

FALL 2024

# The Arcticulate



Please drop off to: 115 Meadow Avenue, Scranton

## Buddy Walk 2024



The Buddy Walk was established in 1995 by the National Down Syndrome Society to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness. The walk itself is a family fun day with food, entertainment, raffles, children’s events and the ceremonial walk to celebrate our loved ones with Down Syndrome, making this an extraordinary day of awareness.

Generous support by our community has made it possible to provide a variety of support services to children and adults with Down Syndrome and their families.

Nationally, The Buddy Walk turned 30 this year and we were excited to celebrate this milestone!

Recently, we held the Annual Buddy Walk of NEPA on October 6th at Scranton High School. We had a tremendous response to the day’s festivities and we are very proud to

announce a truly successful event with several hundred folks in attendance.

### **We have some friends who joined us:**

- Advocacy Alliance
- My CIL – Center for Independent Living
- NEIU #19
- Parent to Parent
- Lekotek
- PA Inclusive
- NET Credit Union
- Colts Bus

### **We want to thank everyone who made the Buddy Walk a wonderful success:**

- Our Emcee - Jon Meyer
- Our Grand Marshals – Kristen Haeefe and Selena Waters
- DS-Connex
- Mid Valley Jr. Spartans’ PRIDE Squad
- Pennsylvania Ambulance

- Pennsylvania State Police
- Scranton High Cheerleaders
- Scranton High Penn Serve
- Scranton Police Department
- Scranton School District
- University of Scranton OT Dept.
- Violets...a little bit of everything
- West Scranton High Cheerleaders
- The Vendors, Food Trucks, Non-Profit Organizations, Sponsors, Donors, Volunteers, Walkers & The Buddy Walk Committee

### **Sponsors**

#### **Gold**

- Center for Independent Living – My CIL
- The Moran Family

#### **Silver**

- Dickson City Hyundai
- Kerr Orthodontics
- Step by Step, Inc.
- Throop Landscape Supply

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Northeastern Pennsylvania

115 Meadow Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505  
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www.thearcnepa.org  
Email: frontdesk@thearcnepa.org

# President's Message



'Tis the season to be jolly has once again arrived, and in spite of the clamor that surrounds us, we must try to look at the goodness that still exists in the world. There is still more to life than the cacophonies that assail our senses every day. To believe that social media speaks the truth is to believe that the

world of George Orwell has finally arrived. Shut out the din and look at the dedicated people that surround you every day. On a daily basis, I, personally, interact with people who are dedicated to helping those less fortunate and who strive to lighten their load, I know that it is difficult to block out the clamor that can overwhelm us, but when stress seemingly becomes unbearable, look to those people who have dedicated

their lives to making the lives of others less harsh. Look to the events of the past year that have consumed us all here at The Arc. First, after many starts and stops, the demolition process has finally begun. The dozers have arrived, and we finally can witness progress. While we can never replace Maryclaire, the process of finding her successor is well underway. Change can be unsettling, but in spite of disruptions, the staff here at The Arc still carries on. Thank you all for allowing me to be a part of an inspirational group of hard working and truly caring people. Let us all enjoy the season, and let us all look to the goodness in life. May you all have a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,  
Bill Burnell  
*Board President*

# Exec's Corner



The Autumn season offers the most predominant changes. The landscape transitions from green to the vibrant array of red, orange and yellow, finally to the bare and gray. We anxiously await snow to bring back scenery of awe and the magic of the holiday season. The trip

through the end of Summer to Autumn & Halloween and now Thanksgiving seemed to have happened quickly this year. Should this pace continue, the holiday season won't be far off. Take a moment to sip a hot cup of something delightful and enjoy this special time of year.

The season continues at The Arc of NEPA. We are upon the start of the WaWa development and changes that will bring to our spot on planet Earth. We continue to work with the development team and engineers in efforts to maximize the positive impact and minimize headaches. Our Board of Directors have been directly involved in the development, sharing their expertise and offering guidance. Their commitment to the mission of The Arc is significant and greatly valued. Eileen has been diligent in pursuing grant opportunities to assist with the exterior renovation project at Meadow Avenue, made necessary by the demolition of the conjoined garages. Our goal is to efficiently and diligently stay the course. The safety of individuals served and staff is primary.

