Message From the Board

By Patricia Egan Jones

Over the years, I have been asked to serve on numerous boards in our area and was happy to join and help. But none have my heart and soul like the board serving our school, its children and their families, and the Larc staff.

To be a part of the Larc family has always been special to me (and for all the board members, believe me) because we see the smiles of accomplishment on everyone’s face for every new word, new step, or new day reached by our kids.

This school and everyone that is a part of it knows that a gentle touch and a happy face make us all feel better and, not surprising, work better. I marvel at every visit to Larc, seeing how our staff so seamlessly interacts with our kids, and how the administrative people share and enjoy all the day-to-day successes of the classroom.

My goodness! Many years ago, when I was first involved with Larc, we simply had a day program where I and other volunteers sat on the floor and played with our kids. It was a truly loving environment then, as it is to this day. As the school and its programming grew, it became important to formalize the school’s structure, establish a board, and broaden our horizon. At about that time, two board members—Chas Higgins and Ed McDonnell—came along, as well as a legislator and his staff member. All were eager to help improve Larc’s program. So off we went to Trenton for adequate funding, a school building of our own, and an adult program.

It is such a pleasure to work for Larc alongside truly dedicated board members. We are so very pleased to play a part in the lives of all who come to Larc to learn, to work, or simply help. I thank Larc for the opportunity to serve, and all who help us reach Larc’s goals.

Today, Larc continues to find new and better ways to serve the community, and I am very proud to be a part of this extraordinary family called Larc. Just imagine, I went from a legislative staff member to a legislator now serving in the Assembly Education Committee. How lucky can I be! And I know in my heart that my experiences at Larc School will inform my position as a legislator on the Education Committee in an especially positive way. For this I am most grateful.

Larc School, Staff, and Board of Directors congratulate Larc Board Member Patricia Egan Jones on her election to the New Jersey General Assembly, November, 2015. “Pat has always been one of our greatest supporters,” said Larc School Executive Director Susan Weiner, “and we are so pleased to have her as an advocate, in the New Jersey Assembly, for individuals with special needs.”
My relationship with Larc School grew slowly and steadily, unreserved and strong.

My first encounter with Larc was in 1994. I was working for a local bank in Bellmawr, and I attended an event at Larc, where the bank made a contribution to the school. I remember that visiting Larc just touched something in me—it pulled at my heart, the way the teachers and staff interacted with the students. I felt it was amazing.

I became active in the Runnemede Bellmawr Glendora Rotary Club. As Larc was the Club’s choice for non-profit fundraising, I became something of a liaison to Larc. I then moved from the area for a couple of years. When I returned to a new job in Bellmawr in 2000, I became active in Rotary again, and resumed my relationship with Larc. Susan asked me to be on a committee to help with the Run. Of course, I accepted, and I’ve been doing it ever since.

Larc is such a special place. The staff and students are always happy, and they accomplish so much. The staff is able to help students to a whole new level, a level parents never thought possible. Whatever the students’ accomplishments are, they are always met with encouragement and joy, and a sense of hope for the future. It takes a special person to be able to work with these wonderful children and help them achieve goals once only dreamed of. The staff at Larc are truly dedicated and special. I know. I’ve seen them in action.

Being active at Larc and having an opportunity to speak with parents at school activities, to hear of the struggles they have regarding transportation, insurance, obtaining wheelchairs and other equipment really reinforces for me the importance of what I do for Larc.

I’ve watched Larc grow, in their physical plant, their number of students, and the programs they offer, adding so much to the community. With it, support from the community has grown. I remember when the Run was about 300 people running around the school and into the town. Now more than 4,000 participants and hundreds more supporters are involved in the Run, which has expanded to running across the Ben Franklin Bridge! Support from community leaders has grown, as well. I think it’s wonderful. Supporting Larc is the right thing to do. I simply feel that I can never do enough.

“...The staff at Larc are dedicated and special. I know. I’ve seen them in action...”

