

The Arc's Community Options Program Reaches into Monroe County

Submitted by Kelly Peters, Manager Adult Day Services

This program, the first of its kind in Monroe County, is ready to go! A van has been purchased, a community options group leader has been assigned and the consumer is anxiously awaiting her first day! They will go on a variety of community

activities such as volunteering at local facilities, enjoying leisure activities like movies, bowling and shopping, taking tours of local attractions and utilizing local gym facilities for exercise and fun. It's our goal to continue to expand and offer this valuable program to many more individuals in the months to come.

Right to Education Task Force - An Overview

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Consent Decree establishing the State and Local committees and identifies their primary responsibility as to act as advocates for school aged children. It is required that the LTF be comprised of at least 51% parents/consumers and any provider or concerned individuals are welcome to participate in the LTF meetings.

Generally, LTF #19 meetings take place every second Tuesday @ 7:00PM @ Scranton School for the Deaf. LTF #20 typically meets every third Monday @ Colonial IU #20 in Easton and serves 16 school districts. For meeting details or additional information please see www.ns.neiu.k12.pa.us for IU #19 or www.ltf20.org for IU#20. We encourage wide participation, provider updates, and offer

informational sessions and trainings each month. Light refreshments are also provided. Our next LTF #19 meeting, to be held on Tuesday, October 14th, will feature Clarence Lamanna, Ed D, Special Education Director, Northeastern Intermediate Unit #19. Dr. Lamanna will review the many changes to Chapter 14 (PA Chapter School Code) which went into effect on July 1, 2008.

The next LTF #20 meeting is slated for Monday, October 20th @ 9:30AM. Mr. Joseph Hurd serves as Chair and Ms. Jane Erdo serves as Co-Chair. Should you be interested in obtaining additional information or need assistance please call 570-207-0671. I will be happy to help or assist with an appropriate referral.

Aktion Club News

Submitted by Nancy Frank



We wouldn't be Aktion Club if we weren't in action - and we ARE in action! The State Convention in Altoona was, again, very successful. Each one returned with a bucket full of special memories to carry them through until next year. The Scranton Club was recognized as a Distinguished Club and also received a trophy for first place in the scrapbook competition! Needless to say, this was an over-the-top experience for all of us. You simply can't put a

price tag on one of these events. It's The Ultimate!

One of the featured programs at Altoona was "Caitlin's Smiles". This has become one of the many project undertakings for us this year. Caitlin was a young child diagnosed with a brain tumor at the age of two. She spent the next two years of her life in hospitals. After she died, her mom, not wanting her life to have been in vain and wanting her memory to live on, started an organization to distribute small craft projects to hospitalized children to help them to pass the long hours in a fun, meaningful way as her daughter had done. The Scranton Aktion

John's Story



John Hulse, aka The Hulse-N-ator, resides at one of The Arc's Group Homes and attends The Arc's Adult Day Program.

John wears many hats at The Arc. He is the master shredder in the administrative offices, substitute garbage engineer and courier between Day Program and the Administrative Offices. This past April at the Employee Recognition Dinner John received an award for being a five year employee of The Arc of NEPA.

John is a great bowler, participating in both the summer and winter Fun & Friendship Bowling League at Idle Hour Lanes. He is an avid Philadelphia Eagles and Phillies fan and has an extensive Eagles/Phillies wardrobe.

John enjoys going to his mom's home for weekends and holiday visits in West Scranton. He has a sister, Carol at home and a sister Mary in Tennessee.

On one of John's recent visits home his mother had become very ill and needed medical attention. John knew she needed help and ran to the neighbors for assistance. The neighbor called 911 for an ambulance to assist Mrs. Hulse. Good job, John!



Our Vision

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



VISIT US AT:
www.thearcnepa.org

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

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You can help. Become a member of The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania today. Benefits include:

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- The opportunity to participate in The Arc affairs at a local, state and national level
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The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania
115 Meadow Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18505
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The Arcticulate

The Arcticulate is a publication for employees and friends of The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania



John Hulse's story is on page 5

Right to Education Task Force - An Overview

Submitted by Jeannie Lally

As summer, with all its corresponding delights: long hot days, balmy evenings, fairs and festivals, soft lush grass, flourishing flowers, diminishes, it is BACK TO SCHOOL! The recent continuation of lovely weather would belie the fact BUT it is September and education is at the forefront for many families and certainly in our Advocacy office. With that in mind, it is the ideal time to discuss our Local Right to Education Task Forces.

