education paperwork. Finally, legislators were asked to pass the DDA budget intact so that transitioning students might receive services this year and community programs might receive a small but important cost of living increase.

### **Team Embrace: Awareness, Respect, Change**

**Peter Della-Croce**, a member of The Arc's Board, has launched a new initiative to benefit The Arc. **Team Embrace** will be participating in various competitions to raise funds and awareness for The Arc, to inspire respect for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and to change their lives for the better.

Team Embrace is slated for two upcoming events. In the **Columbia Triathlon** on May 17, Team Embrace members can participate in either the Olympic Distance Triathlon or in the Team Relay. **Aflac Iron Girl Triathlon** is set for August 23, when participants will swim .62 mile, bike 17.5 miles, and run 3.4 miles.

To join the team or get more information, contact Peter at [peterdella\\_croce@ml.com](mailto:peterdella_croce@ml.com).

### **Check Out the Website for the Latest**

The **Horizon Foundation** made a grant to The Arc to enable it to revamp its website, and it is now up and running. Check it out at [www.archoward.org](http://www.archoward.org), for the latest information.

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