

SPRING 2018

# The Arcticate

Please join our  
Celebrity Chairperson  
**Kevin Naniewicz**



**18th Annual Golf Tournament** 

Monday, May 14th  
**Glen Oak Country Club**



For more information, please call: 570-346-4010

## Keystone Mission Dinner - Aktion Club Gives Back

The mission of Keystone Mission is to be a catalyst for the community to provide help and hope to the homeless, hungry, and hurting people in Northeast PA. The Aktion Club is there to help...

Preparing to Give Back - Having Dinner at Keystone Mission: Everyone is involved with the planning of the night out whether we are discussing the menu, shopping list, schedule, etc. The participants in the Aktion Club assist with the shopping and preparation of the dinner. The dinner was ziti with meat sauce, a salad, mixed vegetables and baked brownies. Our folks serve between 30 and 50 people at the rescue mission. Excellent job to all involved.

Aktion Club is a community service group of adults with developmental disabilities. The group is co-sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Scranton. The Aktion Club has four primary goals for its members:

- To develop initiative and leadership skills

- To provide experience in living and working together
- To serve the community
- To prepare for useful citizenship.

The Aktion Club performs a variety of services to the community. They also have fund raising projects to raise money for needs in our community.

Some of our projects and services during the coming year are:

- Shopping for and delivering laundry products to the Ronald McDonald House
- Conducting a "shower" for Women's Resource Center;
- Collecting food and clothing for Keystone Mission
- Preparing and serving meals for the Keystone Mission

- Partnering with Habitat for Humanity in home building project
- Continuing to assist a rural village family near Nairobi, Kenya who struggle with medical hardships and basic survival needs
- Sending several monetary and gift donations to needy families
- Making gifts for area nursing home residents



Northeastern Pennsylvania

115 Meadow Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505  
Tel: 570-346-4010 Fax: 570-346-8436  
www.thearcnepa.org  
Email: frontdesk@thearcnepa.org

# President's Message



Over the past couple of months, we have celebrated Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness (March), March 21st as World Down Syndrome Day and Autism Awareness (April) but keeping our attention and focus on inclusion and fairness continues every day throughout the year.

More people with intellectual and developmental disabilities/Autism (IDD/A) are living and thriving in their communities. Looking back, we have come a long way since our humble beginning. There are more opportunities in education and employment, more protections in health care, the legal system and other areas of human rights. Advocacy efforts led to many of the positive changes we are witnessing in our society.

Ongoing programming, changes in Commonwealth funding (for the good) and new mission driven

opportunities that have opened up for The Arc-NEPA during these recent months are all significant and positive changes. Together, we need to protect what has been accomplished and be able to continue with the incredible care and programs being offered.

During the many celebrations and organized events, we also, experienced a long, cold and snowy winter season, so I know many of us are anticipating the upcoming months...and...lo and behold...Spring is finally upon us and with warmer weather (fingers crossed) comes The Arc-NEPA's Golf Tournament! We have a very exciting day planned for May 14th at Glen Oak Country Club. Please join us and bring all your friends for a great day of fun and golf. Thank you to Kevin Naniewicz for being our Celebrity Chairperson.

Respectfully,  
Bob Durkin  
Board President

## Exec's Corner



Yesterday was sunny and 70 degrees. I took a walk. I saw a maple tree. A deep blue sky framed its red and budding leaves, anxious to unfurl. Ah, the promise of spring...

A few weeks ago, we shared our gratitude and expressed our best wishes to Don Broderick as he begins a new chapter. I thought about how we should

recognize Don's 40 years of leadership here at The Arc. Hanging a commemorative plaque on a wall or naming the conference room in his honor seems so cliché! Don is a true advocate for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He earned a reputation at home here at The Arc, in Harrisburg and in Washington as a fighter for what is right, that people with IDD are entitled to live full, self-determined and respected lives. This is the Vision of The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

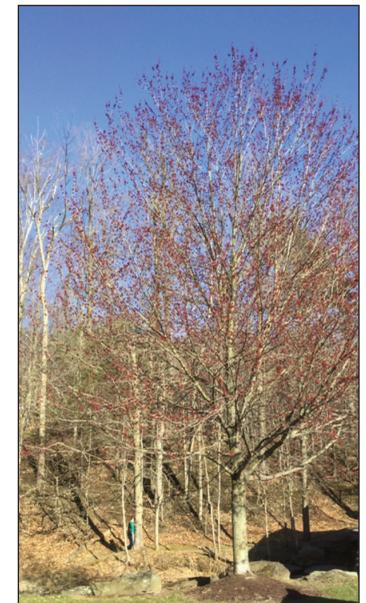
Like Don, and as members of The Arc team, we are all advocates. We share the obligation to ensure that each individual we serve is provided the dignity of self, the dignity of relationships with others and the dignity of a safe, quality environment.

You are distinguished. You carry the hopes, dreams and desires of those you serve. Your kind words, gentle manner and love for "your guys", as I've heard

so many of you say, brings joy. Such joy translates into confidence, self-esteem and a contentment of trust. Your guys depend on you, and to thank you for being there, a welcoming smile or a call of your name is shared with you as you walk in the door. You make someone's day. Every day.