On the service side of matters, Kelly and Mike

continue their deep dive into the paradigm shift in the state's mechanism for rate reimbursement to Performance Based Contracting. This significant change from fee for service is designed to reward quality in services. The Arc of NEPA has been proactive in readying our service design to meet the criteria established in Performance Based Contracting. Incentives for completing the Direct Service Professional Credential Program have been extended and staff are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Our service expansion into Luzerne County continues to move forward as Mari and the Recreation Team, with the support of The Arc's team of Advocates, build relationships helpful in getting the word out about services now offered by The Arc.

Our goal is grassroots... to provide the mission of The Arc to individuals and families who reside in Luzerne County.

As the season moves along, we will soon be celebrating the wonder of the holidays with parties planned in Lackawanna, Luzerne and Carbon Counties.

There is nothing more festive and rewarding than experiencing the excitement of the children and adults we serve as they dance and smile. Consider donning your festive apparel and joining the celebrations! Until then, I wish you a Thanksgiving shared with family and friends, complete with luscious gravy and rich confections.

All my best,  
Maryclaire Kretsch  
*Executive Director*

# The 20th Family Fall Festival at Waldorf Park

Submitted by Mari Pizur

On Sunday September 15th we held our 20th Annual "Family Fun Festival" at Waldorf Park. The weather was absolutely gorgeous, I couldn't ask for a better day. Once again we were blessed with a beautiful sunny day!

I can't believe it was 20 years ago when we had our first festival at Waldorf. Every year I reflect on how blessed we are to have dedicated people donating their time and talent for us to have a successful fundraiser! The "Wanabees" and "East Coast Trio" have been donating their gifts of music for the last 18 years. These two bands are loaded with special abilities that keeps the dance floor hopping throughout the day and end the night with both bands on stage and they "Rock the House" with their amazing abilities! They are the most compassionate and kind gentlemen that love entertaining people. They



Standing l to r: Ron Pascoe, Wanabees; Mari Pizur, Manager, Arc Recreation Services; Phil Rossi, East Coast Trio; Eileen Rempe, Arc Director PR/Dev't; Kevin Kerrigan, Waldorf Vice President; Linda Aebli, Waldorf Event Planner; Chuck Scrimalli, East Coast Trio.

make the world a better place and help us to enjoy life through music. Nothing is better than seeing a dance floor full of smiling faces! Each of the band members have expressed the joy they receive playing every year and entertaining us! They each said "They

will play for us up to their last breath" and it is their "favorite event"!

We have also had the University of Scranton Occupational Therapy group

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## Sock Sale

Submitted by Sam Donahue

The Aktion Club held a sock sale to raise money for breast cancer awareness which was held in October. The socks were all different shades and styles of pink with ribbons to bring awareness. The Aktion club decided to donate all the proceeds raised to a local cancer foundation, The Strong and Coura'Jess Foundation.

The Strong and Coura'Jess Foundation is a local foundation created by Jessica Rutkowski who was diagnosed with Stage 4 Triple Negative breast cancer in 2019. During her time receiving treatments, Jess found peace through benefits of holistic therapies (massage therapy, salt cave therapy, floatation therapy, etc.). Because of the benefits she found with these therapies, Jess envisioned creating a non-profit organization to help



From left to right: Roxann Williams; Eileen Rempe, Julie Rutkowski (Jess's Mom), Kate Holod, President, Kiwanis Club of Scranton, Amy Craig, Erica Francis, Ken Allen, Sam Donahue

those in the community benefit from these same therapies.

Jess passed away in 2021, but her family and close friends have taken her idea of organizing a non-profit organization and brought it to reality. The foundation is partnered with local businesses: The Salted Pixie, Relaxations by Tori, and The 11th Element to sponsor sessions for those going through

treatments. The foundation also sponsors "Chemo Care Bags" full of items that Jess found useful during treatments. These bags are delivered to cancer centers in both Dunmore and Wilkes-Barre to be given out to patients receiving treatments.

