



## Celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

### Director's Corner—Mary Lynn Bisland



Thanks to all of Terrebonne's local Mardi Gras krewes for supporting TARC's efforts to collect beads for recycling. It was a huge success and could not have been accomplished without community support.

TARC is in the process of opening a second thrift store. Cedar Chest (west), will be moving to 6259 West Main Street by the end of April. The new store, Cedar Chest (east), will be located at 865 Grand Caillou Road. Both stores will be open Monday—Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm (closed on Saturdays and Sundays). Again, a big THANK YOU, must go to our local community for supporting these two businesses.

Due to the increase in business for beads and the thrift stores, 6-8 clients who did not work due to lack of opportunities, are now going to be employed. TARC's major emphasis is to provide meaningful employment and opportunities for the most individuals possible.

TARC's goal is to increase income through its 17 businesses, in order to pay client wages, and to make up for Medicaid cuts from the State. This revenue allows TARC to continue to provide staff annual increases and to pay for raw products, equipment, and individual business operating expenses. Without the success of these enterprises, TARC would have been forced to look much closer at staff/client ratios and annual increases. Up until three years ago, the parish millage, accounted for 33% of TARC's revenue. It is now covers about 40% of the revenue collected for services.

Many people do not realize the significance and importance of each and every business enterprise that is operated by the organization. In some of TARC's enterprises, clients do 100% of the work while staff supervise, and in some, clients perform less than 50% of production and staff do the other 50%. TARC administration's philosophy is that as long as the products and services provided to customer's is 100% satisfactory, it doesn't matter how the job gets done, as long as there is a collaborative effort to produce an excellent product. The longer an individual works, at a particular task, the better they get at that task and the more of a productive citizen they become. TARC is proud of its record.

Mary Lynn Bisland



## Abel Olivier—EDS Worker of the Year

Congratulations to Abel Oliver! In December, Abel was awarded the (Louisiana) Worker of the Year Award from Employment Development Services (EDS). Abel has been a part of the Lagniappe Cleaning Company for 10 years and goes above and beyond his job duties to get the job done and the job done right. Abel excels with his dedication, accuracy, and dependability. Abel has been President, Vice-President, and Treasurer of People First, and has been on several Special Olympics teams. In 2010, he represented Louisiana on the softball team at the National Special Olympics Games in Nebraska in 2010, and he and his team won gold medals. Congratulations Abel on this prestigious award!

TARC is now hiring the following:

Community Home Mgr  
CLS  
PCA  
PCA-Homes  
DSW  
CDL Bus Driver

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# TARC Bead Donation Truck and Trailer



Chris Chaisson takes a break for the camera during a parade. He was instrumental in every parade helping collect beads on the parade route behind the trailer. Great job Chris!

TARC would like to personally thank the generous community of Terrebonne Parish. During this year's carnival season, TARC was accepted by every Houma Mardi Gras krewe to implement our Bead Donation Truck and Trailer at the end of each parade. Through the kindness of our local krewes, our Bead Donation Truck and Trailer was able to collect over 80,000 pounds of Mardi Gras beads.

Through this incredible outpouring of community support, these beads will be able to provide jobs for our individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities for the entire year. Our workers in the Buy-U Beads business recycle the beads by sorting, packaging, and reselling to local customers. Upon arriving after the Mardi Gras holidays, the Buy-U Beads workers were shown the storage space for these 75 containers. They were all very excited and very appreciative to be able to have meaningful work all year long. TARC is happy to report that TARC continues "Creating Opportunities" through your support.

Supporting TARC by your purchases or donations for our bead business or thrift store business, Cedar Chest Boutique, helps us offset state and federal budget cuts. We appreciate you thinking of us throughout the year.

If you are interested in buying any of our beads, you can contact Buy-U Beads at 985-223-7395 or Monica Chauvin at 985-876-4465.

## TARC has Easter Eggs-ellent Chickens

Since 2009, TARC's Hen House has grown from a business with a few donated chickens to a brood of a wide variety of 80 chickens (including chicks) that also include the Rhode Island Red chicken, the Bantam chicken, the Jersey Giant chicken, the Leghorn chicken, and the Top Hat chicken. These varieties allow for different size eggs, assorted colored eggs, and varying speed of laying the eggs. Our chickens are now laying 2-3 dozen eggs per day.

Easter Egger Chickens are now at TARC! Any chicken that possesses the "blue egg" gene is considered an Easter Egger chicken. The eggs come in many different colors resembling Easter eggs. The Easter Eggers we have here at TARC lay blue-green eggs. The color of the egg does not change the taste or nutritional value.

TARC sells our farm fresh eggs at \$2.50/a dozen in our TARC Restaurant and Gift Shop. All proceeds benefit Houma Grown and TARC programming.



## Membership Drive

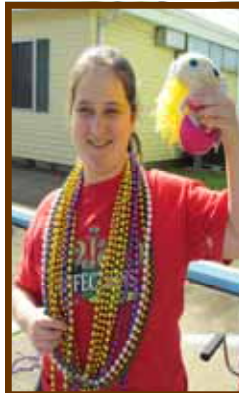
Every March, TARC hosts its annual Membership Drive for Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Month. You may have received your membership form in the mail. Your membership dues help create jobs and opportunities in our 17 businesses, residential services, transportation, and a variety of other services. Your membership also includes a subscription to TARC Inspirations Quarterly Newsletter so you can keep up with the latest news at TARC and one of the leading agencies in the nation. Your membership is important to us. Call or contact TARC to join or renew your membership today!

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ March 28—General Membership Meeting
- ◆ March 29 and April 1—Closed.  
Easter Holidays.
- ◆ April 13th—LGT Zephyrs Game
- ◆ May 4th—TARC's Garden and Market Festival

# TARC Mardi Gras Celebration 2013

King Chris Naquin and Queen Domanasia Sims



## TARC's Annual Family Day Luncheon

Kicking off March as Intellectual Disability Awareness Month, TARC held it's annual Family Luncheon at the TARC cafeteria on March 14. Over 130 family members attended and enjoyed a wonderful meal provided by TARC's Bon Appétit Cafeteria. TARC appreciates the outpouring of support from our wonderful families.



## Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

On January 18, TARC held our annual MLK March and Celebration. TARC workers and staff enjoyed commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday with posters displaying his life during the march and a reception in the TARC Cafeteria. Special Thanks to Parish Councilwoman **Arlanda Williams** and **SEC Lead Teacher Angela Robinson** for a beautiful prayer and wonderful speeches. Everyone enjoyed celebrating with cake and refreshments afterwards.



TARC clients and staff participate in the annual MLK March.