Don Broderick once advised me "Mare, when you are faced with a difficult decision, let your guide be what is in the best interest of our clients. You won't go wrong" he said. Let Don's words guide you. You are a member of The Arc team, a compassionate and dedicated advocate. Be proud of what's good. Work to improve what needs to be better. You have my admiration and my support. Together, we define the measure of quality in what we do...dignity and respect. That, I believe, is the most meaningful legacy to Don Broderick.

Enjoy the rebirth of the Earth, the awakening of buds on the trees, the flowers greeting the sun. It's a masterpiece.

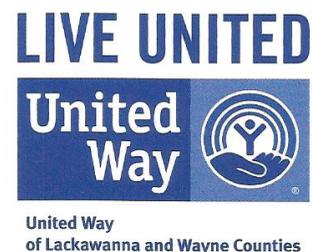


Maryclaire Kretsch  
Executive Director

# Spirit of Caring

615 Jefferson Avenue  
PO Box 526  
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18501-0526  
Phone: 570.343.1267 • Fax: 570.969.2977  
www.uwlc.net

PO Box 328  
Waymart, Pennsylvania 18472



April 2018

Ms. Mary Claire Kretsch  
The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania  
115 Meadow Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505



Dear Ms. Kretsch:

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to inform you that **the employees of The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania have** been named the recipient of the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties' **2017/2018 Spirit of Caring Chairman's Award**.

This award represents United Way's highest honor and is presented annually to organizations, individuals or employee groups that exemplify the true spirit of the United Way movement; people helping people.

**Already the largest employee campaign in the Human Services and Clergy Division, The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania's Employees not only led the way again in 2017, but also grew their employee campaign by over 20% for their largest single campaign total to date. Your energetic campaign efforts will undoubtedly establish a solid base from which to continue to grow. I am delighted to honor you for your commitment to making our community better, healthier and stronger!**

Your award will be presented during this year's United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties Awards Breakfast to be held on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel. The Breakfast will begin at 8:00 AM immediately followed by the Awards Program.

It is my hope that you or your representative(s) will be present to accept this honor. Please contact Dan Nowakowski, at United Way 343-1267 x241 or [dnowakowski@uwlc.net](mailto:dnowakowski@uwlc.net), to confirm your attendance.

On behalf of the Campaign Cabinet, Board of Directors, staff and volunteers of our United Way, please accept my congratulations on being named the recipient of this honor and my thanks for your commitment to the people of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Santaniello  
President & CEO, Fidelity Bank  
2017 United Way Campaign Chair

cc: Pat Quinn



**ADVANCING EDUCATION  
INCOME AND HEALTH**

The official registration and financial information of the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, in Pennsylvania, 1(800)732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



## Calendar of Events

### Please Mark Your Calendars...2018

#### May

- SACF - Match Day - Hoagie Sale/  
Bakeless Bake Sale - May 4th  
Golf Tournament - May 14th  
Arc Stars practice begins - May 16th  
Coney Island Bus Trip - May 20th  
PA Polka Band - May 24th  
Knights of Columbus Measure-Up  
Campaign  
Bowling Banquet - May 29th

#### June

- RailRiders Game - June 6th  
Aktion Club Flea Market - June 8th  
Foundation Annual Meeting  
June 12th  
Annual Board/General Membership/  
Recognition Event - June 26th  
Arc Stars Show - June 30th

#### July

- Camp in Lackawanna County  
July 9th

#### August

- Arc-Knight

#### September

- United Way Day of Caring  
Fall Festival -Waldorf Park  
Sept. 16th

#### October

- Buddy Walks (PODS and PPODS)  
Board Retreat

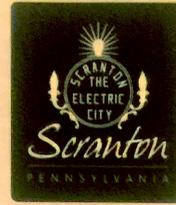
#### November

- Knights of Columbus Appreciation Party  
Night at the Races

#### December

- Poinsettia Sale  
Cookie Walk  
End of Year Foundation Solicitation  
Holiday Show at Arc  
Holiday Party  
Dec. 14th

## World Down Syndrome Day Proclamation



### World Down Syndrome Day March 21, 2018

**WHEREAS,** approximately one in every **700 babies** in the United States is born with Down Syndrome, making Down Syndrome the most common chromosomal condition. About **6,000 babies** with Down Syndrome are born in the United States each year; and

**WHEREAS,** there are an estimated six million people with Down Syndrome in the world today; and

**WHEREAS,** people with Down Syndrome possess a wide range of abilities, and are active participants in educational, occupational, social and recreational circles of our community; and

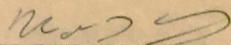
**WHEREAS,** starting in Singapore in 2006, the date 3-21 has come to represent three copies of chromosome 21 (hence 3-21) and has developed into a movement to celebrate and value people with Down Syndrome around the world; and

**WHEREAS,** on December 19, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly declared March 21<sup>st</sup> as World Down Syndrome Day; and

**WHEREAS,** people with Down Syndrome should have equal opportunity to achieve the universally desired goals of self-fulfillment, pride in their achievements, inclusion in their community, and reaching their fullest potential.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, William L. Courtright, Mayor of the City of Scranton** do hereby proclaim **March 21, 2018** as "**WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY**" and encourage citizens of Scranton to work together to promote respect and inclusion of individuals with Down Syndrome and to celebrate their accomplishments.



