

FALL 2014

The Arcti-culate



*John Bittenbender -
Forever in our hearts
Tribute on page 3*

Almost 60 years ago...

It was a cold night in March, and a fresh covering of snow reminded us that winter will decide when she lets go. The wind swirled and howled as we headed to the car. It was not a good night to be out but we agreed to meet. It was important to all of us.

Others had already arrived and were chatting in the living room over coffee and sweets. We joined them.

There were 12 of us. The room got quiet when Mary said, through tears, that all she wanted was the chance that her son could go to school just like the other children in the neighborhood. He was a charming boy with a huge smile and an equally big heart. Each morning, he followed behind the kids as they walked down the sidewalk to school, pretending

her purse was his book bag. It broke her heart to chase after him and tell him again and again that he was to stay at home. He was, after all, her pride, her joy.

Each mother and father, sharing not only company in the living room that night but a mutual goal, spoke of their dreams for their children..... to live at home, to go to school, to grow, to work and to be loved. The group met on this cold night in winter of 1955. Impassioned with desire, they vowed that they must seek opportunities for their children.

Since that evening, they never stopped advocating. They showed us the way...

The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania

Our Vision

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



Design by: Michael E. Hockenbury


The Arc[™]

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



I am very happy to be able to write this to you as my first time as Board President of The Arc of Northeastern PA! We are blessed to have so many dedicated and caring employees paired with our wonderful consumers. I have always marveled at the high level of care provided by our staff, day and night, 24/7 and I want to say "thank you" for all you do.

Concerning our future, please realize that ALL of you can make a difference for The Arc. "Pass the word" to your friends and family about the wonderful things happening at our organization. Don't be afraid to contact your representatives or candidates running for office to ask for their help in furthering our goal of providing superior services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. If you require any assistance on this matter or have questions, you can contact us at 570-346-4010.

I would be remiss if I didn't take some time to thank the staff, off-duty Scranton Police Officer William Golden and neighbor Ron Klecker. All assisted The Arc in removing the consumers from a group home that caught fire on September 4, 2014. It was their quick thinking that enabled everyone to exit the burning home without anyone getting hurt! Special thanks also goes out to our first responders who quickly made sure that the fire damage was limited. Lastly, I cannot forget to thank our neighbors who offered cold drinks and opened their homes to comfort our residents and staff.

So, as we leave the summer of 2014 behind, I remind you that the fall is a wonderful time to be outdoors. The fresh fall air, trees changing color in the mountains of Northeast Pennsylvania and yes, even golf is plentiful at this time of year. Whatever your desire is, I wish all of you a fantastic start to the last quarter of 2014!

Most Sincerely,
Ken Doolittle, President

Exec's Corner



Dear Friends of The Arc,

Boy do things rev-up in the fall! Sometimes you just have to stop and catch your breath. Some items of interest:

- Our local star, Sara Wolff, has made the news again! Sara has worked tirelessly on seeking passage of The ABLE Act, (Achieving a Better Life Experience). Al Jazeera T.V. did a wonderful article and video piece on Sara and her life. Just call and we will give you the web site.
- We are very excited to share the news that advocacy to change the name of the Department of Public Welfare to the Department of Human Services has been successful. Many state senators and representatives, a coalition of advocacy organizations, and self-advocates spoke out in support of the name change, and against the stigma of the word "welfare". The House passed the DPW name change HB 993 on September 17th. It now awaits the signature of Governor Corbett.
- Congratulations to Steve Suroviec, who was recently named Department Secretary of the Office of Developmental Programs, succeeding Fred Lakuta, who recently retired, after 30 + years of an illustrious career in various positions in state government serving people with intellectual disabilities. Mr. Suroviec served as the Executive Director of The Arc of PA from

2003-2011, and then as the Executive Director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. Steve is a good friend of The Arc and an excellent advocate. He has agreed to be our guest speaker at our upcoming board retreat in October. Welcome back Mr. Suroviec!

- The United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties kicked off their campaign on September 4th. The Arc of NEPA has been a recipient of allocated funds for over 50 years, assisting us in our Recreation, Adult Day and Advocacy Departments. The United Way also supports nearly 100 programs through dozens of community organizations serving people in need. Your contribution and/or pledge would be greatly appreciated.
- Our 60th anniversary is rapidly approaching (2015). Lots of special activities and announcements to come.
- As most of you know, we had a fire at our Court Street home on September 4th. A tragedy was averted with the help of neighbors, friends and the Scranton Fire and Police Departments. Many personal thanks go out to all for their caring and support.

That's all for now.

Respectfully Yours,
Don Broderick, Executive Director

To Thank the Friends of The Arc Auxiliary and Aktion Club

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ladies Auxiliary and the Aktion Club



Bus Trip to Mt. Airy Casino!

