

The Arcticulate



Please drop off to: 115 Meadow Avenue, Scranton

Employee Anniversaries

We would like to congratulate the following staff on their years of service at The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania! We thank you for your dedication and commitment to our Mission and look forward to many more years to come!

15 Years of Service:



Allison Hull: I have been at The Arc for 15 years. My current position is a Fiscal Assistant. What I love most about my job is that we have all

become an extended family, and I am taught something new every single day, by the diverse group of guys and gals that we have the pleasure of taking care of. In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with family/friends, in the mountains of the valley, riding our 4- wheelers.



Joseph Sepe: I have been a Properties Manager with The Arc for the past 15 years. Of course, the best part of my job is the ladies and

gentlemen we take care of. My favorite thing to do is vacation, where I'm hoping to retire to a permanent vacation home in the south-with a palm tree in the yard!



Eric Martinborough: I can't believe it's been 15 years already! I've been fortunate to be around a great group of people (in the office and the staff of DSPs). Terrific consumers also!

10 Years of Service:



Kristen Kijewski: I am a mother to a beautiful little girl and I am happily engaged. I love music, bowling, and Amish fiction novels.

I have been with The Arc for ten years now. I love this job because it is so family oriented. I love the individuals I care for so much and I have made the nicest friends here. I always feel like I can be myself, my unique style is appreciated here! The Arc is truly the best place I have ever worked.

5 Years of Service:



Lindsay Pendrak: I've been working at The Arc of NEPA since January of 2018 as a Direct Support Professional. Though this job could be

challenging at times, I absolutely love caring for the individuals that attend the Adult Day Program and the flexibility that the job provides for me. My hobbies include doing

hair and makeup, yoga, art, and spending time with my daughter!



Connie Puckett: I've been with The Arc for 5 years as a DSP, also as a 1:1 (Intense Support Services). When I'm not working, I am

spending time with my own four special needs children. What I like about my job is that I've learned a lot on how to support my oldest child who is 12 years old and has autism and ID. I also love seeing all the smiles and getting hugs from the consumers in the mornings and afternoons, and watching them accomplish so much through the years.



Amanda Colville: I have been an Advocate with The Arc of NEPA since January 2018. One of the most satisfying parts of my job is knowing I am making a difference in the lives of the individuals I serve,

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Northeastern Pennsylvania

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

President's Message



being with people who believe in the mission is so refreshing. In spite of little or no recognition from

Greetings from your new Board Chair. In reality, I should call myself your recycled Board Chair as I held this position back in the 1990s. The second time around may be the charmed one. I would like to take some time to give accolades to The Arc staff. The reason that I find so much satisfaction by volunteering for The Arc is that

society, they still do a job of outstanding service to our consumers. Again, they believe in the mission. People who work in the 501C3 community do it to give aid and comfort to those less fortunate, and to be a small part of that community as a volunteer offers me a great deal of satisfaction. And, to the members of The Arc Board, thank you all for your commitment to the mission. May the coming year be one of success and satisfaction.

Sincerely,
Bill Burnell
Board President

Exec's Corner



A very atypical summer this year. Record high temps in May and drought conditions gave way to daily thunder storms and high humidity. Although not a perfect beach type summer, I am grateful for the long days and no ice to scrap or snow to shovel. While the weather has been unique, unfortunately some things stayed the same. Take the Governor's proposed budget for example. The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania joined the advocacy efforts of The Arc of Pennsylvania and PAR. We worked diligently as we spoke about the crisis in community services with legislators and the Governor. We believed we were heard. Families spoke out about their challenges and efforts to obtain needed supports for their loved one. We thought our message was clear and strong. But our hopes were dashed when the budget was announced with no increase in the Home and Community Services line item—yet again. The staffing crisis, they said, is a national problem and not something they can fix. But years of underfunding contributed to this crisis in Pennsylvania. The fix is the state of Pennsylvania, providers, families and self advocates working together to identify solutions.

Without adequate staff, providers have curtailed accepting referrals for service. Quality in service and safety for individuals served are of utmost importance, yet severely compromised without proper staff. By failing to provide increased rates of reimbursement that support competitive wages commensurate with responsibilities, the State of Pennsylvania has imposed limited options on families due to declining service options. Recently some families have had

no choice but to resort to taking their family member to an emergency room, waiting days, often weeks to obtain appropriate services. This is not acceptable. Advocating for a good life in community is just as important now as anytime in The Arc's 67 year history. We will share the stories of families and their loved one's struggles. Our message is that important.

Thank you for being an Arc member and supporting our mission.

