

SUMMER 2019

# The Arcticulate

Alcohol & Pregnancy:  
*It's just not worth the risk.*



1957-1960 | 1961-1964 | 1965-1968 | 1969-1972 | 1973-1976 | 1977-1980 | 1981-1984 | 1985-1988 | 1989-1992 | 1993-1996 | 1997-2000 | 2001-2004 | 2005-2008 | 2009-2012 | 2013-2016 | 2017-2020



## Celebrating 65 Years of Services in 2020



### *The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania - 1955-2020*

The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania is dedicated to improving the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and Autism (IDD/A) and their families. The Arc consists of almost 700 local and state chapters throughout the United States. It has a membership of approximately 100,000 representing 300,000 family members who are committed advocates for the rights and interests of approximately 7.2 million citizens with IDD/A.

Over the next year, we will share The Arc's history which tells the story of our grassroots foundation and many years of accomplishments. This demonstrated commitment has earned The Arc the respected role of leader in supporting individuals with

IDD/A and their families.

In 2020, The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania will be celebrating 65 years of leadership and advocacy in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities and Autism. We continue to serve over 300 children and adults with IDD/A and their families per week in various programs and services including residential, day support, community options, supported employment, advocacy and recreation and employ over 170 staff. We have accomplished several major objectives in the last 64 years but there is so much more to do... we want to move more people from state institutions to communities; we want greater opportunities in employment for

all with IDD/A who want to work; we want to stop the bullying of people with IDD and Autism; we want to provide better community education in the prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Shaken Baby Syndrome; we want to involve our consumers and self-advocates in decision making; we want to expand inclusive practices in our educational system; we want full integration in society in all facets of life and work; we want people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live full, self-determined and respected lives.

The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania is committed to forward its mission... The Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

Looking forward to celebrating with all of you!



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# President's Message



*" One thing I know: The only one among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve."*

**Albert Schweitzer**

How true!! We all are aware that in giving we, too, receive. The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania is truly blessed to have employees who espouse this. This past June we held the Annual General Membership

Meeting at La Buona Vita in Dunmore. This is a wonderful event where staff, individuals with intellectual disabilities, and the many community organizations that support our mission were recognized for their superb contributions and achievements over the last year. It is an absolute pleasure to witness the close relationships between staff the folks they support as was evident at the Annual Meeting. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you to all Arc staff for their dedication and respect to the children and adults we serve.

Funding for services provided by The Arc has been a concern for as long as I have been involved with community supports for individuals with intellectual

disabilities. Human Service agencies do not always receive adequate funding. This current fiscal year is no different as we were disappointed to learn that the Pennsylvania State budget failed to provide an increase to community services necessary to address Direct Service Professional Wages. Last fiscal year, when, (the first time in 10 years), rates of reimbursement for services included an increase designed to provide for the additional expenses related to community participation services and to address wages for direct service workers. Over the past year, The Arc utilized this increase to raise hourly rates on average by \$1.50 per hour. In addition, staff were provided with two generous bonuses, one in December and most recently in June. It is also important to note that the employee cost share for health insurance has not increased in two years. The Arc Board of Directors has consistently demonstrated a commitment to doing what we can for employees.

Our work is challenging, to be sure. But the rewards that come by way of smiles and gleeful pride are everything.

Thank you. I hope you enjoy these waning days of summer.

**Ann Hoffman**  
*President*

## Exec's Corner



### **No Rest for Advocates**

As you know, the state budget was passed on time and included a small increase for Community Waivers for ID. A total increase in the state budget of \$84,829 addresses the Waiting List across Pennsylvania by providing funding for:

- 765 individuals on the emergency wait list for community services
- An additional 100 individuals will

be served through consolidated waiver

- And 800 students graduating from special education in 2019 will be served through existing funding.

Advocates across the state applaud the efforts of our legislators to reduce the waiting list. But.....

We were quite disappointed to learn that there was no additional funding provided in the state budget to address Direct Service Professional Wages. During the course of strong advocacy efforts through letter writing campaigns, meetings with legislators, and finally the rally in Harrisburg, all designed to bring our concerns to our representatives, it was shared with us that this wasn't our budget year. Not our turn, they said. Not our turn.....

The Arc of NEPA is a proud member of Pennsylvania

Advocacy and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disabilities, (PAR). PAR has one exclusive focus....to serve and support children and adults with autism and intellectual disabilities. If you visit the PAR website at PAR.net, you will find their advocacy priorities--the state budget campaign, the DSP crisis, ODP regulations and more. PAR provided significant advocacy with legislators regarding the demand that the state budget campaign address the DSP Crisis. PAR leadership remains resolved to continue their deliberate efforts until our message is heard.

