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TARC

Annual Report

07

No.1 McCord Rd.
Houma, LA 70363
Phone: 985-876-4465
Fax: 985-223-7387
www.terrebonnearc.org

TARC is committed to securing for all people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities

the opportunity to enjoy a meaningful life



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



The TARC fiscal year 2006-2007 has been filled with many challenges and changes. TARC reluctantly bid farewell to Valerie Wallace, Executive Director since 1992 and employee since 1982, on May 6, 2007. Valerie Wallace, made the decision to leave TARC after many years, in order to embark upon a new life and new career in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, to manage another ARC. Valerie, now Mrs. James Vizona, is the Executive Director of The Enrichment Center, in Winston-Salem. We all wish her the best that life has to offer!

Della Hotard
Board President

On May 7, 2007, Mary Lynn Bisland, former Director of Community Outreach for TARC, became TARC's 7th Executive Director. With a Bachelor of Science degree in Vocational Home Economics Education and a Master of Education degree in Special Education, Mary Lynn brings to the position almost 40 years of varied experience from the Terrebonne Parish School system and TARC. As a teacher, she has taught children with severe/profound and mild/moderate disabilities, and infants and toddlers with developmental delays. Under her guidance as a director, she supervised many programs such as the TARC Restaurant and Gift Shop, Music Therapy, Sunshine Express Early Care and Education Center, TARC Cafeteria, Arts-N-Crafts Unlimited and TARC's therapy programs. She served as the Director of Residential Services for three years, leading the staff assigned to community homes and independent apartment living. She also created many businesses at TARC including Sweet Sensations Confections (gourmet candy), Bon Terre Enterprises (salsa and pepper jellies), and Sweet Scents (candles.) Mary Lynn brings a unique personality and perspective with a deep knowledge of TARC history. She is well known to families, clients, staff and the community of Terrebonne Parish. TARC is proud to have Mary Lynn as its new Executive Director.

Della Hotard, Board President
2006-2007

Vision and Inspiration

With the resignation of Valerie Wallace as Executive Director in April 2007, and having been a staff member and Department Director since August 1984, I felt very comfortable applying for the top position at TARC. The Board of Directors, staff, families and clients have been outstanding in supporting me and embracing me as their new leader. Many exciting new opportunities and new ventures have been birthed with the help of the TARC staff and Board. One of the most exciting has been the naming of "new and old" businesses operated by TARC. Through fun and innovative ideas such as trademark names and logos, old programs have received new life poured into them.

The old Greenhouse division is now called "Houma Grown." Approximately 60 citrus trees have been planted, a vegetable garden is growing, and plans for the produce stand and flower gardening are in the planning stages.

The guys who make up our Lawn Care division will now be called "Bayouland Yard Krewe." They now have 2 new trailers and 2 king-cab trucks to perform their work out in the community. The trailers are also "decked out" now with the colorful logo on each side to advertise this business.

Our Janitorial division now has 17 cleaning contracts. Their new name is the "Lagniappe Cleaning Company." Approximately 20 individuals with disabilities work in this division. They were give 100 percent satisfaction on the annual survey sent out to their contracts.

The "old" Wood & Metal department has been reorganized, and now they are the "Cajun Crate Company," because they no longer make any metal products. This group received a \$40,000 grant from the Louisiana Recovery Authority to purchase new equipment when they relocate to the new Weatherford GEMOCO complex on Highway 311 in the Spring of 2009. Valerie Wallace was instrumental in getting this grant money.

Even the Packaging department has a new name. They are now the "Bayou Packers." Not only do they still package utensils for Chabert Medical Center, but they have also ventured into shredding documents and packaging Mardi Gras beads for some of the local Mardi Gras krewes to purchase.

The Arts and Crafts Unlimited department is now called "La Maison d'art." They continue to sell their products in the TARC gift shop and to local businesses.

Our candy division, "Sweet Sensations," has changed their name to "Bayou Sweets." A new logo and packaging of products will be started this next fiscal year. We are very excited about the potential impact this may have on our candy business.

The newest division, "Le Bon Temps Bakery," offers teacakes, homemade cakes and other baked goods sold daily in the TARC Restaurant and Gift Shop. "Bon Terre Enterprises," our Cajun salsa and pepper jelly products, can also be purchased in the TARC gift shop.

