

Happy
New
Year

The Arcticate



Robert Gensiak on page 3 -
photo by Jake Danna Stevens,
Times-Tribune Staff Photographer

Eulogy Given by Patrick Quinn in Memory of Joe Gorleski



When the Loretto Chapel in Santa Fe, New Mexico was completed in 1878, the builders left no way to access the choir loft, some 22 feet above the chapel floor. Many were brought in

to find a solution to the problem, but one after another concluded that only a ladder would suffice to access the loft, as a staircase would take up too much floor space in the small chapel. Legend says that the sisters of the chapel, dismayed by this problem, began a novena to St. Joseph to help them find a solution. And as the story goes, on the 9th and final day of the novena, a man appeared at the chapel with a donkey and a toolbox, looking for work. Months later, an elegant circular staircase was complete- and the mysterious man disappeared, without pay, and without thanks. The staircase itself is a marvel- it is known as the miraculous staircase of Loretto. It has two 360 degree circular turns, but no visible means of support. It is said to contain no nails- only smooth wooden pegs. Its design perplexes experts even today and it has been the subject of many publications and documentaries. Although theories on its origin abound, the sisters, and countless faithful others have concluded it was St. Joseph himself, in answer to the Sisters prayers.

You'll consider this story as we honor

Joseph Gorleski's memory and legacy today. Because quiet and humble by nature, like his namesake, Joe was creative and talented; he was driven, he was focused, and preferred to work alone , again like his namesake. But perhaps the most common attribute these Josephs may have shared was a deep love for those nearest to them.

Joe Gorleski accepted us into his life and pushed us to search for the real truth in who he was and in what he expected of us. He was mysterious to a degree when he arrived, like the man in Loretto- I can personally attest to that, as can some of you here today. Joe was small in stature, but his own sense of self-worth towered above any measure of the size of a man. His iron will was an immovable force. And when Joe knew we loved him, he loved back. He could lock eyes with you, whisper to you, smile and hold your attention for a long as he wanted it. He was more than self- assured. How many of us can say that about ourselves for any sustained length of time?

If you really think about it, Joe was a jack of all of his trades, and he mastered all of them. The name Joseph itself reveals some uncanny parallels and undeniable truths about the man we honor today. Consider these personality traits you can find, as I have, that are associated with his name:

Number 1 .People named Joseph tend to initiate events, lead rather than follow, and have powerful personalities

Our friend Joe did what he wanted, when he wanted, and staked his claim in any setting. He had the resolute power of his unique personality to guide him always. Long before we met him, Joe had already

become his own best advocate.

2. A focus on goals and creative ideas, implemented with efficiency and determination.

I think you would all agree that Joe had a laser- like focus on anything he took ownership of. He was meticulous; everything had to be in his particular order. His artistic creativity resulted in beautifully framed pieces of art that have been displayed publically with the help of his staff at a local art gallery, and other pieces on the walls of the places that were important to him. And with regard to the attribute of "determination" mentioned here, just close your eyes and picture Joe in his daily cafeteria work duties Monday through Friday. His work came first. Our schedules came second. And ask John Gallone about the period of time when Joe decided he would speak more – after having been with us for years as a grown man, and this proud grown man pushed himself to do so. I witnessed it- with the two of them, in the quiet of the elegant dining room at Joe's Moosic street home, and I will never forget it.

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The Arc[™]

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President's Message



It is that time of the year when we should be thankful for all the blessings we have in this life. I know that I am so fortunate to have a loving family and such wonderful friends.

I am also very blessed to have such a strong Board of Directors for guidance and leadership. The same can be said with The Arc Foundation, The Arc Auxiliary, PODS, PPODS and PPODS North. There is also The Arc itself and all the great things it does for people in need. Finally, there is the staff at The Arc and the leadership at the top that does so much for people with intellectual disabilities and their families. Yes, I am thankful for all of the blessings I have in my life.

Also of note is The Arc's 60th anniversary that is right around the corner! 2015 is the year that we will be celebrating that milestone. A lot of special activities are being planned so be sure to watch for major announcements in the upcoming months! A special thanks to Peter Danchak who has agreed to be the chairperson for the 60th Anniversary Capital

Improvement Project. He started things off the right way by securing us a substantial grant from PNC Bank's Foundation!