Although we are in the beginning of the fiscal year, and state budget talks are months away, we must continue to reach out to our legislators and share the critical supports Arc Direct Service Professionals provide to individuals with intellectual disabilities. Sharing our message is not a one person job. It is important that we all stand up and speak up and there is no time better than right now. Our representatives are typically in their local offices during the month of August. Make a call, write a letter, schedule an appointment. Let them know that the Direct Service Professionals are central in the lives of children and adults with autism and ID and are deserving of wages that reflect their responsibilities.

Please contact Eileen Rempe or myself should you have any questions on reaching out to our legislators.

**Maryclaire Kretsch**  
*Executive Director*

# Summer Camp 2019 - Success!

On Friday, August 9th, we held our annual Awards Day and End of Camp



Celebration! Everyone enjoyed a pizza party and was treated to a wonderful graduation ceremony which featured a beautiful concert and award presentations. Our 2019 "Party in the USA Arc Summer Camp" has come to an end! We had a lot of fun on the water slides at Nay Aug, enjoyed cookouts, picnics and swimming at Merli Sarnoski. Christmas in July was so exciting when Santa arrived on a firetruck with presents for all! There was a special visit from the K9 dog, who showed us a presentation and we learned about his job. The local firemen educated us on Fire Safety. We had a visit from "Groovy Baby" the ice cream truck which provided us with a cool snack!

The extreme weather conditions were challenging with the heat and rain this summer. It was very hot and humid, but we were lucky to have a pool available to us again! Thanks to the City of Scranton Parks and Recreation Crew! Every morning we went for walks, played basketball, kickball, board games and tons more. Carnival day was especially entertaining with games and prizes that the campers enjoyed. Many good times were had during the Minute-To-Win-It Day and Special Olympic Day. We played bingo and won prizes, had water balloon fights and even tie-dyed t-shirts!

This year's theme was all about the USA and the North Pole! Brookvalley Farm came to us with Pony Rides for all and the Electric City Aquarium and Reptile Den came for a visit and gave us a very informational presentation. Each day we made arts and crafts, played games and enjoyed a snack. We practiced singing songs every day



to prepare for the show and all the practice really paid off because the show was phenomenal! Overall, we had tons of fun and a great summer!

We would like to extend many heartfelt thank yous: The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary (they treated us to a visit from the Electric City Aquarium & Reptile Den and from Brookvalley Farms); the City of Scranton (Brian Fallon and all staff and life guards); Maryclaire Kretsch, The Arc Executive Director; Pat Quinn, The Arc Director of Operations (endless phone calls); Eileen Rempe, Director of Public Relations/Development (for everything you do); the Fiscal department; Aktion Club (book bags with school supplies were collected for every camper – thank you Erica Francis and everyone who contributed); the TSS/Aides/Nurses who were so caring and compassionate; the Camp Counselors who go above and beyond for the children we serve; Holly Scripp – we love you and cannot thank you enough for being a great human being and all the parents for trusting us with your precious gems! We think Summer Camp Rocks!!





## Calendar of Events

### Please Mark Your Calendars 2019

#### September

United Way Day of Caring - September 5th

Fall Festival - Waldorf Park - September 15th

PPODS Buddy Walk - September 29th

#### October

Buddy Walk - PenFed Field at Veterans Memorial Stadium - Scranton High School October 6th

Board Retreat - TBA

Night at Mohegan Sun

Pocono Downs - October 19th

#### November

Night at the Races - November 8th

#### December

Poinsettia Sale

Cookie Walk

End of Year Foundation Solicitation

Holiday Show at Arc

Holiday Party - Dec. 13th

## Current Employment Opportunities

www.thearcnepa.org

### Direct Service Professional (DSP)

#### Full Time

\$13.50 - \$14.50 / hr

Benefit Eligible

DSP:

Wed-Fri alt Sat

11pm-9am

1 Position Available

Sun-Tues alt. Sat

11pm-9am

3 Positions Available

Mon-Fri

4pm-11pm

1 Position Available

#### Part Time-B

\$14.00 - \$15.00 / hr

Non-Benefit Eligible

DSP:

Must be able to work every Sat & Sun

9am-3pm

3 Positions Available

3pm-11pm

5 Positions Available

--All positions require flexibility--

Contact Mary Ann or Tina in Human Resources for any additional information or questions

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

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 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.

## Community Organization Group of the Night

On June 19th, we caught some fun and excitement at the Railrider's Baseball game! We were the "Community Organization Group of the Night"

Hunter Polishan was selected to throw the FIRST PITCH! He stepped up on the pitcher's mound with his face beaming as he was cheered on by the crowd! His throw was strong and "pitcher" perfect over

home plate! It was a great moment!

