

SPRING 2014

The Arcticate



Let's Go Out on March 29

March is national Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and The Arc invites you to join us to help raise awareness about people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). What should you do? Simply make plans to go out somewhere in public on Saturday, March 29. That's all. Just plan a day out and about with friends and family or by yourself enjoying the things you like to do.

The Arc Responds... Co-Chairpersons Mari Pizur and Desiree Vojta

Submitted by Mari Pizur

The Arc Responds began in 1997. It is an employee driven charitable fund designed to assist people affiliated with The Arc, who are experiencing tragic loss or otherwise serious hardship. Arc Responds was developed as means of generating funds as well as responding to requests.



Each department is committed to securing funding through various activities such as the Basketball game, bake sales, hoagie sales, the Baseball game, and daily number tickets.

The list of needs is always great and we try to assist in whatever way we can. The Arc Responds has aided several people throughout the year who found themselves in financial woes, through illness, injury, medical bills, loss of a loved one or loss of a job. We always get numerous requests, but this holiday season the requests were overwhelming. We were able to touch the lives of 17 individuals/families within Lackawanna,

Carbon, Monroe and Pike counties. The Arc Responds has purchased and delivered food to ensure a holiday meal on a family's table, presents, clothes, coats, bedding, beds, furniture and appliances to help ease the burden on many families.

Since Des and I were appointed to Co-Chair this committee, we have heard some very touching stories. We have also heard some tragic stories, which will impact our lives forever. It is a very humbling experience and has added new meaning to our lives.

If you would like to donate to this



great cause, please make checks payable to:

The Arc of NEPA

The Arc Responds
115 Meadow Ave
Scranton, PA 18505



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

President's Message



GREETINGS!

As I begin to write, I am looking out my window at the grey skies and yet more snow...And guess what--it's not over yet!! March is coming in like a lion. Hopefully it will go out like a lamb. I think we all have had enough snow--except for the skiers--they are in heaven!

We celebrate MARCH as INTELLECTUAL and DEVELOPMENTAL AWARENESS MONTH, but keeping our focus and attention on inclusion and fairness continues every day. Hopefully, the Governor will support the many programs that are so desperately needed by the many people who cannot speak for themselves. You can help raise awareness of the issues facing the many programs that are in need of money to keep them afloat. Please take the time to contact your representatives

and enlighten them to these vital issues. Together, we need to protect what has been accomplished and be able to continue with the incredible care and programs being offered.

GOLF That seems like a hazy dream, but soon we'll be in the green grass basking in the sunshine. **SAVE THE DATE!** June 9th at the Elmhurst Country Club for the Arc Tournament. We promise a lot of fun and no rain this year! Bring all your friends!

Speaking of Spring--the flower sale is upon us. Put your orders in early... There are many ways to show your support and we have something to appeal to everyone. Thank you for being such a good friend of The Arc.

Sincerely,
Carol Chisdak, President



Exec's Corner

While we put to bed this past winter, brutal weather and await the joys of spring, I thought I might present some information to you on the Governor's proposed budget presented on February 4, 2014.

As always, there are good things and not so nice things in every budget presentation. Let me present some facts to you that may affect people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Autism.

Governor Corbett has proposed a \$29.4 billion budget for FY '14-15. This would increase state expenditures by \$925 million (3.3%) over the current fiscal year. \$2.5 billion in total funding is committed to provide home and community based services to more than 53,000 individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

Line Items of Interest

Department of Public Welfare

- \$1.2 million **decrease in community base funding** or 0.8%. Community base funding also took a 0.2% decrease in the 2013-2014 budget. Counties use base funding innovatively, including spending on advocacy, IM4Q, respite services, recreation, non-waiver services and support for people waiting for waiver services.

- \$6.8 million increase for **Infant/Toddler Early Intervention**
- \$22.4 million increase for Home & Community-Based Services for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. This funding will be used for 1,100 individuals, including taking 400 people off the Intellectual Disabilities waiting list and 700 students with disabilities graduating from high school.
- \$1.1 million increase to service **100 adults with autism**.
- \$11.2 million or 9.3% increase for **state centers** for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- \$772,000 to **transition 50 individuals with intellectual disabilities** currently residing in state centers to the community.

- \$4.7 million to **transition 90 individuals** currently resident in state mental hospitals to the community.

- While **Adult Protective Services** is not given a line in the budget, Secretary Mackereth has stated that it will level-funded at \$3.7 million.

- \$11.5 million or 29% decrease to **Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD)**. The administration plans to end MAWD completely under the Healthy PA plan. Some individuals currently receiving MAWD would qualify for private insurance or Medicaid under proposed Healthy PA regulations.

- ***Department of Labor and Industry**, Office of Vocational rehabilitation.