Lastly, we just finished our annual board retreat on October 28th. We were privileged to have as our guest speaker, Steve Suroviec, Deputy Secretary for the Office of Developmental Programs, Pennsylvania. Mr. Suroviec directs Pennsylvania's centers, private ICF's/ID and community services and the state autism system. He provided a great update for us on what's going on at the "top of the house" of state government.

We were also able to listen to presentations from staff on all of the areas of our organization. I was especially impressed with all who worked on their presentations, giving us insight as to what is done in their respective departments.

In closing, I would like to wish all of you a happy and safe holiday season and a very happy new year!

Sincerely,
Ken Doolittle, President

Exec's Corner



Happy Holidays one and all and may you have the best New Year ever!

Just some notes of interest:

One November 24, 2014 the formal name of the PA Dept. of Public Welfare was changed to the PA Dept. of Human Services.

We were the last state in the nation to finally adopt this change. Thanks go out to all who worked on this issue.

Most of you have probably heard the name "Robert Gensiak". Robert was the 31-year-old young man with Down syndrome from Taylor who died from malnutrition at the hands of his mother and sisters. He weighed 69 pounds at his death, covered with the most severe case of scabies anyone locally had ever seen. Robert had no voice, so we at The Arc, decided to give him one. On November 25, many board members, family members, interested parties, volunteers and staff conducted a memorial service on his behalf, led by board member Pastor Howard Woodruff. A memorial plaque was dedicated at our home base on Meadow Avenue in Scranton. It reads "Every voice shall be heard". Let's hope that nothing like this ever happens again.

Congratulations to Tom Wolf on his successful campaign for Governor. I met Mr. Wolf recently at an event in Dunmore. He seems to be a true humanist, a very well-educated gentleman who wants to do the right thing. He has yeomen's work ahead of him, struggling with a \$175 million deficit in '14-'15 and staring a \$1.8 billion shortfall in '15-'16. Difficult times ahead for sure.

Congratulations go out to Sara Wolff for all of her hard work on the passage of the ABLE Act (Achieving a Better

Life Experience). As of the writing, the ABLE Act has passed the House by a wide margin and was sent to the Senate for approval. This Act will become law when the President signs it, hopefully by the end of the year. Sara was in Washington when the bill passed the House and plans to be standing next to the President when he affixes his signature. You go girl!

We will be celebrating our 60th anniversary in 2015. Many events are planned and we will be conducting a capital drive to repair and maintain our 12 properties. PNC Foundation has kicked off the campaign with a very sizeable gift to get us started. Many thanks to Pete Danchak and his staff from PNC for their ongoing commitment and support of The Arc and what we do.

In celebration of our anniversary, you will notice 2 new signs displayed on our building on Meadow Avenue. They are big and very noticeable from Moosic Street and Route 81 South. We are one of the 730 chapters of The Arc across the nation and we are very proud of our new logo. Also, just to share with you, we at The Arc are the largest national organization whose main purpose is to serve the needs of people with Intellectual Disabilities & Autism and their families.

Speaking of being proud, we are delighted to announce that the staff of The Arc of NEPA surpassed our goal of \$12,500 in employee pledges to the 2015 United Way campaign. This was a tremendous effort by all involved in difficult economic times. Special thanks to Pat Quinn for his leadership and diligence in monitoring the campaign to its successful conclusion.

That's all for now. Please enjoy the holiday season.

Respectfully,
Don Broderick, Executive Director

CHRIS KELLY: Doing right for a man done wrong

CHRIS KELLY/KELLY'S WORLD

Published: November 26, 2014

All that's left of Robert Gensiak would fit into a shoebox.

His pathetic remains were cremated. The last known holder of his ashes was the landlord of the house where he was confined to a back bedroom and starved by his mother and sisters. The house has been razed.

On Tuesday, the Arc of Northeast Pennsylvania dedicated a plaque to Robert in front of its Meadow Avenue facility. It reads: "Robert Gensiak, 2013, Every voice shall be heard."

"We felt so bad for Robert," Arc Executive Director Don Broderick said. "He didn't have a voice in life, and we

wanted to give him one in death. He suffered tremendously at the hands of his family."

Vulgar details

I've shared the vulgar details of Robert's miserable life and death so many times, they have almost lost their shock value. He was 32. Had Down syndrome. Weighed 69 pounds when he died, his flesh raked by scabies. As paramedics tried to revive him, his mother's chief concern remained her own needs.