For more information on The Strong and Coura'Jess Foundation please visit them on Facebook!

# "Out of this World" Summer Camp 2024

Submitted by Mari Pizur

Our 2024 "Out of this World" Arc Summer Camp has come to an end! This year's camp was challenging due to the extreme heat waves. We did have a lot of fun Yoga with Mindy on Mondays and EJ the DJ dance parties on Tuesdays. We enjoyed Christmas in July where Santa arrived on a firetruck with presents for all! We had a special visit from the K9 dog, Yogy, who showed us a presentation on what his job consisted of. We had a Fire Safety Day with Scranton Fire Department "Smoke House" and firefighters presentation. We enjoyed carnival day with several games to play and win prizes. We were joined by "Rob the Juggler" and NET Credit Unions Ice Cream Truck. We were challenged with the weather. It was very hot and humid this summer so we played many indoor games: musical chairs, twister and much more. Campers played bingo and won prizes, had water balloon fights and even got to tie-dye t-shirts! We were able to have a local farm come to us with Pony Rides for all! This year's theme was all about "Out of this World! Each week we had special crafts such as the solar system, astronauts, spaceships etc. We started every day with walks and ended every day with chorus practice. We practiced singing a few songs and hoped to sing them for their families on the last day of camp. Unfortunately due to extreme heat predictions we ended camp one day early but did have a concert and each camper did receive an award! We were very lucky to have a pool available to us again! Thanks to the City of Scranton Parks and Recreation Crew for opening early this year too! Overall, we had tons of fun and a great summer!

I would be remiss if I didn't thank



the following people at The Arc for their endless support year after year; Maryclaire Kretsch, Kelly Peters, Sue Halley, Eileen Rempe, Allison Hull and MaryAnn O'Shea. Thank you to the Friends of The Arc Auxiliary for funding the farm, aquarium, juggler, EJ and Mindy! Special thanks to the City of Scranton's Fire Department and Police Department for bringing Santa on a firetruck, for their time and great presentations. I have to recognize Scranton's Parks

and Recreation due diligence with keeping the pool open and finding great life guards. A special appreciation to our wonderful camp counselors for their dedication, hard work, loving compassion and caring ways. And last but not least a special tribute to Holly Lewis for leading the programs and the counselors for having a fun, healthy and safe camp. As you can see it takes an army to provide a great summer camp!

# The 20th Family Fall Festival at Waldorf Park

(Continued from page 3)

of volunteers for the last 15 years. How can this be and where did the time go! There are no words to describe that kind of dedication. We would not be as successful without them.

People like President Paul Brady, Vice President Kevin Kearney, Linda Aebli, board members and staff from the Waldorf who have supported us from day 1! They helped us through the transition from a "Chicken Barbecue" to our "Family Fun Festival" and helped us create what it is today! They are a very wonderful group of people to work with and who make our day

a great success and we cannot thank them enough! The venue is beautiful and the sunset overlooking the city is always spectacular!

The day was grand, we had our folks singing on stage and playing the guitar! People had their faces painted and we had a fantastic Kiddie Korner that was run by the University of Scranton OT students, all 45 volunteers! This was a perfect setting for all to share a meal, dance and socialize together! So much to enjoy

throughout the day including a bake sale, basket raffles, instant bingo and 50/50s! Smiles were priceless and you could feel the excitement in the air! Good food, good music, good weather and good people are the perfect recipe for a magnificent day!

We would like to say THANK YOU, to all the volunteers, bakers, the donors and to everyone who attended. We really appreciate all that you do! You helped make a difference and made our day great!

## Advocacy - Pike County News

Submitted by: Mandy Colville

The advocacy department works hard to establish relationships with other agencies in our coverage area to share resources, increase parental engagement and provide training to parents and professionals. Pike Autism Support Services (PASS) has asked the advocacy department to host a series of training throughout this school year.

