

CCARC continues shining on the community it serves

By **JOHNNY J. BURNHAM**
STAFF WRITER

NEW BRITAIN — In 1952, a group of dedicated parents made the decision to “provide personalized services for people with disabilities.”

For over six decades, CCARC has done just that. To

this day it continues to “make dreams happen” by putting in place support services in the community consisting of a wide variety of residential and day services.

The organization has come a long way since it came into existence. CCARC began on the second floor of a warehouse inside Hartford Square. It has since developed 11 homes in Greater New Britain and continues to stretch its arms into the community, providing individual and family support, clinical services and recreational activities to those with disabilities.

“We deal with people who have various disabilities from Down syndrome to brain injury from an automobile accident. We also provide care such as counseling and health replacement,” CCARC CEO Anne Ruwet recently said.

Its PEERS (Personal Enrichment and Education through Respite Services) program offers socialization through community activities — dining out, movies, shopping, arts and crafts, and sports which provides critical respite for caregivers.

Typically, the age group of participants is 21 to 60 years old. Activities are held on weekdays in the late after-

families who helped start this organization in 1952, this is where they all are, this is how we started. When we began to look for either property or buildings, we wanted to make sure we found something in New Britain to continue our roots.”

CCARC will shine a positive light on Down syndrome next month. On Oct. 23, it will hold “Celebrating Life with Down Syndrome” at Central Connecticut State University’s Torp Theater. The event will highlight the successes of people living with the disorder, as well as those with other disabilities.

While much has changed through the years, the organization’s will and desire to help, as well as its continued dependence on volunteers in the community, remains strong.

CCARC has a volunteer Board of Directors and over 211 Corporators that are integral to the fabric of the agency. Its board members are family members, self advocates and leaders of our community and are committed to the mission and vision of the agency.

For more information on the organization call (860) 229-6665 or visit www.ccarc.com.

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Richard Judd, president of the CCARC board of directors, talks to Mary Lou Sanders during a reception to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the CCARC building at 950 Slater Road.

noon or evening, and week-ends throughout the year. There is no fee to the individuals who participate in the service except for the cost of the activities. Depending on the location, an additional cost for door-to-door transportation is available.

The organization recently celebrated its 10th anniversary at 950 Slater Road. It’s a location CCARC continues to be pleased to call home.

“Our roots are in New Britain,” Ruwet said. “All of our



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