- o \$1 million increase in state funds that will lavage and additional \$3.8 million in federal funds for a total of \$4.8 million **to expand on-the-job training for young adults with disabilities** through a program called "Jobs for All".

- ***Department of Education**

- \$20 million or 2% increase to special education, which will likely be distributed according to the formula proposed by the Pennsylvania **Special Education Funding Commission**.

- \$9.5 million increase in **Preschool Early Intervention** to serve approximately 1,500 additional children from ages 3 through 5.

- **Approved Private Schools** are level-funded.

Although community residential services have seen some increases in "cost" based rates, community day services have affixed "state" based rates and those programs have not seen a cost of living increase (COLA) in 5 years!

As I mentioned before, some good, some not so good. We will be working "hard" over the next 4 months to support the good and fix the bad. I hope we succeed.

Respectfully,
Don Broderick
Executive Director

Mike Munchak Scholarship

**United
Way**



The United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties has established the Mike Munchak Community Service Scholarship program to assist high school students from Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, who plan to pursue a post-secondary education.

To be eligible, candidates must be actively involved in community service activities in program funded by this United Way, be full-time resident and/or students of schools districts within Lackawanna or Wayne Counties and accepted by an accredited university, college or trade school, in a two or four year degree program track, for the 2014/2015 school year.

Following are program eligibility criteria and highlights:

- The scholarship amount for 2014 is \$6,300.00
- The scholarship will be awarded for a one year period only
- Only open to graduating seniors within our school districts
- Demonstrate commitment through community service activities
- Demonstrate financial need
- Demonstrate academic achievement
- Applicants must be graduating seniors from a public, private, parochial or charter school within either of the two counties

Application packets are located in the Administrative Office.

Completed applications are due by April 30, 2013.

Bus Trip to Mount Airy Casino!

Saturday, April 12, 2014

Leaving The Arc - 9:30 a.m.

Departing from
Mount Airy Casino - 3:30 p.m.

Returning to The Arc - 4:15 p.m.

Cost: \$27.50

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

RSVP by Friday, April 4, 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.*

March is Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Month

Locally and across the nation, children and adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and their families and friends will come together this month in celebration.

The Arc of Northeastern PA is dedicated to assist in creating a community that embraces citizens with IDD. Today, there are more opportunities available in employment, education, community residential living and integrated recreational opportunities than ever before. Communities are enriched when people accept diversity that brings with it strength, respect for others and opportunities for understanding and growth.

There was a special mass of awareness with Bishop Bambara at

St. Peter's Cathedral on Sunday, March 2nd. This month we celebrate the many contributions and achievements of children and adults with IDD. I have had the privilege of witnessing the joy and elation of children graduating with their classmates, and adults moving into their own homes and many earning their first paycheck. Much has been done, but until every child and adult is accepted and included regardless of their ability, the work of The Arc will continue.

We invite members of our community to join us in this mission.



Fred Lokuta, Deputy Secretary, Office of Developmental Programs; Garrett Brown; Roxann Williams, Arc Program Specialist

For additional information on upcoming events or to become a member, please contact The Arc at 346-4010 or visit our website at www.thearcnepa.org.

World Down Syndrome Day



World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. Each year, the voice of people with Down syndrome and those who live and work with them, grows louder. But there is still so much more we

can do. March 21, 2014 marks the 9th anniversary of World Down Syndrome Day.

Down Syndrome International encourages our friends all over the world to choose your own activities and events to help raise awareness of what Down syndrome is, what it means to have Down syndrome, and how people with Down syndrome play a vital role in our lives and communities..

For WDSD 2014, DSI is focusing on:

"Health and Wellbeing - Access and Equality for All"

All people with Down syndrome have the right to access healthcare when required on an equal basis with others without discrimination and with proper assessment of the specific health needs of the individual. We will be highlighting that:

1. Having Down syndrome does not make a person unhealthy.
2. Down syndrome is a genetic condition, not an illness.

3. People with Down syndrome may have health issues throughout their lives, just like everyone else and they should have access to healthcare on an equal basis with others.

4. There are specific known health issues which may affect people with Down syndrome, for which accurate, evidence based information is available.

5. Health professionals should be aware of these specific issues when treating a person with Down syndrome.

6. Health professionals should not discriminate against people with Down syndrome by:

- refusing to treat them;
- blaming health issues on Down syndrome in general, or;
- considering only specific known health issues which may affect people with Down syndrome.