PA enjoys a rich history of the advancement of special education and, in particular, so does The Arc. In 1972, as a result of a class action lawsuit brought forth by P.A.R.C. (PA Association for Retarded Children- which evolved into our current, The Arc of PA), against the Common Wealth of PA; as well as, the Department of Public Welfare and the Department of Education. The outcome led to historical improvements and significant developments in special education. The



Pictured: Kathy Stocki, Chairperson, Local Right to Education Task Force and Jeannie Lally, Director, The Arc NEPA'S Advocacy Service and Co-Chair, Local Right to Education Task Force #19, preparing the training agenda for school year 2008-09.

lawsuit resulted in the "The PARC Consent Decree". This decree mandated that ALL children with mental retardation had a right to a free, appropriate, and public education (FAPE). The definition of education was no longer limited to academics but expanded to be viewed as a continuous process by which children learn to cope and function in their environment.

Further, the right to the least restrictive environment was first introduced. This stated that children with MR had a right to be educated with their non-disabled peers rather than "secluded" in special classrooms. In 1975 the P.A.R.C. decree led to Congress adopting "Education for all Handicapped Children Act". This was later named "The Individual's with Disabilities Education Act" (IDEA). The current Federal Law is "The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA). With that

historical overview, one can see how The Arc has shown leadership in advocacy efforts for the rights of the individuals with developmental disabilities.

An important outcome of the P.A.R.C. Decree was COMPILE; compliance with COMPILE meant the start of The State Task Force. That committee includes representation from the Governor's office, The Department of Education, Office of Developmental Programs and The Arc of PA. The State Task Force meets the first Wednesday of the month in Harrisburg. Fortunately, to facilitate local participation, these meetings are down-linked to NEIU #19 in Archbald. Further, COMPILE spawned the formation of the 29 LTF's (Local Task Forces). The locals include representation from the respective County MH/MR Office, the local Arc, and the Intermediate Unit. School District's administrators, relevant personnel, parents, providers, and school district personnel are also welcome and encouraged to participate in the LTF's.

In The Arc of NEPA's service area we include all of IU #19 and most of #20. As part of my work as advocate, I represent our Arc for both of these LTF's. Recently, I have been asked and have accepted the position of Co-Chair for LTF #19. This Local Task Force operates within the The Northeastern Intermediate Unit #19 and serves the 20 member school districts. Participation from The Arc of NEPA, Lackawanna/Susquehanna MH/MR, and Wayne County MH/MR is also part of the Decree's mandate. The organization of the Right To Education is included in COMPILE which is the part of the

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Sign Up!

President's Message



Greetings. I trust that all of us have enjoyed a wonderful summer with family and friends. The weather was superb with plenty of sunshine and nourishing rain to produce beautiful flowers and bountiful vegetable gardens.

Our outstanding staff has been busy throughout the past few months maintaining all of our usual activities plus many that are unique to summer weather.

I am happy to report a number of activities that have taken place in the past month. First, the Knights of Columbus, as they have done for nearly 20 years, sponsored Arc Knight at the Races at Mohegan Sun Pocono Downs on August 23rd. Many Board members and employees joined the Knights and their guests for a delightful afternoon of horse racing and dinner. We sincerely thank the Knights for their loyal support not only this year but for decades.

On September 21st, the Arc Recreation Department sponsored the Arc in the Park event which was held at Waldorf Park and attended by over 300 people. The Friends of the Arc Auxiliary as well as many of The Arc Family and Friends donated several beautiful theme baskets that were raffled off. The bands featuring Phil Rossi and Take Five were a huge hit. We certainly thank the Recreation Department, the Arc Auxiliary, the

students from the University of Scranton and all the volunteers for making this a delightful afternoon. The 8th annual Arc Golf Tournament was held at Glen Oak Country Club on September 22nd. It was attended by nearly 100 golfers. They enjoyed lunch, a round of golf on a beautiful fall day, dinner, and a brief program. Thank you to all that made this such a successful event.

