



August 17, 2007

The Arc's Artists Reach out to the Community

Campers at The Arc's Camp Sertoma along with artists from other Arc programs joined forces on August 16 to create two works of art for a good cause. Using a variety of materials, the artists decorated two full-size doors to represent issues and themes important to them. Eventually their artwork will join forces with more than 20 other local artists' work to benefit Habitat for Humanity.

The artists found a variety of benefits to this project. The first is that the door designs express two areas important to the artists. Their *Door to Community* portrays an integrated community, where people with disabilities and without live, learn, and love in harmony. Their *Door to Success* demonstrates the talents and abilities of various Arc consumers as they live, learn, and love together through The Arc's programs.

In addition to carrying important messages, each door presented an opportunity for The Arc's artist to express their creative talents. Bridget, who worked on the doors, explained, "art has always been something I love to do," so when she heard about the opportunity to create art for a good cause, she was "very excited to help out." Artists with developmental disabilities ages 6-60 demonstrated their artistic abilities during the project.

The artists' participation demonstrated one additional principle: Everyone, regardless of ability level can have their voice heard in the community and have a positive impact on those around them. Knowing that their talents will help others may have been the biggest benefit to all the hard work that went into creating these doors.

To view the two doors created by The Arc's artists, visit Strawberry Square between August 31 and September 9, 2007. For more information on how to purchase these or other doors on display, contact Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Harrisburg Area at 717-545-7299. Any doors not purchased in advance will be part of a silent auction on September 9, 2007 during the Gallery Walk at Strawberry Square.

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The Arc of Dauphin and Lebanon Counties is a non-profit, membership organization whose primary purpose is to provide services and supports with dignity and respect to persons of all ages who have mental retardation and/or developmental delays. Services include advocacy emphasizing individual rights, public awareness, resources and referrals. More information about The Arc can be found on the web at www.arcofdc.org.