If Robert died, she asked if she could she still collect \$1,042 in monthly state aid meant for his care.

As traffic whirred by and the wind kicked up, the Rev. Howard Woodruff, pastor of Elm Park United Methodist

Church, referenced Isaiah 1:17, which he said "mandates" all people to seek justice for those who cannot defend themselves.

"We all want to have a voice, we all need to give a voice," said the Rev. Woodruff, who is also a member of the Arc board.

His brother has Down syndrome. He is 50, and living a full, happy life because his family saw more in him than a monthly stipend.

Robert's plaque is about the size of a shoebox, set in stone. Someone at the ceremony lamented that it looked like a grave marker. I said that was fitting, because Robert doesn't have one. He

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The Arc Recreation Gives Back!

By: Mari Pizur

Our recreation programs are driven by our stakeholders at our quarterly Advisory Meetings in both Carbon and Lackawanna Counties. At our September meetings our participants wanted to do something for our Veterans in the month of November.

In Carbon County we dedicated our November recreation programs to the Veterans. We put together care packages along with art projects our consumers made. At our November 15th dance the room was decorated

with red, white and blue stars and flags that our consumers made. Each participant attending the dance was asked to bring a gift for our soldiers overseas. The responds was fantastic, we collected 2 large boxes of personal needs for our troops. The donations were given to the local VFW in Carbon County.

In Lackawanna County we contacted the Gino Merli Veterans Center on what we could do for their patients. They provided list of products the Vets need, so at our November 14th

recreation program each participant brought something from that list. Our December 11th Recreation Program was held at Gino Merli Veterans Center to bring Holiday Cheer to the Vets. Our DJ played holiday music as we danced and sang Christmas carols together throughout the night. We filled a grocery cart full of goodies that Santa delivered. He greeted each party goer with a Ho, Ho, Ho and a smile. We ended the night with cookies and milk. Warmth filled the room and the true meaning of Christmas was felt by all.

Annual Retreat

The Board Annual Retreat was held on October 28th at Cooper's. Mr. Steven Suroviec, Deputy Secretary, Office of Developmental Programs, was the guest speaker.

Pictured: Alan Hughes, Foundation Board President; Ken Doolittle, Arc Board President; Corolla Sawka, Auxiliary Board President; Sara Wolff, Arc Board/Auxiliary Board; Steve Suroviec, Deputy Secretary, ODP; Don Broderick, Executive Director.



Trios Christmas Village



Thank you to the Verni Family and everyone at Trios for helping put together such a beautiful display. We are so grateful for all the support we receive.

Above: Carolyn Quinn trying to stay warm at this year's Trios Christmas Village! Right: Pictured: Janet and Vito Verni; Eddie Rhinesmith; Pat Quinn; Anthony Sciarino; Karen Murphy; Don Broderick.



The Arc

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Achieve with us.

For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

December 1, 2014

Dear Friend of The Arc;

The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania will be celebrating 60 years in 2015. We strive to deliver excellence in services for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As the end of the year approaches, we are asking if you would please consider The Arc for your charitable giving during this holiday season. The Arc-NEPA maintains 12 physical sites and continues to renovate, repair and improve handicap accessibility to ensure workable, reliable and structurally sound locations for Day Program and our Community Living Arrangements (CLAs).

We at The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania are dedicated to providing a safe, secure and protected environment to the men, women and children who participate in The Arc sponsored programs and services and the employees who provide for their care and comfort.

Recommendations include:

Residential Services - Ten sites (various locations)

- Shower remodel
- Bathroom remodel
- Kitchen remodel
- Accessible shower unit
- Driveway needs blacktop and reshaping
- Electric heat converted to gas heat
- Oil Furnace conversion to gas heat
- New roof with tear-off and side porch that needs new concrete
- New computer and software for each CLA site (10)

Day Program at Meadow Avenue

- Accessible shower unit
- Replacement of gutters and downspouts
- New computers and software for Learning Resource Room (5)

Seniors Program at Robinson Park

- New covered extension over back walkway to pavilion
- New windows

Costs associated with these projects are estimated to be around \$120,000. Our special thanks to the PNC Foundation for their commitment of a sizable gift to help kick-off our 60th Anniversary Capital Improvement Campaign. Other grant requests have been made to reduce the costs by half. Your generous contribution will assist us in securing the additional matching \$60,000 to complete these projects.

