



Terrebonne Association for Retarded Citizens (TARC)

www.terrebonnearc.org



## Creating Opportunities



Greenhouse

Wood & Metal



EXPLORE

# TARC



Janitorial



Arts & Crafts Unlimited

Sweet Sensations



Day Habilitation



Lawn Service



## Annual Report 2005-2006

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## Our Mission

Creating Opportunities

TARC is committed to securing for people with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities the opportunity to enjoy a meaningful life.

## Our Vision

Every citizen with mental retardation or other developmental disabilities in Terrebonne Parish will have an array of services and supports available.



Carrie Naquin and Genevieve Gregoire spend time together while Don Price listens to music during an afternoon break.



David Boleyn and Tony Trahan take a much needed break from the Wood & Metal Department.



## From Our Executive Director and Board President

### Creating Opportunities



**Valerie Wallace**  
Executive Director

As a reflection of this year's accomplishments, my first thoughts go to the renewal of our millage which was renewed for another 10 years with a confident vote of 85% of the voters! This millage has proved to be a life line for the services we provide at TARC, and one of the factors that allow us to provide the quality of services and types of services that otherwise would not be funded. We are very appreciative to the overwhelming support shown to our people and the services we provide within our parish.

This year was our first to renew our CARF Accreditation. It was interesting to see how vastly different the survey teams can be. We started the process with the team by showing them a power point presentation that was carefully created to describe each of our programs that we operate at TARC. The team consisted of three surveyors from Canada, Ohio, and Illinois, who were clearly amazed at the presentation. After three days of intensive audits of our programs, policies, practices, and interviews with funders, recipients, family members and employers, we ended the survey with not only another three year accreditation status, but also exemplary commendations! One of the surveyors admitted that he had been surveying agencies, one per month for the last 20 years and rarely has he had the privilege of serving on a team that could issue one exemplary commendation, TARC had several! It is always a great pleasure to have the work our staff does be recognized in such a positive manner.



**Della Hotard**  
Board President

Hurricane threats are a major concern for us as we have approximately 50 people that we evacuate to safety. The shelters are not adequate to meet our needs, and our people do not qualify for "special needs" shelters because they are not medically fragile. We are grateful to our legislators for moving one million dollars into the budget at Pinecrest Developmental Center to renovate a building for the purpose of providing safe shelter during the threat of storms to persons with developmental disabilities. TARC has enjoyed the privilege of working with the Architects in designing the renovation project, and while it will not be complete for this hurricane season we are in hopes that it will be for hurricane season 2008.

Our music therapy program has offered internships for music therapy students across the country. This last year we actually had an intern come in from Germany!

Sweet Sensations, our candy department, was successful in securing on-going sales at the Louis Armstrong International Airport in New Orleans, along with many local retail outlets! Our candy department can also fill special orders when given enough lead time. We continue to supply banks and other businesses with their annual Christmas orders and even have the ability to create candy molds for business logos.

Our Arts Department has really been innovative, having one of our artist's displays her art work at Southdown Museum for a one month showing, as well as in local retail and restaurant establishments. They have also assisted another individual with her photography and helping to have her art work displayed in restaurants and local retail establishments! This was the first time that a person with developmental disabilities had the opportunity to display their work in Southdown! What excitement!

The work programs are excelling with client payroll exceeding \$300,000 last year and our individual job placement at a 90% success rate with individuals keeping their jobs in the community.

Our Day Habilitation Department is increasing in numbers and we now have two sensory rooms!

We were very saddened to lose two dedicated long term staff, Marge Kennedy and Paisley Guidry. Our deepest sympathies are extended to their families.

TARC Board of Directors and staff remains committed to providing the best possible services through active involvement at state meetings and conferences. We would like to take the opportunity to thank our dedicated Board, Staff, and Friends of TARC. We could not accomplish this without everyone's dedication and support.

## Directory

### TARC Board of Directors 2005-2006

**Della Hotard**

President

**Mike Allemand**

Vice President

**Phyllis Toups**

Secretary

**Rose Goolsby**

Treasurer

**Thomas Collins**

**Bernadette Dugas**

**Ruthanne Gallagher**

**Rowena Marcel**

**Patricia Samuel**

Directors

**Chanieka Smith**

Client Representative

### TARC Department Directors

**Valerie Wallace**

Executive Director

**Mary L. Bisland**

Community Outreach/Food Service

**Alison Filce**

Residential

**Gilbert Jones**

Adult Services/TARC Industries

**Rodger Shelton**

Transportation/Maintenance

**Kay Stone**

Finance/Accounting

**Sandy Waire**

Human Resources/Purchasing

### People Behind TARC

TARC is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization employing over 175 staff in various occupational settings. TARC's staff range in diverse educational backgrounds including the following:

- Direct Support Professionals
- Masters of Business Administration
- Masters of Clinical Counseling
- Masters of Education
- Masters of Social Work
- Bachelors of Education
- Bachelors of Music Therapy
- Bachelors of Psychology
- Bachelors of Social Work
- Bachelors of Special Education
- A Registered Nurse
- A Licensed Practical Nurse
- CDL Drivers
- Contract with a Registered Dietician
- Contract with a Certified Public Accountant

# CARF Accreditation

## Creating Opportunities



CARF is an independent, not-for-profit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known as CARF, the accrediting body establishes consumer-focused standards to help organizations measure and improve the quality of their programs and services. This year CARF announced that TARC has received the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization for its programs. TARC, having received their second consecutive three-year accreditation outcome, has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an onsite visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable, and accountable. The survey team expressed their satisfaction with the programs at TARC and explained that they seldom give exemplary ratings to organizations; however, TARC included several areas that they found not just outstanding, but EXEPLARY!

“Thirteen person-focused businesses, with more on the way, demonstrate that when opportunity knocks, TARC does not just open the door, it takes the door off the hinges.”

“There are three places in the world to go to if you are looking for Elvis. The first is Graceland, the second is Vegas, and the third is TARC. Music is important at TARC.”

“One could say TARC lives by the motto, “Love what you do and do what you love.”

“If it is not in the community, TARC creates it. A never-ending flow of creative programs, services, and community employment opportunities are a cornerstone of TARC’s commitment to persons served and the community.”

### TARC has been accredited by CARF for a period of three years for its programs:

#### Community Services:

- \* Community Housing
- \* Community Integration
- \* Respite Services
- \* Supported Living

#### Employment Services/Community Employment:

- \* Job Development
- \* Job Supports
- \* Job Site Training

#### Employment Services:

- \* Employment Planning
- \* Organizational Employment Services



Lawrence Brien prepares dinner for the residents of the Jane home.

*"I someday want a place of my own."  
- Community home resident*

Independence is a desire that most people have, and individuals with disabilities are no different. TARC's Residential Services allow adults with developmental disabilities to experience a level of autonomy through different housing options based on their need. These programs focus on building skills that are needed to be self-sufficient such as meal planning and preparation, housekeeping, money management, and social skills. During the past year, long-time employee, Beverly Cooke, decided to seek the greener pastures of retirement and left her position as Director of Residential to Alison Filce. Also, this year, lives were not interrupted by Mother Nature, as evacuation for hurricanes were not needed. The Residential department has begun providing services to one new individual and has not had any discharges during the last year.

TARC operates three **Community Homes**, Jane, Wellington, and Dixie, which houses six individuals in each home. This past year, Dixie home purchased a new van. Wellington home had one opening which was filled last January. Both of the other homes have continued to remain full for the year. Each of the homes provides personalized skill training for the individuals who reside there as well as a safe, comfortable place to call home. According to the 2006 Outcomes report, 99% of individuals residing in the community homes showed progress towards personal goals. Combined, TARC's community homes serve eighteen individuals ranging from 23-58 years of age and having a wide variety of disabilities including dementia, seizure disorders, mental health issues, and visual impairments. Always striving to improve the quality of life for its individuals, the community homes have set and surpassed the goal of keeping at least 85% of the individuals satisfied with the community outings that they go on. 99% responded positively to this question on the satisfaction survey.



Lionel Poret receives help balancing his checkbook from Loretta Trahan.

*"I feel that [my son's] staff is 99% great. If TARC feels that a worker is not satisfactory, they don't have them return. I'm always treated courteously, and TARC has gone out of its way to be a great advocate for [my son], in what could best be described as a difficult situation." -SIL parent*

*"I always use the example of the TARC program being one of the best I've ever seen, maybe in the country. The opportunities provided for [my son] and the other clients have made it somewhat easier to be so far away from him. Just knowing that he has a "safety ring" of loving, caring, and knowledgeable people that he trusts and depends upon is a gift to us."  
-SIL Family Member*

## Community Living

For individuals who have obtained basic self-governing skills but still require some assistance with living independently, there is the **Supported Independent Living (SIL)** program. The SIL department supports six females and twelve males who live alone or with a roommate by choice in various integrated locations in Terrebonne parish. The Direct Support Professionals focus on training individuals in various topics such as budgeting, dealing with telemarketers, personal safety, social interactions, relationships, and domestic skills. These adults are also encouraged to participate in community and social 'opportunities that lead to an active lifestyle.



Nissa Gassen hangs up her clothes in her closet..

"When I walk in Wellington, I feel the love & happiness in that home. You can tell the clients love it there and that makes me feel good."