Maryclaire Kretsch
Executive Director



The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania is excited to announce receipt of a \$5,000 grant from The Robert H. Spitz Foundation, administered by the Scranton Area Community Foundation. The grant was approved for Operational Support for Funding Lost Due to COVID-19, Staffing and PPE. The Arc experienced unfunded program expenses due to the closures during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for the support of the Robert H. Spitz Foundation!

Pictured l-r are Laura Ducceschi, President and Chief Executive Officer, Scranton Area Community Foundation (SACF); Maryclaire Kretsch, Executive Director, The Arc-NEPA; Cathy Fitzpatrick, Grants and Scholarship Manager, SACF; Frank Caputo, Grants and Communications Coordinator, SACF.

Advocacy Training

Our advocates have been busy this summer arranging, developing and coordinating their virtual advocacy presentation series that runs from August until May.

We strive to put together quality training in a diverse number of areas that meet the needs of the individuals and families we serve.

We hope to see you at one of the events!

The Arc of NEPA Presentation Calendar 2023-2024

August

Aug 29th 10:00 am: "Back to School Tips for your Special Education Student"- Presented by The Arc of NEPA Advocacy

September

Sept 26th 10:00 am: "Sensory Integration and Sensory Processing " - Presented by The Arc of PA Include Me

Sept 28th 10:00 am: "Making a Sensory Toolkit" - Presented by The Arc of PA Include Me

October

Oct 12th 10:00 am: "School Discipline and the Manifestation Determination Process" - Presented by McAndrews Law

Oct 24th 10:00 am: "Effective Communication Strategies for

Advocacy" - Presented by The Arc of NEPA Advocacy

November

Nov 9th 10:00 am: "An Overview of Social Security Programs for Transition Age Students"- Presented by Franklin Magni, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist

Nov 14th 1:00 pm: "Healthy Relationships for Teens and Young Adults with Disabilities" - Presented by Theresa Schirg LCSW, HCQU-Advocacy Alliance

December

Dec 5th 1130 am: "Healthy Relationships for Teens and Young Adults with Disabilities" -Presented by Theresa Schirg LCSW, HCQU-Advocacy Alliance

TBD: Interpreting and Understanding Evaluation Reports" - Presented by TBD

January

Jan 9th 10:00 am: "Transition from Early Intervention to Kindergarten"- Presented by The Arc of NEPA Advocacy

Jan 18th 1:00 pm: "Transition from Early Intervention to Kindergarten" - Presented by The Arc of NEPA Advocacy

Jan 25th 10:00 am: "ESY- Review of All Aspects of Extended School

Year"- Presented by The Arc of NEPA Advocacy

February

Feb TBD 10:00 am: "The Importance of Legislative Advocacy and How Parents Can Influence"- Presented by TBD

Feb 15th 10:00 am: "IEP vs 504- Differences between a 504 and an IEP"- Presented by The Arc of NEPA Advocacy

March

March 14th 10:00 am: "Practical Ways to Include and Accommodate Students"- Presented by The Arc of NEPA Advocacy

IDD Awareness Month Project (spotlighting accomplishments of individuals with IDD)

April

April 11th 10:00 am: "Power of Attorney and Guardianship"- Presented by TBD

April 18th 10:00 am: "Facilitating Friendships" - Presented by The Arc of PA Include Me

May

May 9th 11:00 am: "Empowering Families to Make Change in their Communities" - Presented by The Arc of NEPA Advocacy

The Parent/Family/Caregiver group of The Arc of NEPA continues to grow...

We have meetings throughout the year in The Arc of NEPA conference room and also via zoom. We had presentations from Diana Fishlock, PA Able, Frank Magni, Social Security Administration, and Samantha Rieman, Advocacy Alliance. They were able to answer questions from families/caregivers and help them consider supports for their loved

ones moving forward into the future. We also had a meeting where we had a demonstration from Safe in Home with the latest technology that can be waiver approved to help your loved be safe and supported.

In August, we featured a presentation on ABLE Accounts from McAndrews Law.

This is a welcoming group open to any family member or caregiver of a loved one with an intellectual / developmental disability. We offer support and encouragement to each other. If you are interested in more information contact rpolishan@thearcnepa.org

We hope you can join us!!

Pike County Resource Fair

Delaware Valley School District and The Arc of NEPA sponsored a resource fair at Delaware Valley School District on May 31st focusing on services that support our special needs community. We were extremely excited to showcase all the resources our area has to offer. We have combined this event with The Area P Special Olympics Track and Field Invitational to help us reach our target audience of

individuals, families and those that support them.

Mandy was busy coordinating all of the providers and keeping the event flowing, while Roseann manned The Arc of NEPA resource table.

Hundreds of students from Wayne and Pike county came through on the warm and sunny day. Fun was had by all!