**Oct 16th** - *Behavior, Discipline and Bullying in Special Education*

**March 19th** - *Get Organized, How to Maintain Your School Documents*

**April 16th** - *What I Wish Professionals Knew About My Child With Disabilities*

**May 21st** - *Practical Ways to Accommodate In The Classroom*

These in person trainings will be offered at 7:00pm at The Community House in Milford. Our advocates love to collaborate! Reach out to the advocacy department to host a training for your group.

### The Arc of NEPA

**We're hiring!  
Can you help?**

**Get Rewarded For Your Referrals**

**Earn Up to: \$600 per referral Limited time increase!**

**How it Works**

From October 4, 2024 through December 31, 2024, eligible referring employees can receive up to \$600 per referral-that's an additional \$200!

(\*\$250 after referral's completion of initial 30 days, \$350 after referral's successful completion of a 90-day probation period).

**There's no limit to the earning potential so tell all your friends and family!**

**For Full Details: See Mary Ann or Tina in HR**

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## DSP Appreciation Week!



On September 8, 2024 through September 14, 2024, we celebrated Direct Support Professional (DSP) Appreciation Week!

Direct Support Professionals are the heart of our mission, providing essential support to the individuals we serve. The week was a great opportunity for The Arc of NEPA to highlight our appreciation for the direct support workforce that is dedicated and compassionate in supporting people with disabilities.

There were raffles and drawings held throughout the week (also known as Tina's Trivia!) and each employee received an Arc Camp Chair. We ended the celebration with a

breakfast on Friday, September 13th. During DSP Week, we aimed to recognize and honor the Direct Support Professionals at The Arc of NEPA! We'd be 'muffin' without you!



THANKS A  
*Latte*



FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO

## Leave a Legacy

**Remembering...** The Arc's founding parents, concerned community members and friends have passed on a legacy of commitment to a new generation. Today, we seek to sustain this legacy.

**Building...** Looking toward tomorrow may often be intimidating, but at The Arc we continue the mission and grow with the needs of the children and adults we serve.

**Leaving a Legacy...** By giving a gift to The Arc, you are ensuring a bright future for the people served in our programs. Estate giving allows for a variety of ways for individuals to choose the support most appropriate for planning their legacy: Outright cash gifts, designated life insurance policy, bequests, real estate.

## Holiday Poinsettia Sale

*Proceeds Benefit: The Arc Responds Fund*

*Please have your orders placed by: Friday, November 29, 2024*

- \$12.00 Each
- Choice of Red, White, Pink or Marble - 6 1/2" pots
- Foil Wrapped Container
- Delivered fresh from Corky's

*Great Holiday Gifts for Family, Friends, Co-Workers!*

*Flowers will be available for pick-up (Arc Conference Room) on:*

*Tuesday, December 10th from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

*Wednesday, December 11th from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

*Thursday, December 12th from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

*Please visit: <http://thearcnepa.org/donate.html> to pay by credit card or make checks payable to:*

*The Arc Responds and send order to: 115 Meadow Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505*

*Questions, please call (570) 346-4010*

# United Way Day of Caring 2024

Day of Caring was held on Thursday, August 29th this year. We had folks from different companies spend the day doing painting, weeding, mulching, general clean-up at several of our sites. We look forward to having the work done yearly plus people visit The Arc who may not know us and now they do! Win-Win. The United Way Employee campaign also kicks off and with lots of help from all the departments, The Arc appeal with the employees has begun. Year in and year out, The Arc receives such great effort from Day of Caring volunteers, and much needed projects are accomplished- projects that would otherwise have to be

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## Welcome to The Arc Family!

*Please help us welcome The Arc's new employees! We're glad to have you on the team!*

**Brooklyn Reno**

**Kirstie Valdez**

**Cassandra Clark**

**Anne Beiler**

**Nicole Bessmertnov**

**Zakiah Marshall**

**Westley Jeter**

**Ziare Starnes**

**Nisha Zutshi**

**Tramai Osborne**

**Gary Roberts**

**Rosalyn Cortes**



Do you have what it takes to be the most festive door on the floor? We're looking for the most **colorful, creative, magical** decorated doors! Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, but only one group room will be presented with the coveted "Spirit of the Season" award!

