

The Arcticate



A Salute to Direct Care Staff: Lifeblood of the Arc

Lifeblood: something that is vitally important to the welfare of a larger entity.

Patrick T. Quinn

The Arc is the sum of so many parts sometimes it's hard to keep up. We may not all know the nuances of each other's role yet we are successful in our mission because we trust each other to execute the tasks in our respective charge. We have one and two staff person departments, an administrative team with expertise in varying skill sets, the oversight and guidance of a dedicated Board of Directors, the stewardship of a Foundation Board, and the selfless support of numerous volunteers and groups. But far and away, our Direct Care staff are our backbone, our "lifeblood"- our vital force so integral to the welfare of the larger entity that is the Arc.

Those of you in Direct Care have, and deserve- the sincere appreciation of the entire Arc family. You are our front line, our first responders, caregivers, and in some cases best friends and surrogate family for those we serve. You are entrusted with an objective you will never forget no matter where your life or your career takes you; you are a gatekeeper to almost every aspect of life for some of the most vulnerable members of society. These aspects include life's basics- from the proverbial hierarchy of needs taught in developmental psychology: food, shelter, sleep- to the more intangible aspects of humankind: safety, love, a sense of belonging, self esteem, and self-actualization. You have the potential to facilitate an "everyday life" as a gatekeeper, side by side with those people who just need some help getting there.

Your role in the lives of those you serve is what you make it; it is a malleable ongoing journey of learning, listening, shifting gears, supporting, partnering, and "hanging in there", as we preached in Positive Approaches.

In the Quality Forum that meets regularly to promote and measure quality in Arc services, we use the term "golden

could look through a long lens at the years in the lives of some of our highest needs friends, you would see what your efforts have done to make that difference you sometimes wonder about. You are more than caregivers; you are difference makers with boundless potential.

We salute you for your dedication and thank you on behalf of the entire Arc

"Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well. ...Voltaire

rule" often. We challenge ourselves with a question: Is what we provide each day good enough if our roles were reversed with our consumers? We talk about quality objectives and celebrating success. However, it is no secret that some days, it is all you can do to just "hang in there".

Your job can be physically and emotionally challenging. It can be dirty or unpleasant at times. It can feel unrewarding during the times you just don't feel like you're making a difference. But for every moment like this, there are twice as many positives that you all bring to light. Your success in providing everyday life opportunities and making a real difference in people's lives is palpable and obvious in your dedication. One of the basic tenets of "Positive Approaches" is that you need to have an understanding of a person's history to be able to successfully work with that person. If you

family. Your reputation is well known, and you can hold your heads high knowing that you are a cut above, and that you are truly the best in the business.

September 11-17, 2011 is Direct Support Professionals recognition week nationally. Please celebrate with us in sincere appreciation for all you do.

The Arc[™]

Northeastern Pennsylvania

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President's Message



Greetings from the President's Desk...

As I write this note, I am reflecting on a gorgeous weekend with the sun giving us warmth and blue skies... just a touch of its rays, a sense of hopefulness is felt.

Although hope is always a good thing, the present climate for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) will need more....they need action in real time from us: their families, friends, advocates and guardians.

As our esteem members of the Legislature contemplate making "life changing" changes for our consumers, we need to be attentive and willing to speak on their behalf. Now is the time for action. Our message to them is simple: funding that supports people with I/DD live and work in

the Community should not be slashed.

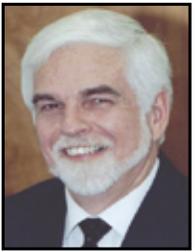
Throughout all this uncertainty, our professional and terrific staff will continue to provide children and adults with I/DD the opportunity to realize personal fulfillment through meaningful experiences. Together, the staff and Board of Directors will continue to remain focused on the challenges we face while remaining fiscally responsible.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your continued contributions that include volunteering, attending special events and making out-right gifts that support our mission. We promise to remain stewards of your generosity.

I hope to see many of you at our Golf Tournament on September 19th.

Alexandra "Sandy" Yantorn

Exec's Corner



What a great summer! And now on to fall. A new Fiscal Year always brings thoughts of accomplishments past and plans forward. We had a wonderful year, full of those accomplishments and successes.

The services in each department are strong and exemplary. Our stellar licensing history tells that story. Thanks to all involved. You make life better for each of our self-advocates. Our recreation and advocacy services are next to none. All of our Day Support Services in all of our coverage areas provide quality care to each participant. Our 1st rate Residential Services continue to grow. We recently opened our 10th community home. What a beauty! If you would like to pay a visit, just ask. We love to "show off" a little. Welcome to Stacey, Cherrie and Sharon our newest residential consumers.