Pictured: Mandy and Roseann.



The Arc's Core Values

The Arc's Core Values are the beliefs, philosophies, and principles that drive our agency. Our values support The Arc's vision and shape its culture. They impact your experience as an employee, as well as the relationship you develop with your coworkers, consumers and our stakeholders. Because our Values reflect what The Arc stands for and believes in, the next time you are faced with a decision ask yourself, "Does this decision reflect our Values"?

Our Core Values

Human Dignity

People with IDD have human dignity. The lives of people with IDD have value.

Personhood

People with IDD have varying strengths, abilities, and interests. Each person is unique.

Choice

People with IDD can make decisions about their lives. People with IDD should be supported to do so as requested or needed.

Rights

People with IDD have human and civil rights, which must be protected.

Community

People with IDD are part of and contribute to the fabric of society. Everyone benefits when people with IDD are present and participate.

Support

People with IDD have differing support needs. Society must support people with IDD to achieve their full potential. Society should also help families who provide support for loved ones with IDD.

Equity

Society must remove barriers and correct injustices that limit opportunities for people with IDD. Extra action is needed to help people with IDD and their families, who face other forms of bias or discrimination.

Diversity

Human diversity is beautiful and powerful. We celebrate, honor, and seek to understand the differences in our identities and life experiences.

Approved by chapters of The Arc, 9/28/21.

Welcome to The Arc Family!

Guardia Marcel
Santarsiero Alexa
Kendricks Kaylana
DeGraw Robere
Franklin Diora
Blair Nichole
Bertoti MaryKate
Shaicimah Gant
Luke Brauer
James Dillon
Andrew Gorto
Michael Rhoades
Andrew Skutack
Emily Van Wert
Isabella Zeller
Anisia Dos Santos
Connor Monahan
Brenda Jones
Valencia Parrish
Emma Loua
Devorah Reyes
Blanca Ramirez
Julie Reed
Erick Alonso
Latasha Williams
Michele Morales

The 2023-2024 "Fun & Friendship" Bowling League



Season bowling will commence on Tuesday, September 5th and Friday, September 8th at Idle Hour Lanes (Route 6, Dickson City). Both Tuesday and Friday bowling practice begins at 4:35 pm and league bowling begins promptly at 4:45 pm. You must be on time!!! The season consists of approximately 30 weeks and

will conclude at the end of April. Bowling will cost \$10.00 per bowler per week, if unable to bowl there is an absent fee of \$3.00 per week. Bowling fees must be paid on a weekly basis to The Arc recreation staff before you begin bowling.

Should we need to cancel bowling because of inclement weather, you will receive a voice message through

our new calling system (dial my calls). Holidays observed by The Arc include November 24, December 26, December 29, 2023 and January 2, 2024.

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

Luzerne County "Fun & Friendship" Bowling League

The Arc of NEPA is happy to start a new Bowling League in Luzerne County! The bowling season will commence on Tuesday, September 5th and end on April 23rd at Chacko's Family Bowling Center (195 N. Wilkes Barre Blvd, Wilkes Barre). Bowling practice begins at 4:20pm and league bowling begins promptly at 4:30pm. You must be on time!!!

Bowling will cost \$11.00 per bowler per week which includes 2 games, ball and shoes, if unable to bowl there is an absent fee of \$3.00 per week. Bowling fees must be paid on a weekly basis to The Arc recreation staff before you begin bowling.

Should we need to cancel bowling because of inclement weather, you will receive a voice message through our calling system (dial my calls). Holidays observed by The Arc include November 24, 2023, December 26, 2023 and January 2, 2024.

The Arc's staff is not responsible for the supervision of league members.

Parents / staff must stay with the bowler.

For more information contact:

BUDDY WALK OF NEPA

Sunday, October 1, 2023

Registration begins at 12:00 noon
Walk starts at 1:00 pm
Adults: \$15.00... 15 & under \$5.00
Free for Individuals with Down Syndrome
PenFed Field at Veterans Memorial Stadium at
Scranton High School
816 Providence Road, Scranton

Please register at: <https://www.destride.org/buddywalknepa> or scan:



This event raises awareness and funds for programs and activities that benefit people with Down Syndrome and their families.



Jon Meyer – EMCEE

PRIDE Squad Cheerleaders – Grand Marshalls

Included in Price: Tee Shirts, EJ the DJ, Juggler, Emergency Vehicles, Pony/Horse Rides, Character Appearances, Potting Zoo, Bounce House, Face Painting ...

Available to purchase: Gift Baskets, 50/50 Raffle, Food Trucks ...

Also, please visit Local Providers, Vendors and More!