Finally, Wednesday September 24th, the Arc employees played members of the Scranton Fire Department in a fun softball game for the benefit of the Arc Responds at the South Scranton Sports Complex. The Arc Responds was established in the past year as a way to "respond" to an emergency situation within The Arc family. Thank you to our employees and The Scranton Firefighters.

The United Way of Lackawanna County campaign has begun and is under the leadership of Attorney Richard Bishop, a past president of the Arc board of directors and still a current board member. Rick is involved in numerous other community activities including the boards of the Salvation Army and St Francis of Assisi Kitchen, among others.

Our own Pat Quinn and Andy Warner are featured in some of the United Way's ads and billboards. Traditionally, the Arc is a trendsetter in United Way giving. Please, let's give Rick Bishop and the United Way a big helping hand.

Respectfully,
Alan Hughes

The Exec's Corner



Hope all is well!

Just a few items that I wish to discuss with you. Many thanks go out to our local Knights of Columbus Councils for their participation in the "Measure Up" campaign and "Knight at the Races" at Pocono Downs, Mohegan Sun. The Arc has enjoyed a fantastic working relationship with the Knights for over 30 years. At the state level, at The Arc-PA's latest board meeting Deputy Wayne Freet handed over a check for \$160,000, the amount statewide that the Knights raised to support the efforts of The Arc throughout Pennsylvania. At the local level, through various campaigns over the same 30 year period, the Knights have raised over \$250,000 to support this chapter with equipment, supplies and funding for direct service programs. Thank you, fellow Knights, from all of us.

Sara, Connie Wolff and I recently attended the Arc-PA board meeting. The Arc of PA staff and volunteers held a mini retreat to revise strategies, priorities, and developed the following:

1. Establish The Arc in PA as a Brand Name.
2. Promote our organization's identity as one that exists for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

3. Address the needs of people to reflect the diverse make-up of the state's population.
4. Promote active citizenship and community inclusion by focusing on systems advocacy at the state level and supporting individual advocacy at the local level.
5. Focus on governmental affairs, providing leadership and guidance among all disability organizations and the advocacy organizations.
6. Increase external (non-dues) funding/revenue.
7. Promote growth, chapter development and membership.

Our local board and our foundation board will be meeting at a retreat in late October to discuss our local priorities. I am sure they will tie in nicely with The Arc of PA's strategic plan.

Also discussed were the new position papers to be presented at Arc-US' national convention in November. You can review these position statements online if you wish at www.thearc.org.

There is also a great discussion on the movie "Tropic Thunder", the use of the 'R' word, and the "Rally for Respect Campaign" that may be of interest.

Good-bye summer. Welcome Fall. That's all for now.

Best Regards,
Don Broderick

Public Relations & Development Update

Submitted by Eileen Rempe,
Director, PR & Dev't

Arc Knight went very well and was held on Saturday, August 23rd. We had over 150 people in attendance and every race was sponsored at least three times. Around \$10,000.00 was raised in funds which help the departments who are not fully funded. We are thinking about moving this event to the spring time (we really want a Friday night) which would hopefully ease some of the end of the year fund raising. Will follow up with more information...

On Sunday, September 21st, The Arc's Recreation department held its annual Arc in the Park at Waldorf Park on East Mountain. Everything really turned out nice. The bands featuring our very own Phil Rossi and Take Five were outstanding and the food was great! Over 300 people attended and everyone had a good time.

The Golf Tournament was held on Monday, September 22nd, at Glen Oak Country Club and we had a great turn out as well. Overall we had 13 major sponsors, 52 hole sponsors and 25 cart sponsors - plus 92 golfers! The committee really outdid themselves and I can't thank them enough for making this event so successful. Special thanks to our co-chairs, Carol Chisdak and Mark Lynn.

On Wednesday, September 24th, The Arc employees played a softball game against the Scranton Fire department. The game was a fund raiser for Arc Responds with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the Jim Robeson fund. Sara Wolff will be starting a new program in the North Pocono school district this Fall. As part of the Auxiliary's educational component, we will be reading informational books on different disabilities to the third grade children. Sara is really the young lady on the move - spearheading this endeavor, serving on several boards, working, attending college, doing TV spots. We are so happy to know Sara and we feel honored that she helps us to spread the word.

