



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## COARC EXPANDS BOARD

**Mellenville, New York:** Three new members joined the Board of Directors of COARC, which is the Columbia County Chapter of NYSARC, Inc. The board is representative of the Columbia County, NY, community at large.

Karen M. Blass, who joined in February, is a resident of Old Chatham and the Vice-President at First Niagara Bank in charge of Columbia, Greene, and Dutchess County branches and markets. She also serves as the Treasurer of the advisory board of the Hudson Salvation Army, on the Membership and Golf Committees of the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce and on the board of the American Heart Association.

Nelson R. (Dick) Alford, Jr., elected to the board in June, is a practicing attorney in Columbia County for more than 35 years. He is a member of the firm of Guterman Shallo & Alford, PLLC in Hudson. He is the attorney for the Village of Chatham and the Town of Hillsdale, and a member of the Independent Judicial Nomination Qualification Commission for the Third Judicial District of the State of New York. He is also the President of the Columbia County Agricultural Society and the Columbia County Fair.

Donna Knight, also elected to the board in June, was the IS Manager for Country Curtains for 11 years and has served as a parent advocate for the Committee on Special Education for the Chatham Central School District for the past 8 years. She also served on the Canaan Planning Board from 1996-2008.

COARC is a Columbia County not-for-profit organization whose mission is expanding abilities, one person at a time, so individuals experiencing disabilities can achieve their individual goals. Established in 1965, COARC provides an array of services and programs that benefit more than 500 individuals. COARC is primarily supported through state and federal funding, and also by individual and corporate members and other foundations. Information about COARC employment, program services, donation opportunities and membership is available at [www.COARC.org](http://www.COARC.org) or 518-672-4451.

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