  
William L. Courtright  
Mayor

"According to Traveler Insurance,  
**43% of drivers**  
use a phone while driving for work."

# DON'T



# Wizard of Oz!! Stars!! It's Time To Rehearse!



**Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man,  
Lion, Wizard, Witch of the West,  
Flying Monkeys, Munchkins,  
The Mayor and MORE!!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Best contact person name \_\_\_\_\_

Best contact or Home number \_\_\_\_\_

**Below are the dates for our rehearsal**

Wednesday, May 16th @ ARC 6-7:30 pm

Wednesday, May 23rd @ ARC 6-7:30 pm

Wednesday, May 30th @ARC 6-7:30 pm

Thursday, June 7th @ ARC 6-7:30 pm

Thursday, June 14th @ ARC 6-7:30 pm

Thursday, June 21st @ ARC 6-7:30 pm

2 DRESS REHEARSALS AT NORTH POCONO HIGH SCHOOL in Covington Twp.

Transportation on your own

Thursday, June 28th @ NPHS 5:30-7:30

Friday, June 29th @ NPHS 5:30-7:30

**SHOW DATE:**

**Saturday June 30th @ NPHS 1:00 SHOW call time: 12:00 pm**

## Match Day 2018 Was a Great Success!!!

On Friday, May 4, 2018, the Scranton Area Community Foundation matched every dollar that you donated to our organization, The Arc-NEPA, dollar for dollar, up to \$1,000... each! For example, \$5.00 becomes \$10.00, \$100.00 becomes \$200.00, etc.

The Arc-NEPA is using your donated dollars to help support The Arc Star program -

Arc Stars – Arc Angels on Stage – Part Three:

Director Geri Featherby and choreographers: Cristina Sohns-Williams and Jennifer Sohns-Petty, along with many others, who create a production that promises to offer a wonderful experience for both performers and audience. The commitment from each facet of the theatrical process is extraordinary and truly commendable.

There are at least eight (8) evening rehearsal/instruction sessions, beginning in May, where each performer is paired with a former or current theater student who serves as a buddy during each class. Each gathering is captured on video to show the development and progress of each rehearsal session. Acting and dancing

are significant parts of this program.

The program is in its third year and continues to grow in numbers of participants and various techniques. We found this experience to be unique and extremely beneficial to not only the individuals involved but also educational in sharing the many abilities of The Arc Angels/Stars.

The funding we receive from the Match Day program would greatly help with The Arc Stars program. Please join in to help support our organization on NEPA Match Day. One donation can make a big difference! #NEPAMatchDay

- Scranton Area Community Foundation
- Alzheimer's Association- Greater PA Chapter
- Children's Advocacy Center of Northeastern Pennsylvania
- Countryside Conservancy
- Dress for Success Lackawanna
- EOTC
- Everhart Museum
- Greater Scranton YMCA
- Greater Carbondale Ymca
- Lackawanna River Heritage Trail
- Indraloka Animal Sanctuary
- Jewish Family Service of Northeast-

ern Pennsylvania

- Junior League of Scranton
- Lacawac Sanctuary Field Station & Environmental Education Center
- Lackawanna Pro Bono
- Leadership Lackawanna
- Marley's Mission
- Maternal and Family Health Services
- Meals on Wheels Community Services of NEPA
- NEPA Rainbow Alliance
- Northeast Regional Cancer Institute
- Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple
- The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania
- United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania
- Women's Resource Center
- Northeast Pennsylvania Youth for Christ



# MLK Day of Service 2018

The Arc-US along with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that leads the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, has awarded The Arc-NEPA a grant to organize service projects where our men and women volunteer alongside community members to provide food to people in the community who are in need. We are working with United Neighborhood Center to gather as many non-perishable items as we can to fill Angel's Attic on Olive Street (approximately 100 people visit the pantry on a daily basis).

There was a weekend-long list of activities sponsored by the MLK commission for folks to participate in and be a part of the celebration.

As a part of the MLK celebration, The Arc-NEPA is helping to collect, organize and distribute canned goods and non-perishable food items. We have and will continue to contact area grocery stores to ask for donations.



Students through United Neighborhood Center's Leaders in Training program left bags on doorsteps in our area and collected them on January 15th. The children then brought the items to the food bank for distribution.

Local radio stations, TV networks and the newspapers promoted the collection.

### *Giving Back to the Community...*

Thank you to CNCS and The Arc of the United States for giving us this opportunity to be a part of a greater whole. Our folks work to stock the shelves at UNC-NEPA Angel's Attic Food Bank. The supplies fed between 500-600 families throughout the winter months. We learn a lot from this experience such as: our help is



needed everyday, people are very giving, kind and generous, just ask; our folks are hard workers and love what they do; Angel's Attic is a wonderful resource to the community and a welcoming space where people are given what they need; So, let's keep the momentum going, let's fill the food bank all year and ensure folks have what they need to keep their bellies full. We are an exceptional community where no one should ever go to sleep hungry. Gene Calibani inspired many to help others and educated us on what great neighbors we have. Thank you Gene, you are always remembered.