Beginning in September 2007, TARC participants were given the opportunity to participate as members in the first organized social club called the "Let's Get Together Club." The club planned and hosted social events at TARC, including speakers on developing relationships, a Harvest Dance, and a Christmas party. The officers are TARC participants and membership is open to any individual living in Terrebonne Parish who has and intellectual and/or developmental disability 18 years and older.

Five members of the TARC staff traveled in June of 2007 to Lamb's Farm, a non-profit organization in Libertyville, Illinois that serves individuals with developmental disabilities. The trip offered additional resources and research for present and future projects at TARC. The whole team came back excited about the possibilities for future employment opportunities for TARC participants.

The summer of 2007 was an exciting and busy time for TARC's Day Habilitation program. The departments participated in numerous new events such as music, bowling, volunteering efforts at the local food bank, and a host of other unit gatherings. The future holds more new activities for this area. In 2008, a separate unit will be devoted to arts and crafts, exercise, and aerobic activities.

I am looking forward to reporting more ambitious and exciting events in next year's annual report. Until then, please know that TARC continues to keep "Creating Opportunities."



Mary Lynn Bisland
Executive Director

Board of Directors 2006-2007

Della Hotard
President

Mike Allemand
Vice President

Phyllis Toups
Secretary

Rose Goolsby
Treasurer

Thomas Collins
Bernadette Dugas
Ruthanne Gallagher
Rowena Marcel
Patricia Samuel
Directors

Stephen Young
Client Representative

Department Directors

Mary Lynn Bisland
Executive Director

Tiffany Brunet
TARC Industries Division 2

Alison Filce
Residential

Gilbert Jones
TARC Industries Division 1

Wayne Sailors
Human Resources/
Purchasing

Rodger Shelton
Transportation/Maintenance

Kay Stone
Finance/Accounting

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

Directory



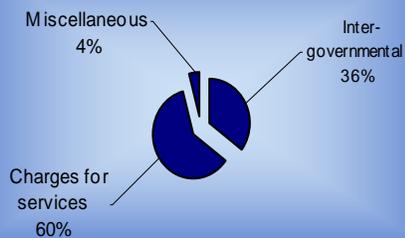
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www.terrebonnearc.org

Statement of Financial Position

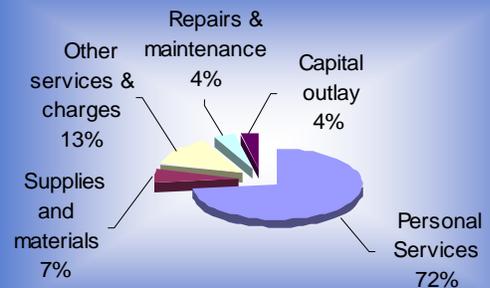
June 30, 2007

| | | | |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| | | Revenues: | |
| Current and other assets | \$ 5,170,212.00 | Intergovernmental | \$ 2,558,613.00 |
| Capital assets | \$ 3,004,818.00 | Charges for services | \$ 4,342,856.00 |
| Total assets | \$ 8,175,030.00 | Miscellaneous | \$ 282,671.00 |
| | | Total revenues | \$ 7,184,140.00 |
| Long-term liabilities | \$ 152,064.00 | | |
| Other liabilities | \$ 224,159.00 | Expenses: | |
| Total liabilities | \$ 376,223.00 | Personal services | \$ 4,823,167.00 |
| | | Supplies and materials | \$ 433,986.00 |
| Net assets: | | Other services and charges | \$ 887,065.00 |
| Invested in capital assets | \$ 3,004,818.00 | Repairs and maintenance | \$ 242,761.00 |
| Unrestricted | \$ 4,793,989.00 | Capital outlay | \$ 248,370.00 |
| Total net assets | \$ 7,798,807.00 | Total expenditures | \$ 6,635,349.00 |
| | | Change in Net Assets | \$ 548,791.00 |
| Total liabilities and net assets | \$ 8,175,030.00 | Beginning net assets | \$ 7,250,016.00 |
| | | Ending net assets | \$ 7,798,807.00 |

Revenues



Expenditures



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 2006-2007 recognizes contributions received between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007.