Judging will take place on Wednesday, December 18, 2024.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone's entries!

**Good Luck!**

# So Happy TOGETHER!

## A BIG HELLO from Carbon County to everyone!

Submitted by Sheila Hartranft

What a blessing it is for me to be able to write this for The Articulate and I sure hope you enjoy it. Not being able to be with the ladies of The Arc and the members I so cherish through my illness was one of the roughest times in my 18 years serving others. I'd like to quickly THANK everyone for their prayers and encouragement because without all of you along with my determination, I would not be back to walking again. I am back and hoping to come up with some great activities this coming year.

Over the summer our members made beautiful butterflies out of coathangers and some beads and pipe cleaners. We also made a dragonfly out of a simple kitchen whisk and beads. Our members painted ceramics which is something they love doing. They went to outdoor events such as festivals and concerts and they went to Yenser's Tree Farm for their Sunflower Festival

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## We're hiring!

### Direct Support Professionals

Full-time, Part-time and Substitute shifts available!

to support adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities

**\$16.25-19.25**  
new hourly starting rates!

### We employ Credentialed DSPs

Direct Support Professionals credentialed through the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals NADSP earn an additional:

- ✓ DSP-I \$0.75 increase per hour
- ✓ DSP-II \$1.00 increase per hour
- ✓ DSP-III \$1.25 increase per hour

**Variety of shifts and schedules!**

**Generous benefits package!**

**Shift differential & other incentives**

## Holiday Luncheon

**Great coworkers & good cheer, it's that time of the year!**

*All employees are invited to attend our annual*

### Holiday Luncheon

*being held on*

**Thursday, December 19th**  
**in the Meadow Ave. Conference Room**  
**12:00pm to 2:00pm.**

*Come and enjoy the opportunity to mingle with your co-workers and share some Holiday Spirit.*

**We hope to see you there!!**



115 Meadow Ave., Scranton PA  
18505

<https://thearcnepa.applicantpro.com/jobs/>



# Career and Development Credentialing Program

The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania, in partnership with the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (NADSP), is proud to announce a new career development and credentialing program. The Arc of NEPA has established this credentialing program with NADSP in an effort to recognize the vital work of Direct Support Professionals (DSP) and Front Line Supervisors (FLS), strengthen our commitment to quality standards, and improve our employee recruitment and retention efforts. Through the NADSP E-Badge Academy, The Arc of NEPA Direct Support Professionals and Front Line Supervisors have the ability to earn national certification

through stackable electronic badges. These badges, earned by achieving a minimum number of hours of training, practicums and a portfolio, demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and values that DSPs and FLSs utilize every day, recognizing the professional development that might otherwise go unacknowledged. Employees who fulfill the requirements of the certification receive an hourly merit increase, along with a one-time monetary bonus (if completed prior to March 31, 2025).

Congratulations to the following employees who successfully obtained their national certification. We are so proud of your achievements!

Employee	Credential Earned
Lisa Alimecco	DSP-I
Jacktone Ambuka	DSP-I
Angela Anthony	FLS
Nichole Blair	DSP-I
Jasmine Cloud	DSP-I
Gwynne Collins	DSP-I
Noreen Cosmark	FLS
Amy Craig	FLS
Deanna Decker	DSP-III
Samantha Donahue	FLS
Bridget Duggan	DSP-I
Alysha Englert	DSP-I
Erica Francis	DSP-I
Renee Gallagher	DSP -I
Tracy Henriksen	DSP-I
Louis Holbeck	DSP-I
Aaron Kearney	DSP-I
Kim Messenger	DSP-I
LA'Shonne Mines	FLS
Rebecca Mordente	DSP-I
Dorothy Nelson	FLS
Victoria Nixon	FLS
Susan Pywar	FLS
Krystal Ramirez-Padilla	DSP -I
Ann Slack-Mills	FLS
Barbara Slocum	FLS
Linda Tobin	DSP-II
Roxann Williams	FLS

We are still accepting applications into the program. For more information, or to get started, please contact Mary Ann or Tina in Human Resources.