Later in the evening, our logo had some time to shine on the video board! I was interviewed on the Railrider's Network Broadcast during the third inning. It was a great night for The Arc and a beautiful night for baseball!



# Memorial Day Parade Taylor, PA



Several of our folks walked in the Memorial Day Parade in Taylor. They were so happy to be walking with all the cheerleaders, football players, ambulance crews, firemen and antique cars!

*We would like to extend a huge thank you to all the folks and community groups who support The Arc's programs and services.*

*Your dedication and compassion mean the world to us.*

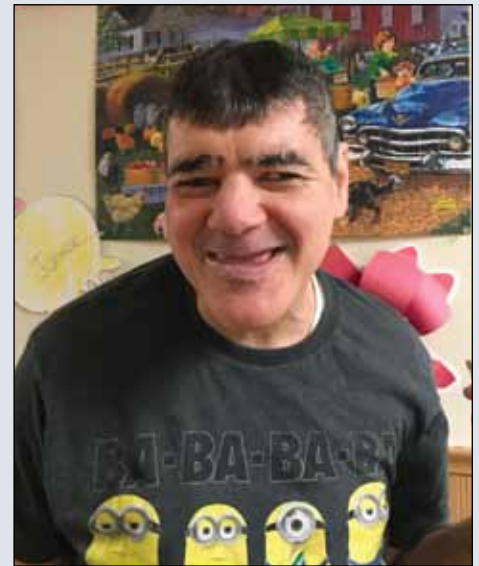
*Please continue to spread the word about using Amazon Smile; The Arc's Vehicle Donation Program; The Arc's Memorial/Honorarium program.*

# Consumer of the Month

Stephen is a 50-year-old male who resides at one of The Arc's residential locations.

Stephen is a very pleasant individual to be around. He loves to visit others throughout the Day Program to share his love by giving out hugs and kisses. He also shows his affection by giving out nicknames to staff around the building. Stephen loves showing off his keys, car and phone too.

Overall, Stephen is just someone who will steal your heart with his infectious smile and caring ways.



## Landing at AVP on September 21<sup>st</sup>!



### Wings for All® is Coming to AVP Airport

The Arc of NEPA is happy to announce that Wings for All will be landing at the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport (AVP) on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Wings for All® is an airport rehearsal program designed specifically for individuals with Autism or other intellectual disabilities. Families are given the opportunity to practice all steps involved in air travel including: entering the airport, obtaining a boarding card, going through TSA security, and boarding a real plane (that does not take off). A small reception will be held for all participants with light snacks and refreshments after deboarding the plane.

This event is free to families, but pre-registration is required as space is limited. Wings for All is a national program of The Arc of the US. For more information, check out the Wings program website at [thearc.org/wingsforautism](http://thearc.org/wingsforautism) or contact Roseann Polishan at [rpolishan@thearcnepa.org](mailto:rpolishan@thearcnepa.org).

**REGISTER HERE NOW!**





# North PPODS and Friends

## Pocono Buddy Walk and Family Fun Day!

Sunday, September 29th 12:00-3:00  
Akenac Park, Dingmans Ferry PA

**\$15/Adults \$10/Child**

Free t-shirts for those who pre-register by Sept. 10th and while supplies last to others. Support a great day and a great cause!

- \* Music by Going Up Entertainment
- \* Jump around the bounce house
- \* Take a pic in our selfie station
- \* Test your luck with our gift basket raffles
- \* Enjoy the playground
- \* Photos with Elmo & PJ Mask & Paw Patrol
- \* Free Cotton Candy
- \* Make a craft or two
- \* Shop our vendor's row
- \* Play some carnival games
- \* Get your face painted
- \* Explore a police car
- \* Visit beautiful Akenac Park
- \* Participate in a ceremonial walk celebrating inclusion and acceptance for individuals with disabilities in our community

Registration at: <https://give.classy.org/poconobuddywalk2019>  
PPODSand Friends@yahoo.com

Sponsored by:

ANTHONY TRIPLETT & SON



**Sisters Corner Deli  
&  
Convenience Store**

Franklin Mutual insurance  
Weinstein, Zimmerman & Ohliger  
Transition Consultants  
Milford Animal Hospital  
Susan Ficken Pediatric Therapy  
Flora & Associates Art Therapy LLC  
Milford Barbershop  
Dingmans Ferry Bridge  
KMC/ONE Kolmar  
Pike County Generator Inc.  
Trigger Point Massage  
Dr. Gates W. Parker  
Just George  
S&T Auto Services  
Jeff & Lyn Shirley

## 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**



Northeastern Pennsylvania

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www.thearcnepa.org

Achieve with us.