The Arc of NEPA is a tax exempt organization as a charitable non-profit in PA. Your contribution may be fully tax deductible. A certified receipt for your contribution is available upon request.

Thanks so much for your consideration of this important solicitation and best wishes for a most joyous holiday season and a prosperous and healthy, new year!

Respectfully Yours,

Alan Hughes
President

Don Broderick
Secretary & Executive Director

PNC Grant



Pictured: Peter Danchak, President PNC Bank; Don Broderick, Arc Executive Director

Recently, The Arc-NEPA received a grant from the PNC Foundation in the amount of \$15,000 in support of a Community Residential Program kitchen remodel. This grant will help to kick off The Arc's 60th Anniversary Capital Improvements Campaign. A letter detailing the needs of the project is printed in this edition of the newsletter. Our sincerest gratitude goes to PNC Foundation for their outstanding support.



Night At The Races



The Second Annual Night at the Races was held on November 15th at St. Mary's Center and it was a HUGE success! Representative Sid Michaels Kavulich was the emcee who assisted in making the evening run smoothly and efficiently while the committee worked tirelessly and endlessly. We can't thank the Auxiliary enough for their time, effort and hard work that went into this event. Great fund raiser!

Mikayla Inclusion Assembly in Scranton with Senator Casey

Senator Casey was the guest reader at a Mikayla's Voice/Include Me assembly, on 12/19/14 at Neil Armstrong Elementary.



Pictured: Jeanne Gardier; Bill Burke; Kim Resh; Mikayla Resh, Carol Burke

Tid Bits Around The Arc...

Arc Update

The Arc's 60th Anniversary is right around the corner!!!! The plans are underway... Peter Danchak is the chairperson and has kicked off the 60th Anniversary Capital Improvements Project with a \$15,000 grant to begin improvements to one of the CLA kitchens. Mr. Danchak has also met with us to discuss how he could assist even more and also suggested having an opening kick-off reception. The cocktail party will be held on January 29th at the Radisson. We are very excited about this upcoming year and are looking forward to many different events we are planning. Thank you PETE and PNC Foundation!

Very recently, we updated the sign at the end of the building and had one secured to the back of the building as well.

M&T Bank contacted us and we joined them for a luncheon and check presentation at Mohegan Sun on December 3rd. We were very happy to have been notified that we are one of the organizations to be recognized on that day.

Auxiliary Information

The Auxiliary announced four new

board members in November. Jean Biggar, Linda Kusy, Barbara Lutz and Bridget Walsh had their orientation, a tour of day program and were welcomed at the Board Meeting in November.

The Education Committee had visited Riverside West, Sumner and Whittier in October and November. They will continue to educate area youth on understanding acceptance and respect for all people at Riverside East, Lackawanna Trail and North Pocono in the Spring.

The ladies also treated the folks at Meadow Avenue to a Halloween Party with cider, donuts, candy ghosts and BILL FRYE! The afternoon was magical and everyone laughed and enjoyed themselves. What a great time :).

On December 12th, The Auxiliary had their Cookie Walk and a small Bazaar. They made almost \$900 with no expenses! Everyone loves their delicious recipes. Also, we had many people stay and enjoyed the "Sounds of Christmas" concert performed by The Arc Angels. This beautifully orchestrated musical entertainment was really enjoyed and helps everyone get in the mood for...."The Most Wonderful Time of the Year"!!!!

Arc Auxiliary's Education Program

Carol Burke, Corolla Sawka and Betsy Youngblood are visiting a local Scranton elementary school to help present The Arc Auxiliary's Education program to third grade students.



Sara Wolff

Sara Wolff presenting her messages on: eliminating the R-word, acceptance and anti-bullying at a local elementary school.

CHRIS KELLY: Doing right for a man done wrong

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never even had an obituary.

An obituary

It's been a while since I wrote one, but here goes:

Robert Gensiak, 32, of Taylor, died March 20, 2013, after at least two years of unimaginable abuse from people who were supposed to love him most.

He is survived by his mother, Susan Gensiak, 60, who is serving 10 to 20 years in state prison. A sister, Joan, 36, got five to 10 years for a neglect charge and one to five years for endangering the welfare of a child. Her daughter, Robert's niece, was also infested with scabies.

Another sister, Rebekah, 25, testified against her mother and sister and was sentenced to six to 23 months in Lackawanna County Prison.