The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania

## Spirit of the Season

CLA Tour 2024

Santa's helpers will be back on the streets of Lackawanna County, on **December 18th**, visiting our festive (and dare we say, competitive) CLAs for the holiday season. Judges will be looking for the most colorful, creative, magical decorations. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, but only one CLA will be presented with the coveted "**Spirit of the Season**" award!

**Good Luck!**

# Buddy Walk 2024

(Continued from page 1)

## Bronze

Joe Bartolacci  
Jean Biggar  
Brighter Journeys  
Don and Rose Broderick  
Brucelli Advertising  
Bill Burnell and Kate Holod  
Church of St. Gregory  
Earth Conservancy  
Dr. Herbert Fellerman  
Maureen Gallagher  
The Grady Family  
Italian American Club—Olyphant  
Lynda and Ed Lynett  
Marianne and Tim Lyons  
NET Credit Union  
Northeastern Transit  
Robert and Faye Rosenberg  
Russomano Cleaning Services  
Tim Wagner's Sports Corner  
Dick and Jean Walsh

## Thank you to our Donors

Lou and Mary Auriemma  
Jason Rutkowski  
Mark and Michele McDade  
Francis and Rose Kobeski  
Mary Strohl  
Rick and Faye Bishop  
Martin Kane  
Stephen and Denise Fagan  
Bill Pilling  
Penny Spory  
Jamie and Anne Walsh

## Thank you for donating a gift basket

The Archer Family  
Scranton Cultural Center  
Fratellis  
The Rempe Family  
The Vojta Family  
Coopers  
Quinns Market  
The Eatery by Jessica  
Violets...a little bit of everything  
Anne McDonnell  
S-W Penguins



## Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends"

The Arc was at Boscov's for the "Friends Helping Friends" Event on October 22nd!!! Boscov's helps out local non profits with a shopping extravaganza in-store and online event - the annual

"Friends Helping Friends" Event. The Arc is proud to be a part of this community fundraiser! Erica represented The Arc for this special occasion. All proceeds benefitted AKtion Club.



*You are cordially invited to join us this holiday season at our*

## "Friends of The Arc's" "Winter Frolic" Holiday Party"

**Friday ~ December 13, 2024**

at Fiorelli's Banquet Facility, 1501 Main St., Peckville, PA

### Evening Festivities:

5:00pm Registration

5:30pm Complimentary hors d'oeuvres

6:00pm ~ 7:00pm Buffet Dinner

7:00pm ~ 9:00pm Music provided by E.J. The D.J.

5:00pm ~ 9:00pm Cash Bar

Special Guest Appearance, Winter Frolic Fun and Holiday Raffles!

### Menu Includes:

Fresh Garden Greens/w Vinaigrette Dressing

Penne Rigate Pasta a'la Vodka Sauce, Chicken Tenderloins Scampi Saute,

Hand - Carved Certified Angus Sirloin of Beef, Fresh Fish of the Day

And Oven Roasted Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetable de Casa, Rolls w/ Butter

Dolce de Casa (Sweet of the House)

Coffee, Tea, Decaf, Soda

**Cost is \$38.00 per Person**

Reservations are required by Monday, December 2, 2024

Payments and reservations must be made in advance,

**NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Groups of 7 or more, we will be happy to reserve a table for you!

If you have any questions, please call Mari or Holly at 570/ 207-0825.

(Inclement Weather Date - Monday, December 16, 2024 - No Refunds)

## Honorariums



Celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, special events are all beautiful moments to be honored and cherished. Remembering your loved ones, friends, neighbors, co-workers is a wonderful way to let them know how much you care and that you are thinking of them. We can help relay those messages for you.

When you send The Arc a donation along with the name of the person(s) being honored, we will send a pre-printed card to the honorees, letting them know that a donation was made in their name and who sent the gift. It's a great way to say, "I Care" and benefit The Arc!

## Memorials

We also have a Memorial Program which sends your sympathy and condolences when a loved one passes away. We are here to assist you in making your wishes known.