The Parents of Down Syndrome



Planning committee for the Auxiliary's Fashion Show/Card party. Pictured from L to R are: Eileen Rempe, Maron Bielovitz, Eileen Williams, Corolla Sawka, Marie Maddi, MaryLou Miller, and Carol Burke.

sponsored their 7th annual Buddy Walk on Sunday, October 5th, at Abington Heights High School. Several hundred people attended the event and it was a very successful fund raiser for the PODS.

The Board(s) Retreat will be held on Tuesday, October 28th, beginning at 4:00 p.m. at Cooper's Restaurant in Scranton. Bob Conklin from the Northeast Regional Office will be the speaker.

On Sunday, October 26th beginning at 12:00 noon - The Auxiliary is sponsoring a luncheon with a fashion show featuring fashions from Christopher Banks; a card/game party will follow the luncheon. The venue for the afternoon is the Country Club of Scranton. Invites to go out this week.

Also, a group of Eileen William's friends (Auxiliary V.P.) are having a Fall Fling on Saturday, November 1st, at the Elmhurst Country Club. It is especially nice when groups like this want to help us raise money. We were thrilled with last year's turnout.

On Monday, November 10th, the Knights of Appreciation dinner will be held at Stirna's Restaurant in Scranton beginning at 6:00 p.m.



Enjoying the Golf tournament are Carol Chisdak (l) and Marianne Lyons (r).

We will be honoring the Knights of Columbus who have helped The Arc to be even more successful.

Please do not forget about Membership. Your renewals are vital to our organization. As you know, the more members we have, the more votes we have when it comes to legislative issues affecting the folks we serve.

One last thing - think poinsettias - delivery will be in the first week in December... Busy time of year. Thank you for all you do which helps to make our events so wonderful.

The Arc of NEPA vs The Scranton Fire Fighter's Softball Game

Submitted by Jeannie Lally, Chairperson,
The Arc Responds Committee

**RAISING MONEY AND HAVING A BALL!
Does it get any better?**



We were so pleased when we learned that Dave Dolphin and his fellow Scranton Fire Fighters would be happy to join us to play a softball game! This Arc Responds Administrative fundraiser took place on Wednesday, September 24th at the South Side Complex. We sold "Jeannie's Weenies", raffle tickets, baked goods, and chances on The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary's generous gift of a \$120.00 money tree. TJ Linger was the lucky winner of the money tree basket. Barb Day and her daughter Laura donated a basket from Subby's Restaurant which was won by Carol Burke. A 50/50 raffle was also held. Barb Slocum won the pot and she generously gave her winnings back to the Arc! The event was well covered by WNEP and we were aired at 11PM and the following morning. SFD has expressed interest in a "2009" weekend tournament! The Arc Responds committee has decided to give \$200 of our \$600 proceeds to the Jim Robeson Memorial Fund. This fund was set up in the memory of a Scranton fire fighter who lost his life in the line of duty. Well over 100 people attended and took great pleasure in a close and competitive game! We did lose the game



17-15 but we were still the winners! Everyone had a great time. The Fire Department brought a truck to the field and graciously entertained the little ones. Consumers who attended with The Arc's Recreation Program lined up on the baseline during Krysten Montgomery's beautiful rendition of the National Anthem. Our own John Hulse could not have been more ecstatic throwing out the first pitch. For everyone who helped to pull it together or participated, I would like to say THANK YOU! Desiree Vojta deserves a special acknowledgment as she worked on this project with unparalleled persistence!

Spotlight on Quality: Saving A Life

There are defining moments in everyone's life when they are faced with unenviable life circumstances; none more crucial than having to save someone's life.

Recently, Lisa Alimecco met this challenge and did so with extreme professionalism, compassion and determination.

During a recent swallow study at a local hospital, one of our consumers choked on a substance used during the study. Immediately, Lisa jumped onto the hospital table, performed the upper thrust



Lisa Alimecco

procedure and went so far as to remove the rest of the substance from the individual's throat. The hospital technician lauded Lisa for her efforts and said that she was responsible for "ensuring that the consumer did not become critically ill from aspirating."

Thank you, Lisa, for your quick response, your professionalism, your unselfish efforts and your continued insistence on ensuring Quality services for our consumers!