Monetary

St. Mary Chapter No. 4435 of AARP
The Gray Foundation
Mr. Elton Darsey
Houma Oilman's Fishing Invitational, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Pierce, Jr.
Betty Laurent
Woodmen of the World Lodge #308
Rouse's Enterprises, L. L. C.
Darcey's Upholstery & Glass, Inc.
Halliburton Foundation, Inc.
Chris Bryan
Enviro-Lab, Inc.
Mr. Chuck Weaver
Bourg Knights of Columbus #8932
Claudia Kelton
Houma Orthopedic Clinic
St. Bridget Knights of Columbus #12285
Benoit Machine, LLC
Bayou Civitan Club
Broadmoor Drug Center, Inc.
Alarm Detection Systems, Inc.
Cannata's Family Market
Sam's Club
Entergy Corporation
Rockin R. Rodeo
Lori Mendoza
Debbie Landry
Sonny Detillier Agency
Thomas & Farr Agency, Inc.
Fontaine & Associates
Robert K. Gamble, M. D.
Mr. & Mrs. Lon Juneau
Fr. August W. Vandebilt Assembly/4th
Degree K. C.'s
Cecil Zeringue
Maria Immacolata Knights of Columbus/
#13819

Donations in Memory of- Mrs. Marge Kennedy

Cecil Zeringue
Pat & Joyce Bussey
Ronald & Sally Kennedy
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Christiana
Mrs. Carroll Charpentier
Alton & Gladys LeCompte & Family
Joyce Breaux
Mr. & Mrs. Jamie Funderburk
Staff of TPCG
Mrs. Dorothy Rogers & Family
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Boudoin, Sr.

Donations in Memory of Antoinette Savoie

Valerie Himel

In-Kind Donations

Loni Browning
Carriageway Framing & Art Supplies
Marine Corp. League
Houma Firefighters Union
Mid-South Wrestling
Midas Auto Service Experts
Renaissance Rehabilitation Center
Value Electrical and Air Conditioning, Inc.
Davidson Hardware & Supply
St. Bernadette Ladies Auxiliary
St. Bernadette Knights of Columbus
Mr. and Mrs. Pat Boudreaux
Family Vision Clinic
Cheryl LaFont
Mr. Whip Baudin, Jr.
Gladys Mason
Helen Clement
Cannata's Family Market
Buquet Distributing Corp., Inc.
Jackie Brewster
Blooming Orchid
Dennis McCarty
Fanguy Brothers Wholesale, Inc.
Economical Janitorial Supplies
Mermaids & Masquerades
Ladies Jr. Auxiliary
Timothy C. Ellender, Jr.
Carolyn A. McNabb & Associates, APLC
Circuit City
Cathy Boone
Helen Clement
Grant Brown

Millage Renewal In-Kind Donations

Trapp Chevrolet, Inc.
Coastal Mechanical Contractors
Duval, Funderburk, Sundbery, Lovell & Watkins
Creole Lanes
Allstate Insurance Co.
Omega Institute of Cosmetology
Terminix
Special Olympics La. Bayouland Area
Cannata's Family Market
Weatherford-Gemoco
Comcast
Houma Tractor
Houma Reprographics & Map, Inc.
The Houma Courier

Millage Renewal Monetary Donations

T. Baker Smith, Inc.
Cenac Towing Co., Inc.
South La. Bank
Chet Morrison Contractors, Inc.
Magnum Mud Equipment Co.
Michael St. Martin
Gulf Island Fabrication, Inc.

Staff, Board, Other-Picnic

Tasha LeBouef
Lillian LeBouef
Qiana Jones
Lorreen McGee
Sandra Waire
Angelina Robinson
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Zschiedrich
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Touts
Della Hotard
Rose Goolsby
Schira Ott
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Bruce
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Buquet
Victor Nicholas
Larry Boudreaux
Wesley Hubbell
Janell Brunet
Lynndell Guedry
Janet Tolleson
Joycelyn Perry
Debbie Pitre
Fran Guidroz
Dianne Bonvillain
United Way

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 rec-
ognize our donors.
Please bring any dis-
crepancies or omis-
sions to our attention.

Contributors

Innovative...Creative...Revolutionary...

Growth...Economic Development

...are some of the words that one may overhear about the year, 2007, at TARC. Mary Lynn Bisland, newly appointed Executive Director, created new ideas for continuing TARC's progress as well as enhancing TARC for years to come.

Holding her hands outstretched and giving a two handed high-five, a TARC participant hollers with an ecstatic expression upon her face, "I worked hard today!" Most businesses might not receive this kind of enthusiasm from their employees. But,

at TARC, it is commonplace to hear such sentiments on TARC's business complex. TARC is available to suit people with developmental disabilities in the many facets of the business and economic world. The natural, universal feeling of being rewarded for a job well done is felt each day with TARC participants and TARC staff. It truly is one of the most rewarding and inspirational places to work.