*Community Home Family member*

TARC offers a home away from home for ten individuals on alternating weekends in their **Center-Based Respite** program. Those participating in this program receive around the clock care and enjoy various activities, allowing their families time to rest or attend to personal matters. The individuals and their families have the option to choose to stay anywhere from daytime only to the entire weekend. This department has become more in demand since the new Supports Waiver has offered some funding for respite. TARC's **In-Home Respite** program offers a direct care worker to support the individual in their home. This program allows individuals to enjoy greater independence and more opportunities to integrate into the community while providing the family members with much needed relief. Ninety-four percent of families report that their stress is minimized as a result of respite.

"I never worry when my family member is at respite. Great relief for family. Thank you so much." –  
*Respite family member*



# Financial *focus*

## Statement of Financial Position

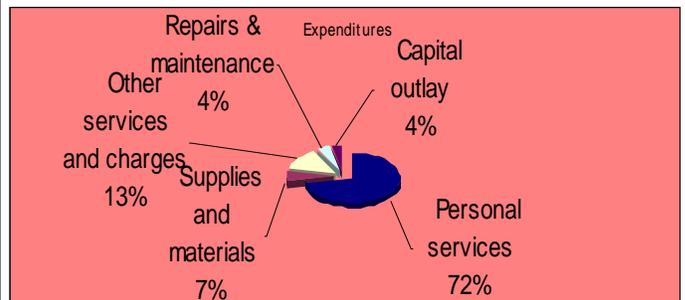
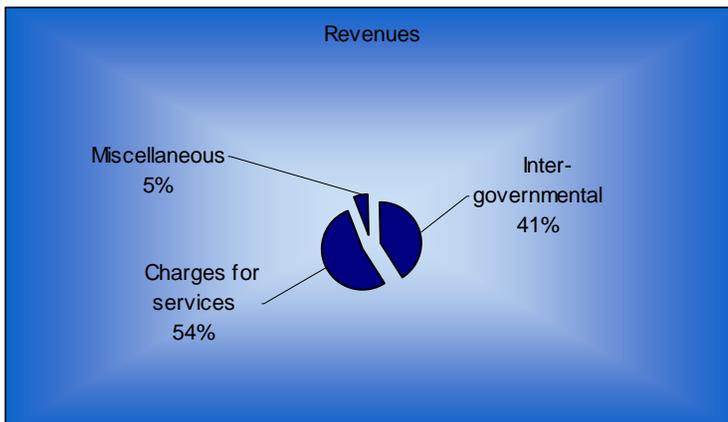
June 30, 2006

Current and other assets	\$ 4,729,840.00
Capital assets	<u>\$ 2,979,559.00</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 7,709,399.00</u>
Long-term liabilities	\$ 143,004.00
Other liabilities	<u>\$ 316,379.00</u>
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 459,383.00</u>
Net assets:	
Invested in capital assets	\$ 2,979,559.00
Unrestricted	<u>\$ 4,270,457.00</u>
Total net assets	<u>\$ 7,250,016.00</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 7,709,399.00</u>

Revenues:	
Intergovernmental	\$ 2,724,397.00
Charges for services	\$ 3,589,475.00
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 355,444.00</u>
Total revenues	<u>\$ 6,669,316.00</u>

Expenses:	
Personal services	\$ 4,495,231.00
Supplies and materials	\$ 431,058.00
Other services and charges	\$ 837,551.00
Repairs and maintenance	\$ 256,758.00
Capital outlay	<u>\$ 244,974.00</u>
Total expenditures	<u>\$ 6,265,572.00</u>

Change in Net Assets	\$ 403,744.00
Beginning net assets	<u>\$ 6,846,272.00</u>
Ending net assets	<u>\$ 7,250,016.00</u>



Note: Completed audited financial statements prepared by Bourgeois Bennett, L.L.C., are available for review at the agency.

This annual report for fiscal year 2005-2006 recognizes contributions received between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006.

## Contributors

Alexandria Zoological Park  
Anita Cunningham  
The Arc of Louisiana  
The Arc of the United States  
Art Stagni  
Bayou Black Recreation Center  
Bayou Board of Realtors, Inc.  
Bayou Civitan Club  
Bell South Pioneers  
Bellsouth Affiliate Services Corp.  
Benoit Machine L. L. C.  
Betty Laurent  
Big Lots  
Blake Drilling & Workover  
Blooming Orchid Florist, Inc.  
Blue Cross BlueShield of Louisiana  
Bob Chaisson  
Bobby Pellegrin  
Broadmoor Drug Center, Inc.  
Cannata's  
Carriageway Framing & Art Supplies  
Cheryl LaFont  
Chris Bryan  
Daniel Richard  
Darrell Hebert  
Darryl and Winona Guidry  
Dr. Garland P. Aycock, Jr.  
Dr. Robert Gamble  
Elphie Duplantis  
Energy  
Enviro-Lab, Inc.  
Erica Null  
Eva Filer  
Evangeline Maid Bakery  
Evelyn Baldentine  
Falleri Hebert  
Family Vision Clinic  
First Assembly of God  
Foundation for Southeast Texas  
Fred Naquin  
Greg Giles  
Greywolf Drilling Co.  
Harry H. Green  
Helen Bergeron  
Houma Diagnostic Clinic  
Houma Fire Department  
Houma Oilman's Fishing Invitational  
Houma Orthopedic Clinic  
Houma Toyota, Inc.