For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

### The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania Statement on the closure of White Haven and Polk Centers

August 15, 2019

Yesterday, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) announced a three year plan to close two centers, Polk and White Haven. Years ago, families wanted nothing more than a meaningful life for their family member with intellectual disabilities in community alongside relatives, neighbors and friends. Community, they knew, provides the best opportunity for individuals with intellectual disabilities to pursue their hopes and dreams.

For 65 years, The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania has been committed to ensuring a strong community system of support for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. We believe that now the primary focus is helping individuals at these state centers transition as safely and smoothly as possible. With proper resources from the Department of Human Services, we know this mission is achievable.

*Maryclaire Kretsch*  
Maryclaire Kretsch  
Executive Director

The official registration and financial information of The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, in Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0888. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Affiliated with The Arc of PA and The Arc of the United States



of Carbon County and Lackawanna and Wayne Counties

## The Arc of PA's In Touch

Mikayla Resh Receives The Arc of Pennsylvania Self-Advocate Award at Advocacy & Policy Day.

The award was given in loving memory of Mikayla Jade Resh. Mikayla never spoke a word, but her voice was heard with the help of other children. "Mikayla's Voice" was written and illustrated by her 3rd grade classroom and was first published in 2006. Our Friend Mikayla has been donated to every public elementary school in Pennsylvania in 2012. Mikayla's mother, Kim Resh, accepted this award. The Arc of Pennsylvania's

Self-Advocate Award is presented to an individual with disabilities who has been a tireless advocate and powerful voice for the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live full lives in the community. Mikayla Resh was the very first award recipient.



## Around The Arc

The Arc of Northeastern PA will be celebrating 65 years of service in 2020!!! We are looking forward to some subtle make-overs of all printed material, website, social media, etc. A community celebration will be held during the month of March (IDD/A Awareness Month) along with departmental activities. More information to follow...

We have recently received a grant to make several capital improvements on Meadow Avenue, as well as, some of our residential sites - paving in the back area, group home flooring, concrete sidewalks, etc. This was great news!!! The porch at Sanders is complete - the City of Scranton along with Hemmler and Camayd Architects have made this project possible. We are also looking at a kitchen remodel at this site through the City of Scranton.

The Arc-NEPA had a table at the First Friday Health Fair this past week which was located on Courthouse Square. We have several community fairs coming up in the Fall - beginning with: the University of Scranton Conference on DisABILITY and Brighter Journeys at Mohegan Sun.

We are happy to announce that we are working with FOX 56-WOLF TV on developing a commercial for The Arc. The venue will be Fiorelli's and it will feature Jerry M. and the services offered in Supported Employment. They have been wonderful to work with and we are so grateful they offered their services. We are very excited to have them help us educate the community on our programs and services. We will update on when it will be aired.

Never a dull moment in our Recreation department: the Bowling banquet was held on June 5th and there were more than 350 in attendance. I heard it was phenomenal!

Arc Tracks has been going and going - the Bronx Zoo is scheduled for Saturday, October 5th, the bus is filling up fast. They are already looking at holiday venues to visit! As you know, there is always something for everyone to enjoy and we welcome you to join in any activity that interests you.

## Sara Wolff - Advocacy Community Outreach Coordinator



### **Beginnings**

I was late on the scene when I first became involved with The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania. At a young age of 21, I was nominated to serve as a board member on The Arc Board of Directors on July 1, 2004. During my tenure on the Board, I was asked to volunteer as the Coordinator of Self-Advocacy & Self-Advocacy Services for the Arc.

### **Remembering my Mom, Connie Wolff**

In September of 2009, my mom, Connie, mentioned to me that I should be more involved with the Arc's Recreational Department. My mom was a board member on the Friends of The Arc Auxiliary so she was familiar with The Arc's programs and services. Mari Pizur, Manager of Community Participation and Recreation Services spoke at one of the Auxiliary's meetings and mentioned the "Fun & Friendship" Bowling League. On September 8, 2009, I started bowling for the Arc. My mom loved coming and watching our team bowl along with my teammate's parents.

### **New Chapter with The Arc**

As I enter into my fifth term on the Arc Board, I have been asked to serve in a new role as The Arc's Advocacy Community Outreach Coordinator. As of September

2019, I will be starting this exciting new a new chapter in my life as the Advocacy Community Outreach Coordinator for The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania. My role is to keep the Board of Directors informed of national, statewide and local Advocacy needs and efforts including outreach. I will be working with Advocacy information sources from The Arc of US, The Arc of PA & local advocates: Roseann Polishan & Mandy Colville, along with other outreach sources. This is an exciting endeavor and I look forward to educating the board on the importance of Advocacy and the vital role it has on children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Please visit my page, [www.thearcnepa.org/AdvocacyCommunityOutreach](http://www.thearcnepa.org/AdvocacyCommunityOutreach).

## The Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon

The Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon was held June 25th at La Buona Vita.