# So Happy TOGETHER!

(Continued from page 8)

where staff took their photos and later they decorated frames with their picture inside. They went back for the Fall Fest to include a hayride and pumpkin patch and some good food. We go there every year and they are treated like kings and queens. Thank you to the Wentz family for that! They did a paint and sip where they painted flowers at the Love 4 Art studio in Palmerton with Donna Levan Balliet. We ended our Fall festivities with our annual Halloween Dance at the Nesquehoning Hose Co. in Nesquehoning, Pa. and I got to be the Dj! What a learning experience for me! HAHA They danced the night

away and were treated to hot dogs and pierogies from Carly and snack and candy along with apple cider. We start our next adventure making a winter craft followed by another paint and sip with Anne Marie from Bossard Boardworks in Palmerton. In December we are going to be treated to 2 Christmas celebrations. Tom (SANTA) Bennett and Bella Mia Restaurant will have us there for crafting and time with Santa and dinner. After that is our own Christmas Dinner provided by Pastor Bob Johnson and his family and parishoners. As always we will do our Christmas shopping and a light show. Thanks to all these businesses for their time and generosity to our members.

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Safe Thanksgiving and A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!!

Sheila Hartranft, Brenda Fritzinger, Carly Romankow and Sandy Dailey  
The Arc of NEPA - Carbon County



## Advocacy - Luzerne County Happenings

Submitted by: Katie Foley

This past summer The Arc was able to attend a great back to school event in Hazleton, hosted by Parenting Autism United and CAM (Collaborative Autism Movement). There were some wonderful vendors, including Parent to Parent and Special Olympics. We have also started a Breakfast Club for parents of children with different abilities in Pittston, in collaboration with PA Inclusive, located in their new Café. The meetings will be held on the

first Saturday of the month at 9 am. There will be a presentation on how to advocate for your children along

with some sweet treats and coffee. If you have an interest please contact Katie Foley at [kfoley@thearcnepa.org](mailto:kfoley@thearcnepa.org).



# Coffee Inclusive

350 Kennedy Blvd, Suite 12 Pittston, Pa 18640  
[coffeeinclusive.org](http://coffeeinclusive.org)

**Breakfast Club First Saturday of the Month, 9 a.m.**

- October 5th: What is Advocacy?
- November 2nd: Powerful Parents
- December 7th: IEP Walkthrough
- February 1st: Transition to Kindergarten
- March 1st: Transition in the IEP
- April 5th: Transition to Adulthood
- May 3rd: Successful Inclusion Throughout the Lifetime

PA *inclusive*      COFFEE INCLUSIVE  
 EMPOWERING LIVES WITH EVERY CUP

The Arc  
 ADVOCATING LIVES WITH EVERY CUP

Interested?  
 Kindly Contact Katie Foley by email at [kfoley@thearcnepa.org](mailto:kfoley@thearcnepa.org)

## Advocacy - Monroe County Happenings

Submitted by: Roseann Polishan

Advocates at the Arc are always out and about in the community...in the month of October Roseann Polishan attended the Regional Collaborative for Monroe, Pike and Carbon counties Resource Fair Monroe

County at the VFW 546 in East Stroudsburg. Roseann was able to share advocacy resources with other providers, families and individuals. She also learned more about programming and opportunities to share with families in these counties.





Ronald  
McDonald  
House<sup>®</sup>  
Scranton

Keeping families close™

The Arc of NEPA - AKtion Club  
115 Meadow Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505

Dear Friends,

We at the Ronald McDonald House of Scranton sincerely appreciate your generous donation of the wish list items and pop tabs, which we received on 10/14/2024. Every donation such as yours helps our House and the families who stay here in innumerable ways.

The Ronald McDonald House of Scranton is truly "The House that Love Built" and it is only through the generous contributions of our community that we are able to be true to our mission of providing a Home Away from Home for families in need. Again, thank you.

This acknowledgment should be retained to substantiate your contribution for tax purposes.