HTV  
Ilona Browning  
James Vizena  
Janice T. Vice  
Jeannie Roth  
Jeri Carson-Hull  
Jimmy Price  
Karen Dupuy  
Kay Harrison  
Kentwood  
Knights of Columbus Council #13819  
Knights of Columbus Council #8932  
Ladies Jr. Auxiliary of Houma  
Larry Daigle  
Larry White  
Len Fontaine & Associates  
Lloyd and Ola Crochet  
Lynn Ostheimer  
Magnum Mud Equipment Co.  
Marie Kastler  
Mary Breaux  
Mary Kay Waguespack  
Mary L. Bisland  
Mary Laing-Davis  
Mermaid's Masquerade  
Micah Richie  
Michael St. Martin  
Mike Allemand  
Milton Zschiedrich  
Milton Zschiedrich, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hill  
Mr. and Mrs. Pat Chatagnier  
Leland Authement  
Philip Toups  
Qiana Jones  
Reed Whitney  
Reverend Ricky Willis  
Rockin R. Rodeo  
Roland LaFont  
Ron & Phyllis Toups  
Ronnie Triche  
Rory Dupre  
Rouse's Enterprises, LLC.  
Rowena Marcel  
Shirley Duthu  
Sonny Detillier Agency  
South La. Bank  
St. Bernadette Auxiliary  
St. Bernadette K. C. 's

## Creating Opportunities

St. Bridget Knights of Columbus  
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Terrebonne Foundation for the Mentally  
Tiffany Brunet  
Tillman Luke, Jr.  
Tomahawk Wellhead & Services, Inc.  
United Veterans League  
United Way  
Valure's Electrical & A/C, Inc.  
Vickie Foret  
Village East Realty  
Walmart  
Whataburger  
Whitney National Bank  
Woodmen of the World Lodge #803

Our sincere thanks to those  
who have supported us  
throughout the year!

...and our special thanks to  
Terrebonne Parish residents &  
businesses for our ad valorem  
tax, to TARC's membership  
and to the companies and  
individuals who assist with our  
needs throughout the year.

We want to provide a  
complete and accurate listing  
as well as recognize our  
donors. Please bring any  
discrepancies or omissions to  
our attention.

## ● Summer Camp

### Creating Opportunities

**Camp Eagle** is provided from May through July for children ages 6-22 who have disabilities ranging from moderate mental retardation to serious physical impairments such as spina bifida or cerebral palsy. Camp Eagle has traditionally been hosted on TARC grounds; however, this past year, camp was held in an integrated setting with another camp in the community. The three staff who dedicated themselves to the twelve campers felt that all of the children had a good time participating in activities such as swimming, bowling, dancing, pizza parties, and scavenger hunts; though, due to the lack of privacy for those having self-help needs, it is being evaluated whether next year's camp should be a combined setting of on-campus and community integration.

## ● Music Therapy



The Bell Choir rehearses for a performance.

The **Music Therapy Program** is a long-standing program that is much enjoyed by all participants associated with TARC, Sunshine Express Day Care and the adjoining School for Exceptional Children. In addition to a full-time therapist on staff, TARC provides a six month internship program to two music therapy students who apply through the National Music Therapy Association. As well as providing music therapy sessions throughout the week for individuals, TARC also has three performing groups: Bell Choir, Bayou Samba, and TARC Express, who travel and play for various private and community events throughout Southeast Louisiana. The Music Therapy Program provides participants with musical opportunities not otherwise available which enables them to enjoy life to their fullest potential with dignity.

The **Music Therapy Program** is a long-standing program that is much enjoyed by all participants associated with TARC, Sunshine Express Day Care and the adjoining School for Exceptional Children. In addition to a full-time therapist on staff, TARC provides a six month internship program to two music therapy students who apply through the National Music Therapy Association. As well as providing music therapy sessions throughout the week for individuals, TARC

also has three performing groups: Bell Choir, Bayou Samba,



TARC Express gives an awesome concert experience.

## Sunshine Express Early Care & Education Center

### Creating Opportunities



Playtime at Sunshine Express

Located in the center of town, **Sunshine Express Early Care & Education Center** offers parents a convenient, safe and progressive learning environment for their children. This daycare is founded on the basic philosophy of providing quality care and education for all children. During the year, the Class A state licensed day care facility was a participant in a pilot program for the new Division of Early Childhood Education, part of the Department of Social Services. This program

focuses on raising the quality of daycare programs across the state and has its own rating scale, the **ITERS**, or Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale. Sunshine Express scored the highest rating in the area and was named the best preschool in the tri-parish area. It is licensed for forty-nine children and currently has forty-eight enrolled, twenty-five percent of which have special needs, which leaves no openings for enrollment at this time. Sunshine Express Early Care & Education Center provides a full-inclusion program offering developmentally appropriate care to children with and without disabilities.

## Health Services

TARC is dedicated to providing superior services to all individuals served, and this includes physical and mental health services as well. There is both a registered and certified nurse on staff at TARC. Medication administration, tube feeding, first aid, and monitoring medical conditions are among the many duties performed daily by the **Nursing Staff**. In the unfortunate event of a medical emergency, our nursing staff is there to respond and provide the ever so important first aid that is needed. In addition, all TARC staff is trained and certified in first aid and CPR by the nursing staff.



Shirley Rogers checks the blood pressure of Amanda Pellegrin.

A **Licensed Professional Counselor** and a **Licensed Clinical Social Worker** are on staff to provide an array of mental health services to those in need. Weekly anger management groups, client and family counseling, relationship training, vocational assessments, crisis intervention, and behavior management planning are all available at TARC, as well as social, psychological, and vocational counseling. As needed, individuals and their families are able utilize the Counselor and Social Worker for resource referrals and behavioral challenges or to meet their emotional needs.

The community employment division provides a variety of employment opportunities to individuals working on and off campus. The division has continued to have strong performance this year with satisfaction surveys showing that businesses are quite satisfied with TARC's services. This department includes the supported employment and mobile crew areas and serves 107 individuals. Establishments which use the services provided report that "services are exceptional", and they are "always satisfied with the level of ser-



Herman Boudreaux bags items at Rouses Supermarket.

vice and superior products" that TARC provides. Survey results report that businesses are 100% satisfied with the overall performance of TARC's community employment division and feel that staff is always professional, courteous, and respectful.

## Supported Employment

Supported Employment places individuals with disabilities into community jobs and offers customized support to help these persons maintain their employment. Currently the department serves 24 individuals. The program continues to prove successful in that 95% of the individuals served have continued to hold their jobs from last year and several of them have been employed for more than five years. In 2006, 7 individuals were placed in a community job within an average of 2.5 months. The Supported Employment department strives continue improving our services in order to keep up with the changing needs of the community and those we serve.



Ernest Touro collects buggies at Wal-Mart.



Lionel Poret brings in containers at Popeye's.

"Finding a good match is one of your strongest assets. Your community based assessments are helpful in helping the client learn what is going to be required when working."

– Funding agency

## Mobile Crews

### Creating Opportunities

TARC's Mobile Crews offer paid employment in the community while assisting individuals in identifying and developing skills that are needed to be successful in a competitive workplace. These crews provide services to several area businesses and individuals and have maintained their 49 contracts for as long as 16 years. Both, businesses and individuals served, feel that the program is an invaluable asset to the community. Eighty-eight percent of the individuals who work on a mobile crew have made progress towards their goals, and ninety-seven percent of them responded that they are working where they want. 91% of businesses feel that the services they receive from TARC's mobile crews have a positive contribution to their business.

## Janitorial Department



TARC provides opportunities for our individuals to gain valuable work skills and experience in the **Janitorial Department** where they maintain 11 business contracts, some for at least 10 years. This department employs 3 and trains 23 individuals who have provided excellent services. According to satisfaction surveys, our business clients continue to remain completely satisfied with the services that are provided to them.

Regina Walcott prepares the mop.

## Yard Crew Department



Willie Carter and Stephen Young work as a team.



Horace Williams and Charles Derouen push the lawnmowers.

*"You give my son respect and confidence that a lot of disabled or handicapped individuals aren't receiving from society." – Yard crew Family member*

The **Yard Crew's** reputation in the community is one of professionalism and excellence. This department continues to maintain a multitude of yard maintenance contracts in the area, and 100% of the contract holders remain satisfied with the two crews' job performance. Ongoing training, coaching and support have allowed individuals in this department to grow and achieve many personal successes. Six of the eight individuals served have become proficient in their job performance and earn minimum wage.

## TARC Restaurant & Gift Shop: Window to the Community

### Creating Opportunities

Having become a local favorite for many, the TARC's Restaurant and Gift Shop prepares an average of 260 meals a day consisting of many southern favorites such as beignets, red beans and rice, and shrimp stew. Fifteen individuals provide daily dining services to the public such as waitressing, bussing tables, meal preparation, janitorial duties, and dishwashing. TARC's Restaurant and Gift Shop also serves as a retail venue for Sweet Sensations Confections candy department and TARC's Arts-n-Crafts Unlimited art studio.



Top: Misty Farkas delivers a hot lunch meal to a customer.

Below: Carl Chaisson washes dishes during lunch.



"Country store staff is good with the clients and staff listens to you."  
—Individual served

## Wholesale Nursery

While supplying plants to some local nurseries and landscaping businesses, TARC's Wholesale Nursery provides individuals with hands-on experience of working with plants. This facility-based program offers paid employment to individuals both on and off campus. The crew members grow, care for, and sell a variety of landscaping plants and produce during the year. They also provide flowerbed maintenance to five business locations in the area.



Mark Landrum, Timmy Jones, Elliot Cotton, and Jamie Airhart pull weeds from various plants.

"We were able to experience all facets of what TARC offers to people with disabilities. Where others believe there is nothing to work with, there is God given talents given to each one of us regardless of our handicaps."  
- 2006 Satisfaction Survey comment



# Organizational employment

Beverly Bourg instructs Priscilla Butler on sanding a clay pot.

TARC's Organizational Employment continues to grow and strive for the best. The various business training sites are designed to be able to identify an individual's abilities and talents and expand them to their maximum potential. This department includes the on-site work areas and serves 65 individuals. Eighty-four percent of individuals served have made progression towards meeting their vocational goals, and 97% report liking where they work. TARC's mission is to give our individuals the opportunity to enjoy a meaningful life, and all survey responders feel that their lives have improved since they began working at TARC!

## Arts & Crafts Unlimited

**Arts-N-Crafts Unlimited** provides a therapeutic means of learning to express one's creativity through art. Exposure to art in its many forms inspires these adults to create masterpieces beyond anyone's preconceived notions. This department supplies TARC's Restaurant and Gift Shop with many unique, hand-painted items to sell, and their products are also wholesaled or retailed within and outside of TARC's surrounding community. Painted garden pots, mosaic tables and children's wooden chairs are just a few of the treasures you'll find here. The quality and uniqueness of the product keeps the customers coming back for more, and in turn, allows TARC to discover, employ and refine more artists in the community. This year, the department has enabled one of its individuals to pursue a personal dream in photography. Her hidden talent has been unlocked and is on display and available for purchase in TARC's Restaurant and Gift Shop. **Sweet Scents** premium scented candles and bath & body products are also made on a seasonal basis and offer training for individuals in producing, packaging, and sales of the products.



Folk Photographer, Teri Boudreaux, and Folk Artist, Paula Lapeyrouse at Art After Dark.

## Packaging Department



Clay Naquin, Jr. prepares utensil packs.

The **Packaging** Department offers training and employment in packaging products while allowing for sedentary work. The individuals in this department also work on preparing bulk mail outs and shredding documents. Packaging has remained one of TARC's longest running programs and has held one of several contracts for over 21 years.

## Wood & Metal Department



Clients prepare wooden crates.

### Creating Opportunities

Individuals in TARC's **Wood & Metal** department learn carpentry skills while manufacturing custom designed wooden crates for oil field tools. The crew members produce approximately 2,500 crates annually. This year, they have added U-Drop, a shipping company, to their customer list, having built several crates of various sizes for them. In addition to crate building, the Wood & Metal department also manufactures a football-hiking device called the Sure Snap. These pieces of sporting equipment, including 36 this year, have been ordered and shipped all over the country.

## Sweet Sensations Confections Candy Department

Individuals have the opportunity to learn and work in a successful business and are able to learn practical skills in candy production in TARC's candy department. **Sweet Sensations Confections** provides chocolate candies for all types of businesses throughout the Houma area and beyond. As a licensed wholesale business, it falls under the strict guidelines of the Food and Drug Administration. Customers continue to be impressed with the program and the superior products that are produced by



Debra Louviere learns to stock candy at Cannata's.

the talented individuals that we serve. Customers report that the staff and individuals served are always cheerful, knowledgeable, and deliver on time. Visitors are always impressed with the department and are enlightened to the fact that individuals with developmental disabilities are contributing members of society. The success of the business has continued to be phenomenal, and the customer list has continued to grow. This year, Sweet Sensations has been happy to add Armstrong International Airport and Cannata's grocery store as vendors.

"I am always satisfied with the level of service and the superior products I purchase. Your staff and clients are to be commended!"

—Sweet Sensations Customer



Dena Marcel creates chocolate covered pretzels on the enrober.

## Cafeteria

"I want to represent TARC when doing my work." —Cafeteria participant

TARC's **Cafeteria** employs and trains individuals in a full service cafeteria providing lunch and related services to over 300 people daily. Participants in this program act as a support crew to the staff and are the backbone of this operation. Responsibilities include: sanitizing the dining area, washing dishes, running the commercial dishwasher, sweeping, mopping and providing all other janitorial services. In addition, participants package desserts and salads, work on the serving line, and stock shelves.