We recognized several people:

**Outstanding Philanthropy:** Hemmler and Camayd;

**Special Recognition:** U of S OT Department; Scranton Police; Carbondale YMCA;

**Extraordinary Dedication:** Arc Auxiliary, Alan Hughes;

**The Arc Award:** Doug Wells;

**Board Member Term of Service:** Alan Hughes;

**Consumer Recognition:** Danny Sugarman

**The Harvey Mulligan Award:** Joe Scalzo, Tim Zaharlick, Robert Biesecker, Ryan Meier, Christian Whitman, Agnes Keller

### **Employee Recognition:**

**30 years** - John Gallone, Gloria Nardelli

**25 years** - Dorothy Mancia, Tracy Henriksen, Eileen Rempe

**20 years** - Lisa Alimecco, Christopher Minich, Susan Halley, Barbara Day

**15 years** - Tina O'Malley, Carrie Akers, Margaret Ann Esgro

**10 years** - Brianna Lowry, Darlene Palmitessa

**5 years** - Amy Kearney, Marcel Gamble, Samantha Franklin, LaSeana Colvin, John Bruckner, William Robbins, Natalie Serafini





# New Hires

Welcome to The Arc Family!

Stephanie Bongo  
Aaliyah Jordon  
Amee Stefonetti  
Paula Nickson  
Kimberlyn Grudzinski  
Nicole Pontillo  
Myra Harman  
Rosetta Macri  
Shayna Collins  
Jamie Elman  
Marissa Williams  
Chealse Carson  
Sierra Beyer  
Saiban Hussein  
Amber Nixon  
Rachel Waiters  
Kimberly Spence  
Katherine Propes  
Alexandra Evans  
Kaitlyn Good  
Avery Roberts  
Jake Ciullo  
Collin Amaya  
Drew Yann  
Erika St. Andrew  
La'Shonne Mines  
Theresa Genito  
Pauly Mazzacaro  
Shari Harmon  
Sydnee Curran  
Jacktone Ambuka  
Deborah Andzulis  
Patricia Jette  
Alicia Wooten  
Stephanie Bernard

## Aktion Club

The Aktion Club sponsored a book bag giveaway (filled with school supplies) which was given to every child at our summer camp. All campers have what they need to go back to school. With a very generous donation from Lackawanna College who donated 30 filled backpacks, the Aktion Club raising funds to purchase kits on-line and family and friends donating book bags and additional necessities...over 50 filled backpacks were given to the kiddos! The guys and gals enjoyed putting them together and making the presentations to the children.

## Self-Advocacy Group



On the 3rd Wednesday of every month, a group of our individuals meet at alternating locations to discuss different ways they can better advocate for themselves. We call these meetings the "Self-Advocacy Group", sometimes these meetings are just open discussions and other times we plan a training component of their choosing. On April 17th 2019 at our monthly Self-Advocacy Meeting, the focus was "Gardening" and the group decided they wanted to plant flowers. Each group was assigned an item to bring in such as dirt, cups, varieties of seeds that the group could choose from, etc. So our group happily got their hands dirty and planted various types of flowers, eagerly awaiting to see how their flowers would bloom. The Farr St. crew chose sunflowers and boy were they in for a surprise to see how big they would grow. The boys were so proud of themselves to see what they were able to accomplish

and were involved in every step of the process.

*"If I were a flower..I would be a sunflower. To always follow the sun, turn my back to darkness, stand tall and straight even with my head full of seeds."*

-Anonymous



The club members also went shopping, purchased laundry detergent and delivered it to our local Ronald

McDonald house. They were very appreciative. The Aktion Club continues to give back and helps in many ways.

# Bring Your Child To Work Day

Bring Your Child to Work Day was held on April 26th. The kiddos had a lot of fun, as well as, an enjoyable 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 tie dyed their own bandanna, received a certificate and made a windmill craft.



## Auxiliary Annual Meeting



The Auxiliary held their Annual Meeting on June 18th. We welcomed all the Officers: Corolla Sawka, President; Peggy Tenelly, Vice President; Jean Biggar, Recording Secretary; Carol Burke, Corresponding Secretary; Nancy Crafferty, Treasurer; Eileen Williams, Immediate Past President and Directors: Mary Murphy Fox, Helga Harrington, Ann Hoffman, MaryCarol Kanton, Linda Kusy, Mary Theresa Montoro, Betty Moreken, Liz Toms, Sara Wolff, Betsy Youngblood.

## Scranton District Dental Society Supports The Arc-NEPA

During a "thank you" pizza party hosted by the Scranton District Dental Society (SDDS) for the consumers and staff of The Arc on Friday, May 24, 2019, Doctor Michael Ratchford presented them with a check for \$500. This is the first of three donations to support The Arc for their continued dedication to assisting the SDDS with National Children's Dental Health month.

