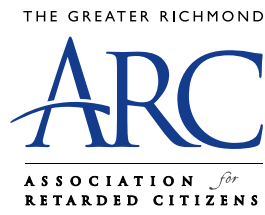


Infant and Child  
Development Services

Day Support and  
After School Services



Civitan Vocational Services

Camp Baker  
Full Service Retreat Facility

### **For Immediate Release**

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## **The Greater Richmond ARC's 'Ladybug Fund' Wine Tasting Expected to Raise More Than \$100,000 in Therapy Scholarships**

### *Grassroots Fundraiser has Blossomed into an Annual Richmond Rite of Spring*

**Richmond, VA, April 12, 2005** – The Greater Richmond Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) is sponsoring its fifth annual Ladybug Fund Wine Tasting and Silent Auction on Saturday, April 16, from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Tredegar Iron Works Gun Foundry building. Seventeen wineries from California, Oregon, Australia and Italy, and six area restaurants will participate in the event. Tickets are \$65 per person available in advance by calling 358-1874.

The Ladybug Fund was created based on the nickname of a recipient of ARC's Infant and Child Development Services (ICDS) program, Liddy Horsey, who has been with the program since she was six months old.

Thom Horsey, Liddy's father and vice chair of the ARC board is a wine marketing representative. Horsey and his wife Karen, ICDS director Terry Izzo, and Steve Parry from the Old Original Bookbinder's Restaurant in Richmond, started the grassroots fundraising event four years ago in an effort to help defray the tuition costs for families who find it difficult to afford ICDS therapy.

Currently, developmental therapy averages about \$130 per hour.

"Our goal in creating this event was to help raise funds so that we would never have to say no to families who need therapy services because it is too expensive," Horsey said. "As a parent of a child with special needs, I can tell you that there is nothing that could be worse than having to forego therapy for your son or daughter because of economic hardship. Over the past four years, the Ladybug Fund has provided greater opportunity to serve more children and their families through scholarships."

The Ladybug Fund is fast becoming an annual rite of spring in Richmond and consists of two main fundraising events: a wine tasting dinner held at the Old Original Bookbinder's Restaurant in mid-March, and a wine tasting and silent auction held at Tredegar Ironworks in mid-April.

In 2005, the ARC Ladybug Fund expects to gross more than \$100,000 through corporate sponsorships and individual ticket sales to both events.

"We couldn't be happier with the results," says Izzo. "The Ladybug Fund has not only helped raise much-needed scholarship funds, but it has also helped raise awareness of ARC's ICDS program. The events bring together our staff, volunteers, board members and, of course, our wonderful sponsors for a truly worthwhile cause."

Ticket prices for the April 16 wine tasting event are \$65 per person. For more information or to order tickets, please call ARC at 804-358-1874 or email [terry.izzo@arc-richmond.com](mailto:terry.izzo@arc-richmond.com).

**About ICDS and the Ladybug Fund:** Infant and Child Development Services (ICDS), a program of The Greater Richmond Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC), offers specialized rehabilitation for young children who have developmental delays or disabilities in the places where most children typically learn and play. The Ladybug Fund provides enrolled families with financial assistance for therapy services and special equipment.

**About The Greater Richmond ARC:** The Greater Richmond Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC), was founded in 1954 by a small group of local families who believed those with developmental disabilities – including mental retardation – could lead full, happy, rewarding lives. ARC serves a variety of ages in has four specialized areas of service: Infant and Child Development Services; Civitan Vocational Services; Day Support and After School Care; and Camp Baker, a full-service respite retreat for individuals and families. For more information, call 804-358-1874 or visit [www.RichmondARC.org](http://www.RichmondARC.org)