The Buddy Walk® was established in 1995 by the National Down Syndrome Society to celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness. Locally, the walk was started 23 years ago as part of a senior project at North Pocono High School. For more information, please call 570-346-4010.

Out and Advocating About in Luzerne County

Submitted by: Katie Foley, Advocate

This July marked my first full year with The Arc and I believe it has been a good one. I was able to meet some really great people in Luzerne County. People that spend their time helping the community they serve to live their best lives. With the help of The IU 18, I was able to bring back the Local Task Force in Luzerne and Wyoming Counties. We had our first successful meeting in May and will begin again this September. I have also been

lucky enough to advocate and help navigate issues for many residents and students in Luzerne County, while working with some of that areas best resources. The Arc has been able to be a presence at two of The Pennsylvania Family Resource Center's Summits, where I was able to learn more about the needs of Luzerne County residents, while sharing our mission. The Arc began our Sibshops and our presentations on the Importance of the Sibling Relationship with great

success. Our shops have helped fill a gap that has long been missing in service to our community and that is helping the people who know and love them to feel supported too. All in all I think it's been a great year and I feel exceptionally grateful to be a part of such an excellent team of people who do great things. I'm looking forward to more growth in Luzerne this coming year. We hope to present on topics such as healthy relationships and effective communication in the IEP.

Luzerne County Advocate Update

Submitted by: Katie Foley, Advocate

It has been a very rewarding few months. I have had the opportunity to connect with some very important resources in Luzerne county and believe that The Arc will continue to grow relationships with many other organizations in Luzerne county. I have helped many families of school age children just beginning their academic life as well as those transitioning into adulthood. I have been able to help adults find programs to assist them with finding jobs, housing, legal support and other resources. We will begin a Sibling Advocacy program starting this coming year by kicking off the

Sibling Support Project's Sibshops in March of 2023 and a presentation of the Importance of the Sibling Relationship. Mental Health and Developmental Services of Luzerne county hopes to collaborate with us in the coming year and help bring in the Arm of The Arc into Luzerne County. The Right to Education Task Force for IU 18 is being revived starting in March 2023, as I will be the chairperson as we look to meet more special education parents. We hope to provide support to programs already in the area as well as many very successful new and proven programs and resources from The Arc NEPA into the Luzerne county area. In the past

year I have been certified in Sibshops, and have been able to be a part of the Peal Center's Parent Leadership Institute. I was able to make excellent connections and was also able to grow my knowledge base from hearing presentations from experts in the field of Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. I plan to continue to grow advocacy. My hope is to support the individual and their family by assisting in Luzerne County with services they already have and bring to the area training and programs done by The Arc of NEPA that have proven successful to our populations in the rest of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Arc's 68th Annual Membership Meeting

The 68th annual meeting of The Arc's members and Board of Directors was held at La Buona Vita on June 27th. This annual gathering highlights the contributions of individuals, businesses, board members, agency staff, and most importantly, the accomplishments of individuals served by The Arc. We honored four consumers for their awesome abilities and extraordinary talent; recognized 15 employees for their years of service and dedication; a board president - Peter Kanton and four board members who completed their service to the board: Bill Burke, Chris Carroll, Mark McDade, Sara Wolff. We introduced the The Joseph "Joey" Banik Memorial Award which was awarded to Kase Bickauskas;

Sincere Appreciation was given to The Scranton Times; Special Recognition was awarded to the Scranton District Dental Society and Jon Meyer; Mindy Hill and EJ the DJ received the Making a Difference Award; and The Arc Award, which is the highest honor bestowed annually by the agency, was presented to the United Way of Lackawanna, Pike and Wayne Counties for their vision, commitment and dedication to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We are sincerely grateful for your time, talent, energy and generosity that you have given to The Arc. Your commitment to our mission enhances the lives of the folks we serve. The Arc-NEPA wishes to congratulate all award winners, and thank



everyone who works or volunteers to make The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania so successful in its mission. On behalf of the folks we serve, we salute you!

Employee Anniversaries

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whether it is connecting them with needed resources, advocating for their educational rights, or working on systematic changes in our area. I am especially proud of The Parent Training Series we have designed and implemented over the years which helps to create stronger parent advocates. When I am not busy helping other families, I stay focused on spending time with my wonderful husband and 4 children.



William Foster: I'm a DSP at The Arc's Adult Day Program. What I love about my job is helping the individuals be more independent

on their own and going out into the community to do activities.



Michael Williams: I've been with The Arc since 2018, serving first as Manager of Adult Day Services, and most recently as Quality Assurance

Manager/Incident Management (IM) Representative. I'm a graduate of Penn State where I received my Bachelor's degree in Political Science in 2005. I later earned a Master's in Public Administration from Marywood University.