"The Scranton District Dental Society has worked with The Arc for 17 years, partnering with them to prepare dental health bags for National Children's Dental Health Month (NCDHM) each February. Arc's consumers doing an amazing job filling approximately 8,000 educational bags with children's coloring pages, crayons, tooth brushes, McDonalds coupons, and tooth paste," states Dr. Ratchford,

SDDS board member.

The SDDS is an education and service based organization comprising approximately 150 local member dentists. It is a constituency of the American Dental Association (ADA), the largest and oldest national dental society in the world, and the Pennsylvania Dental Association (PDA). The SDDS oversees activities like Children's Dental Health Month, public education, school visitations, and continuing education for dentists.

The mission of the SDDS is to provide dentists with a forum to discuss pertinent issues that relate to the practice and regulation of dentistry as it pertains to the health and general well being of the communities they serve.

For more information on NCDHM or the SDDS, please visit [www.scrantondental.org](http://www.scrantondental.org).



Left to Right: Colleen Durkin, Mike Williams (Program Manager of Adult Day Services), Richard Haynos, Carl Hallock, Julieann Masters, Dr. Michael Ratchford, and Paulie Golden.

# The Arc Stars Theatre Program

Moon Ventures was a HUGE success and The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary were so happy with all the work and dedication that went into the project. There were weekly practices during

May and June with a dress rehearsal. We saw so many new faces. Everyone was thrilled to be a part of the process and we are so grateful to the Lackawanna County Department

of Arts and Culture, Scranton Area Community Foundation and North Pocono for their on-going kindness. The production of the play was on June 22nd at North Pocono. Our goal is to continue the educational and fun learning experience that the Arc Stars enjoy.



## ***Moon Ventures by: Geri Featherby***

On June 22nd, 2019, North Pocono High School's stage featured 32 adults with special needs. The Arc Angels went on an adventure to the moon! They had to sing, dance and act with their fellow participants and with assistance from theater buddies in front of an audience of approximately 200. The stars worked towards their performance of Moon-Ventures for a total of eight weeks. In those weeks, the stars attended rehearsals facilitated by me, Geri Featherby, artistic director, Christina Sohns-Williams, choreographer, and Lindsay Cocker, production director. Also, to ensure the stars received the most artistic guidance in the time allotted, theater buddies were present as volunteers to help in reading the scripts, dancing, and blocking. Throughout the trial and error, the creative team, consisting of Tina Sohns-Williams, Lindsay Cocker and myself came to the

*(Continued on page 12)*



## Arc Night at Mohegan Sun - Pocono Downs

**Join Us for the 28th Annual Evening of Excitement!  
Saturday, October 19, 2019**

MOHEGAN SUN AT POCONO DOWNS  
Route 315, Wilkes-Barre, PA

### **Sponsorships**

#### **Platinum Sponsors: \$500.00**

Includes reserved seating for 4 and sole sponsorship of the race of your choice. Four buffet dinner tickets, recognition in the race program, photo, plus an award presented to the sponsoring individual or company.

#### **Gold Sponsors: \$350.00**

Includes (4) buffet dinner tickets, photo of sponsors with winning horse and recognition in the race program.

#### **Silver Sponsors: \$200.00**

Includes (2) buffet dinner tickets and recognition in the race program.

\* The buffet features: Seared NY Strip Steak, Turkey/Dressing, Herb Baked Pollock and Roasted Pork Loin along with Home Style Mashed Potatoes, Rice Pilaf, Macaroni & Cheese, Garlic Green Beans, Chef's Seasonal Medley, Rolls, Butter, Soup, Salad, Dessert, Freshly Brewed Coffee and Soft Drinks.

**Buffet Dinner Tickets: \$35.00**

Dinner: 6:00 p.m. & Post Time: 7:00 p.m.

All proceeds benefit The Arc of NEPA  
For more information, please call The Arc at (570) 346-4010

***Thank you and we look forward to having you join us!***

# The Arc Stars Theatre Program

(Continued from page 11)

conclusion that our time was best spent when we separated the adults into two groups. To make this work, the original script was strategically re-written to meet the needs of our rehearsals where the goal was to allow all of our stars to thrive in the creative space. The split took place after the stars finished their singing and acting practice with Tina. After this, I took the stars in the first half of the script, group one, and Lindsay Cocker took the stars in the second half of the script, group two. Quickly after our first test run with this structure, we realized it was what we needed to ensure all of the participants were all able to equally and creatively contribute to the project. Moving forward, we plan to create an original script to suit the needs of our "troupe". Every "star" returned for the 4th year and this year, they brought friends with them to experience the creative expression of performance for the first time.