#TheArcMLK18 #MLKDay



## Appointment News



*I am very excited that I have been selected to be a member of The Governor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities. We will meet 4 times per year in Harrisburg to*

*advise the Cabinet on disability issues. 60% of the committee must include members who either have a disability or a family member who have a disability. This is a great opportunity to discuss and bring attention to many issues facing our families*

*and individuals, in such crucial areas as DSP and TSS shortage, including recruitment and retention initiatives for quality professionals and consistent budgetary funding options, inclusive community and workplace opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family engagement and partnership with educational agencies and school districts.*

*This statement is taken directly from the application explaining the origin and the role of the committee:*

*"In 2006, Gov. Rendell signed Executive Order 2006-09 establishing the Governor's Cabinet for People with Disabilities (Cabinet), which is responsible for making recommendations to the*

*Governor as to disability issues. The Cabinet further serves as the Governor's liaison to the public and as a resource to state agencies. The Cabinet is made up of 12-14 designated heads of agencies who serve by reason of their position, with the Secretary of the Department of Human Services serving as chair.*

*In addition to the Cabinet, the Executive Order created the Governor's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities (Advisory Committee) to advise the Cabinet on disability issues. The members of the Advisory Committee are individuals from the community appointed by the Governor.*

*Thanks !!!  
Roseann Polishan*

## Spring Break for Autism

By Mari Pizur

Over a decade ago Peter and Margo realized they wanted programs to help people with Autism live a full life. They join forces with families who have children with Autism / Dual Diagnosis. Sue Keating, Al Dorunda, Pete Sabia, Patty Dugay, John Stevens and Mr. / Mrs. Joe Cotone and established "Spring Break for Autism". They want to raise money to help support programs that will help their children realize their dreams and live self-determined respected lives.

"Spring Break for Autism" was a fun filled night with friends and families.

The Silent Auction displayed many magnificent paintings created by people with Autism along with several community support business donations. There were also great baskets being raffled off. We enjoyed a delicious dinner while listening soft to music provided by Frank Regan!

The Arc of NEPA along with YMCA of Carbondale and Arts Alive were fortunate enough to be the recipients of their successful fundraiser.

We are so grateful to have such support from the community and their families.

## Leave a Legacy – Estate Giving Program

### 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.

We appreciate your kindness you show on an annual basis. As we move forward today and throughout the year, we also need to be remembered as we go into the future. With your generosity, we can continue offering the services to the individuals who need them. If you would like to explore a method of giving that is right for you, please feel free to contact us and we will be happy to meet with you. For specific financial or legal advice, please consult with an attorney or financial planner.



## Spring Fling

By Mari Pizur

The Arc Recreation would like to extend a special "Thanks" to the Eynon-Archbald Lions Club for "Spring Fling Celebration"! It was a wonderful afternoon on April 14th at the Falcon's Nest. We felt so welcomed by the

Lions Club members as we all danced to the music provided by DJ Top Shelf Entertainment. We were served chicken, carrots, salad, macaroni and cheese and all homemade desserts. It was a great event and left us with lasting memories.

## Moscow Melodies Spring Tea



The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary recently sponsored a Spring Tea. It was held at the Elmhurst Country Club which provided a beautiful setting for our afternoon. Corolla Sawka, Jeanne and Joe Gardier designed gorgeous centerpieces and room decorations which added to the elegance of the event (very talented folks). The Auxiliary

members brought baskets and gift cards and we wish to thank them for their generosity and creativity. The day was made extra special by the "The Moscow Melodies" (Michele Conaboy's Choral Group) who sang several songs with enthusiasm and talent. We are very grateful for all who shared in this special event - Thank you.

# The Arc Angels On Stage



The Arc Angels on Stage created a lot of WOW this past November! The Polar Express play was un“believe”able and everyone shined! Twenty-two adults with disabilities (Stars) performed alongside students from local high schools (Theater Buddies) to bring this unique performance to the stage at North Pocono High School.

The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary continue to focus on their mission which is to raise awareness, as well as, fundraise for the folks served by The Arc-NEPA. Through a Lackawanna Culture & Arts grant, director Geri Featherby and choreographers: Cristina Sohns-Williams and Jennifer Sohns-Petty returned to direct their second Arc production. Last year, a documentary was created that followed the eight-week program. This year’s production offered a wonderful experience for both

performers and audience.

## *A little background...First Year*

The Friends of The Arc and Geri Featherby, along with dance instructors, Christina Sohns-Williams and Jennifer Sohns-Petty, worked together to establish “Arc Angels on Stage.” “A World of Love Makes a World of Difference” was the theme for the first year. The workshops provided eight weeks of instruction, consisting of one and one half hour sessions,

*(Continued on next page)*



## **UNICO Sixth Annual Pig Roast**

On Saturday, April 14, 2018, Keystone UNICO held their Sixth Annual Pig Roast and The Arc-NEPA was the major beneficiary!!! Thank you very much to all the folks on the committee, the volunteers, sponsors who were helpful in giving The Arc this honor.