John Rokita: Wow, 5 years already! It's been interesting and easy with great coworkers. And the consumers are cool! While working in the

maintenance department, I get to be everywhere and I see everyone each day. I get a lot of hugs!



Ellen Palumbo: Hello! I am a DSP-Direct Support Professional with The Arc of NEPA for 5 years. We have the best consumers and staff to make

each and every day a great day!



Sidney Vaughn: Ok, so my photo might be a little unconventional. But, it's my favorite picture of myself. I love pasta, but it hates me. I have

been employed by The Arc for 5 years as a DSP, starting in Residential but currently at The Arc's Day Program. I love that my job gives me the opportunity to be able to make a difference in the lives of so many different individuals. This field of work can be difficult, but so many of these clients have become to feel just like family. My hobbies and interests include: tarot, and gaslighting myself into believing I'm livin' the dream!



Mary Ann O'Shea: Graduating Summa Cum Laude from Keystone College back in 2004, I entered the Human Resources field

because I enjoy working with people. I love the variety in my role-one minute I'm planning fun celebrations and the next I'm designing benefits plans. Working at The Arc has aligned with my personal and professional goals of being in a service role, making sure things run smoothly, advocating for someone in need, and creating the best experiences for all the employees and individuals we serve! Outside of work, my husband and I enjoy watching, supporting (and chauffeuring) our three teenagers with their academic and extracurricular interests. You'll always find us at some field or rink!



Khadijah McNeill: I'm Khadijah, or Dee and I've been working for The Arc at the Scott Township house since 2018. I have stayed at The Arc for so

many years because I love the guys and the staff I work with. We are a family and I have never felt such love, support and respect from my past jobs. My Supervisor, Lisa, has supported me in so many ways especially when it comes to doing and being my best a work. This has given me the confidence to switch from an overnight staff to being a 1:1. I am so proud of the progress JA and I have made together and I can't wait to achieve more at work. We enjoy going grocery shopping and going for rides. When I'm not working, I enjoy reading and being a college student. I am so happy to still be working for The Arc and I can't wait to continue my career as a DSP.



Latisha McNeill: It has been my absolute pleasure to be an employee at The Arc of NEPA. The years have gone by so fast. What I love the most

about my job is that I get to work for a special group of individuals who teach me every day. I love that my efforts are supported by a manager that goes above and beyond to make sure the guys have what they need and the staff are properly equipped with the tools to execute the appropriate and proper care for the guys. When I first started working for The Arc 5 years ago, I was hired as an overnight staff and within this past year, I've transferred over to second shift so that I could get to be with the guys while they are awake and do more laughing and talking with them. When I'm not working I enjoy listening to music and dancing.

I often entertain my guys with my talents and boy do they get a joy out of it all. JA, JTB, and SP I consider them to be my extended family and I love them dearly. Our angel JB is keeping us safe and filled with love and joy. It is very humbling to be a Caregiver-I love it!

Today We Celebrate...

In honor of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March, The Arc of NEPA Advocacy worked on a project to celebrate the accomplishments of the many amazing individuals with IDD in our area covering Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Wayne, Lackawanna, Luzerne and Susquehanna counties.

We received a number of submissions, that included the individuals Name, Photo and Accomplishment or Reason to Celebrate. These were featured periodically throughout the month of March on The Arc of NEPA's Facebook Page.

Some of the wonderful areas showcased included talents, honors, employment recognition, mastering a new skill, progress at school, sports/recreational accomplishment, achieving a milestone, community involvement, leadership opportunities and self-advocating moments.

Here are a few of our features:

Today we celebrate...

McKenzie was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society at the end of last year.



Hunter loves to cook. He recently made homemade pasta!



Ryan was awarded Citizen of the month for November at school for displaying a caring attitude.



On February 18, 2023 Mikie will be receiving his 20 year membership award with the Jefferson Township Volunteer Fire Department. He has always enjoyed helping at the yearly picnic selling bingo pull tabs, riding in Tanker 29 with his buddy Rick in parades. Every opportunity he has he will hang out with other members in the station especially where the trucks are parked! Mikie has made many friends over the years and is so proud to be a member.



Norah, of Newton Township, has been busy playing on the Varsity Unified Bocce team for Abington Heights School District and working at Quinn's Market in Peckville through Directions LLC. She was recently Employee of the Month at Quinn's and her bocce team is playing for the league championship March 1.



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Today We Celebrate...

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Grace loves music and has been taking percussion lessons in school. She is also a part of her school chorus and participates in dancercise as an extracurricular activity. There are many opportunities for Grace to join activities with her peers throughout the school year.