Considered one of the leading agencies of its kind in the nation, TARC promotes groundbreaking progress, economic development, quality services, and continues to meet the growing needs of Terrebonne Parish. TARC is a unique business enterprise. It focuses on the many different stages of success for our participants as well as creating innovative and successful small businesses, which naturally employs people in our parish that may be considered unemployable in our community. With each of these job opportunities, participants become skilled at the many different levels and produce meaningful work for themselves and the rest of their team. With these accomplishments, they become productive, taxpaying citizens to Terrebonne Parish.

In one year alone, TARC has surpassed revolutionary breakthroughs in developing more business ventures and jobs as well as a social network for TARC participants. This year, all TARC businesses were trademarked with their own name and logo as well as professional uniforms that were provided for each business. Furthermore, the Le Bon Temps Bakery was created to fill a need on the east side of the parish and products such as homemade cakes, cinnamon rolls, and muffins are selling extremely well. TARC's packaging department, Bayou Packers, has handled utensil packaging needs for Chabert Medical Center for over 21 years, and is now sorting, packaging, and selling Mardi Gras beads to the local community. New activities were introduced over the past year to boost staff and TARC participant morale with holiday door/unit decorating contests, Christmas in July donations for U.S. soldiers, and a Fall Hotdog and Chili Day for TARC staff. TARC also participated in community activities including the American Heart Association's Heart Walk, Spring and Fall Art After Dark, 5k Run for Excellence, and the Rockin R' Rodeo. The Day Habilitation program participated in new events such as music, bowling, and volunteering efforts at the local food bank. The participants also enjoyed new activities such as birthday celebrations once a month, the Audubon ZOOmobile, Bugmobile, and swamp tours. Finally, yet importantly, another major development at TARC has been the creation of TARC's first social networking club for TARC participants and other individuals with developmental disabilities in the parish called the "Let's Get Together Club." The club independently plan and host social events that includes spring and fall dances, educational meetings, and holiday parties at TARC. A soaring 87 members signed up in its first 6 months and has created personal opportunities outside of work to form meaningful friendships.



2007

Educational Services

Music Therapy

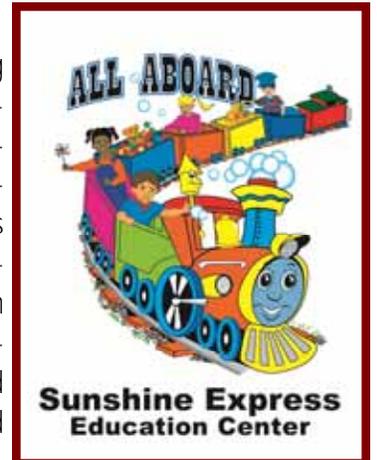
The **Music Therapy** program uses music to achieve non-music goals as well as assessing emotional well-being and social functioning. Our long-standing program involves the Day Habilitation participants and Sunshine Express Day Care. The program currently provides music classes and practice for 28 members of the two performing groups, TARC Bell Choir and TARC Express. In addition to a full-time music therapist on staff, TARC provides a six month internship program to two music therapy students who apply through the National Music Therapy Association. In 2007, Music Therapy added the use of "Fun Drumming" to the program. Fun Drumming consists of all percussion instruments that aids in teaching left and right, colors, hand-eye coordination, and social skills to develop individual leadership skills and music reading.



TARC participants learn colors with Fun Drumming

Sunshine Express

Sunshine Early Care & Education Center is founded on the basic philosophy of providing quality care and education for all children. The State of Louisiana Bureau of Licensing licenses this Class-A Day Care Center. It provides a full-inclusion program offering developmentally appropriate care to all children participating. It is our purpose to provide an educational setting involving a special degree of support to develop and enrich each student's self-esteem, self-confidence, values, morals, and knowledge for personal development. Research shows that children with disabilities seem to benefit from inclusion, particularly in relation to developmental and social skills. Sunshine Express has successfully helped children with and without disabilities reach high levels of competency. Children are stimulated to relate their lessons to real life situations that will prepare them for survival inside and outside of the classroom.



Health Services



Counselor Mark Toups teaches and counsels his group.