This year, we also saw a need for a portable PA system so we could be heard. I owned and brought a microphone and a speaker. An additional hand held microphone was purchased. This was not in the original budget and we sacrificed some other set pieces and prop creations to accommodate this need. The program has experienced such a growth of "star" attendance and high level of background sound. Moving forward, we know this will be a helpful resource and know that we need to budget for a portable speaker for next year.

2019 was another successful presentation from the Arc Angels on Stage. Thank-you.



The Friends of The Arc-NEPA Auxiliary



Presents

"A Night at the Races"

November 8, 2019

St. Mary's Center  
320 Mifflin Avenue, Scranton

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

★Door Prizes

★Basket Raffle

★50/50

★Food/Soft Drinks - Free

★Beer/Wine - Cash Bar till 10:00 p.m.

★No BYOB



Tickets are: \$10.00 in advance  
\$15.00 at the door



## Learning Life Skills at Lackawanna College GRADUATION

Over the course of 5 weeks, a number of individuals participated in a learning life skills program that was sponsored by Lackawanna College. During their time spent at the college, individuals learned about Team Building, Fitness, Culinary, Safety, and programs offered at the Environmental Center.

On July 26th, thirty-five individuals from our Adult Day, Residential Services, and a small group affiliated with the Arc through Recreation enjoyed a cap and gown graduation at Lackawanna College. The room was filled with family and friends as those participants were recognized one by one front and center. Each participant was greeted with a friendly handshake, a certificate of achievement, and a photo opt with the president of the college. After the ceremony, guests and graduates were treated to lunch and cake complements of the Lackawanna College cafeteria department. Thank you to the staff at Lackawanna College, DSP's from both departments, and of course those families who had loved ones participant for making this year another success.



## DAY OF CARING

THE 25TH ANNUAL NANCY JACKSON MEMORIAL DAY OF CARING, PRESENTED BY NBT BANK, WILL BE HELD IN LACKAWANNA AND WAYNE COUNTIES ON SEPTEMBER 5TH!



Marking the start of the United Way's annual campaign, hundreds of volunteers roll up their sleeves and make a difference by working with the United Way, one of our partner agencies or program partners for the day. Projects include landscaping, painting, cleaning, maintenance, revitalization, client interaction and scores of other critical tasks to benefit the local organizations making a difference in our community every day!

### Volunteer Registration is Now Open!!

Volunteer teams are comprised of employees, students, teachers, business and government leaders and other community-minded citizens. The volunteer projects include landscaping, painting, cleaning, maintenance, revitalization, client interaction and scores of other critical tasks to benefit the local organizations making a difference in our community every day!

The United Way's Nancy Jackson Memorial Day of Caring has been an annual tradition of caring since 1994 and has grown to become the premiere volunteer effort in our community with the value of completed projects over the past 25 years surpassing \$3 million! Day of Caring and our Youth Day of Caring programs were founded by long-time United Way volunteer Nancy Jackson Matthews who chaired both events annually until she passed away in 2016 after a valiant battle with cancer. Since Nancy began Day of Caring 25 years ago, the program flourished under her guidance and leadership, receiving state-wide and national recognition. Since 1994, nearly 12,000 volunteers have given more than 63,000 hours of service worth nearly \$3 million. However, it is the tens of thousands of individuals in need whose lives have been touched by Nancy's passion and dedication that are her true legacy to our community. To honor Nancy's memory, both Youth and Day of Caring have been renamed in her honor.



For more information, please contact **Nikki Keller, VP of Community Impact Marketing, 570.343.1267 x237.**

## SAU1 Self Advocacy Day at The Arc



On June 28, 2019, representatives from "Self-Advocates United as One", or SAU1, spent the day at The Arc of NEPA facilitating self-advocacy

training sessions for nearly twenty self-advocate participants. SAU1 is a statewide organization comprised of talented self-advocates with intellectual and developmental disabilities who serve as "Power Coaches" and lead trainings across the commonwealth, accompanied by their support staff and facilitators from SAU1.

In June, our group came together for a morning session entitled "Speak Up!" and an afternoon session on "Achieving Your Everyday Life". The entire group enjoyed a great lunch between the sessions. Participants each received a resource bag full of information on self-advocacy, rights, and guidance for exercising individual rights in all settings. The group actively participated in Q&A throughout the day to emphasize self-awareness and empowerment.

SAU1 offers a wide array of trainings and plans are tentatively underway for a fall 2019 return engagement here at The Arc.

# Arc-NEPA Golf Tournament

The Arc-NEPA's Golf Tournament was held on May 20th! We are very proud and happy to have had such a wonderfully, successful event!! The event made approximately \$10,000!!! We were thrilled to have our Celebrity Chair Mark Kwiatkowski join us for the day along with his unified partner, Joe Lillis, with Area P Special Olympics and their team members, family and friends.