Jake 15 loving life in Thousand Islands. I love seeing him taking on new adventures. Never allow doubt!



John and his family have been advocating for pictures of his peers at school on his Tobii Dynavox (AAC). Finally, last month his school district agreed to it. Communication is a basic human right for all people. Now John has a way to voice the names of his friends at school.



Zak is in his 10th year working in the Keyser Ave Goodwill store. He also serves faithfully greeting people who attend LCBC church in Dickson City. We are so proud of him!!

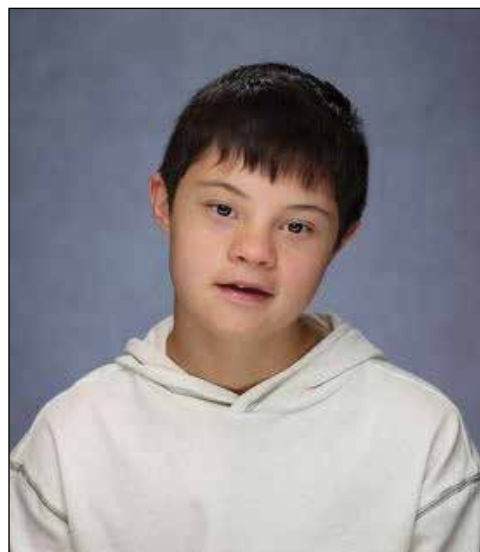


Lucian is 7 years old and has been taking karate for 4 years. He has worked very hard and will be earning a new belt within the next few weeks. He currently is a yellow belt with a black stripe. Lucian loves to show off his techniques.



Andrew is a beautiful, kind, bright, funny child. He amazes us all of the time! He is constantly breaking all barriers once mentioned. Andrew is fully included in general education with excellent grades. He tries his very best! We are so proud of Andrew!

Thomas loves to dance!



DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION WEEK

SEPTEMBER 10-16, 2023



NATHANIEL LEEPER

DSP within the
Residential
Program of The
Arc of
Northeastern PA



The individuals that Nate supports say that they love hanging out with him, whether at home playing cards or going out for Italian ice!

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.

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.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, direct support professionals are integral to the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of all individuals with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities, regardless of their age; and

WHEREAS, a direct support professional assists an individual with disabilities daily with the most intimate needs and provides a broad range of support, from preparing meals and medications to personal care to transporting clients to school, work, and other activities; and

WHEREAS, the assistance that direct support professionals provide allows individuals with disabilities to help maintain connections with their friends, family, and community while enabling them to lead fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals build close, respectful, and trusted relationships with the individuals they serve; and

WHEREAS, the participation of direct support professionals in medical care planning is critical to the successful management of medical events, post-acute care, and long-term support and services; and

WHEREAS, the direct support professionals community encapsulates a multitude of professions, including but not limited to direct care workers, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals, all of which share an equal role in providing long-term support and services for millions of individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, direct support professionals have worked tirelessly to support individuals with disabilities, and their dedication will continue to make the Commonwealth an inclusive and safe place for all.

THEREFORE, I, Josh Shapiro, Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby proclaim September 10-16, 2023, as

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WEEK

to encourage all citizens to recognize and appreciate the dedication and contributions that these providers make to enhance the lives of their clients.



GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the Governor, at the City of Harrisburg, on this twenty-sixth day of April two thousand twenty-three, the year of the Commonwealth the two hundred forty-eighth.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Josh Shapiro".

Governor Josh Shapiro

23rd Annual Golf Tournament was Huge Success!

The 23rd Annual Golf Tournament was held on May 22nd and was a wonderful success! Everyone was thrilled to spend the day together at Glen Oak Country Club which is a beautiful venue. Carol Chisdak offered so much support which led to a great event. Our Celebrity Chair was Louie Passeri. He was very excited to be a part of this annual event and we were thrilled to have him join us.

Please meet Louie Passeri

Louie has won numerous medals golfing with Area P Special Olympics in area tournaments including Kutztown, Penn State and in 2008 and 2012, he won the gold at Belles Springs! He started golfing in the skills division, with the help of his coach and dear friend, Joe Lillis. Louie has worked his way up through unified partners and now golfs on his own. He has been involved with The Arc for many years participating in bowling and other activities. In Special Olympics, he participated in soccer, basketball, bocce and golf. He has attended Sky Lake Friends Camp every summer for 38 years. Louie works at Allied Services. He is the son of the late David and Ruth Passeri. Louie just lost his mother, his biggest fan and supporter on March 26, 2022.