# - Making Memories

divided between theater and dance for adults with a variety of intellectual disabilities. The end result was a one evening presentation of the film/live performance for family, friends and community.

An outpouring of support from men, women, children, professional and laypeople who had no idea what to expect when they attended "Arc Angels on Stage." The audience laughed, cried, clapped and fully enjoyed the experience of the program. Those who attended were from all over the county, as well as outside of the area.

We received support from the community from Sarno and Sons, who donated tuxedo pants for the men and women in our production. A bus was provided from V.I.P. Limo to transport the "Stars" to North Pocono High School on the evening of June 24th. The local newspapers provided extensive coverage of our program both before and after the event. The community embraced the Stars and the show.

## ***Year Two...The Polar Express... The Journey***

This program is so unique. Geri creates a world where there are no disabilities or obstacles, there was just freedom to be anything you want, freedom to enjoy life and all that it has to offer, everyone is just themselves and that is beautiful.

We began with two summer workshops on July 19th and



August 16th with a mix of theater, dance and vocal. On September 20th, scripts were handed out and parts were practiced. Mrs. Featherby cast the stars and the "hot chocolate" dance started. On October 18th and 25th the performers practiced their roles and lines. A DVD copy of their theater buddy performing the lines was made and the Stars used the DVD to practice during the week. The "hot chocolate" dance was revisited. Practices were also held on November 1st, 8th and 15th with the dress rehearsal which was held on November 17th with a pizza party. The awesomely successful show was on November 18th!

## ***Year Three...What's happening next...***

Get those dancing shoes ready because we are performing a spring extravaganza called "Disco Wizard of Oz". Tentatively, rehearsals will begin Wednesday, May 16th with practices on May 23rd, May 30th, Thursdays, June 7th, June 14th, June 21st. Dress rehearsals will be on June 28th and June 29th with the live performance on June 30th at 2:00p.m. at North Pocono High School. More information will be sent out but please mark your calendars and feel free to call me (Eileen) with any questions, 570-346-4010.

**DIRECTED BY:** Geri Featherby

**CHOREOGRAPHY:** Cristina Sohns-Williams & Jennifer Sohns-Petty



**LIGHTING ENGINEER:** Ryan Houser

**VIDEOGRAPHER:** Joe Strauch

## **A SPECIAL THANK YOU...**

North Pocono School District

Mr. Bryan McGraw,  
Superintendent

School Board Members

Mr. Collins, Principal, High School

Mr. Chris Sload, VP, High School

Gene Metachulat

Catherine Clancy

Christian Brown

Diana Brown

Mr. Larry Lown, Creative  
Consultant & Tweaker of all Set  
Pieces

***Thank you to everyone who made  
this experience so special and a  
HUGE thanks to:***

Lackawanna County Arts and  
Culture

A program of Lackawanna County  
Commissioners

Patrick M. O'Malley, Jerry  
Notarianni, Lauren A. Cummings

***This year's performance was  
dedicated to: Mr. Don Broderick***

***Without his time and dedication  
to our "Stars" and their families  
of The Arc community, this  
spectacular event and this  
afternoon would not be possible.  
He will be missed by all!***



# Celebrating Don Broderick

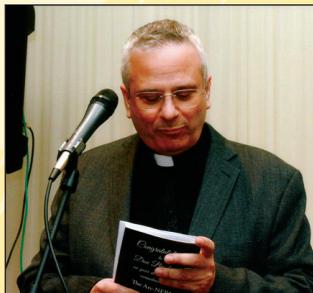
We celebrated Don's 46 years at The Arc-NEPA on March 22nd! It was a fabulous event and a real tribute to a well-respected gentleman. Don, wishing you all of our best for the next 46!!! Many of you attended, as well as, supported this fabulous event and for that we are sincerely grateful. Thank you to all who helped spread the word, put together mailings, assisted with questions and offered help. Our Arc Family is truly amazing and we should all be proud.



I have had one terrific career and have truly loved my time here at The Arc.

I feel great about where we are, the stability of the agency and the superb staff taking over the administrative duties. I wish you all the best in the days to come. The future looks "very" bright.

Respectfully Yours,  
Don Broderick



## Arc Update

The Arc-NEPA was granted \$45,000 for capital improvements and updated equipment: phone system, renovate the kitchen in our Day Program and a residential home basement. We are very grateful for the continued support we receive from our funding sources.

The Mass of Awareness which celebrates Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities was held on Sunday, February 25th at St. Peter's Cathedral. We would like to thank the Diocese of Scranton.

Bring your child to work day was held on April 26th. The kiddos had a lot of fun, as well as, a learning experience. The children were buddied up with a program participant and helped with arts and crafts, exercised and danced, listened to speakers and asked questions, ate breakfast and lunch with the folks in day program. Each child received a tee shirt, certificate and a mason jar craft.