Robert was preceded in death by his

father, Joseph, and a brother, Joseph Jr., who was 29 when he died.

We don't know what Robert liked, what made him happy, what he dreamed about or even what he looked like. The only pictures of him appear to be autopsy photos. All they tell about Robert is how much he suffered.

A small ceremony of remembrance was held Tuesday at the Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania in Scranton. No family attended. None of the small crowd who gathered around Robert's memorial ever knew him.



Pastor Howard Woodruff leads a pray during a memorial for Robert Gensiak at The Arc in Scranton on Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2014.

All wish they had.

Friends may call any time. Feel free to leave flowers. Any kind will do.

CHRIS KELLY, the Times-Tribune columnist, thanks the Arc for doing the work Isaiah was talking about. Contact the writer: kellysworld@timeshamrock.com, @cjink on Twitter. Read his daily blog at blogs.thetimes-tribune.com/kelly

"Appealing" to "PEAL"

by Jeannie Lally, Director
Advocacy Services, The Arc of NEPA

For eight plus years I have been "appealing" to "peal": PEAL (Parent Education and Advocacy Leadership Center) to PLEASE broaden services from western and central PA to the all of our commonwealth. At last, it has come to pass due to a generous grant from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs. As we all know, the need for advocacy especially; educational advocacy is ever growing and families NEED expert assistance.

From the moment a child is identified with a diagnosis parents are thrown into a world of new systems that are unfamiliar, overwhelming and confusing. No one is born with this information. Beyond the difficulties of acceptance pile on layers of the foreign language that professionals speak in the medical, educational and social

service domains; consisting mostly of unintelligible acronyms! No wonder the calls for help are many!

The PEAL Center is staffed with parents of children with disabilities extending themselves to aid other parents with important information and training. Peer support is effective and cannot be replicated. No one 'get's it' like a fellow parent.

The PEAL Center is dedicated to advancing inclusive practices to promote FULL community participation. The Peal center further promises to concentrate on young adults self determination skills to encourage informed decision making in their community living, post secondary education and employment.

I welcome PEAL and look forward to our continued work together. With new resources PEAL has been able to, not only expand, but to take on new professionally trained advocates.

Missy French and I have connected and I look forwarded to our continued collaborative work. Good luck and my best wishes, PEAL!

Parent Education & Education Advocacy Leadership Center

1-866-950-4404 toll free

www.pealcenter.org

SAVE THE DATE!

The PEAL Center's 8th Annual
Inclusive Communities Conference

**"Common Ground:
Creating a Community
Where we ALL Belong"**

Wednesday
March 25, 2015
at the Doubletree
Monroeville, PA

Where's Margaret Ann?



Let's play a game of "Where's Margaret Ann?" The poinsettias were very popular this year and many thanks goes out to all the volunteers who helped in so many ways and to all the buyers of the lovely flowers. This fundraiser is such a hit every year and I know a big part of this success is the outstanding product we sell. The plants are awesome and a special thank you to all of you at Corky's Garden Path.

One word - POINSETTIAS!

We sold over 700 and are gaining popularity once again. This year in particular, I couldn't keep them in stock.

Thank you for your support.

Foundation Overview



The Golf Tournament for 2015 will be held on June 8th, at Scranton Country Club. The committee chairs met to begin the planning process and go over details with the club. We are looking forward to the new venue and seeing what other surprises might be in store to help with the celebration!



United States Congress

For Immediate Release
December 16, 2014

Contact:
John Rizzo (Casey) 202-228-6367
Rachel Hicks (Burr) 202-228-1616

Casey-Burr ABLE Act Passes Senate, Heads to the President's Desk to Become Law

*Casey and Burr-Led Effort Passes Easily with 78 Senate Cosponsors
Bill Previously Passed the House with 404-17 Margin*

ABLE Has Been Called "...the broadest legislation to help the disabled in nearly a quarter-century."

Washington, DC- Today, U.S. Senators Bob Casey (D-PA) and Richard Burr (R-NC) announced that the Senate has passed his Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act. The bill will allow families who have a child with a disability to save for their long-term care through 529-style savings accounts. The ABLE Act passed the House last week with a final vote of 404-17. This legislation has been called "...the broadest legislation to help the disabled in nearly a quarter-century."