We honored the memory of Bert Morgan:

Our dear friend Bert Morgan lived and grew up in Archbald. He graduated from Valley View High School where he excelled in basketball. After high school, he worked at Lockheed Martin for 44 years as a supervisor. He married the love of his life and high school sweetheart, Carmen. The Morgans have two amazing children, Jason and Kayla. When his son, Jason, was young, Bert coached basketball and soccer for the youth league. He became involved with Special Olympics when his daughter, Kayla, began bowling with The Arc. He dedicated over ten years, coaching basketball, bocce, golf, bowling and swimming. He gave endless hours in volunteering for various fund raisers for Special Olympics. One of the several groups that Bert was proud to be a part of was the "Parents of Down Syndrome"

(PODS) group where he served as President for five years. He dedicated his time to make sure all individuals and their families were educated on services available to them and that they were able to have fun and enjoyment with the many activities that were provided. He also started up the Buddy Up Tennis program with a local doctor. The program still continues for individuals with Down syndrome. Bert was voted in to take over Special Olympics Area P. He did for a short time realizing he did not have the time to commit to doing his best. Most recently, he was nominated to The Arc Board of Directors. For all of these reasons and so many, many more...Bert was a true hero to us and his memory will not be forgotten. Bert - you will always be missed.

We also had several members of the Special Olympics Golf Team join us for the tournament - they had an awesome time, everyone enjoyed their company and many thanks to the Friends of The Arc Auxiliary for sponsoring this group of fine athletes. We are so grateful for your kindness and friendship.

Remembering Joe Lillis for helping in any way he could; Jeff Spagna and Bob Sedlak for making this the best golf tournament ever and for each and every one of the volunteers - your time and effort is greatly appreciated! Thank you: Brucelli * Carmen Morgan * Coopers * Fratellis * Glen Oak CC * Jaworski * Jessica's Eatery * King Outdoor Advertising * The Scranton Times * Superior Trophy * Betsy Youngblood

Thank you to our Major, Hole and Cart Sponsors and all the golfers. We are so very grateful that you were able to join us for a spectacular event.



Friends of The Arc Auxiliary Annual Meeting

The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary gathered for their Annual Meeting at Coopers. The Officers and new members were installed to the Board. We welcomed

Corolla Sawka as President; Mary Murphy Fox, Vice President; Nancy Crafferty, Treasurer; Jean Biggar, Recording Secretary; Carol Burke, Corresponding Secretary and Eileen

Williams, Immediate Past President. New members are Megan Alpert and Eve Hennigan. Great to have everyone on board!



Pictured: Board Members - Seated - Jean Biggar, Carol Burke, Corolla Sawka, Mary Murphy Fox, Nancy Crafferty. Standing - Maryclaire Kretsch, Betty Moreken, Sara Wolff, Eileen Rempe, Peggy Tenelly, Eileen Williams, Pat Kwiatkowski, Eve Hennigan, Christa Lucke, Linda Kusy.



Pictured: Board Officers: Seated - Jean Biggar, Recording Secretary; Carol Burke, Corresponding Secretary; Corolla Sawka, President; Mary Murphy Fox, Vice President; Nancy Crafferty, Treasurer. Standing - Maryclaire Kretsch, Arc Executive Director; Eileen Rempe, Arc Director of Public Relations and Development; Eileen Williams; Immediate Past President.

Right to Education Local Task Force 20 2023-24 MEETING DATES

DATE	LOCATION	PRESENTER
Monday, September 11, 2023 Password: 8GV3Fc	Join Zoom Meeting September Meeting Link Meeting ID: 935 305 1899	"Understanding the PARC Decree" by The Arc of PA
Monday, October 16, 2023 Password: 8GV3Fc	Join Zoom Meeting October Meeting Link Meeting ID: 935 305 1899	"AAC in the IEP" by Kristin Ellis
Monday, November 6, 2023 Snow Date - November 7, 2023 Password: 8GV3Fc	Join Zoom Meeting November Meeting Link Meeting ID: 935 305 1899	"Advocacy 1012" by Lisa Lightner
Monday, January 8, 2024 Snow Date - January 9, 2024 Password: 8GV3Fc	Join Zoom Meeting January Meeting Link Meeting ID: 935 305 1899	"Transition in the IEP" by The Peal Center
Monday - March 11, 2023 Snow Date - March 12, 2023 Password: 8GV3Fc	Join Zoom Meeting March Meeting Link Meeting ID: 935 305 1899	"Leading Changes" by F2Max
Monday, May 6, 2024 Password: 8GV3Fc	Join Zoom Meeting May Meeting Link Meeting ID: 935 305 1899	"Curriculum Adaptations" by Include Me Elections

All meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m

Right to Education Local Task Force 18

2023-24 MEETING DATES

All 2023-2024 Meetings will be VIRTUAL and are open to the public.

