



## Richard Dean 2015 Unsung Hero



*The Unsung Hero Award recognizes a graduate whose efforts have not made headlines but have made a lasting impact on the life of our community. The Unsung Hero works behind the scenes to serve the community, recognizing that service is its own reward. This award honors him or her with well-deserved appreciation.*

**President, Environmental Systems Associates  
LP 1999**

The Arc of Howard County would not be the organization it is today if not for the efforts and support of Richard Dean, surely one of Howard County's 'unsung heroes.'

Richard has been involved with The Arc of Howard County for almost two decades. He has served on nearly every committee and held every office. He has been a valuable advisor and supporter. He has been a leader who has led by example: by his personal engagement, shared expertise and financial generosity

Among the highlights of his tenure with The Arc (which continues to this day), he was on the Capital Campaign Committee in 2000, helping The Arc take a giant step forward in expanding its headquarters on Homewood Road and elevating its position as a human services agency serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Richard was an outstanding Board member from 1995-2002, a period of great growth for The Arc, and he has held every office with distinction: Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President, and President. He chaired the Nominating Committee and is currently chairing the Resource Development Committee. In addition, he most recently chaired The Arc's hugely successful 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign, which engaged a wide variety of people in raising funds for The Arc.

As the father of a young woman served by The Arc of Howard County and the step-father of another young woman served by The Arc, Richard sets the example for other parents of children with developmental disabilities: he seeks as much independence as possible for his children, and he helps the agencies his family needs to make life better for his daughters now and in the future when he and his wife are no longer here to help them. Richard said exactly that in a video produced by The Arc that featured his daughter and captured Richard's loving and pragmatic response to her future life without him. He was nothing short of inspirational.

While The Arc of Howard County has substantially benefited from Richard's involvement, he has also served The Arc of Maryland as a board member since 2008, and as treasurer since 2011.

Richard's leadership is an example to us all: he is focused, mission-driven, thoughtful, firm and inclusive in his decision-making. He has been invaluable in applying his business expertise to the Arc's operations and has been an advisor in human relations issues, as well as financial ones. His personal integrity is above reproach.

Richard is generous with his time, with his talent and with his treasure. He and his company, Environmental Systems, have sponsored virtually every event held by The Arc, and he has provided in kind goods and services. In addition, his donations to The Arc are nearing \$100,000.

Richard is what used to be called a "decent man," a person you can count on, one who seeks no personal glory for himself. He is a true 'unsung hero.'