**Saturday
October 25, 2014**

Leaving The Arc
9:30 a.m.

Departing from
Mt. Airy Casino
3:30 p.m.

Returning to The Arc
4:15 p.m.

Cost: \$27.50

Passenger Rebate:
\$25.00 Slot Rebate &
\$10.00 Food Voucher

RSVP by Friday, October 17, 2014

Please make checks payable to:
The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary
and send to:

The Arc
115 Meadow Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

Any questions please call
570-346-4010

*Proceeds benefit
The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary*

for their support and financial contributions towards the purchase of our new vending machine. With your help we have been able to provide our guys with new training opportunities. This program will also help our participants learn all about running their own business from budgeting money to restocking the vending machine. Since the end of June our participants have been involved in the shopping and

stocking aspect of our endeavor and will continue to learn more about the vending business as our program evolves. The vending machine has been profitable and we are excited to see where the participants will go with this opportunity in the future.

Sincerely,
Karl Sussman and the
Supportive Employment
Department

John Bittenbender



The leaves are changing, and so is our home. On September 3rd, 2014 our friend John Bittenbender passed away at home after a brief illness.

John will surely be missed by all that had the pleasure of knowing him as he was a light and a mentor for us all.

Bitt, you have enlightened us all with your enthusiasm and zest for life! Fly high Johnny Bitt!

The Staff and consumers at Theodore St. would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers at our time of need.

Robinson Park News

We have a nuptial to announce here at Robinson Park. Our fellow employee and friend, Kristen Krushnowski was wed on Friday, September 5, 2014 to Anthony Kijewski. Our congratulations and best wishes go out to them, as they begin their new life together. Blessings and many

years of happiness to the both of you!

The Robinson Park Ladies are at it again. This time we are sharing the joyous news of the engagement of Mary Anne Longos to Joe Adamo on Oct. 5th, 2014, which was also her Birthday. No wedding date has been set yet.

Night at the Races

The Second Annual Night at the Races will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2014, at St. Mary's Center on Mifflin Avenue, Scranton. Representative Sid Michaels Kavulich will emcee the event and there will be many fun activities for everyone! Please join us for a fantastic evening out and if you know anyone who would like to participate, please call us.

Seated: Peter Kanton; Mark McDade; Michele McDade; Bob Hoffman; Ann Hoffman; Eileen Williams; Carol Burke. Standing: Pat Cole; Betty Moreken; Nancy Crafferty; MaryCarol Kanton; Betsy Youngblood; Corolla Sawka; Paul Sawka; Eileen Rempe; Mary Murphy Fox; Bill Burke.



The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary Bits and Pieces

Submitted by Corolla Sawka, Auxiliary President

Eileen Williams' Fete was held on September 24th at the Radisson. It was a day for her to remember and we won't forget it either!

The Auxiliary will sponsor a Night at the Races on November 15th at St. Mary's Center, Mifflin Avenue, Scranton. Please buy a horse, sponsor a race, take an ad and

definitely come to win! Please call Eileen at The Arc if you would like more information.

Starting January, the Auxiliary will sponsor a Consumer of the Month. A name will be chosen at random. Their picture will be placed in the Hall of Fame. A t-shirt and a gift will be presented. So watch for the stars!



Pictured: Betty Whitney; Marie Maddi; Betty Moreken; Jeanne Gardier; Nancy Crafferty; Dolly Marie Densvich; Eileen Williams; Eileen Rempe; Corolla Sawka; Betsy Youngblood; Sara Wolff; Carol Burke; MaryCarol Kanton; Ann Hoffman; Maron Bielovitz; Claire Maldonato

The Friends of The Arc-NEPA Auxiliary

presents

"A Night at the Races"

November 15, 2014

St. Mary's Center
320 Mifflin Avenue, Scranton

**Doors open at 6:00 p.m.
Post Time: 6:30 p.m.**

- ★ Door Prizes
 - ★ Basket Raffle
 - ★ 50/50
 - ★ Food/Soft Drinks - Free
 - ★ Beer/Wine
Cash Bar til 10:00 p.m.
 - ★ No BYOB
- Donation: \$10.00**



Buddy Walk

The Parents of Down Syndrome of NEPA hosted the 13th Annual Buddy Walk this year at Lakeland High School on October 5th. The Buddy Walk celebrates National Down syndrome Awareness Month and the goal is to promote understanding and acceptance of people with Down syndrome. Hundreds of people attended, enjoyed the festivities and walked. This year's organizers were Daniel O'Brien and Mikie Perry. Thank you for all your past and continued support of PODS!



Lackawanna County Commissioners Honor Mark Kwiatkowski



Left to right: Commissioner Corey D. O'Brien, Commissioner Jim Wansacz, Mark Kwiatkowski, and Commissioner Patrick M. O'Malley.