The Aktion Club hosted a luncheon for the Kiwanians on March 28th. The ladies and gentlemen enjoyed a wonderful meal with all the folks in the Aktion Club, listened to some presentations and had a lovely afternoon. We love our friends from the Kiwanis Club.

Alexa Scala, co-captain, of the Marywood University Softball Team invited us to a Meet and Greet clinic on April 21st at Marywood's Field. The players and parents really outdid themselves with activities, lots of food choices, buttons, pins, bracelets and tons of team spirit! Wow, what a great group of people! We cannot thank them enough for thinking of us and putting together the extraordinary day.

On April 21st, the YMCA in Dunmore and on April 28th, the YMCA in Carbondale held their Healthy Kids Day. Hundreds of children played games, visited stations, won prizes and had a ball. We are very lucky and proud to have a wonderful relationship with both YMCAs. Thank you for being such an important part of our community.

The Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon is scheduled for Tuesday, June 26th at La Buona Vita. Please mark your calendars and invitations will be mailed out in the near future.

### **Arc Recreation:**

Never a dull moment in our Recreation department: the Bowling banquet is scheduled for May 29th and the Railriders Baseball Game is on June 6th.

Arc Tracks is on the move and traveling to Coney Island on May 20th. We are proud to say that we were quickly sold out. We always have something for everyone, so please feel free to join us on one of our excursions! We will have a great time together. We will keep you posted on future trips. For more information, please call Mari at 570-207-0825.

### **Auxiliary Information**

We received a grant for \$1,771.00 from the Lackawanna County Department of Arts and Culture for Theater Arts for adults with disabilities for the third year in a row!!! Geri Featherby will once again be directing this program (Disco Wizard of Oz). We will begin with weekly practices beginning May 16th. It is our goal to continue the educational and fun learning experience that the Arc Stars enjoy. If you have not seen the documentary and/or The Polar Express and would like to, please let me know and I will be happy to send you the link to YouTube.

### **Foundation Overview**

Plans for the Golf Tournament for 2018 are underway for May 14th. We are very proud and happy to announce that Kevin Naniewicz will be celebrity chair of this year's tournament. Kevin is an avid golfer and medalist for Special Olympics. He and his family are very excited to be a

part of this event and we are thrilled to have their enthusiasm. We are working with Glen Oak to ensure a successful day for all the golfers.

The Foundation Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 12th, noon, at the Radisson. An invitation will be arriving shortly.

### **The Arc Responds and the Employee Driven Group**

The Arc Nor'easters versus the Scranton Police Department Basketball Game was postponed from March 21st to March 28th at Scranton High School. There was food, baked goods and raffles. Bert Morgan, President of PODS spoke about World Down Syndrome day, one of our folks sang the National Anthem, we received a proclamation (featured in this edition) from the Mayor's office, dancing during half time and in between quarters, foul shot contest where everyone was a winner – cheer signs for crowd participation, goodie bags, banners for the cheerleaders to hold and the players ran through. We wanted to have a big party for all the kiddos and they had a ball. We were thrilled that everyone joined in the fun! This game was featured in Happenings Magazine!!!



The Committee worked with the PODS to have a PURSE BINGO on April 8th at Eagle McClure in Old Forge. We had a HUGE success and sold well over 300 tickets. The hall was packed. Everyone on the committee did an outstanding job on working together. The purses were beautiful, food was delicious, volunteers were excellent and the event was a big hit. Thank you to Anne for helping to put this event together.

Once again, we will be a featured non-profit of the evening at a RailRiders game for the 2018 season. Let's hope for a warm evening on June 6th!

## Andy Warner Dedication



Andy had a very special place in all of our hearts at Dunmore. We are so very honored to have been a part of his life and for he to be a part of ours.

This is the first time in the school district's history that a non-student had something dedicated or retired. It was only fitting for it to be Andy.

The picture that is now hung up above the Athletic Director's Office can be seen on the way into the gym and on the way out of the gym.



## 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.



## Rotary Holiday Auction Fundraiser



*Submitted by: Mari Pizur*

The premiere community service event for The Rotary Club of Scranton is the Holiday Auction which is a dinner event that features a live and silent auction of various items.

This year's proceeds were dedicated to The Arc of NEPA.

The gala event was held on December 7th at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel in Scranton. It was in the Grand Ballroom which was decorated with white lights throughout giving the neoclassical structure a warm holiday feeling. Holiday spirits filled the air as we listened to Scranton High School Knight Rhythms singing

holiday songs directed by Lisa McConlogue. They were wonderful and a great way to start the evening.

The silent auction had all types of prizes from gift cards, blankets, home goods and games. The live auction had a variety of items briefcases, alarm systems, computers, tools, ladders and much more that were open for bids. The live Auctioneers were fantastic and full of fun. There was a wine number pull table where everyone was a winner!

The Arc of NEPA is so grateful for the tremendous support from the community and Rotary Club. The time, the effort and dedication by the Rotary members was impeccable and greatly appreciated.