Health Services includes all services and staff provided to ensure the health and wellbeing of all participants in TARC's programs. TARC's Nursing staff provides a wide variety of services. On a daily basis, the nurses' administer medications and tube feedings, monitor medical conditions and perform First Aid and CPR on an as needed basis. Overseeing accidents and injuries is also a daily activity for the nursing staff. The nurses also train TARC staff on First Aid and CPR.

A Licensed Professional Counselor and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker are on staff at TARC. On an as needed basis, individuals can receive support and or counseling for behavioral challenges and emotional needs.

Anger Management Groups, Behavior Training Programs, Client and Family Counseling, Psychological Counseling, Resource Referral, Social Counseling, Staff Training, Vocational Assessments, and Vocational Counseling are all available at TARC. Counselors also assist in crisis interventions and develop behavior management plans for individuals on an as needed basis.

Community Living

Community Homes

TARC's lights may be off and the gate may be closed, but TARC provides 24-hour supports off campus through the Residential Services department. The department makes possible the dream of many individuals that desire their own independence. It allows adults with developmental disabilities to experience a level of autonomy through different residential housing settings that include **Community Homes, Supported Independent Living (SIL), Center-Based Respite, and In-Home Respite** based on individual needs.

Each of the programs are designed to increase independence, foster social interaction, as well as participate in community and recreational activities while providing safe and healthy environments. Supportive staff is available 24 hours a day to provide the level of care required by each individual while other programs utilize the supportive services per the needs of the person.

TARC currently operates three Community Homes: Jane, Wellington, and Dixie, which houses six individuals in each home. Each home provides quality care, household management, direct support, emergency care, transportation, educational training and assistance, and most valuable...a place to call home. The residents participate in community outings such as fishing trips, going to the movies, football games, Houma's Downtown Live After 5, music at the Jolly Inn, flea markets, and garage sales...to say the least! Community living fosters friendships and a family atmosphere while participating in food preparation and home maintenance. The homes also participate in birthday and holiday parties well attended by family and friends. In 2007, TARC purchased two new vans for the residents, provided two new individuals with services, and two openings were filled in the homes. Three individuals were discharged, and one of the discharged individuals was reunited with her family after 10 years of living apart!



Wellington home participant Stacy James helps residential staff Betsy Patrick with food preparation.



The Dixie home enjoys their evening meals.

"All staff members are very caring and compassionate. Thanks to all of your dedication and care for God's special children.
—Community Home Family Member

Community Living

SIL

For individuals who have obtained basic self-help skills but still require varying degrees of assistance with living independently, there is the **Supported Independent Living (SIL)** program. The SIL department supports seven females and eight males who live alone or with a roommate, by choice, in various integrated locations within Terrebonne Parish. SIL is not intended to be a 24-hour support, rather the goal is to help an individual take control of their life and be the central role in choosing the care and supports that they desire. The Residential Services department has two SIL Specialists that assist the individuals with budgeting and paying bills, planning vacations, and accompanying the individual to doctor appointments. TARC currently has over 50 PCA's (Personal Care Attendants) that support the participants in their individual living situation, which includes providing transportation to stores for groceries and clothes as well as to the movies or wherever they need to go. PCA's also help with household duties such as cooking and cleaning.



SIL Specialist, Diana Chaisson, helps SIL participant Kurt Theriot with his bills.

"The staff is loving and caring towards my son, and he is thriving as an adult living with ancillary help in his daily life."
—SIL Family Member

"I never worry about my daughter when she is at Respite. I know that the staff is trained, educated, and know my daughter."
—Respite Family Member

Respite

TARC offers a temporary residential accommodation for ten individuals on the first and third weekend in its **Center-Based Respite** program. Those that participate 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. In 2007, brand new innovative and therapeutic activities were added to the program for gross motor stimulation as well as meaningful weekend activities that include art therapy, creative crafts, and simple jewelry accessories. The program also, for the first time, introduced a computer and therapeutic computer software games for the respite participants. TARC's **In-Home Respite** program offers a direct care worker to support individuals who live in the home with family. 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.



Respite participants enjoy coloring on the weekend.

Community Employment

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 84 individuals. Establishments which use the services provided report that "services are exceptional," and they are "always satisfied with the level of service and superior products" that TARC provides. Survey results report that businesses are 100 percent satisfied with the overall performance of TARC's community employment division and feel that staff is always professional, courteous, and respectful.



TARC participant Don Price tends to the TARC garden.

Supported Employment



Nolan Falgout sweeps up at McDonalds.