Many thank yous go out to:  
Major Sponsorships: Bronze Sponsor - CC Young Insurance Co.; Dinner Sponsors - Family Prescription Counter, Gerrity's Supermarket, Lamar Advertising, Lynda and Ed Lynett, NBT Bank; Lunch Sponsor - Peoples Security; Halfway Point Sponsors - Carol

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Health, Jerry & Michele Musheno, Robert Rosenberg - 2, SERVPRO of Carbondale/Clarks Summit/Old Forge, Source Security & Communications - 1st Alarm, Stirna's, The Prescription Center, Tim Wagner's Sports Corner, Topp Copy, Wayne Bank;

Cart Sponsors - Bill Burnell & Kate Holod, Jordan's Towing, John Kuna, Richard & Shirley Naniewicz, Tom's Floor Shop, Topp Copy, Sandy Yantorn. Special thank you goes to: The fabulous committee for their unending commitment and tireless effort. To all the golfers who were able to join us, Jeff Spagna, Bob Sedlak, Tom Donohue & Elliot Schoenberg - you are really great.





Northeastern Pennsylvania

115 Meadow Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505  
(570) 346-4010 tel • (570) 346-8436 fax  
www.thearcnepa.org

Achieve with us.

For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

In an effort to increase public awareness and community education, we have developed a list of presentations that we are able to offer to schools, parent groups, agencies and community groups. If you are interested in scheduling a presentation, please contact Mandy Colville (Pike, Monroe, Wayne counties) or Roseann Polishan (Lackawanna, Carbon, Susquehanna counties).

The Arc of NEPA presents:

- 10 Myths about Special Education  
Learn the facts about some frequently misunderstood components in Special Education. (1 hour)
- Powerful Parents  
10 tips to help you become a more effective participant in special education. (1 hour)
- Intelligent Lives  
Screening of "Intelligent Lives", a documentary from Dan Habib that challenges the perception of intelligence and points to a future in which people of all abilities can fully participate in higher education, meaningful employment and intimate relationships. The movie transforms the label of intellectual disability from a life of isolation into a life of possibility. Screening is followed by a brief Q&A discussion. (2 hours)
- The ABC's of Special Education  
A brief overview of important topics that pertain to special education A-Z. (1.5 hours)
- Transition to Kindergarten  
Review of the policies and procedures parents should know when their child transitions from Early Intervention to kindergarten.
- Get Organized  
Make and take workshop on how to keep your child's medication and educational records organized and accessible. (1 hour – limited to 10 participants)
- Classroom Presentations  
Customized presentations for your age group and time limit. Topics can include acceptance, understanding differences, inclusion, explaining a specific disability or addressing a unique need in your classroom.

Additionally, we can help facilitate presentations from other professionals on the topic of your choice. We look forward to working with you to further outreach in your community.

Sincerely,

Mandy Colville  
Advocate  
mcolville@thearcnepa.org  
570-561-3285

Roseann Polishan  
Advocate  
rpolishan@thearcnepa.org  
570-209-4180

The office register and finance information of The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, in Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0888. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Affiliated with The Arc of PA and The Arc of the United States



of Carbon County and Lackawanna and Wayne Counties

## Foundation Annual Board Meeting

The Foundation Annual Board meeting was held at the Radisson on June 12th. We are very honored to be part of such a generous community and are proud to have so many friendships. All of your help in securing funds is very important to us and we are grateful.



Seated: Ann Hoffman, The Arc Board President; Maryclaire Kretsch, Arc Executive Director; Standing: Bill Burke, Arc Boards; Joe Hollander, Arc Foundation Board President; Alan Hughes, Arc Foundation Board

## The Arc Participates in Statewide Residential Services Collaborative

The Arc of NEPA recently sent several team members representing Administration, Program Specialists, Human Resources, Fiscal, and Direct Support Professionals to participate in a statewide Residential Services Collaborative held over several sessions in Harrisburg. The collaborative was sponsored by the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP). Our presence at this collaborative is noteworthy in that only "the best of the best" Residential Services providers statewide were invited to participate. Licensing scores, Quality Assessment and Improvement scores, experience, and reputation were taken into consideration for participation. The Arc of NEPA was the only residential provider from our region invited to participate.

The collaborative included break out groups to brainstorm best practices in areas included, but not limited to: incident management, medications administration, staffing, third shift safety, team building, and agency wide communications. ODP plans to use information gleaned from the collaborative sessions to develop communications on best practices in serving people in residential settings. Congratulations to all Arc team members who participated and shared our considerable collective expertise.



**The Arc**<sup>™</sup>

Northeastern Pennsylvania

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*Our Vision*

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



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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.
- Insurance 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:



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