Catch the fun and excitement of Railrider's Baseball! We will be the "Community Organization of the Night." One of our participants will be throwing the FIRST PITCH! Our logo will be getting some time to shine on the video board! Listen for The Arc's Group on the Railrider's Network Broadcast. We will also have a table set up inside the gates!

When: Wednesday, June 6, 2018  
 Time: 6:00pm (Game begins at 6:35)  
 Who: Railriders vs. Durham (Tampa Bay Rays)  
 Where: PNC Field - 1st Baseline Bleacher Seats  
 Donation: \$10 per person which must be paid prior to game (you will receive your tickets upon payment)

All tickets must be reserved and prepaid.

To reserve your spot for this Exciting Fun Filled Night, please complete the following with checks made payable to: The Arc of NEPA, 115 Meadow Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505

# of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Amt Paid \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in throwing out the 1st pitch? YES NO

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

## Autism Walk

On Saturday April 28th the Parents Loving Children Through Autism (PLCTA) had their 15th Annual Walk and 5K for Autism Awareness. Over 1000 people attend and /or are involved in this event. PLCTA is a local support group for families and individuals with autism. The Arc of NEPA and The Local Right to Education Task Force had an information table along with other area agencies that offer support and services to families with autism. It was great community outreach opportunity to network and reach families that may not know about supports and programs available.

## Advocacy Update

It is with great pleasure that The Arc announces the news that we are now the first Arc chapter in the Commonwealth to provide a full time on-site facility advocate at one of Pennsylvania's state centers. March 1, 2018, marked the advent of The Arc of NEPA working in partnership with Disability Rights Pennsylvania (DRP) to provide advocacy for individuals residing at White Haven State Center. This marks an historic chapter in Arc NEPA advocacy as our own Samantha (Sam) Donahue has assumed the role as full time facility advocate at White Haven. Sam is representing our agency in her highest characteristic manner during her short time in this new and critical role. This most unique relationship between The Arc, DRP, and White Haven State Center is grounded in dedication to the health, safety, welfare, and quality of life for over one hundred individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities who call White Haven home. The overarching Arc position on community living

as a preferred option is well known, however, advocacy is at its strongest when it recognizes each unique living circumstance and preference, and ensures the best outcome for each person day to day. Those who are identified for community placement will be greatly assisted by Sam as a function of her advocacy role. For everyone else, individual rights, planning, and overall well-being will be closely monitored via a myriad of regular protocols our advocate is engaged in. With that, Sam and the administrative team will follow a jointly prescribed mission with DRP and White Haven State Center to ensure the needs and rights of those living at the center are met. To ensure objectivity, the Arc of NEPA would be recused from any referral to our own services. Kudos to another valued Arc "MVP"- Mr. Kyle Juice, for in initially filling the role prior to Samantha's post. Please feel free to contact Pat Quinn for more information on this new service: pquinn@thearcnepa.org, or in the office at (570) 346-4010.



## Our Hats Off to Kevin Naniewicz for Being the Celebrity Chair of The Arc's 18th Annual Golf Tournament

A little about Kevin...Kevin Naniewicz has been involved with The Arc Recreation program for many years. Although, Kevin enjoys

the bowling league and other Arc activities, anyone who knows him will tell you that golf is his favorite sport.

Being a member of the Area P Special Olympic Golf team, Kevin has participated in the golf competition at Penn State Summer Games for the past 20 years. He has won many gold, silver and bronze awards.

In addition to his play with Special Olympics, Kevin plays weekly during the golf season in the Wednesday night mixed league at Scott Greens.

He proudly lets everyone know he had a "Hole in One" on their 8th hole.

Kevin was introduced to golf at a young age by his uncle Bob, who is also his neighbor. After many hours of practice in the back yard, Bob moved Kevin up to playing the course. Soon after Kevin began golfing, his cousin from Virginia married professional golfer, Chip Sullivan. Having a family member on tour was very exciting for him. It sparked his interest in watching professional golfers, in addition to his playing. Kevin enjoys attending professional tournaments.

Working part-time at the Scranton Times for the past 20 years, another accomplishment he is extremely proud of, allows Kevin to practice and play during golf seasons in NEPA.

## New Employee Referral Bonus Program

The Arc of NEPA regularly seeks potential candidates for employment who can assist us in providing quality programs and services. The Arc of NEPA employees are encouraged to help us in this endeavor by referring interested individuals who meet the qualifications for available positions.

In return, The Arc of NEPA shall provide the following referral awards:

- A \$150 bonus will be awarded to an employee whose referral is offered employment and works a minimum of 30 days beyond date of hire.
- An additional \$250 bonus will be awarded to the same employee after successful completion of the referral's 90-day probationary period.

The following program rules apply:

1.) Referring employees are required to submit a New Employee Referral Bonus Application (available in the Human Resources (HR) Office) to HR within 10 calendar days of the referral's date of hire.

2.) All current agency employees, excluding Human Resources personnel and Departmental Directors with hiring authority over the referred candidates, are eligible to participate in the New Employee Referral Bonus Program.

3.) Temporary employees, substitute personnel, and former Arc employees referred for employment do not qualify as referred candidates for purposes of referral award eligibility.