The Supported Employment department, now called **Creative Employment Opportunities**, places individuals with disabilities into community jobs and offers customized support to help these persons maintain their employment. In 2007, the department trademarked its new name as well as a new logo. In 2008, the division will move off campus into the community to better serve the Supported Employment participants. Currently the department serves 30 individuals and continues to prove successful in that 95 percent 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. Creative Employment Opportunities strives to continue improving our services in order to keep up with the changing needs of the community and those we serve.

The best thing about your program is that it provides people with disabilities the resources they need to reach their full potential in the work force and in life.

—Business Survey Participant

Community Employment

Mobile Crews

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. 84 percent of the individuals who work on a mobile crew have made progress towards their goals, and 100 percent responded that they like their work area. 96 percent of businesses would recommend the services they receive from TARC's mobile crews.

"It is a pleasure to have your employees work for us."

—Business Survey Participant

Lawn Care Department



Now named **Bayouland Yard Krewe**, the lawn care'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 percent 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.



Horace Williams mows the lawn at one of the contracts.

Wholesale Nursery



Our Greenhouse department, now known as **Houma Grown**, has made it the most plentiful year yet as well as fulfilling landscaping needs. With 12 TARC participants, the participants enjoy selling the products as well as helping plant, water, pick, and clean the produce. In the

summer of 2007, the department sold cucumbers, bush beans, bell peppers, okra, and tomatoes from the garden. Additionally, in the winter of 2007, a fall garden was created for the first time at TARC in which Houma Grown harvested cabbage, carrots, and broccoli. Houma Grown also landscaped the area between the Sweet Sensations candy department and the TARC Restaurant & Gift Shop. The department still continues to participate in off campus contracts. 100 percent of participants feel that their life improved working for Houma Grown.



TARC participant Peter McClendon pulls weeds from landscaping plants.

Community Employment

Janitorial Department



The Janitorial department, now known as the **Lagniappe Cleaning Company**, continues to provide 20 individuals prevocational training, simulated work experiences, and safety skills development. TARC's Lagniappe Cleaning Com-

pany has four crews with one on-campus crew and operates out of two buildings on TARC's business complex. The department prides themselves with using the most reputable commercial equipment and supplies as well as maintaining their 17 business contracts. According to satisfaction surveys, our business clients continue to remain completely satisfied with the services that are provided to them.



Janitorial participants take a break and smile for the camera.

"The group is always on time. They clean in a timely manner, and the staff is always polite."
—Business Survey Participant

TARC Restaurant & Gift Shop



Participant Misty Farkas delivers a hot lunch to a customer.

The **TARC Restaurant & Gift Shop** is more than just a restaurant, it's truly an experience. From the moment you are greeted by our wonderful staff to the last bite of your homemade meal, you know you are experiencing something special, a restaurant like any other. Mornings begin with local favorite such as fresh beignets and lunches provide the Cajun flair of dishes such as red beans and rice, chicken and sausage gumbo, and shrimp stew. The gift shop serves as a retail venue to see and taste TARC's various products from other TARC businesses such as chocolates from Sweet Sensations, desserts from Le Bon Temps Bakery, salsa and pepper jelly from Bon

Terre Enterprises, candles from Sweet Scents, and art products from Le Maison d'art department. It is truly a great dining experience. Fifteen participating individuals learn job skills and social skills, which allows the training necessary for a job in the community. The participants are also responsible for preparing the food, serving the food, washing the dishes and taking the orders. 100 percent of the participants believe that their life has improved since they have worked in the TARC Restaurant & Gift Shop.



Participant Charles LeBlanc prepares the salad



Participant Chris Parfait washes the dishes.

Community Integration

Day Habilitation

The **Day Habilitation** program that TARC offers provides 40 people living with mental and physical disabilities prevocational training in the areas of social, daily living and fine motor skills training. The goal of each direct care worker is to help enhance the life of the individuals that we serve through a variety of therapeutic approaches.

After consumers are evaluated and assessed for individual developmental needs, TARC's staff helps provide participants with an individualized plan to help maintain and improve daily living, communication, personal safety and wellness. These individualized plans are designed to help our participants develop, function and enjoy life in the community.

In addition to an individualized plan, our staff provides each participant with a number of activities which incorporate skills learned at the center, and put them to practical usage in the community.

The Day Habilitation services include Music Therapy, Daily Exercise, Sensory Stimulation, and Food Shopping.