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calendar

**Friday, March 11, 2016**
Designer Bag Bingo [Sold Out]

**Friday, April 15, 2016**
Art Festival

**Wednesday, April 20, 2016**
Appreciation Breakfast

**Friday, June 3, 2016**
25th Annual “Help the Kids” Golf Tournament, at the Pennsauken Country Club

**September, 2016 (date TBA)**
The Camden County Bar Association’s Young Lawyer Committee (YLC) 7th Annual Event

**Sunday, November 6, 2016**
2016 Cooper Norcross Run the Bridge
*Presented by AmeriHealth New Jersey*

Facebook:
facebook/larcschool
Platinum – $10,000 to $24,999
Mr & Mrs Richard Hardenbergh
William G Rohrer Charitable Foundation

Gold – $2,500 to $9,999
Knights of Columbus, Council #6364
Pellegrino Chevrolet

Silver – $500 to $2,499
All Risk, Inc
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Bank of America Employee Giving Program
Benefit Tech
Brown & Brown Insurance of the Delaware Valley
Mr & Mrs Michael Ciarroccki
GlaxoSmithKline Matching Gifts
Hardenbergh Insurance Group Family
Mr & Mrs Thomas Heitzman
Knights of Columbus, Council #674
Knights of Columbus, Council #3532
Knights of Columbus, Council #8718
Knights of Columbus, Holy Child Bingo
Mr & Mrs Steven Lazovitz
Mr John Mackay
Riverwinds Yacht Club
Selective Insurance Group Foundation
Matching Grant Program
Voorhees Swim Club

Crystal – to $499
Mr & Mrs Richard Altieri
Anonymous
Atco Family Dentistry, PA
Ms Therese Barringer
Bellmawr Lions Club
Mr & Mrs Louis DiAngelo
Mr & Mrs Jerry DiDomenico
Mr & Mrs Donald Fox
Mr George Furman (FMC Good Government Program)
Ms Barbara Galda
Mr Jasper Garagozzo
Mr Ralph Geary
GlaxoSmithKline Matching Gifts
Mr Herman Greenberg
Ms Ruth Gubernick
The King’s Christian School, “Dress Down Day”
Knights of Columbus, Council #1364
Mr & Mrs Joseph Landwehr, Jr
Ms Maureen McMenamin
Mr & Mrs Robert Me-trione
Newborn Nurses
Mr & Mrs Michael Norton
Mr & Mrs Howard Page
Mr Rudolf Rotter
Ms Sandra Sierakowski
Mr Charles Warrington
Mr Samuel Wick, Jr

In honor of Katy Berg
Mr & Mrs Luke Nevis and Jen

In honor of Robert & Elizabeth Bisaga
Technique Precision Employees

In honor of The Colgan Family
Mr & Mrs Christopher Woodring

In honor of Marie Daly
Ms Anita Rothstein

In honor of Harry Flomenberg
Alan, Debbie, Ned, Lise, and the Boys
Ms Bernice Gordon
Mr & Mrs Irby Hark
Ms Flossy Miller
Mr & Mrs Donald Steinberg
Ms Marlene Steinberg

In honor of Ian Hall
Ms Diane Preston

In honor of Joy Hampton
Mr & Mrs Kevin Greene

In honor of Michael Heins
Mr George Glaesser, III

In honor of Christopher Heitzman
The Mayher Family

In honor of Sophia Horiates
Mr & Mrs Jerry Kappatos
Mr Karl Mueller

In honor of Daniel Kennedy
Mr Alexander DiCarlo

In honor of Ryan Kruger
Mr & Mrs Tom Lenweaver

In honor of Larc School Staff
Ms Vicki Keen

In honor of Colin Leight, Jr
Mr & Mrs Howard Leight

In honor of Amanda McDonnell
Ms Laura Chud\nMs Eileen Lish
Mr Gary Tomar

In honor of Edward McDonnell
Mr & Mrs Gerard Iannelli
Ms Eileen Lish
Mr & Mrs Matthew Moeller

In honor of Emily Meagher
Mrs Dorothy Johnson

In honor of Alex Norcross
Dr John Norcross

In honor of George & Sandy Norcross
Mr Edward McDonnell
Dr John Norcross

In honor of Lexie Norcross
Mr Edward McDonnell
Dr John Norcross

In honor of The Norcross Foundation
Mr Edward McDonnell

In honor of Mark & Leslie Pellegrino
Mrs Robin Cutuli
Mrs Janice Shaw

In honor of Matthew & Patrycia Pellegrino
Mrs Robin Cutuli
Mrs Janice Shaw

In honor of Brian Popso
Mr & Mrs James Hartshorne, Jr
Mrs Frances Popso
Mr Robert Popso
Mr & Mrs Herbert Schaffer, Jr
Mr & Mrs George Wallis, Jr

In honor of Jim Power
Ms Marie Daly

In honor of Trevor Rodriguez
Mr & Mrs Ralph Swift

In honor of Nicholas Sheply
Ms Helen Graziano
Mr & Mrs Joseph Wolk

In honor of Andrew Smith
Mr Richard Raychert

In honor of Sydney’s Wedding
Ms Toby Weitzman

In honor of Darcie & Jackson Waicus
Mr & Mrs Paul Waicus

When remembering those you love, remember Larc

Make a donation to Larc School – the perfect remembrance for all occasions: birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, congratulations, and condolences.