"Reproduced from WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY website (www.worlddownsyndromeday.org)"



Spring Flower Sale

The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary

Pick-Up: **April 14, 15, 16 & 17**
(from 12:00-4:30)

Orders Must Be Received By:
March 21, 2014

\$10.00 Each

Lilies
(4+ Blooms/Buds)

Tulips
(6 1/2" Pots - all colors)

Hyacinths
(6" pots - assorted colors)

Excellent quality, foil-wrapped containers delivered fresh from a local greenhouse! All plants may be transferred into your yard for enjoyment over and over! Great Holiday Gifts for Family, Friends, Co-Workers! Proceeds benefit The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary. Multiple orders are welcome!

The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania 14th Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, June 9, 2014
Elmhurst Country Club

**Please mark your calendars -
the date has been set!**

Through the awesome work of our Golf Tournament Committee and the outstanding benevolence of all the participants and sponsors, The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania's Annual Golf Tournament is a HUGE success! We wish to thank each and everyone of you and we sincerely



hope we can count on your continued support.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call Eileen at The Arc - 346-4010.

Auxiliary Updates

Hello Dear Friends,

As I'm writing this article I happened to look out my window and it is really snowing hard and covering everything once again. It is so beautiful and it reminds me of a new beginning with the pure white snow. This is what the Friends of the Arc AUXILIARY brings, new life and ready to accomplish anything that comes our way. We have a very busy schedule this year once again and we begin with a PASTA DINNER on March 19th at the Villa Maria II restaurant sponsored by the Original Black Sheep. You can eat in or take out. The AUXILIARY is working hard to sell as many tickets as we can. The Education committee is getting ready for their program in the schools which will begin in May. We will be having our Spring Flower Sale coming up soon. We are also making plans for our Night at the Races in the fall. Valentine's Day was special for the consumers the AUXILIARY supplied each consumer



Seated: Claire Maldonato; Betsy Youngblood; Betty Moreken; Nancy Crafferty; Eileen Williams, President; MaryCarol Kanton. Standing: Jeanne Gardier; Eileen Rempe, Arc PR/Dev't Dir.; Dolly Marie Densovich; Corolla Sawka; Carol Burke; Mary Murphy Fox; Ann Hoffman; Betty Whitney; Maron Bielovitz; Sara Wolff. Missing from Photo: Marie Maddi, Michele McDade.

with a VALENTINE bag of treats. It is so satisfying when you see the beautiful gentle smiles on their faces. They are so happy. So, as the beautiful white snow keeps coming down and covering everything outside once again, take some quiet time and see how beautiful, pure

and white the snow is and how pure and beautiful the Arc consumers are. This is why, we try to do as much as we can.

Thanks everyone,
Eileen Williams

President of the Friends of the Arc Auxiliary

Pasta Dinner Fund Raiser for The Arc of Northeastern PA

The Original Black Sheep of West Scranton are sponsoring a "Pasta Dinner" as a fundraiser benefitting the Arc of Northeastern PA at Villa Maria II Restaraunt, Washburn Street, Scranton from 3:00 - 8:00 PM on Wednesday, March 19th. You may either dine in or take-out. Musical entertainment will be provided by "E.J. The D.J." and a raffle for a "50 Inch Flat Screen H.D. TV" will be available. Tickets are \$10 p.p. and are available by contacting Eileen Rempe of The Arc at 570-346-4010 or any member of either the Arc Auxiliary or The Original Black Sheep.

Pasta dinner committee members are pictured in the attachment.



Seated from left are: Original Black Sheep Members Lee Baumgardner and Frank McHugh; Jim Bares, Original Black Sheep president; Eileen Williams, Arc Auxiliary President; Joe Bevilacqua, Original Black Sheep vice-president; and Original Black Sheep members Craig King and Joe Macciocco, holding Mikhail Barnansky. Standing from left are: Michele McDade, Jeanne Gardier, Mary Carol Kanton, Carol Burke and Betsy Youngblood, Arc Auxiliary members; Eileen Rempe, Arc director of development; Marie Maddi, Ann Hoffman, Sara Wolff and Maron Bielovitz, Arc Auxiliary members.



The Arc Nor'easters versus the Scranton Police Department Basketball Game is being held on Wednesday, March 26th at Scranton High School beginning with doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the game starting at 6:30 p.m. Admission for adults is \$5.00, students are \$3.00 and children under five are free. For more information please call The Arc - 570-346-4010. There will be food, baked goods and the proceeds from the game benefit Arc Responds. The Arc Responds project is a special discretionary fund that has been created to assist individuals and families affiliated with The Arc. These people may be experiencing difficulty and have no other means available to them. This project was created as another way The Arc can and will be there for those who have nowhere else to turn. This event is one way the Arc employees are fund raising and seeking support to build The Arc Responds. A BIG thanks goes out to Chief Carl Graziano, the Scranton Police Department, Scranton School District and all the players and cheerleaders.