In 2007, the Day Habilitation program participated in new events such as music, bowling, and volunteering efforts at the local food bank. The participants also enjoyed new activities such as birthday celebrations once a month, the Audubon ZOOmobile, Bugmobile, and swamp tours. Another example of new programming is a monthly Cajun accordion concert by one of TARC's bus drivers, Debra "Baboo" Vasquez. Furthermore, TARC is thrilled that Creole Lanes in Houma has provided —free of charge— the use of bowling shoes and bowling lanes, as well as their time every other Thursday for Day Habilitation participants. In addition, some Day Habilitation participants volunteer their time dusting and sweeping at the local food bank. TARC is looking to change the culture of our Day Habilitation program by making it more of a mental and physical rehabilitation center as well as implementing new ideas and services.

Family members are 100 percent satisfied with the amount of help their family member is receiving at TARC as well as providing a safe environment and believe that the staff is courteous and respectful.

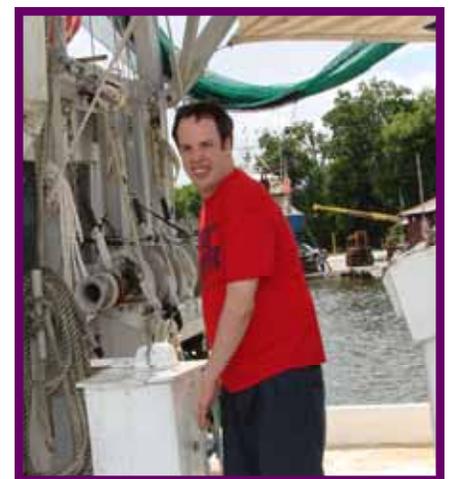
"Everyone at TARC is concerned and watches over the clients as if they were their own children and treats them with respect."
—Family Member



Day Habilitation participants enjoy their bowling outing at Creole Lanes.



Day Habilitation participants learn about ferrets from the Audubon ZOOmobile.



TARC participant Frank Castrogiovanni partakes in a Swamp Tour.

Organizational Employment

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 47 individuals. 91 percent of individuals served have made progression towards meeting their vocational goals, and 99 percent report they like their work area.

"Thank God for a great place like TARC and the great people that work there."
—Family Member

Packaging Department



For the **Bayou Packers**, formerly the Packaging department, 2007 was a progressive year for the department beginning with a new name, a more modern training facility, and an additional service. The unit, which has handled utensil packaging needs for Chabert Medical Center for

over 21 years, is now ready to sort, package and sell Mardi Gras beads to the local community. The clients look forward to finishing the utensil packaging so that they can package the Mardi Gras beads. The 17 individuals also work on preparing bulk mail outs and shredding documents. 100 percent of participants like their work area and show progress towards their vocational goals.



Bayou Packer participants and staff sort the Mardi Gras beads

Wood & Metal Department



The 21 Individuals in TARC's Wood & Metal department, now known as the **Cajun Crate Company**, learn carpentry skills while manufacturing custom designed wooden crates for oilfield tools. The crew members produce approximately 2,500 crates annually. The participants report a 100 percent life improvement

as well as 100 percent satisfaction from working in the department. The individuals also showed a 100 percent progress towards vocational goals in the program.



Participant Lionel Poret constructs a crate.

Le Bon Temps Bakery



TARC's newest business, **Le Bon Temps Bakery**, has a wide variety of homemade cakes, muffins, cinnamon rolls, and tea cakes. The homemade cakes can be bought by the slice, and favorites include the carrot cake, strawberry cake, and the chocolate pecan cake. The department includes two

staff as well as three TARC participants. Currently, all of their products are being sold through the TARC Restaurant & Gift Shop. The bakery expects to expand to wholesale business in 2008.



TARC participant Brian Naquin learns how to make a cake.

Organizational Employment

Sweet Sensations Confections



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 the talented individuals that we serve. Customers report that the staff and individuals served are always professional and courteous, and "they always make sure that everything is perfect." The success of the business has continued to be phenomenal, and the customer list has continued to grow. In addition, Sweet Sensations was also the first place winner in the TARC 1st Annual Christmas Door Decorating Contest this year.



Participant Jonathan Reynolds trims chocolate.

Cafeteria

TARC's **Cafeteria** employs and trains individuals in a full service cafeteria providing lunch and related services to over 300 people daily. The five 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. The participants showed a 100 percent progress towards their vocational goals as well as satisfaction in their department.



TARC participants enjoy their lunch in the cafeteria.