"I could not be more proud of the support the ABLE Act has received from members of both parties in the House and Senate, and from all of the families who worked with us to achieve this historic goal," said Senator Casey. "From the beginning, the power of these families who want to save for their loved ones' long term care has propelled the ABLE Act forward. We believe that individuals across this country with disabilities have a lot of ability. I look forward to President Obama quickly signing this bill into law so that countless families and individuals can have the tools they need to live a full life and have a bright future."

"Some have called the ABLE Act the most significant piece of legislation affecting the disabled since passage of the American Disabilities Act nearly 25 years ago. I got involved in this effort nearly 8 years ago with Senator Casey. Families of severely disabled children came to us expressing the critical need for an easy way to save for their child's future expenses, especially since many Americans with Down Syndrome and autism are now outliving their parents," said Senator Burr. "Most middle-class families don't have the money to spend on lawyers and financial planners to set up sophisticated trusts to make sure that their disabled child will be OK long after they are gone. What's worse current federal law actually discourages parents from putting any assets in the name of their disabled child in fear of disqualifying them from federal programs down the road. It's utterly unacceptable that our current laws doom a child born with a disability to a lifetime of poverty and dependence. This is especially unfortunate when a parent or other family member has the resources and the desire to save and plan for that child's future expenses but are advised by lawyers and planners not to. The ABLE Act will take the first critical step in ending this injustice."

The ABLE Act would amend Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Service Code to allow use of tax-free savings accounts for individuals with disabilities. The bill, first introduced in 2006, would ease financial strains faced by individuals with disabilities by making tax-free savings accounts available to cover qualified expenses such as education, housing, medical, and transportation. The bill would supplement, but not supplant, benefits provided through private insurance, the Medicaid program, the beneficiary's employment, and other sources.

A Tribute to Joseph Gorleski

(Continued from page 1)

3. The tendency to be courageous and sometimes aggressive

Joe had the heart of a lion. He pushed back if he needed to. When the whole world doesn't understand what you're asking, doesn't it stand to reason that you stand your ground and demand a reasonable compromise? Joe did without fail. The reward of having his respect was well worth the wait.

Joe Gorleski was a renaissance man. An artist, a thinker, and yes...a lover! He loved the ladies in his life. The kisses he blew were genuine- and they floated to their lucky recipients like treasures in the breeze, and he tracked them with his eyes and his fluid body motions; ...his signature... a sort of affectionate dance to see each delivery on its way. And for we, his male friends, his "Fonzi-like ...Heyyyy" with thumbs up meant you belonged. He was a man's man. Tough. Rowdy. And he loved being the important guy in your life. Ask Joe Sepe, our big strong Properties Manager and handyman extraordinaire, who caved in to any challenge Joe issued for a game of "Connect 4".

There is a famous lecturer in our field by the name of David Pitoniak, who coined the notion of "An Absence of Influence". I have had the good fortune to hear him speak and I know Don Broderick has as well. David's premise is simple: All of us- regardless of, ability or disability, must exercise some level of control of our own environment, and the absence of our personal influence in any given situation prompts us to develop coping

styles to shape our approach to any given circumstance. Joe Gorleski embodied David's theories. He could have invented them.

This was never as crystal clear as on the evening of last September 3rd, when Joe's roommate and perhaps closest confidant, John, succumbed to his terminal illness while in hospice care at the home they shared. Jeff and Mike paid respects and agreed to visit some friends at another home. Joe- who was then in the powerful grips of his devastating confusing condition- made it clear to John Gallone, Lisa Beppler, and I that he would be going nowhere. He sat stoically, watching Johnny intently- watching us caregivers and hospice responders intently. He stayed. He was battling his own new confusion at the same time as his own heartbreak. But he stood as a sentinel. Joe Gorleski had no absence of influence that night. He had full ownership in that evening. And I know John, and other comrades like Billy, David, and Mike are returning that favor today, as Joe makes his new and final transition to God's kingdom.

I always challenge myself and my colleagues in the loss of those we have served and to those we have had the privilege to love and to be loved back, to harness their gifts, lessons, and what I believe they would desire of us. My own thoughts about the roadmap going forward in our work, as scripted by Joe Gorleski, means a few simple things:

1. Look beyond what someone has told you about me. Make a personal investment in getting to know me. After all, it comes down to the two of

us. Not anyone else.

2. Learn about what makes me my best. When you do, I'll know the best that's in you. And if we have a disagreement, at least we know we have a common ground to climb to.