Sincerely,

Emily Noble  
Executive Director

332 Wheeler Avenue • Scranton, PA 18510 • Tel: (570) 969-8998 • Fax: (570) 969-8991 • www.rmhsScranton.org



*Pictured: Benjamin, Carl, Jo-Ann, Richard and Samantha*

The Aktion Club collected approximately 20 lbs. of soda tabs and went shopping for laundry detergent and individually packed snacks for the Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House packs care packages for families who have a loved one in the hospital and may have an extensive stay due to an illness, surgery, etc.



*Seated: Sue Conway, Judi Zanghi, Pat Kwiatkowski. Standing: Ann McDonough, Marie Shiffer, Linda Kusy, Eileen Rempe, Mary Jo Nealis, Kathy McDonnell, Pat Avery, Christa Lucke*

## Cookie Sale

**When:** Orders need to be placed by:  
Wednesday, December 4

Orders will be ready for pick-up on:  
Friday, December 13 - 11 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Where to Pick-up:** The Arc Conference Room  
115 Meadow Avenue, Scranton, PA  
570-346-4010

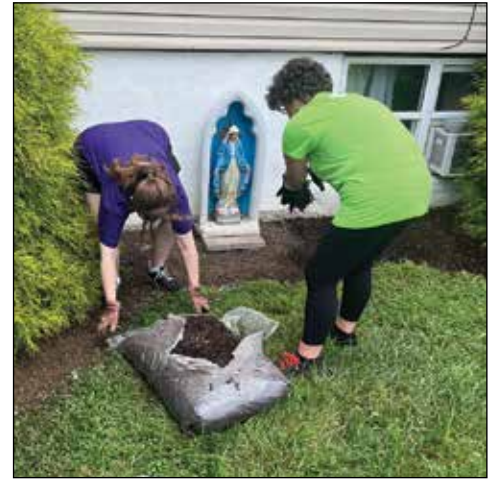
Looking for a tasty way to enjoy the holiday season...Please consider purchasing some yummy cookies! The cookies will be sold by the pound featuring a mixed assortment of flavors. The cost will be \$12.00/lb. and will be packaged in a decorative box. The **Friends of The Arc Auxiliary** would like to thank you for your continued kindness.

The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary Gift Committee recently gathered to package Halloween goodies for all of The Arc program participants. Throughout the year, the members of the Auxiliary purchase items as gifts, treat everyone to a special event, make wish lists come true, participate in consumer driven fund raisers and dedicate their time and expertise to the mission of The Arc. We are sincerely grateful for their compassion and dedication. Awesome group of individuals who are admired and valued.

# United Way Day of Caring 2024

(Continued from page 7)

paid for. The Arc is proud to be one of the original participants in "Day of Caring". Many thanks to all Arc team members who coordinated each site's work plans and provided lunch to the workers. It was a great day!



*Some of our day program participants enjoying an afternoon of trivia - just one of the many activities that our folks love!*



# The Arc™

Northeastern Pennsylvania

115 Meadow Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505



## Our Vision

*"People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are entitled to live full, self-determined and respected lives."*



VISIT US AT:  
[www.thearcnepa.org](http://www.thearcnepa.org)  
Like us on Facebook

Affiliated with the , The Arc of PA and The Arc of US.

DESIGNED BY: BILL PILLING GRAPHICS

*Sign Up!*

## Membership is the key...

- Access to the latest information, including newsletters;
- Up-to-the minute alerts about the latest on Capitol Hill so you know when to take action;
- Discounted registration to our annual national events such as National Convention;
- Access to exclusive insurance coverage rates through our partner Mercer
  - Includes Group Term Life Insurance, Health Insurance such as major medical, Medicare supplement, life line screening, hospital income, and accidental death and dismemberment insurance.
  - Coverage and availability may vary by state.

### Stay Informed!

#### Membership Registration

New Member

Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Type of Membership

\_\_\_ \$25.00 - \$49.99 Friend

\_\_\_ \$50.00 - \$99.99 Sponsor

\_\_\_ \$100.00 - \$499.99 Supporter

\_\_\_ \$500.00 - \$999.99 Benefactor

\_\_\_ \$1,000.00 + Partner

Please remit to:



**The Arc™**

Northeastern Pennsylvania

115 Meadow Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505