4.) In order to receive payment as outlined above, the referring employee must remain actively employed by The Arc during the referral's length of stay requirements for purposes of referral award eligibility.

5.) In the event that more than one employee has referred the same individual for employment, the reward will be split equally between the referring employees who meet the requirements of this program.

## Current Employment Opportunities

www.thearcnepa.org

### Direct Service Professional (DSP)

#### Full Time

Benefit Eligible

DSP: Float \*Flexibility required\*

40 hours per week  
2 Positions Available

Wed-Fri alt Sat  
11pm-9am  
6 Positions Available

Sun-Tues alt. Sat  
11pm-9am  
4 Positions Available

Mon-Fri  
4pm-11pm  
1 Position Available

#### Part Time-A

Partial-Benefit Eligible

Mon-Fri  
3pm-11pm  
1 Position Available

Mon-Fri  
4pm-9pm  
1 Position Available

#### Part Time-B

DSP: Non-Benefit Eligible  
Must be able to work every or every other Sat & Sun

9am-3pm  
7 Positions Available

11am-7pm  
2 Positions Available

3pm-11pm  
7 Positions Available

--All positions require flexibility--

Contact Allison or Tina in Human Resources for any additional information or questions

#### **Our outstanding benefit package includes:**

Health insurance\*  
Dental insurance\*  
Vision insurance\*  
Life/AD&D insurance  
Long Term Disability insurance  
Pension  
Vacation days\*  
Personal days\*  
Sick days\*  
Holidays  
\$400 new employee referral bonuses  
Fitness Club reimbursement  
Credit union  
Direct deposit

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Minimum requirements for these positions include:

- \*\*\*18 years of age or older
- \*\*\*High School Diploma/GED
- \*\*\*Valid PA driver's license

Previous Human Services experience helpful, but not necessary.

Paid training provided.

To be considered for one of these positions, a completed application must be on file with our Human Resources Department.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH The Arc-NEPA.

## Trophy Donation

From Mari Pizur

At the end of the year, we received several boxes of trophies that were donated by an anonymous person. In the box was an envelope with a memo that read "Thank you so much for repurposing the trophies! Hope

this donation helps to defray the cost of doing so! Merry Christmas!" With that note was a \$100.00 donation and they were saying thank you to us!

I would like to say "Thank you, we greatly appreciate your generous donation and thoughtfulness!"

If you would like to donate trophies, please contact Mari at 570-207-0825

## Act of Heroism in Adult Services

During the holiday season, we had a brunch for all program participants. "Cheryl" was enjoying brunch when she started to make choking noises and gasping for air. The scene was described as "a very serious" incident of choking, as Cheryl's facial color changed dramatically and she could not breathe or cough. Lisa Alimecco, a 21 year veteran Arc staff member and current Residential home Supervisor, rushed to Cheryl's aid and began back blows as instructed

in her training. The food dislodged and Cheryl exhibited instant relief. Cheryl was seen medically immediately afterward, per Arc protocol.

Lisa was congratulated by Don Broderick and given a small token of appreciation for her quick thinking and potentially lifesaving effort. Bravo, Lisa!



Don Broderick, Lisa Peters, Pat Quinn

## ABLE Act Anniversary

On April 20th, a celebration of PA ABLE was held, as well as, a community event and resource fair by Pennsylvania Treasury Department and U.S. Senator Bob Casey.

The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania and several others community organizations joined U.S. Senator Bob Casey and PA Treasurer Joe Torsella in the celebration of the one-year anniversary of the PA ABLE Savings Program for people with disabilities.

This was a free community event that featured a press conference with the Senator, Treasurer, and two local families who shared what PA ABLE has meant for them. Experts from the PA Treasury ABLE team were on hand to answer questions on the program.

The Pride Squad cheerleaders, a special needs cheerleading team based in the Midvalley, made a special appearance at 10:30 a.m. Pride Squad cheers during Olyphant Lions Junior football games and performs at competitions and other community events.

PA ABLE gives individuals with qualified disabilities and their families and friends, a tax-free way to save for disability-related expenses while maintaining government benefits.

The Pennsylvania ABLE Savings Program is administered by the Pennsylvania Treasury Department. Before investing, please carefully read the Disclosure Statement (available at [PAABLE.gov](http://PAABLE.gov) or by calling 855-529-2253) to learn more about the program, including its

effect on federal and state benefits, investment objectives, risks, fees, and tax implications.

**PAABLE**  
WWW.PAABLE.GOV  
855-529-ABLE (2253)

#PAABLE

Better Quality of Life





Northeastern Pennsylvania

115 Meadow Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505

Non-Profit  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Scranton, PA  
Permit #122



### 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...

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

- National, state, and local newsletters with current information on intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- The opportunity to participate in The Arc affairs at a local, state, and national level.
- Attend conferences, conventions, and seminars at a reduced cost.
- Discount prices on publications.
- Insurances services, credit card program, and free one year subscription to ABILITY digital magazine.

### Stay Informed!

#### Membership Registration

New Member      Renewal

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

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

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

- 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