Trios Italian Family Restaurant, located on 1315 Hamlin Highway in Lake Ariel celebrated the holidays with The Arc! They built full size Christmas displays including gift shops, a bakery, toy store, candy store, Santa's House and many others for a Christmas Wonderland. The walk through took place in December. Donations, volunteer hours and community support were extremely generous and we can't say THANK YOU enough for all the hard work and generosity. We have really wonderful friends.

Pictured: Pat Quinn; Don Broderick; Tony Sciarrino; Janet Verni, Owner Trios; Vito Verni, Owner Trios; Alex Lutzi; Jill Headings

Upcoming Events

Please Mark Your Calendars!

March

The Arc Membership Drive

Mass of Awareness
March 2nd

Pasta Dinner
March 19th

Basketball game
March 26th

April

Bus Trip to Mt. Airy
April 12th

Cirque Dreams
Scranton Cultural Center
April 13th

Spring Flowers
April 15th - 17th

May

Bus Trip to Philadelphia Zoo
May 3rd

RailRiders Baseball
May 6th

Readings in Schools

Knights of Columbus
Measure-Up Campaign

June

Bowling Banquet
June 3rd

Golf Tournament
June 9th
Elmhurst Country Club

Foundation Annual Meeting
Annual Board/General
Membership/Recognition
Luncheon

Intellectual Disabilities Waiting List Hearing in Harrisburg

By Sheila Stasko

A Human Service Hearing was held in the House of Representatives to address the issue of waiting lists for people with Intellectual Disabilities living in the community. Sheila Stasko, Associate Director of Vision for Equality and the PA Waiting List Campaign told the representatives that 1,200 people in FY 13 – 14 with Intellectual Disabilities throughout Pennsylvania received funding for community services and supports and reminded them that nearly 15,000 people statewide are still waiting for services and supports. According to the Prioritization of Urgency Need for Services (PUNS) from Office of Developmental Programs (ODP), there is a total of 14,647 people waiting for services statewide. The breakdown of the three categories of people waiting for services statewide is as follows: 3,990 people in the Planning category, 6,369 people in the Critical category and 4,288 people on the Emergency Waiting list.

Four issues were discussed:

- 1) The fact that there is no Waiting List Plan. How many people will be taken off the waiting list, by when and what needs to happen? Despite a multitude of promises, there is still no waiting list plan.
- 2) Seven hundred students graduate statewide each year to the adult Intellectual Disabilities system. We hear from families who do not know a system exists and do not know how to access it. The Department of Education should be required to provide students with disabilities a set curriculum that contains all the necessary information and paperwork



From left to right, we have Maureen Devaney and Audrey Coccia, Executive Directors of Vision for Equality testifying at the Human Services Hearing.

for a smooth transition into the adult world.

3) We support the move to an employment first state. However, we cannot toss aside a system that has been established to support people who need the additional supports. What will people do if they are not employable? We support the move toward the closing of sheltered workshops and support the one to one person ratio, if needed, for people to get real jobs. We have people who will always need more individual support. We cannot allow a new program to hurt people.

4) We also have grave concerns for the 800 elderly caregivers statewide who continue to provide care even though they are in need of services themselves. A coordinated plan between ODP and Aging needs to be established to provide the necessary evaluation and supports required to help our families' age in place with the least bit of disruption. There needs to be creative options for 'in-home' living and habilitation for those folks who can stay in their own homes with minimal support. The system needs to develop a kinder and gentler way of helping aged parents plan for the

eventual move to residential services.

The PA Waiting List Campaign was urged to continue the good work they started and help get the 4,000 people statewide off the Emergency Waiting List.

Submitted with permission by Jeannie Lally

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.**

Advocacy and Policy Day

Formerly Known As Systems Advocacy and Government Affairs (SAGA) Day

Registration needed for the following:

April 1

Advocacy and Policy Conference
Legislative Reception

April 2

The Arc of PA Board Meeting
The Arc of PA Membership Meeting
PCE Meeting

Register and pay online at The Arc of PA's website: www.thearcpa.org

Please call 717-234-2621 with any questions. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Crowne Plaza, Harrisburg – 717-234-5021.

Mayor Bill Courtright Visits The Arc of NEPA

The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania welcomed the new Mayor of Scranton, Bill Courtright. We encourage visits from newly elected officials to meet with us and discuss our programs and services. Other topics such our positions regarding budget and Legislative issues, and touring The Arc to meet with program participants are vital to keeping the region's elected officials in touch with the people we serve.



Pictured: Barbara Day, Program Specialist; Carol Chisdak, Board President; Mayor Bill Courtright; Seated - Chris McLean; Mari Pizur, Recreation Coordinator; Don Broderick, Executive Director.



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:

