

SPRING 2019

# The Arcticate



Story on page 8

## Right to Education Local Task Force



Roseann was featured as the Northeast Woman in the *The Scranton Times*. "Scranton advocate helps parents of kids with special needs" by Patrice Wilding published on April 14, 2019. Please take a look!

The Right to Education Local Task Force serves the member school districts of the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit 19 (NEIU19). These districts are located in Lackawanna, Wayne and Susquehanna Counties. Our advocate, Roseann Polishan, has been the parent chair for the last three years, our Recreation Manager, Mari Pizur, is also on the leadership team as the organizational chair. The other members are parent co-chair Vincenza Glynn and Kelly Dickey, Special Education Director of IU 19.

The Local Task Force is supported by the State Right to Education Task

Force, which was established in 1972 as part of the Consent Decree between the Commonwealth of PA and what is now known as The Arc of PA. The primary role of the Right to Education Local Task Force is to support families through the Special Education process and ensure that all eligible children receive a free and appropriate education. We hold 6 meetings per school year where we network with families, school districts and agencies. We provide speakers and trainings on various topics related to special education and services for those with disabilities. This year our speakers included the Lekotok

current school year. The Local Task force is also tasked with sharing information and collecting information to report back on Cyclical Monitoring by the Bureau of Special Education, which is conducted on individual school districts every 6 years.

Please contact Roseann at [rpolishan@thearcnepa.org](mailto:rpolishan@thearcnepa.org) to find out more about the Right to Education Task Force, our meetings for the 2019/20 school year or how to get on our email distribution list to receive valuable special education related information.

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***The primary role of the Right to Education Local Task Force is to support families through the Special Education process and ensure that all eligible children receive a free and appropriate education.***

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and Compu play programs, The Tech Owl assistive technology program, financial planning for the future, the supports coordination intake process, IEP procedural safeguards, Functional Behavior Assessments and Positive Behaviors Plans of the IEP and an overview of The Arc of NEPA's programs.

You can become a member after attending 2 meetings in the



Northeastern Pennsylvania  
115 Meadow Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505  
Tel: 570-346-4010 Fax: 570-346-8436  
[www.thearcnepa.org](http://www.thearcnepa.org)  
Email: [frontdesk@thearcnepa.org](mailto:frontdesk@thearcnepa.org)

# President's Message

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Happy Winter!!!

I hope that all of you have enjoyed the holidays that celebrate the rebirth of life in the coming of spring. It is a beautiful time of year.

The Arc, as an advocate and provider of supports for individuals with intellectual disabilities, caring is our primary

commodity. As we pursue our mission, we must be mindful of risks to the safety of those we serve and our family members.

The opioid epidemic is taking lives and impacting many families at levels never before experienced. Crisisnextdoor.gov reports that opioids killed more

people in 2018 than either car accidents or gun violence. It is critical that staff strictly observe The Arc's policy on Administering Medications and keep all medications properly secured. You can rid your home of unused and expired medications. Eliminate risk of inappropriate use of prescribed medications.

Also, as the weather warms, outside activities increase. Protect consumers from disease carrying ticks with protective clothing and staying out of environments where ticks are found. High grass and wooded areas are particularly troublesome.

Spring is a time when we again venture out of our homes to enjoy the world around us. Be safe. It's important.

Ann Hoffman  
*President*

## Exec's Corner

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What a difference a season makes. My last writing remarked on zero degree temps and teeth rattling wind chills. Not so today. Today we bask in the sunshine, high temps in the seventies and blossoms "peaking" out around us. Perfectly marvelous.

Last fiscal year, the Office of Developmental Program's

rate of reimbursement to providers of services for individuals with developmental disabilities included resources for additional costs related to Community Participation Services (CPS) and addressing the need for Direct Service Professional (DSP) staff. We utilized those resources in ways consistent with ODP recommendations. It was a moment, a brief fiscal moment of "ahhh...". Today, our advocacy efforts with the Governor's office and legislators are critically necessary yet again as budget proposals for fiscal year 2019-2020 fail to offer the resources necessary to continue efforts begun this year.

I am proud of our commitment to add community participation to the quality of day service supports.

Additionally, Mary Ann O'Shea and Tina O'Malley in the Human Resources department have administered a recruitment program which reduced the number of vacant positions. These efforts positively impact the lives of individuals who rely on us. This is why we will continue our advocacy efforts with our Governor and legislators. The Lackawanna/Susquehanna Intellectual Disabilities Provider Council- Legislative Committee has coordinated a Legislative Breakfast for Friday, May 17. Here we will inform our representatives of the impact of the crisis in staffing, the need for equitable wages and rates of reimbursement that reflect actual costs.

Additionally, The Arc of Pennsylvania self-advocates and Arc chapters across the Commonwealth will meet in Harrisburg on June 10th and 11th for the Advocacy & Policy Conference and rally in support of services for so many. Advocacy remains a critically important component of our mission

I thank you for being an advocate.

Maryclaire Kretsch  
*Executive Director*

# Acts of Heroism

The Arc would like to commend three employees who went above and beyond to help



Kelly Peters, Cheryl Wolf, Maryclaire Kretsch, Cynthia Mahoney, Pat Quinn



Kelly Peters, Maryclaire Kretsch, Kim Hodge, Pat Quinn

save the lives of the folks we serve. Kim Hodge, Cheryl Wolf and Cynthia Mahoney were recognized for their

Acts of Heroism with a token of appreciation. Their quick thinking led to lifesaving efforts. Our hats off to you!

## The 2019-Summer "Fun & Friendship Bowling League" At Idle Hours

### Registration Form

*Tuesday Night Bowling will start June 11th and end on July 30th*

Bowling will cost \$9.00 per bowler per week. If unable to bowl there is a charge of \$3.00. Registration fee is \$20.00. Bowling should be paid on a weekly basis to The Arc recreation staff before you begin bowling.

**Bowling practice will start promptly at 4:38pm on Tuesdays.**  
The bowlers will bowl 2 games.

The Arc's staff is **not** responsible for the supervision of league members.  
**Parents / staff must stay with the bowler.**

In order to register for the 2019-Summer bowling season you should fill out the form below (detach and keep the top half for your own information) and return to:

**The Arc Recreation / Attn: Mari Pizur**  
**115 Meadow Avenue**  
**Scranton, PA 18505**

**Return by Tuesday, May 14, 2019 with the registration fee of \$20.00, registration forms will not be accepted without registration fee.**  
**(Note: The \$20.00 pays for end of bowling pizza party)**

## New Hires

Welcome to The Arc Family!

Donaye Loring  
Matthew Jaworski  
Valencia Holbeck  
Carolann Longabucco  
Shauntierah Douglas  
Evlouse Louissaint  
Aeisha Burgess  
Larhonda Smith  
Elizabeth Linthicum  
Cynthia Mahoney  
Jasmine Johnson

## 2019 Summer Fun & Friendship Registration

### Eight weeks of Summer Fun!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Responsible/Staff: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Must be available during bowling)*

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

Provider Agency Affiliate (ex, UCP, Keystone, The Arc, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

I understand The Arc's staff is not responsible for the supervision of league members.  
Parents / staff must stay with the bowler.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Arc Recreation \* 115 Meadow Ave. Scranton, PA 18505\* (570) 207-0825



## Calendar of Events

### Please Mark Your Calendars 2019

#### May

- Match Day - Hoagie Sale/No Bake Bake Sale - May 3rd
- Golf Tournament - Glen Oak CC - May 13th
- Arc Stars practice begins - May 15th
- PA Polka Band - May 23rd

#### June

- Bowling Banquet - Fiorelli's - June 5th
- Arc Tracks Bus Trip - Hershey Park - June 9th
- Foundation Annual Meeting - Radisson - June 11th
- RailRiders Baseball Game - June 19th
- Arc Stars Show - NP HS - June 22nd
- Annual Board/General Membership/Recognition Event - June 25th

#### September

- United Way Day of Caring - September 5th
- Fall Festival - Waldorf Park - September 15th
- PPODS Buddy Walk - September 29th

#### October

- Board Retreat - TBA

#### November

- Night at the Races - St. Mary's Center - TBA

#### December

- Poinsettia Sale
- Cookie Walk
- Holiday Show at Arc
- Holiday Party - Dec. 13th

## Through Their Eyes Conference

On April 5th 2019, Ellen S, myself, Christopher Pate, Christopher Mclean, Pauline Burke, and Michael Delvecchio attended the "21st Annual Through Their Eyes Conference" at East Stroudsburg University.

The "Through Their Eyes Conference" is a conference that focuses on individuals with disabilities and the challenges they have faced, how they overcame these challenges and the success they have had in their lives as a result to pushing these boundaries that were restricting them from leading meaningful, enriched lives. It showcased 2 speakers who embraced their "Abilities" they possessed from the "Disability" in which they were diagnosed.

The guest speaker that our guys were photographed with is Ben Hartranft. Ben is a 20 year old young man diagnosed with Autism at the age of 2. When he was diagnosed he only knew 20 words and was a safety risk. Since his diagnosis he has exceeded all expectations of him and is in his last year of high school. He has 3 part time jobs at Chick-Fil-A, Olive Garden and Dorney Park. He obtained his drivers license and is full of energy treating everyone like a "Rock Star". Ben has had the amazing experience of being the Philadelphia Eagles Autism Challenge Ambassador and had the extraordinary opportunity to carry the Lombardi Trophy to start the ring ceremony after the Eagles won the Super Bowl in February 2018 . His ultimate dream came true when he got to appear as a guest on the Ellen Show in October 2018, to say he is a huge fan of Ellen is an understatement, he was able to promote Autism Awareness and the funding he does for Autism research while on the show. Ben is truly an amazing advocate and individual with a huge personality to match.

Audrey Lea was the 2nd guest speaker. Audrey lived a fully integrated life, was a high school varsity cheerleader, a member of her high school chorus, and an actress in school plays, church and private company plays/musicals. She participates in Special Olympics bowling, bocce, softball, and basketball for Lehigh County. She has even won



gold medals in basketball, which is one of her favorite sports. She has been employed by Coca-Cola Park, home of the Minor League Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs Base Ball team, for the last 10 years. She is a huge advocate of the "I Want to Work." campaign and promoting equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities the right to work in the community pursuing their dream job as she did hers working at Coca-Cola Park. She has also presented in Harrisburg to counselors of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, as well as Penn State Transition Conference and the National Association for people Supporting Employment First (APSE) Conference.

Lastly, we watched the "Intelligent Lives" film, by Dan Habib, which stars three individuals with intellectual disabilities tackling their dreams navigating through High School, College and the Work Force.

It was an excellent conference and our guys really enjoyed the guest speakers, listening to their stories and watching the film.

Thanks,  
Angela Anthony

You are cordially invited  
to attend the

**64th General Membership/  
Annual Meeting  
Luncheon and Awards  
Reception**

For

**The Arc of  
Northeastern Pennsylvania**

On

**Tuesday, June 25, 2019**

At

**La Buona Vita**  
200 Reilly Street  
Dunmore, Pennsylvania 18512

Cost: \$25.00

Lunch Buffet at Noon  
Followed by The Annual Meeting  
& Presentation of the Awards

## Shopping!!!

Welcome to  
**amazon**smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

### Don't Forget About AmazonSmile

Please do not forget about using Amazon Smile; when you shop - Amazon gives! AmazonSmile is a program where Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization selected by each customer. It is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charity every time you shop, at no cost to you. Soooo, when you shop on Amazon, please think of The Arc and Happy Shopping.

## Adult Day Activities

Over the past two months we've been collaborating with the Rec department to bring more meaningful activities on site at Meadow Ave. Beginning in March, we have a dance party every Wednesday afternoon with EJ the DJ and each Thursday we have Yoga with Mindy Hill. Both activities have been great for our folks and give them weekly options for activities on days when they aren't out of the building participating in community activities.

We've also begun a collaboration with students from the University of Scranton's Exercise Science

department that will carry through the remainder of the spring semester and then resume again next fall. Students have been coming over in small groups to help facilitate activities with our consumers. So far we've had groups of students come in to do small group exercise programs, cooking, baking and bingo on a weekly basis.

Our biggest project right now is increasing activities for our guys outside the building. As we gear up to the summer, we've been doing more and more small group activities out in the community.

## 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!*



**A VISIT FROM THEIR MASCOTS IS A MUST!**



**When:** Wednesday, June 19, 2019

**Time:** Game start at 7:05pm

**Who:** Railrider's vs. Norfolk Tides (Baltimore Orioles)

**Where:** PNC Field - First Baseline Bleacher Seats

**Donation:** \$10.00 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



How many tickets \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Would you be interested in throwing out the 1st pitch? Yes or No

Make your reservations today!

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



**The Arc Track's Announces**  
**\*\*BUS TRIP\*\***  
**Hersheypark**

Hersheypark has over 60 rides and attractions – literally something for everyone. There are 11 coasters and more than 20 kiddie rides. Enjoy a tour of the Chocolate Factory; the Chevrolet Music Box Theatre for live entertainment and visit ZooAmerica Lynx Exhibit.

**When:** Sunday, June 9, 2019

**Starting our Day:**

9:00am (sharp) from The Arc of NEPA, 115 Meadow Avenue.

**Arrival at Hersheypark:**

Approximately at 11:00am

**Departure from Hersheypark:**

Bus will depart from Park's Main Gate at 6:00pm

**Return to Scranton:**

Approximately 8:00pm

**Cost:** \$65.00 per person

*This includes your Park Ticket, Transportation, Morning and Evening Movies, Snacks and Drinks*

**Reservations:**

\*\*\*Reservations are due by Monday, May 20, 2019\*\*\* and must be paid in full in advance. No Exceptions.

Mail or make payments directly to:  
 Recreation Department  
 115 Meadow Avenue,  
 Scranton, PA 18505

(Do not send cash in the mail)  
 Make all checks payable to:  
 The Arc Recreation.

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

**Kiwanis Club Check Presentation**

The Aktion Club hosted a luncheon for the Kiwanians on March 27th. The ladies and gentlemen enjoyed a wonderful meal with all the folks in Aktion Club, listened to a presentation and had a lovely afternoon of visiting. We love our friends from the Kiwanis Club.



*Pictured: Randy Palko presenting Melody Cottrell with a \$500 donation to the Aktion Club. Thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Scranton.*



**RISING STAR**  
**AWARD**

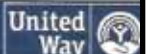
**Presented to**  
**The Arc of**  
**Northeastern Pennsylvania**

WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AS A LARGE BUSINESS RAISING THE MOST NEW DOLLARS DURING THE 2018-19 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

**April 18, 2019**

**LIVE UNITED**

United Way  
 of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties



# Fun and Friendship Bowling Banquet 2019!



When: Wednesday, June 5, 2019  
Where: Fiorelli Banquet Facility  
1501 Main St., Peckville, PA  
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.  
Hors d'oeuvre / Cash Bar  
  
6:15 p.m. - Dinner

## **Menu Includes:**

Cheese and Crackers with Fresh Vegetables and Dip  
Fresh Garden Greens/w Vinaigrette Dressing  
Penne Rigate Pasta a'la Vodka Sauce  
Chicken Tenderloins Scampi Sautee  
Hand- Carved Certified Angus Sirloin of Beef  
Baked Fish, Mashed Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetable de Casa  
Rolls w/ Butter  
Dolce de Casa (Sweet of the House)  
Coffee, Tea, Decaf, Soda

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Awards Presentation  
8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Music provided by E.J. The DJ

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## **Register Today!**

*(Please return bottom half with your payment and reservations)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Bowlers: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Payable to: The Arc Recreation)*

Registered Bowlers are free & the cost for per guest is \$28.00.

**Reservations are needed for both bowlers and guests.**

**Reservations and Payments are due by Friday, May 20, 2019.**

Your check should be made payable to:  
The Arc Recreation, 115 Meadow Ave, Scranton, PA 18505  
(Do Not Send Cash in the Mail)

**\*\* Dinner must be paid for in advance, absolutely no exceptions. \*\***

*If you have 7 or more in your group we will be glad to reserve you a table.  
If you have special dietary needs, please let us know with your reservation.  
Call Mari or Holly at 570/207-0825 for reservations and/or for more information.*

## **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.



## The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania Held Their Nineteenth Annual Golf Tournament



On Monday, May 13, 2019, The Arc of NEPA sponsored a Golf Tournament at Glen Oak Country Club in Clarks Summit.

*Standing (1st Row) from L to R: Carol Chisdak, Chairperson; Mark Kwiatkowski, Celebrity Chairperson*

*(2nd Row) from L to R: Maureen Joyce Murtha; Eileen Rempe, Arc Director of Development; Maryclaire Kretsch, Arc Executive Director*

*(3rd Row) from L to R: Pat Kwiatkowski; Teddy Kwiatkowski; Mark Lynn*

*(4th Row) from L to R: Mark McDade; Jeff Spagna, Glen Oak Country Club Manager*

### Please Meet: Mark Kwiatkowski



In the Summer of 2013, the local chapter of Special Olympics, AREA P, went to the Pennsylvania Summer Special Olympics at Penn State and brought back several medals! Mr. Kwiatkowski won the Gold in the Golf Skills competition. Mark went on to the Special Olympics USA

Nationals, along with other 3,500 athletes, which was held in 2014 in Princeton, NJ. He won the Gold medal for his skills in driving, long putt, short putt, chipping (his favorite) and sand traps!

For his accomplishments, Mark was recognized in several local newspapers and received an award from the Lackawanna County Commissioners in 2014 and also, was given an award certificate at a Moosic Council Meeting in 2014 from Mayor James Segilia. Mark has been on the Golf League since 2006 and he loves it.

Mark continues to golf with his unified partner, Joe Lillis, with Area P Special Olympics since 2015. He attends out of area tournaments in Kutztown and Belles Springs with Area P and has earned medals every and this year, he and Joe won a Gold Medal in their level at Belles Springs.

He also bowls with The Arc, participates in The Arc Angels on Stage and various Arc activities throughout the year. In Special Olympics, he is now participating in basketball, bocce, bowling and golf. Mark is the son of Pat and Teddy Kwiatkowski, who are extremely proud of all of his accomplishments.





## Rotary Club of Scranton Holiday Auction

Rotary Club of Scranton Holiday Auction raised \$4,200 for The Arc-NEPA. The event was held at the Radisson and featured a fabulous

dinner buffet, the extraordinary talent of the Scranton Knight Rhythms, a silent auction with approximately 100 items to choose

from and a very spirited, live auction. Together, the Scranton Rotary, The Arc and the community had a great night of fun.



*From left to right, 1st row : Justin Shaffern, 1st Vice President; Thomas Lynch, President; Vinny O'Bell, Treasurer; Mari Pizur, The Arc of NEPA; Margaret McCormick, Past President; Alycia Schwartz, Past President.*

*2nd row, John Gleason, Carol Trapper, Donna DeVita, Esq, Julia Robertson, Cathy Wechsler, Dani Farrell, Judge Carmen Minora, Major Robert Schmig, John Begley, Gerard Hetman, Past President, Conor Malone, Past President, Jeff McLaughlin, Dave Wintermute, D.A. Mark Powell.*

*3rd row: James Baker, Clarence Baltrusaitis, Dave Price, Frank Falzett, Rick Williams, Mark Barbernitz.*

## Kristen Haeefe



On March 25th the Occupational Therapy students group (SOTA) invited Mari Pizur to talk about the history, opportunities and services The Arc of NEPA has to offer. They also invited our Board Member Kristen Haeefe to tell her life story and her involvement with The Arc. It was a question and answer forum and Kristen was happy to reply to their concerns and questions!

## Seventeenth Annual Family Fun Fall Festival Waldorf Park

**Proceeds Benefit The Arc of NEPA**

**East Coast Trio and The Wanabees**

**When: Sunday, September 15, 2019**

**Time: 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

Tickets at the door: Adults \$25.00

Children 4 to 12 \$5.00 and Children 3 and under are free.

(Each child will receive 5 free tickets to play games in Kiddie Korner)

Adult Pre-Sale Tickets Available for \$20.00 (Form on back)

(Pre-Sale Tickets must be purchased by Monday, September 9, 2019)

(Pre-purchased tickets may be picked up at The Arc's front desk or we will hold them at the festival's registration desk upon request and payment)

Tickets includes Buffet served between 3:00pm to 6:00pm and Grilled Sandwiches served 6:00pm to 7:00pm.

**Entertainment: East Coast Trio and The Wanabees**

Kiddie Korner – 3pm to 6pm

Gift Basket raffle, Instant Bingo, 50/50, Bake Sale, Cash Bar and Much, Much More!

**Everyone is Welcome to come and enjoy the day of Fun!!!**

**(You do not need to be a member it is open to the public)**

Rain or Shine (areas sheltered)

**More Information, call Mari or Holly at 570/207-0825**

**Family Fun Fall Festival 2019**

## Around The Arc

### Arc Update

HUGE thank you to the Rotary Club of Scranton for their extraordinary generosity again this year. We were the recipients of their Holiday Auction fund raising event and the money raised will benefit our Advocacy efforts.

A grant request to Scranton Area Community Foundation was made and we were notified yesterday that we are being awarded \$10,000 toward cafeteria restrooms. This year our focus is on Capital Assistance and Health and Wellness in our programs.

The Mass of Awareness which celebrates Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities was held on Sunday, February 24th at St. Peter's Cathedral. We would like

to thank the Diocese of Scranton.

Spring Break for Autism was held on March 30th at La Buona Vita. We are so honored to be one of the groups who benefit from this fund raising event. It is a great time for everyone who attends.

The Arc and the University of Scranton were proud to present a screening of "Intelligent Lives". In honor of Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Month, we invited the community to join us in challenging the perception of intelligence and seeing a life of possibilities. The event took place on March 26th at The University of Scranton. The screening is 70 minutes followed by a Q&A discussion panel. There will be additional viewings and a copy of the movie will also be available.

The Aktion Club invited the Kiwanis Club of Scranton for a luncheon and brief program on March 27th. Photo in this edition.

Keystone UNICO held their 7th Annual Charity Pig Roast on April 6th at Fiorelli's. The Arc-NEPA was the beneficiary of this event last year and we were very grateful for their kindness and support. We had a wonderful time and I know this year will be a lot of fun too.

The Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheons is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25th at La Buona Vita. Please mark your calendars and invitations will be mailed out in the near future.

*(Continued on page 14)*

## MATCH DAY 2019 WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!!!

On Friday, May 3, 2019, 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 Stars Theatre program -

### **Arc Stars – Arc Angels on Stage – Part Four:**

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 fourth 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 greatly helps with The Arc Stars program. Thank you for joining in to help support our organization on NEPA Match Day. Your donations made a big difference! #NEPAMatchDay

The 2019 NEPA Match Day cohort:

1. Northeast Regional Cancer Institute
2. Griffin Pond Animal Shelter
3. Friends of the Poor
4. Scranton Fringe Festival
5. Greater Carbondale YMCA
6. Lacawac Sanctuary Environmental Education Center
7. Jewish Family Service of NEPA
8. Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania
9. The Wright Center for Community Health

10. Valley Community Library
11. Greater Scranton YMCA
12. Victims Resource Center
13. Everhart Museum
14. Dress for Success Lackawanna
15. Countryside Conservancy
16. AFA (Artists For Art) Gallery
17. Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple
18. Outreach – Center for Community Resources (formerly EOTC)
19. Indraloka Animal Sanctuary
20. NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania
21. The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania
22. Marley's Mission
23. Meals on Wheels Community Services of NEPA
24. The Greenhouse Project
25. Family Service Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania
26. Women's Resource Center
27. The Philharmonic Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania
28. Saint Joseph's Center
29. Discovery MI Preschool
30. Northeast Pennsylvania Youth For Christ, Inc.

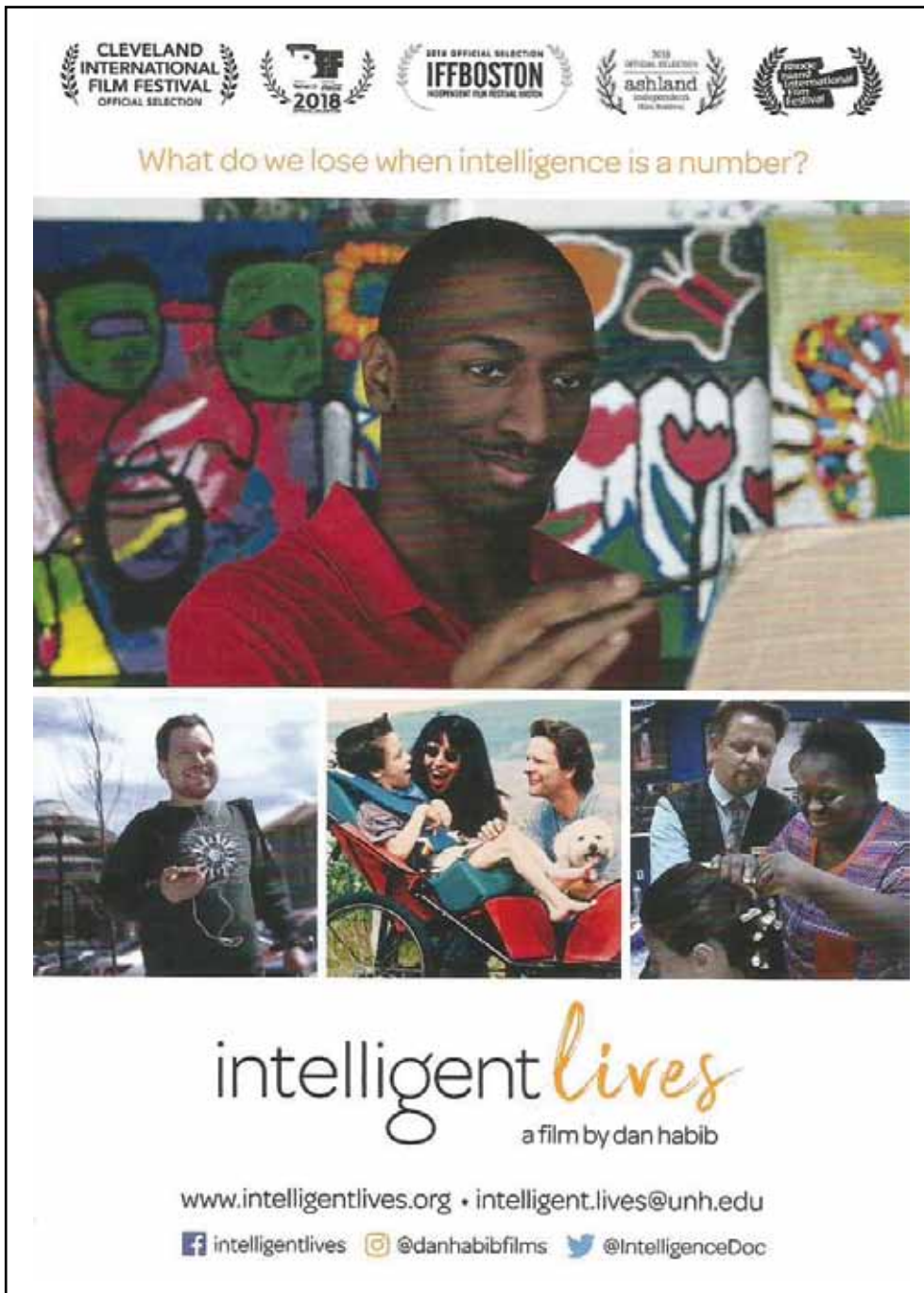
# Intelligent Lives

On Tuesday March 26th, The Arc of NEPA in collaboration with the University of Scranton and in honor of Intellectual Disabilities Awareness month held a screening of the film Intelligent Lives created by the Award Winning Film Director Dan Habib. The movie explores the lives of three individuals with developmental disabilities and challenges the viewers to see a life of possibilities. It references the history of the treatment of those with intellectual disabilities

and offers a differing perception of where a loved one can be with a vision and not letting IQ be the driving factor of their life. Family members, community and agency representatives participated in a meaningful discussion following the documentary. Plans are being made for further screenings and discussions throughout the community. Please contact rpolishan@thearcnepa.org with any requests to set up a screening for your, families, organization or group.

# Arc Idol Talent Show at The Arc!

The Arc Idol Talent show premiered on Thursday, April 4, 2019 where many participants prepared to take the stage! Their talents entertained us for hours! We had 34 talented young men and women proving that "Arc Idol" contestants had extraordinary talent to compete against. Energy and excitement filled the stage as each contested competed.



CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OFFICIAL SELECTION

IFFBOSTON OFFICIAL SELECTION

ashland OFFICIAL SELECTION

What do we lose when intelligence is a number?

intelligent lives  
a film by dan habib

www.intelligentlives.org • intelligent.lives@unh.edu

intelligentlives @danhabibfilms @IntelligenceDoc



We were fortunate to have students involved with Lackawanna Leadership volunteering their time to critique the performance as our judges. The contestants anxiously awaited results.



This years Arc Idols are from left Shane Burling, Chris Pate, Danny Sugerman and Chris McLain.

Congratulations to all our contestants.

Such Talent!

# "World Down Syndrome Day: 3.21"

Submitted by: Mari Pizur

World Down Syndrome Day (also known as WDS) is a global awareness initiative that has been backed by the United Nations since 2012. Trisomy 21 is the clinical way of saying Down Syndrome, which is the third copy on the 21st chromosome, hence 3.21.

The City of Scranton Mayor and from Lackawanna County's Commissioners acknowledged "World Down Syndrome Day" with

proclamations presented to The Arc.

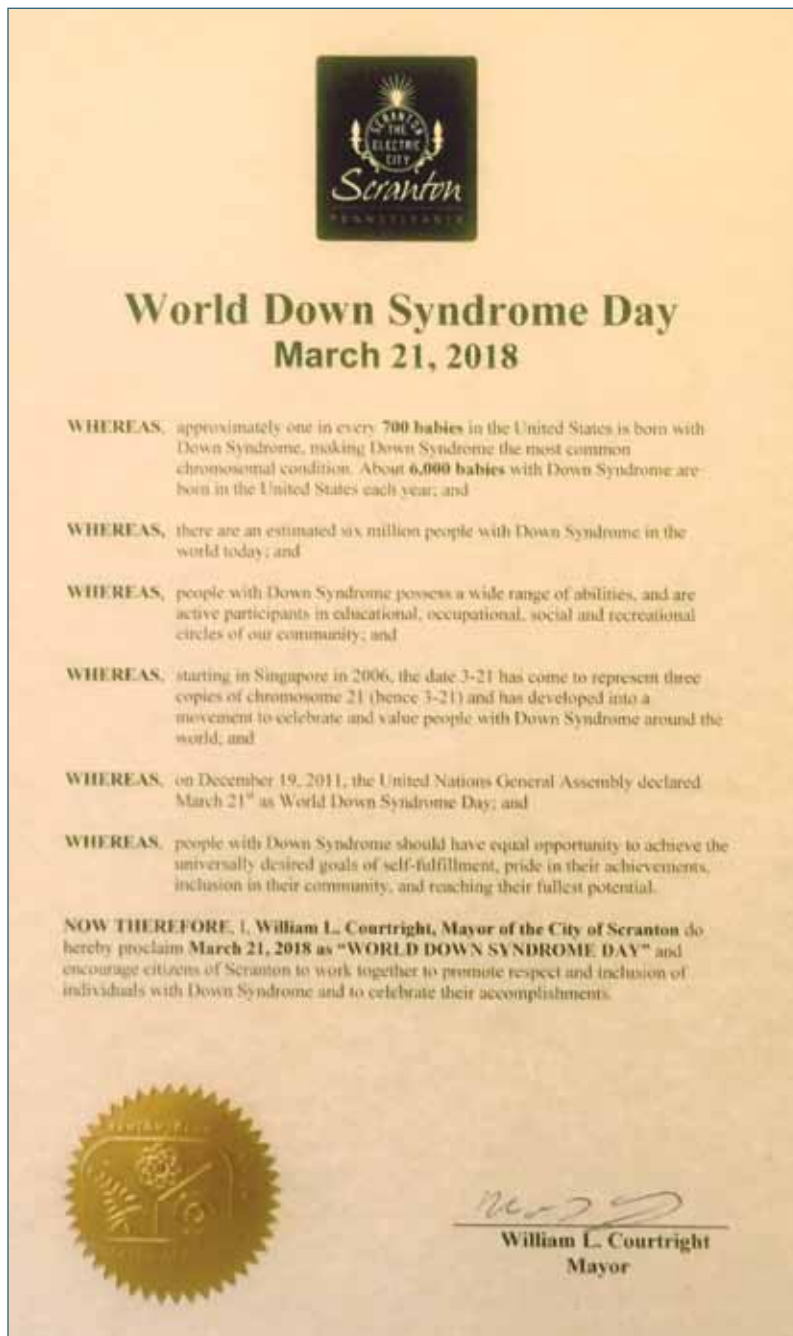
We celebrated WDS on March 21st with "Rock Your Socks off" at a "Sock Hop"! The dance was hosted by the University of Scranton's Human Services and Counseling students. Poodle Skirts, Bobby Socks and Rolled up Jeans were the attire for the evening event! We stepped back in time to 1955 with great entertainers such as Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, Frank Sinatra, The Fontaine Sisters, Johnny Cash,

Bill Haley and The Comets!

We "Rocked Around the Clock" as we dance to "Tutti Frutti and the songs the fifties played with "DJ - Party Time" our professional entertainers. Pizza, chips, pretzels and cupcakes iced with yellow and blue icing were served!

The students, family, friends and participated celebrated 3.21 dancing together! What a great night of life and laughter!

Happy Days are here again!



## 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.



## State Representative Mullins Visits The Arc

State Representative Kyle Mullins (D- 112th district) paid a visit to The Arc on March 29, 2019. Representative Mullins afforded us ample time to listen to the history of the agency, current programs and services, and issues that The Arc faces including rates, funding, and the DSP crisis. The informational video, "Fix the DSP Crisis" produced by PAR was shown, and the video prompted a thoughtful discussion with Representative

Mullins who was cognizant of the needs of DSP's. After our discussion, the Representative toured the Meadow Avenue facility and took the time to meet and greet all staff and consumers. Representative Mullins praised the efforts of The Arc and its dedicated staff and offered to maintain communications going forward for the needs of The Arc and all we serve. Thank you, State Representative Mullins for your time and dedication to The Arc!



## 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](http://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.

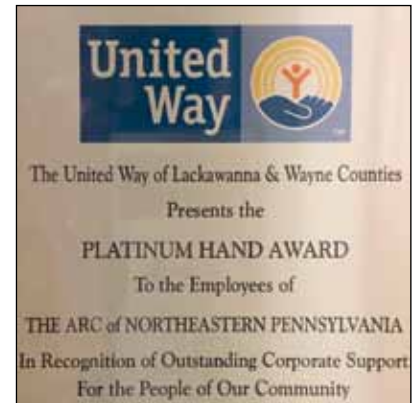
**Donating is easy!**  
**It may be tax-deductible.**

# The Arc's Record Setting United Way Campaign

The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania received multiple honors at the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties Annual Community Awards Celebration Breakfast on April 18, 2019 at the Radisson at Lackawanna Station Hotel. The Arc Employee group was honored with the "Platinum Hand Award" in recognition of 'Outstanding Corporate Support for the People of Our Community'. For the second consecutive year, Arc employee giving increased by more than 20%. Additionally,

The Arc was presented with the highest honor bestowed annually by the United Way: the "Spirit of Caring Chairman's Award". This is the second consecutive year The Arc Employee Group has received this prestigious honor. Arc employees continue to lead the Human Services/Clergy division of the United Way Community Campaign and this year, raised a whopping \$20,634.42 for the needs of the community. The Arc is a proud, longtime partner of the United Way, which funds several Arc programs.

Congratulations and thank you to all Arc employees; your reputation in the community is second to none!



## Around The Arc

(Continued from page 10)

### Recreation:

The Rock Your Socks Sock Hop was a huge success! The Hop till you drop was held on March 21st which is World Down Syndrome Day and the Mayor and Commissioner prepared proclamations to honor this special day.

Arc Tracks has been going and going - lots of shows and smackdowns...and lots of choices for everyone. The Rat Pack was on April 26th at the Theater North followed by Hershey Park on June 9th and the Bronx Zoo in the Fall. As you know, there is always something for everyone to enjoy and we welcome you to join in any activity that interests you.

### Auxiliary Information:

Lackawanna County Department of Arts and Culture gave us a grant for

\$2,500 for the Theater Arts Program for the fourth year in a row!! Practices will be starting in May with the production in June. More details to follow. The ladies had a winter gathering for the Stars to celebrate all their successes and just to have a good time.

Guess who was chosen as one of the SACF's Match Day recipients...? Yes...US! We were thrilled to work with Scranton Area Community Foundation and 29 local organizations to raise money for each of our causes. The Ladies sponsored a Hoagie and NO Bake - Bake Sale on May 3rd.

### Foundation Overview:

The Foundation Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 11th at the Radisson. Invites will be sent shortly.

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

The Nor'easters vs. Scranton Police

Basketball game was held on March 27th at Scranton High. We had a great time with the cheerleaders from the PRIDE squad and also, the Scranton High Cheerleaders. A special thank you to the Scranton Police for being great sports and showing their awesome support and thank you to everyone who joined us for a great time!

The Spring Flower Sale was a beautiful success with over 300 orders!!!! The rooms were filled with floral freshness! All proceeds benefit the Arc Responds.

Once again, we will be the featured non-profit of the evening at a RailRiders game for the 2019 season. Flyer with details included in this edition. Let's hope for a warm evening on June 19th!

Please do not forget about using Amazon Smile; The Arc's Vehicle Donation Program; The Arc's Memorial/Honorarium program.



**TUESDAY, JUNE 11TH, 2019**  
**10:30 - 11:30 A.M.**  
**CAPITAL ROTUNDA**

## **DISABILITY RALLY** **INCLUDE ME! HIRE ME! HEAR ME!**

WHO: People with Disabilities, Family Members,  
 Disability Organizations, & Advocates.

Participating Groups: PA House Autism & Intellectual Disability  
 Caucus - Disability Rights PA - Institute on Disabilities Temple  
 University - PAR - RCPA - Self Advocates United as 1 - Speaking for  
 Ourselves - The Arc of PA & 33 Local Chapters - UCP PA & Local  
 Chapters - Vision for Equality



**For More Information: Contact The Arc of  
 PA at 717.234-2621 or ahouse@thearcpcpa.org**

## *Learning Life Skills at Lackawanna College*

Beginning May 17th, forty program participants from Adult Day and Residential Services will start an eight week learning experience at Lackawanna College. There for be four different cohorts of ten individuals that will rotate between five learning topics. Those topics are Team Building, Fitness, Culinary, Environmental Center, and Safety. Each class will run approximately 2 hours in length and will be taught at three different school locations. Prior to the start of their learning experience, participants will have a 2 ½ hour orientation in which they will receive a student ID, lunch, an overview of what they will

learning about, and a tour of the college. On Friday, July 26th there will be a full blown cap and gown graduation and a certificate of completion presentation. For the past 3 years, the Arc has partnered with Lackawanna College in being able to provide such opportunities, with the first college experience occurring in October 2016. A special thank you to Bridget Duggan, Youth Program Coordinator and DSP at our Theodore Street CLA, for inviting us back for another wonderful learning experience.

Kelly Peters  
 Senior Manager of  
 Licensed Services



## *Calling all The Arc Stars!*

We have been informed by the Lackawanna County Department of Arts and Culture that we are receiving a grant for the Theater Arts Program for adults with developmental disabilities for the fourth year in a row!! This performance will be "Back to Basics."

Practices will be at The Arc except for the Dress Rehearsal which will be at North Pocono HS:

**Wednesday, May 15th**

**Wednesday, May 22nd**

**Wednesday, May 29th**

**Thursday, June 6th**

**Thursday, June 13th**

**Thursday, June 20th**

**Dress Rehearsal - Friday, June 21st**

**Show Time - Saturday, June 22nd  
 @ 1:00p.m.**

Also, The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary recently visited Moscow Intermediate School for a presentation on The Arc Stars documentary and the students were phenomenal. The ladies had a winter gathering for the Stars to celebrate all their successes and just to have a good time.



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 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:



Northeastern Pennsylvania

115 Meadow Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18505