The Lackawanna County Commissioners designated August 20, 2014 as Mark Kwiatkowski Day. He was also recognized for his outstanding athletic skills. Mark has competed in the Area P Special Olympics, Pennsylvania State Special Olympics and USA Games. In 2013, he won a gold medal in golf skills at the Pennsylvania State Games and in 2014 a gold medal at the USA games. He is also an avid fan of music, Elvis, baseball and theater and has performed with The Poets.



Sara Wolff's Bowlathon

Sara Wolff's Bowlathon was held on October 11th at Idle Hour Lanes. With Sara's hard work and diligence, along with many bowlers, sponsors, basket makers and volunteers, the bowling event was a HUGE success! We can't thank everyone enough for all their support.

Golf Tourney

Written by Dr. J.R. Karam



Making the \$1,750.00 check presentation to members of The Arc are Doctors Matthew Zale, Chuck Scrimalli, Jessica Falk, Joseph Karam, Carol Chisdak (Arc), Don Broderick (Arc), Fred Bonacci, and Stephanie Hanyon.

The SDDS held this year's golf outing and clam bake on June 18th, 2014 at the Country Club of Scranton. Beautiful weather, well-manicured greens, delicious food, and good company were

NCDHM events. I would like to thank everyone who attended, acknowledge and thank cochair Dr. Bonacci and his staff, as well as personally express gratitude to Mrs. Heidi Smith, my office

The Arc-NEPA would like to THANK the Dental Association for their generosity. This friendship means the world to us!

highlights of the event. Many enjoyed the brilliant sunset from the lawn off the back patio and stayed well into the night for lively conversation. Due to excellent attendance combined with support from our gracious sponsors, the SDDS donated \$1,750.00 to The Arc, which kindly supports our

manager, for her dedicated efforts in organizing the event. Making the \$1,750.00 check presentation to members of The Arc are Doctors Matthew Zale, Chuck Scrimalli, Jessica Falk, Joseph Karam, Carol Chisdak, The Arc, Don Broderick The Arc, Fred Bonacci, and Stephanie Hanyon.

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.



Arc Executive Offers Thanks

(published in *The Scranton Times-Tribune* on 9/14/2014)

Editor: On Sept. 4, our home on Court Street in Scranton caught fire.

We were alerted to the fire by off-duty Scranton Patrolman William Golden. He banged on the front door, entered the home, scooped up a resident and carried her to safety.

Ron Klecker, while visiting a neighbor, saw what was happening, ran to the house and assisted another resident out of the home.

These gentlemen are two heroes among many who shared kindness that day. Scranton firefighters and police officers were on the scene within minutes and the fire was limited to structural damage. A tragedy was averted and the impact of the fire was lessened, thanks to the first responders and caring neighbors.

Our most sincere gratitude goes to Officer Golden, Scranton police and

fire units, Mr. Klecker and to our neighbors who offered cold drinks and opened their homes to comfort our residents and staff.

We are working diligently to ensure the continued quality of care for the residents while we make their home safe and sound again.

Many have asked what they can do to help. The Arc was properly insured, but there are always unexpected costs associated with fire and smoke damage, especially for personal items. Donations can be made to the Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania, 115 Meadow Ave., Scranton 18505.

Again, thanks to all for the help on Sept. 4. Now, we rebuild.

Don Broderick,
Executive Director
The Arc of Northeastern
Pennsylvania

Arc Volunteers Help Out at Geisinger Blood Drive



A blood drive sponsored by the Northeast Regional Council on Integration and Inclusion (NRCII), The Arc of Luzerne County, and Wilkes University was held on September 24, 2014. Volunteers from The Arc of NEPA helped with registrations, seating, and escorting donors to the canteen after donations. Pictured seated are: Andy Warner, Vivian Dudek, Agnes Keller, and Corey Martin. Standing: Erica Francis and Barbara Day.

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.



Donate Your Vehicle

An Easy Way to Turn Cars into Cash for Charity

The Arc Vehicle Donation Program accepts all cars, trucks, motorcycles, RVs, regardless of the condition of the vehicles. Towing is free to the donor. If you want to donate your vehicle, please click on the link on The Arc's website www.thearcnepa.org or call 1-877-272-2270. All you will need to do is provide the year, make and model of a vehicle, the general condition, the vehicle



identification number and the title of the vehicle of the must be available for

information purposes when calling. All vehicles that are

donated to our program must have a clean title. Please indicate The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania as the chapter to receive the proceeds of the sale of the vehicle.

**Donating is easy!
It may be tax-deductible.**



Northeastern Pennsylvania

115 Meadow Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

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

VISIT US AT:
www.thearcnepa.org
Find 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