Contributions may be sent to:
Larc School
1089 Creek Road
Bellmawr, NJ 08031

(Envelope enclosed) or donate online at www.larcschool.org

Larc School gratefully acknowledges these gifts from our caring friends—individuals, foundations, corporations—whose generosity makes it possible for Larc School to provide the very best for its students and their families. We extend our deepest gratitude to every donor.
The 6th Annual Young Lawyer’s Lobster Bake, Where Everyone Had A Wonderfully Delicious Time!

The Camden County Bar Association’s Young Lawyer Committee (YLC) 6th Annual Lobster Bake hosted 112 guests at The Tap Room, in Westmont, this past September, raising $4,500 for Larc School.

Pictured here is YLC’s resident lobster lawyer and YLC Member David Hasner, where he is joined by YLC Members (back row, left to right) Michael Dennin, Adam Gersh, Michael Madden, YLC President Abraham Tran, and YLC Member Matt Roony; and, to either side of Larc School Executive Director Susan Weiner (front row, center) are YLC Members (left to right) Rachel Licausi, Jenny Kasen, Rachael Brekke, and Jeanette Kwon.

listed above are contributions from July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. Please let us know if a name was omitted, and we’ll be sure to print it in our next issue.
2015 RUN THE BRIDGE

Over 3,600 participants registered for the 2015 Cooper Norcross Run the Bridge Event Presented by AmeriHealth New Jersey, including runners, walkers, and kids—plus a few costumed runners taking advantage of the fact that the Bridge Run was held November 1, the day after Halloween. But there were no tricks … it was all treats as more than 200 volunteers assisted the day of the Run, and many more offered support behind the scenes leading up to Run, helping to make it a successful and fun day. Remembering last year’s 40 m.p.h. wind gusts, all were grateful for an unmemorable weather picture this year—mild, with little sunshine … and no wind or rain! The race itself, however, was very exciting—the first place runner crossed the finish line at 29 minutes and 50 seconds, with second and third place runners less than a minute behind! Please like us on facebook/runthelbride to keep in touch for the 2016 event!

LARC SCHOOL SINCERELY THANKS THE SUPPORTERS OF THE 2015 COOPER NORCROSS RUN THE BRIDGE PRESENTED BY AMERIHEALTH NEW JERSEY

M&M Realty Partners
Meridian Property Services, Inc
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Pellegrino Auto Group
Plumbers & Steamfitters Union Local #322
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Bellmawr & Glendora
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Local #19
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Mr Wesley Merkle
Mr Hank Milgram
Mrs Diane Molle
Mr & Mrs Bart Mueller
Mr John M Muscella
Mr Howard E Needleman
Mr Thomas Nolan
Philip & Carole Norcross
on behalf of
Jeffrey Wintsky
Mariel Gilietta
Ms Lynn Nowak
Ms Kristin Nowell
Mr & Mrs Kevin O’Dowd
Ms Rose V Patterson
Mr C Scott Payne
Ms Phyllis Pearl
Mr Glenn Prince
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Traveling Across The Globe To Run The Bridge

Note: Article excerpts courtesy of PhillyVoice.com

For a seasoned marathon runner and Ironman competitor like Tim Gunton, traversing long distances is routine. But when he crossed the finish line at this year’s Cooper Norcross Run the Bridge 10K on November 1, Tim completed a journey unlike any even he has run before.

That’s because Tim came to Philadelphia all the way from Tasmania, Australia, to participate in the race. And he did it all for one special young man: Larc School’s Christopher Nelson. Larc School, located in Bellmawr, New Jersey, serves students with a wide range of disabilities and is the beneficiary of the annual Run the Bridge event.

Last year, his mother, Suzanne Owens (a runner herself), came across the nonprofit organization I Run 4 Michael, which pairs athletes from around the world with physically handicapped people. Athletes dedicate their workouts and races to their buddies who cannot run themselves.