Darlene Scricca prepares lunch in the cafeteria.



Gloria Morris and Stephen Neil work on a puzzle.

Individuals who have more extensive training needs are provided with prevocational training opportunities in the areas of social skills, daily living, fine motor skills and interactions with peers. This training is a part of TARC's **Day Habilitation** program which consists of five units on the TARC campus. TARC has identified the ever increasing need to provide more of this type of service and, in September, has added a new unit to help fulfill this necessity. This past year, in addition to community integration, much focus was placed on researching new ways to stimulate the senses which lead to the purchase of various pieces of sensory awareness equipment. Also, a second sensory room was created to allow individuals more opportunity to access and develop their sensory skills.

Sensory objectives include, but are not limited to: developing socialization with staff and peers, promoting engagement in the environment, increasing independent participation, promoting awareness of self and others, stimulating the mind and body, and encouraging cognitive thought processes. Furthermore, through the efforts of dedicated staff and generous supporters, TARC's Day Habilitation program will receive a Dell Vista computer and software programs designed specifically to meet the needs of individuals with Autism to improve their social, communication, and community awareness skills.



Carisa Champagne enjoys the different sensations in the sensory room.

Although no one has moved into a vocational program from Day Habilitation this year, progress continues to be made. Ninety-eight percent of the thirty-nine individuals served in this program have shown progress towards their vocational goals, and according to the 2006 Outcomes report, every individual is satisfied with the services they receive. Although last year only 33% of individuals participated in a community outing such as volunteering at least three times a month, this past year, we exceeded our goal with 80% of individuals doing so. The last year has brought many exciting changes to the Day Habilitation program, and the coming year will continue to do so.

"TARC thrives on making opportunities happen." -  
CARF Survey



# Transportation

Missy Domangue, Shelly Gendron, and Ruth Pontiff board the afternoon shuttle.

TARC currently provides **transportation** to approximately 6,810 passengers averaging 23,741 miles per month and 284,896 annually. This service provides transportation to and from work. Outside of working hours, individuals have access to **TARC's Shuttle Service** which gives them access to become more involved in the community. Operating similar to a taxi service, the shuttle service allows individuals to arrange their own transportation to and from work, appointments, recreational activities, and much more. Individuals utilizing the shuttle service pay one dollar per ride to teach that not all services are free. TARC's vehicles are ADA compliant which includes wheelchair lifts, wheelchair tie downs and passenger safety belts. TARC also supports Special Olympics by transporting athletes to practices and competitions. Additionally, three new vehicles

were also added to the fleet: a new administration car, a new yard crew truck, and a new Dixie Home van.

## Through the years...



Jenny LeBeouf

Beignets, fried shrimp, and Mrs. Jenny- there are just some things one expects to find at TARC's Restaurant and Gift Shop! One could say that Jenny Lebouef is a staple at TARC. Before TARC, Jenny was a successful dress shop owner, proud mother, and devoted wife. Every moment of her life was filled with something to do, and that was the way that she wanted it to be. After the unexpected loss of her husband, she decided that she needed to become involved in the community. That is when she began her life at TARC. After a couple of years volunteering, and since her children had all started school, Jenny accepted a position as an aide in a classroom in Montegut. She recalls, "I didn't think I'd be here this long. It was just something to do while the children were in school." That was in 1967, and thirty-nine years later, Jenny continues to be TARC's longest working employee. Every year she thought that it would be the year that she would resign; however, there was always something

that made her stay. She eventually fell in love with what she was doing and the people that she worked with, and working at TARC became a privilege to her. Jenny reminisces about shedding tears after work because the day's events were so moving, and she knew in her heart that TARC is where she belongs.

Jenny said that every person that has walked onto the campus has added something to the program. What she did not say is that she is no exception. Jenny Lebouef has had a tremendous impact on the organization throughout the years. Though she began as an aide, Jenny knew that she wanted more, so she sought out information and eventually was able to recruit the state to provide trainings. She was also one of the responsible parties for starting the Special Olympics teams in Montegut. When the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act was passed and many students were placed into schools, Jenny had to help make the decision to move the 18 staff and 16 students who remained to the TARC campus in Houma and close the doors to the Montegut school forever. Because of the long travel, many did not return to the campus, but for Jenny, the distance would not keep her from TARC. She accepted a job on the TARC grounds, and in 1981, she became the manager for the Country Store, now called TARC's Restaurant and Gift Shop. Jenny recalls that getting the store on its feet was not easy work, "Early mornings and late evenings, it was very long hours, but people worked!" Now a very successful business, TARC's Restaurant and Gift Shop is still where one will find Jenny hard at work doing what she loves, and she foresees that her days will continue to be spent greeting customers, training individuals, and just being Jenny.



