



AHRC SUFFOLK  
FOUNDATION

## AHRC Suffolk: A Community of Opportunity

Changes at AHRC Suffolk have been underway to transform our services to embrace the community and deliver on the dreams and desires of the people we support. A new Board of Directors and Executive team has been assigned to the mission, with a focus on innovative growth and future success.

Our new **Executive Team** includes:



**John McGuigan**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Chris Veros**  
Chief Financial Officer



**Brian Cabezas**  
Chief Program Officer



**Mary Fu**  
Chief Advancement Officer

We are excited about the development and implementation of new processes and progressive policies that will move AHRC Suffolk into the future with a renewed commitment to the people we support, their families and our dedicated staff.

We have been working on a rebrand that will capture the exuberance and positive energy we will need to help us through the challenges ahead while delivering on our promise to “create person-centered communities where individuals of all ages and abilities enjoy life to its fullest.”

These are exciting and challenging times for AHRC Suffolk and with our new team and dedication, we have a renewed commitment to our mission, our vision and our values.



Pictured: (Left to Right) Christina Goerler, AHRC Suffolk Foundation Board President, Educare Student, Deborah Pflieger, AHRC Suffolk Chapter Board President, Educare Student, and Nicole Weingartner, AHRC Foundation Board Member.

## We Have a **NEW Fully- Accessible** Playground: Thank You To All Involved In Making This Dream A Reality For Our School!

On May 17, 2024, AHRC Suffolk proudly celebrated the grand opening of our new Saul and Elaine Seiff Educare Center playground with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by families, friends, children, and local legislators. This momentous occasion marked a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to providing a nurturing and enriching environment for the children we serve.

The event was a joyful celebration filled with laughter, excitement, and heartfelt speeches. The state-of-the-art playground, designed to support the physical and developmental needs of children in our school, features inclusive play equipment, sensory-friendly spaces, and safe, engaging areas for all children to explore and enjoy.

John McGuigan, Chief Executive Officer of AHRC Suffolk, expressed his gratitude, stating, "Today is a testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared vision. This playground is more than a place to play; it is a symbol of our commitment to fostering growth, inclusivity, and joy for every child in our care. We are deeply thankful to the New York State Empire State Development Grant for their unwavering support."

Special thanks are due to the New York State Empire State Development Not-for-Profit Capital Grant, whose generous funding made this project possible. Their support has been instrumental in creating a vibrant and welcoming play space that will benefit our children for years to come.

Empire State Development President, CEO and Commissioner Hope Knight said, "The new Educare playground at AHRC Suffolk is a shining example of how targeted investments can make a profound difference in our communities. This inclusive space will not only provide joy and recreation for children with diverse needs, but also support their educational and therapeutic development. ESD is proud to have contributed to this project that embodies our commitment to creating opportunities for all New Yorkers to thrive."

LIREDC Co-Chairs Linda Armyn, President & CEO at Bethpage Federal Credit Union and Dr. John Nader, President of Farmingdale State College, said, "The opening of this state-of-the-art playground at AHRC Suffolk represents a step forward in our region's efforts to support inclusive education and development. This innovative space will not only enhance the learning experiences of the children served but also provide essential therapeutic opportunities and crucial daycare services to local families. We're thrilled to see how this playground will foster growth, encourage social interaction, and bring joy to the children and families served by AHRC Suffolk."

Thank you to all our supporters for making our dreams a reality! We have officially ***PAVED THE WAY FOR PLAY*** and have completed phase one of our playground project!

[>>> Click here to see event pictures and our NEW PLAYGROUND!](#)



Pictured: AHRC Suffolk Bohemia Adult and Seniors Day Program participants and Educare Center students.

## AHRC Suffolk Celebrates ***75 Years*** of The Arc New York: 75 Years of Advocacy & Opportunity

*One mother's three-line ad in the New York post ignited our entire system of support for people with disabilities.*

In 1949, Ann Greenberg placed a classified ad in The New York Post, seeking other parents in need of support for their children with disabilities. Her son Jerry had been denied admission to public school due to his intellectual and developmental disabilities. A handful of parents responded to the ad and started meeting in Ann's NYC apartment. Within just a few months, hundreds of parents got involved. There were virtually no supports or opportunities available at the time, and it was common for doctors to tell parents that the best place for their child was in an institution. But these parents wanted more for their children.

The organization they founded evolved to become The Arc New York, the largest provider of supports and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in New York state. Today, 35 local Chapters of The Arc New York provide supports and services for more than 60,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in every county of

New York state, and The Arc's full reach extends nationally.

In the 75 years since its founding, The Arc New York has driven transformation and progress in the lives of people with disabilities, fought and ended the abuses of institutionalization, and developed a robust system of community support in our mission "to provide people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities the ordinary and extraordinary opportunities of life."

AHRC Suffolk is a proud chapter of the Arc New York and we are dedicating this year's fundraising in celebration of the 75 years of opportunity they have created for the disability community!

>>> We invite you to help us "Mark This Milestone" while we continue to strengthen our advocacy efforts! Click [HERE](#) to view our 2024 Membership Campaign and Achieve Fund Campaign!

**I WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER!**



Pictured: Cleanco Distributors; winning golf foursome.

## AHRC Suffolk's Gold Classic: A Heartfelt Thank You To Our Sponsors, Donors, And Volunteers!

AHRC Suffolk Foundation's Aloha Golf Classic, which took place on June 5, 2024 at Willow Creek Golf Club, was an amazing success; welcoming 115 golfers and raising nearly \$140,000. We are very appreciative of all our golfers who came out to support AHRC Suffolk's mission and are thankful for the support of our sponsors, volunteers and everyone who helped make our outing a success! Special thanks to our two Premier Event Sponsors, [All Boro, Inc.](#) and [Trooper Foods!](#) >>> [Click to view photos from the event!](#)

**Up NEXT >>> AHRC Suffolk Foundation's Annual Candlelight Ball on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at Stonebridge Country Club! More Details To Follow!**

Save The Date!

AHRC SUFFOLK FOUNDATION PRESENTS THE



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23rd, 2024

6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

STONEBRIDGE COUNTRY CLUB

2000 RAYNORS WAY, SMITHTOWN, NY

HONORING HOSSAM MAKSOD

Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board, Community Care Rx

CELEBRATING



QUESTIONS? Contact Michelle Serrado at [mserrado@suffahrc.org](mailto:mserrado@suffahrc.org)



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