



Joseph Del Broccolo was an instrumental part of AHRC Suffolk for many years. Joe's daughter, Ellen, entered our Children's program in 1976 when she was around 4 years old, eventually transferring to our Shoreham Day Habilitation program where she currently attends. Joe became involved with the agency when Ellen was 15 years old, volunteering and using his artistic talent for various projects, including the creation of our original Sagtikos Educare logo. Joe quickly became part of the AHRC family. Joe's willingness to help and his fun personality (he was always ready with a joke) made everyone around him smile. Staff were always happy to see Joe and welcomed his stories and happy demeanor. Sue M., who works in our Bohemia location, fondly remembers Joe's visits, *"He was the nicest man ever. I would look forward to Tuesdays when we had a standing appointment for him to come in and sign our "over" checks. He was always smiling and happy to do his part."*

Joe joined our Board in 1989, served as an officer from 1991-1999, and served as Board President from 1999-2002 and again from 2015-2017. Joe served on AHRC Suffolk's Community Residential Services committee as well as the Investment Policy and Community Trust committees. He also served on our Strategic Planning committee, Personnel Policy By-Laws committee, and our Guardianship committee. Joe was also a Board of Governors Representative.

In addition to his Board service, Joe was an essential part of the creation of AHRC's Golf Tournament. He volunteered at AHRC events including monthly dances, and made sure to attend every AHRC event and meeting he could. He was also involved in designing many of AHRC's Annual Reports, Candlelight Ball journals and Memorial Fund flyers. Every time he stopped by to attend to agency business, Joe checked in on all of the staff he knew to see how they (and their families) were doing. His kindness was unmatched. Caren B., receptionist at Bohemia, always thinks of Joe with a smile, *"Joe would always say to me, every time he came into the building, that "I was the sunshine of the lobby." He was such a beautiful person inside and out. He will truly be missed. He's someone so special that will never be forgotten."*

Staff at AHRC's Shoreham Day Habilitation also found Joe a pleasure to be around. He made a point of befriending all of Ellen's housemates and became very close with them. He was also an integral part of creating a home with nursing home level of care at the Shoreham location to minimize residents needing to stay in hospitals any longer than necessary. Eileen P., who works with his daughter Ellen, said of Joe, *"Mr. Del Broccolo listened to people and advocated for all the people we serve and the staff who support them, equally and wholeheartedly. He was so dedicated to his daughter, spending part of nearly every day with her when she needed to be hospitalized and in a rehab facility over the past year."*

Even after Joe stepped down from AHRC Suffolk's Board of Directors, he fondly remembered his weekly visits and the friends he made during his years of service:

*It's been a year ago this month that I resigned from the Board of Directors of AHRC Suffolk. It was my job that was at one time my second job and quickly morphed into my only job.*

*Over the years as I attended board meetings, conferences, committee meetings and functioned as both director and a two-time president for six years I met a lot of great people, people I loved and called my friends.*

*I started to come in on a Tuesday and greet the receptionist by her first name and as I walked down the office aisle I tried to leave them laughing. There were quite a few that I left that way. It seemed each of them had something we could share jokingly, one was a troublemaker, one I advised about her new husband doing the cleaning to check under the rug and one I would ask about the grandchild she had.*

*I miss them. I miss their faces that lit up, their laughs and their kindness, their decency and the fact that they were hard workers dedicated to their jobs servicing people with disabilities. God bless them.*

It is a rare soul who gives so freely and completely to a cause like AHRC Suffolk. Joe dedicated his life to AHRC, and we will always be blessed by Joe's warm and compassionate commitment. We will all miss seeing Joe Del Broccolo's face, along with his smile, infectious laugh and wonderful stories. He will be truly missed by all and never forgotten. Our deepest condolences go out to his wife Ellen, and his children, grandchildren and family.