Meeting ID 874 8881 1884
Passcode: 364196

DATES:

Monday, September 18th, 2023
12:30-2:30 *IEP Walkthrough*

Monday, November 13th, 2023
12:30-2:30

Effective Communication in the IEP

Monday, January 22nd, 2024
12:30-2:30 *IEP vs. 504*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Katie Foley, Chairperson
kfoley@thearcnepa.org

IU 18 Contact: **JoAnn Pepsin**
jpepsin@Liu18.org

THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION LOCAL
TASK FORCE 18 RESPONSIBILITIES:

Parents and local LEA's and agencies work together with The Bureau of Special Education Adviser in the monitoring

Process special education programs and provide input and recommendations to the team for compliance of regulations.

Assist the Administration in carrying out the Right to Education Consent Agreement.

Assist parents of students with special needs in understanding the laws/ regulations

Refer systemic issues identified locally to the appropriate intermediate unit, LEA, local agency, Bureau of Special Education Adviser, or to the STF chairperson for clarification, recommendation or solution.

Review recommendations of the State Task Force, Encourage cooperation with public and private agencies which provide services to school-age children with special needs.

Identify local needs and problems and develop recomy, endations for consideration by appropriate agencies.

Recommend solutions to problems in areas of concern

Review Intermediate Unit and District Special Education Plans

Assist the State Task Force in the collection of data to determine the effectiveness of the Right to Education Consent Agreement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

570-287-9681

LTF18@LIU18.ORG

LOCAL TASK FORCE 18 INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL DISTRICTS:

CRESTWOOD • DALLAS • HANOVER AREA • HAZLETON AREA LAKE LEHMAN • NANTICOKE AREA
NORTHWEST AREA PITTSTON AREA • TUNKHANNOCK AREA
WILKES-BARRE AREA WYOMING AREA • WYOMING VALLEY WEST

Friends of The Arc-NEPA Auxiliary Meet and Greet Brunch With Award Winning Journalist *Chris Kelly, Times Tribune Editor and Writing Coach*



Discussing "The Life We Live"

Sunday, October 29, 2023

11:00 am Brunch

La Buona Vita

200 Reilly Street, Dunmore, PA 18512

*Door prizes, raffle baskets,
delicious food, and a touch of humor*

**For more information contact:
Eileen Rempe at The Arc 570-207-0824**

Day Program Adventures

Amy Craig, Adult Day Program Manager

Day Program has been up to some fun activities. Mindy teaches yoga twice a week and EJ throws a dance party weekly. A Hobby Lobby committee is in the planning process. The committee will work together to find ways to bring new meaningful activities and participation to the day program.

Our guys started off summer with a green thumb. They planted seeds and watched them grow into beautiful flowers.



One of our teams recently went to Pleasant Mount State Fish Hatchery. They received a tour, learned about the process and received a closeup look at their current stock of fish.



The trolley museum has been another recent adventure our groups have taken part in. They go to the museum to learn about the history of the railroads and trolleys and then go on a one-hour train/trolley ride to see our beautiful community.



Aktion Club members and day program participants hatched butterflies! They watched the caterpillars transform into butterflies and then fed the new butterflies.

The butterflies were released into our community.

In an effort to spruce up the day program, flowers were chosen by our individuals and then planted in the pots around the building.

The annual licensing inspection went well this year. We are proud of the outstanding dedication and the significant amount of time and effort to make this year a success! We welcomed some new folks who joined our day program family and new employees who now part of the team in our day program.

Leave a Legacy

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.



The Arc™

Northeastern Pennsylvania

115 Meadow Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505



Our Vision

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



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Affiliated with the  , The Arc of PA and The Arc of US.

DESIGNED BY: BILL PILLING GRAPHICS

*Sign
Up!*

Membership is the key...

- Access to the latest information, including newsletters;
- Up-to-the minute alerts about the latest on Capitol Hill so you know when to take action;
- Discounted registration to our annual national events such as National Convention;
- Access to exclusive insurance coverage rates through our partner Mercer
 - Includes Group Term Life Insurance, Health Insurance such as major medical, Medicare supplement, life line screening, hospital income, and accidental death and dismemberment insurance.
 - Coverage and availability may vary by state.

Stay Informed!

Membership Registration

New Member

Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Type of Membership

___ \$25.00 - \$49.99 Friend

___ \$50.00 - \$99.99 Sponsor

___ \$100.00 - \$499.99 Supporter

___ \$500.00 - \$999.99 Benefactor

___ \$1,000.00 + Partner

Please remit to:



The Arc™

Northeastern Pennsylvania

115 Meadow Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505