3. Don't just put in time with me. Respect me. I just might build something no one can explain, and it doesn't have to be a miraculous staircase. It just might be our relationship.

4. Pay attention to the old saying about walking a mile in one another's other's shoes. I might gladly trade with you. Then again, I might not. And you might not.

5. Be independent. Be strong. But work quietly and efficiently. No one should hear nails being pounded in something you're building, like your commitment to relationships with those you serve. They should be private and respectful, and as smooth as those proverbial wooden pegs that sustain all your other important relationships.

6. Celebrate everything you possibly can. Dance. Blow kisses. Paint something. Celebrations trump worry, and those who overcome adversity- like Joe, are real life heroes who deserve our celebrations.

We will miss you Joe, and we ask you to keep your heavenly watch toward all that we do, so that we do our best, and that we continue to strive to understand the quiet and sometimes mysterious nature of those we are called to serve. You were a blessing in our lives. And you have painted your finest masterpiece with your legacy. Merry Christmas to you in heaven.

The Arc Responds and the Employee Drive Group

SNOWFLAKE TREE! The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary along with The Arc Responds would like to announce the Arc Responds Holiday Project 2014 - The Snowflake Tree. Ornaments listed the needs of people who may not receive a gift for Christmas. Every gift was

purchased and several holidays will be brighter because of everyone's generosity.

A volunteer approached us and would like to coordinate a 5K Race Walk/Run. A group of employees is very interested in pursuing this fund raiser. We will be meeting to discuss the

possibilities and options.

Also, a plan is in the works for a Haunted House at Weston Field! Booooo, just have to follow a few more steps before proceeding to get our scare on... Lots of details, eye of newt, toe of frog will be coming your way...

Carbon County's Holiday Party

Submitted by: Mari Pizur

On December 14 our Carbon County folks gathered together at the American Legion in Lehighton. As you entered the doorway through the lighted arches you saw the room was trimmed with white lights, red bows, wreaths and a beautiful Christmas tree next to the fireplace you could not help feel the warmth in the air.

The afternoon started with cards, hugs, a welcome from me and

prayer by our Lynette. Dinners were served with smiles, soft holiday music playing and chattering with our friends. After dinner the dance floor was rocking to the music and laughter provided by "Party Time" who danced with our friends that spread holiday cheer! The staff from the Legion added the cheer by joining all of us on the dance floor this year.

You could hear jingle bells ringing and a voice saying Ho Ho Ho approaching as we sang "Here

Comes Santa Claus" and the man in red entered the party with gifts for all.

We ended the day dancing to Silent Night and wishing each other Happy Holidays.

The Holiday Season is time to be thankful for your family and friends and to create lasting memories! I am especially thankful for the Carbon Staff being so caring throughout the year. Thanks and Happy Holidays to All!



Bob Gigliotti, Deb Gigliotti, Holly Scripp, Mari Pizur, Brenda Fritzingler, Trevor Sherman and Sheila Hardranft



Party Time DJs were Rockin around the Christmas Tree and entertaining all the folks.

Daniel O'Brien Lakeland Homecoming

Daniel was part of the homecoming court and escorted a girl onto the field at Friday's football game. On Saturday he was crowned Homecoming King at the homecoming dance. The kids voted him King. He was nominated to be on the court and then the kids voted from the boys on the court as to whom would be king. He will be thrilled because he still talks about being King. It was such an awesome night for Daniel. The kids at Lakeland are really great kids!



Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus Appreciation Dinner was held on November 21st, at the Waldorf Park Social Club. These fine gentlemen help The Arc raise approximately \$10,000 a year. They have the Measure-Up Campaign and

Arc-Knight event. Their dedication to our organization for over 30 years is outstanding. We think they are a wonderful group and are very pleased with all the support from Lackawanna and Monroe Counties.



Representatives from Area Councils and Assemblies

First Row: Roger Getts, David Krantz, Kent Madere, Alfred Leone. Second row: Donald Broderick, Steve Dondero, Mike Polednak, Charlie Vagnarelli, David Cimino, Anthony Spataro.



Arc Knight Committee

First Row: George Schneider, Ron Mroczka, Paul Vilgos, Alfred Leone. 2nd Row: Peter Kanton, Mark McDade, Charlie Vagnarelli, Roger Getts, Donald Broderick, Eileen Remppe.

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.



The Arc's Holiday Party!