**Diana Bourg**

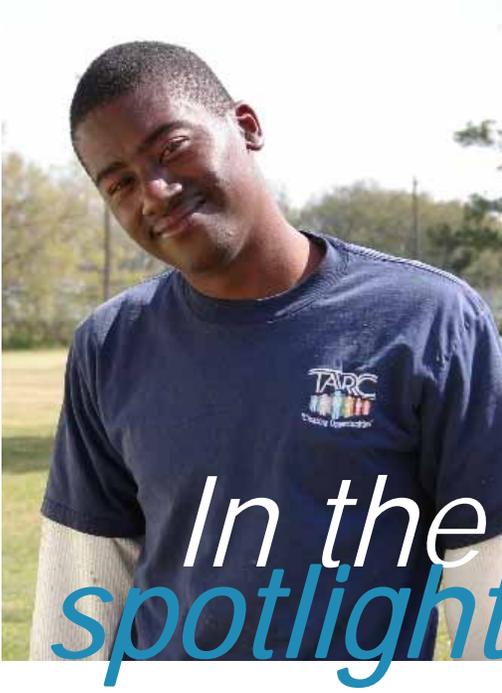
One day a young substitute teacher decided to join her local Lion's Club hoping to be able to help others. Having no idea how it would change her life, she began helping a small Wonderland Daycare through the efforts of the organization. She started volunteering more and more time at the one-classroom house in Montegut, and, on October 1, 1970, she accepted a job with the people that she had grown to love. Thirty-seven years later, Diana Bourg can still recall the little group that she has watched grow into today's TARC. Diana admits that TARC is now very different than it used to be. "There are no children, but now we take care of the needs of so many more people." Having taken care of high-risk infants for twelve years, Ms. Bourg recalls being asked regularly how she could go to work knowing that the children she cared for would not survive for long. Her only response was that anything that she could do to make their time here on Earth a little richer was worth it. One would think that after working for so long, retirement would be on the Packaging job coach's mind, but that is certainly not the case at all. "TARC has been my life for so long that I wouldn't know what to do, so I will stay with what I love to do. TARC is a part of me." Tears welled up in her eyes as she thought about the many individuals she has cared for through the years, and closed the conversation with a simple yet profound statement, "TARC gives me a purpose in life."

Bonnie Robichaux has been a faithful employee at TARC for 33 years. She remembers having helped move on campus from Suthon Avenue in 1973 and has watched TARC evolve through the years. Through her loyalty, she has become a part of so many lives, remembering many as babies and watching them flourish into working adults. Bonnie, a mother of three, feels that her schedule at TARC allowed her the opportunity to seamlessly raise her children and work out of the home. Now the proud grandmother uses TARC's generous holiday schedule to spend quality time with her husband of 43 years and to enjoy watching her seven grandchildren grow. Currently, Bonnie works as a job coach in Arts-n-Crafts Unlimited and continues to find her job rewarding. She considers the people at TARC her second family, and as the saying goes, "there's no place like home!"



**Bonnie Robichaux**

*"TARC, to me, is like an old shoe, it just feels good!" -Bonnie Robichaux*



Stephen Young

At 28 years of age, Stephen Young looks at his four years at TARC as the best time of his life. While attending Thibodaux High School, Stephen gained work experience in different employment settings, but he knew that none of the jobs that he held were right for him. "And then I found TARC," he exclaimed, "I love my crew and just want to go out there and get my job done." Stephen is a member of a four-man yard crew that maintains several community lawn contracts and also helps the maintenance department with the campus grounds at TARC. He has celebrated many personal accomplishments on the job and has many valuable work skills, but Stephen says that his biggest achievement has been learning to tie his shoelaces. With a smile as bright as the sun, Stephen proudly announced, "I didn't know how to tie my shoestrings since I was little, so Ms. Betty taught me how!" The pride which radiated from him would melt one's heart.

Like many others, Stephen enjoys the usual pastimes such as watching television, playing video games, and talking on the phone. He also plays guard on the Special Olympics basketball team, but, by no means, is this all that Stephen wants for himself. When asked about his future plans, Stephen replied that he, one day, wants to get his own apartment and pay his own bills. He has also set a goal to learn to drive, and he has already begun doing so. Stephen's family members are teaching him road skills, and he reviews the driver's manual and practices for the written test with his job coach, Betty, when he is not working. Stephen anxiously awaits receiving his driver's license so that he can "drive his mama around." He looks forward to the independence and self-reliance that driving will give him. With the persistence and dedication that this young man possesses, he will, no doubt, one day reach his goals and then possibly seek opportunities elsewhere. Until then, he continues to be a role model to his peers, a pillar of loyalty to his friends, and a valuable member of the TARC family. In all, Stephen Young is a picture of success!

"My favorite memory at TARC so far is when I was king of TARC. That was the first time in my whole life that I rode in a parade. That was a dream come true!"

*-Stephen Young*