Suzanne immediately thought of Christopher. “I thought that hopefully he could inspire someone, too,” she remembers. In June 2014, a few months after Suzanne signed Christopher up, he was paired with Gunton.

Since then, the two have communicated regularly via Facebook, learned about one another’s families, and exchanged birthday cards and other gifts. Tim kept on dedicating his workouts and races to Christopher, even scribbling Christopher’s name on his forearm before races, and looking down at it to summon energy when he’s feeling depleted.

“When you’re running a marathon, or a long run when the legs are starting to hurt … you start to think about people like Christopher who will never have that chance—to move like that. It gives you the determination to go on,” says Tim.

And in one of those magical moments of serendipity only found in sports, the stars aligned for Chris and Tim to finally meet in person. Tim and his wife Sharon had planned a trip to the U.S., and, after learning about the Cooper Norcross Run the Bridge 10K from Suzanne, the Guntons made a last-minute change to their itinerary so that Tim could run in it.

“It’s a rare opportunity to actually see one of Tim’s runs,” said Suzanne. In her eyes, Tim’s efforts illustrate the impact that just one person can have. “You don’t have to fly across the world. You can make a difference in the life a child in a small way. I hope this inspires others.”

For his part, Tim has been able to draw plenty of inspiration from Christopher. The most exciting moment of Tim’s trek across the globe took place on Sunday as he charged across the finish line at Campbell’s Field and was greeted by Christopher, the inspiration behind why he runs. “People think we’re doing a great service for the buddy,” said Tim, “but people don’t realize the inspiration we get from them.”

Suzanne immediately thought of Christopher. “I thought that hopefully he could inspire someone, too,” she remembers. In June 2014, a few months after Suzanne signed Christopher up, he was paired with Gunton.

Since then, the two have communicated regularly via Facebook, learned about one another’s families, and exchanged birthday cards and other gifts. Tim kept on dedicating his workouts and races to Christopher, even scribbling Christopher’s name on his forearm before races, and looking down at it to summon energy when he’s feeling depleted.
The following e-mail was sent by Tim Gunton to Executive Director Susan Weiner and Christopher’s mom, Suzanne Owens a few days following the Run.

From: Tim Gunton
To: Susan Weiner, Suzanne Owens
Subject: Thank You

Hi Guys,

I am just writing a note to tell you something that you should already know—that you have a truly amazing school. My very good friend Christopher Nelson is a student at your School. Last week, my wife, Sharon, and I, who are visiting from Australia, were privileged to be involved in a couple of events at your School. Firstly we had heard such positive feedback about Larc School from Suzanne (Christopher’s Mom) and her mom, Patricia, and then we were lucky enough to visit your School for the Trunk or Treat held on Friday. From the minute we walked in the door and Suzanne signed us all in at the office, there was something about the School that I have never experienced in a school before. This was carried over while we witnessed the Trunk or Treat (this is something that does not happen in Australia and was an amazing experience). We were then fortunate to be given a tour of the School by Susan Weiner where this feeling continued.

This feeling that I witnessed, and felt myself, was generated by the entire staff and volunteers at the School and it was a feeling of love and happiness. From the moment we walked in the door, everyone was smiling and happy. I could tell that everyone wanted to be there and help the students—it was an incredible feeling. There were so many positive vibes that the students must pick up on it every day and feel fantastic knowing that they are going to such a loving and caring School. Also, the way Susan greeted and interacted with many of the students during our tour was simply amazing.

Finally my wife and I were both fortunate enough, thanks to Suzanne, to compete in the Run the Bridge on Sunday, November 1, where, once again, Susan gave up some of her valuable time to talk with us. It was also fantastic to compete in a run where the funds raised are going to help your School.

While some of your students may be doing it tough at times, the vibe of the school must certainly help them and their families.

Larc—a place where dreams come true, a place where you can feel the love.

Thank you for making me feel part of your School.

Tim (and Sharon) Gunton
Happy 48th Birthday, Larc School!

This year we celebrate Larc School’s 48th Birthday! During a week long celebration, Larc shared fun facts about the school with staff, students, and families. The week ended with a big birthday party and an even BIGGER birthday cake. Here is the birthday card the staff and students made for us—each leaf was created from a student’s fingerprint.

Help make our birthday wishes come true! Please consider helping us celebrate by making a donation at http://www.active.com/donate/larcschool