Art Department



Formally Arts-N-Crafts Unlimited, the art department is now named **La Maison d'art**. This department provides a therapeutic means of learning to express one's creativity through art. This department supplies the TARC Restaurant & Gift shop with many unique, hand painted items to sell in the store as well as selling some

products wholesale. In 2007, the participants learned how to glaze ceramic plates. The department also boasts two artists in which their artwork and photography has been on display in local exhibits. Also, in 2007, an art participant learned that she loved to paint and now has many paintings that will be on display in 2008. All art participants are 100 percent satisfied with their work area and like where they work. **Sweet Scents** premium scented candles are also made on a seasonal basis and offer training for individuals in producing, packaging, and sales of the products.



Participant Tommy Collins paints for art therapy.

Learn, Laugh, Live



Let's
Get
Together
Club

Christmas Holiday Party
club picture



One of the first priorities of newly appointed Executive Director, Mary Lynn Bisland, was to create TARC's first social club for all participants to enjoy social activities with each other outside of work. The founding officers were selected, and they named it the "Let's Get Together" club as well as the club's motto, "Learn, Laugh, Live." Bylaws were also created to form the club's foundation. Membership is open to any TARC individual 18 years or older with a developmental disability. Associate members are non-TARC participants that are

Terrebonne Parish residents 18 years or older with a developmental disability. The club plans and hosts social events as well as inviting guest speakers at meetings to discuss different topics such as relationships, drugs and alcohol, fire safety, hygiene, and social security. The founding members are Chaneika Smith, President; Brock Theriot, Vice-President; Stephen Young, Secretary; Cynthia Sanchez, Treasurer; and Ron Chaisson, Sergeant at Arms.

The Let's Get Together club started with a bang! A whopping 87 members joined the club! A general meeting was held in September with dinner, an overview of the club, and the members planned the upcoming dance. The Harvest Dance on October 12 was a night to remember! All members and their guests enjoyed music, dancing, and singing. The club also raised money from selling pictures from the dance. A general meeting was held in November in which guest speakers presented and discussed topics on relationships. In December, the club sponsored a Christmas Holiday party in which they enjoyed a gift exchange and homemade gumbo with dance music at the end of the party. In 2008, big plans are in the works for field trips and movie nights!

The club is truly living its motto—Learn, Laugh, Live!



Let's Get Together Officers: Brock Theriot, Vice-President; Chaneika Smith, President; Cynthia Sanchez, Treasurer; Stephen Young, Secretary; Ron Chaisson, Sergeant at Arms (not pictured)



Members pack the TARC cafeteria at the Harvest Dance



First club meeting

"TARC is fun again!"
—TARC participant

In the Spotlight

Ron Chaisson



Ron Chaisson working in the TARC
Restaurant & Gift Shop

"I like the people I work with
and the customers I
see everyday."
-Ron Chaisson

At 31 years old, **Ron Chaisson** treasures his time spent at TARC the last four years. Serving as TARC Client Representative, he gained more of an appreciation for TARC and the participants as well as representing both at TARC Board of Directors meetings. In addition, Ron has gained work experience as a cashier at the TARC Restaurant & Gift Shop since he started employment at TARC in September 2004. He has celebrated many personal accomplishments on the job and has many valuable work skills, but Ron says that his biggest achievement has been learning to master the cash register. He is proud that he has learned the machine. His favorite part of the job is interacting with the restaurant's customers. Most customers know him by name, and they look for him if he is not there. He says that some customers "have become awesome friends" of his. Ron also thanks his boss and friend, Ms. Jenny Lebouef for everything that she has done for him.

Like many others, Ron enjoys sports such as bowling, volleyball, and softball. He is very proud of his highest bowling score of 253. He tries to bowl as often as he can. Ron likes to tell everyone that he is one of the biggest LSU football fans in Louisiana. He likes to email LSU football statistics and articles to his friends and family as well as posting LSU information on his MySpace and Facebook profile, which are two other hobbies that Ron enjoys. In addition to sports, Ron also enjoys going to the movies and music concerts and "having fun with my awesome friends." In his spare time, Ron listens to country and Christian music. His heroes are his parents and Jesus Christ. Ron also attends religious services in his spare time and loves being a part of his church's activities.

He is also setting some life goals for himself. He really wants a driver's license, and he will start studying the driver's information soon. 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. TARC wishes him the best!

Ron is a great and unique asset to TARC as well as a great friend to everyone he meets.