Submitted by: Mari Pizur

Each year as our Holiday Party approaches I reflect on the years gone by and realize how fortunate we are to be together. This upcoming year The Arc will be celebrating 60 years of serving people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. On December 5, 2014 at Fiorelli's we planned to honor our 60 years with lots of surprises at our Holiday Party.

There are several stories of how The Arc began, of course I have one story that I am particularly fond of. It has been said that the founding parents were meeting at Robinson Park to discuss how their children could have a better education.



The Arc celebrated the holiday season with a spectacular party at Fiorelli's on December 5th. Hundreds of guest enjoyed the festivities planned by Mari Pizur and the Recreation staff.

As they met each week, they realized how their children loved being at the park and enjoyed socializing with their friends. Hence, The Arc began with Summer Camp/ Recreation. That is my favorite story and I am sticking with it!

In honor of our 60 years, we had a few "Holiday Characters" return from Christmas past. A few of our past recreation employees returned to be a character or two and enjoy the Holiday Festivities. Thanks Carrie Akers, Kiersey Kretsch and Kathleen Gilhooley for bringing your holiday spirit!

The holiday music was playing, people were dancing as Rudolph Mari and the

recreation reindeers Margaret Ann, Holly, Carrie, Kiersey and Kathleen entered the room pulling a sleigh to the tune of "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer"! The sounds of singing and laughter filled the room. As night progressed 4 Frosty the Snowmen

joined the festivities and began to dance around! Later we sang "Oh Christmas Tree" (Mike Massino) as 3 Gingerbread Men and 3 Nutcrackers danced around the tree. Holiday spirit filled the air when Santa (Mike Hockenbury) appeared with Mrs. Claus (Carrie), 2 Elves (Holly and Kathleen) and a Present adorned with a red bow (Margaret Ann). Each person that visited Santa was presented a candy cane and a gift to remind them of a wonderful night.

The room looked beautiful, the table adorned with white flowers, trimmed with crystals and bling, but as we all know it is not about the decorations or the presents received it is about the inner glow that touches the heart.

Bob Hope once said "When we recall Christmas past, we usually find that the simplest things, not the great occasion—give off the greatest glow.

Leave a Legacy – Estate Giving Program

Remembering...

The Arc's founding parents, concerned community members and friends have passed on a legacy of commitment to a new generation. Today, we seek to sustain this legacy.

Building...

Looking toward tomorrow may often be intimidating, but at The Arc we continue the mission and grow with the needs of the children and adults we serve.

Leaving a Legacy...

By giving a gift to The Arc, you are ensuring a bright future for the people served in our programs. Estate giving allows for a variety of ways for individuals to choose the support most appropriate for planning their legacy: Outright cash gifts, designated life insurance policy, bequests, real estate.

We appreciate your kindness you show on an annual basis. As we move forward today and throughout the year, we also need to be remembered as we go into the future. With your generosity, we can continue offering the services to the individuals who need them. If you would like to explore a method of giving that is right for you, please feel free to contact us and we will be happy to meet with you. For specific financial or legal advice, please consult with an attorney or financial planner.



Donate Your Vehicle

An Easy Way to Turn Cars into Cash for Charity

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



identification number and the title of the vehicle of the must be available for information purposes when calling. All vehicles that are

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

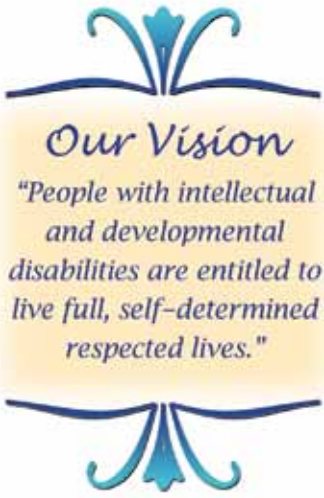
**Donating is easy!
It may be tax-deductible.**



Northeastern Pennsylvania

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

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Find us on Facebook

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

DESIGNED BY: BILL PILLING GRAPHICS

Sign Up!

Membership is the key...

You can help. Become a member of The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania today. Benefits include:

- National, state, and local newsletters with current information on intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- The opportunity to participate in The Arc affairs at a local, state, and national level.
- Attend conferences, conventions, and seminars at a reduced cost.
- Discount prices on publications.
- Insurances services, credit card program, and free one year subscription to ABILITY digital magazine.

Stay Informed!

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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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