We enjoy fantastic support from our funding sources, the United Way's in Lackawanna, Wayne and Carbon counties, various local foundations, local clubs and associations and of course benevolent community benefactors. We could not do what we do without everyone's support.

Thanks go out to our strong and supportive Board of Directors of The Arc of NEPA and The Arc of NEPA Foundation. Their wisdom and direction are priceless.

But now for the great unknown, our future! I have heard some say that we are in for the "perfect storm"; Federal and State budget cuts; threats to Medicaid; a new, more austere PA state administration; new players in the Dept. of Developmental Programs; a new more complex billing system; the pending threats seem to be endless. My promise to you: We shall prevail. With each challenge comes an opportunity; with each risk, a potential reward.

We have an important job to do, and it shall be done. At times like this, our organization's near 60 years of experience and expertise come to the forefront. Attention to mission is what drives us forward.

Thanks to you all, for your faith, trust and ongoing support.

Respectfully Yours,
Don Broderick

Aktion Club Altoona Convention

The Aktion Club Altoona travelers returned from their convention having experienced yet another amazingly awesome event. The first week-end in August has an etched-in-stone reservation at Laurel Lodge in Altoona for the Scranton Aktion Club. This year five "frequent flyers" made the journey plus one brand new member. Without question, D.M. had the experience of a life-time! If we heard once, we heard a hundred times, "Thank you so much" "This is cool" "This is so nice" "Thank you for bringing me to Altoona".

One of our members brought tremendous honor to the club this year by winning the Unsung Hero Award. Agnes Keller was chosen above all of the nominees from across the state. She is a gal who might slip away, unnoticed; her quiet, unassuming manner does not flash neon signs, but when it comes to epitomizing the Spirit of Aktion Club, Agie has the enthusiasm in her heart and the quiet right hand assistance that every leader appreciates and needs. She is gentle and generous, nurturing, empathetic and energetic and a sweetheart! We are all so proud of Agnes. When her name was called, all of the Scranton club members were on their feet running to her with a congratulatory hug. Now if that didn't bring the tears

The club also received second place recognition in the service project category for its work with The Scranton

*Take me out to Altoona
Where we meet our old friends
Buy us a dinner at King's Restaurant
Where we order whatever we want
So it's root, root, root for the Aktion Club
The best convention in town
For it's one, two, three times the fun
At the ole Laurel Lodge*

(theme song written by Scranton Aktion Club to the tune Take me out to the Ball Game).
Sung many many times by everyone at the convention!

Rescue Mission...another kudo for the Scranton club.

Although the rain dampened the outdoors for most of the week-end, the spirits inside were big time sunshine due largely to the music provided by the entertainers, Dan & Galla - an exceptionally talented couple. Their dynamic energy and rapport with the group had everyone on their feet singing and dancing for hours. It was a unanimous decision that this group must come to Scranton this year!

All of the experiences during these three days - from silly singing in the van to King's Restaurant's Belgian waffles to sleeping in bunkbeds to the best bar-b-que'd pork and chicken to meeting new friends - defy price tags and human reasoning. All we can say is, Alt was the best.



At the 2011 Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon, we honored several people for a variety of recognition such as: Consumers of the Year - Cherrie Cassebaum - Harvey Mulligan Award, Carl Hallock, Mary Parant, Stephen Parks and Nancy Yankelitis; Outstanding Philanthropy - Family of Sally L. Bahr; Special Recognition - WNEP, FOX; Extraordinary Dedication - Janice Gambo Chesna; Board Member Term of Service - Andy Anderson and Sara Wolff and The Arc Award recipient was Sara Wolff.

Adult Day Services

By Kelly Peters, Manger of Adult Day Services

As we say goodbye to the dog days of summer, it only seems right to keep those warm sunny days in mind one last time by reminiscing on where we've been. It has been for the most part a long and active summer within the Adult Day Services. For what is seen as the high point for meetings with respect to consumer service plans, to the time in which it's now or never to get out and enjoy the better of the four seasons in the Northeast region. O ya, did I mention trying to arrange all of this around scheduled vacations of our own.

With that being said, the participants in the Adult Day Program still had a variety of events in which they have had the opportunity to enjoy and be incorporated themselves within the community. Throughout the past few months, participants have spent time at the state parks having cookouts, engaged in holiday celebrations with food, games, and activities in-house, watched and cheered on our local Yankees, and participated in scheduled bowling and movies weeks. The group also participated in the Deutsch Annual Games, in which they brought home the second place trophy, Great job guys... In addition if you have not heard the yelling and sounds of a great time, the Auxiliary has

generously provided the program with the Wii gaming system and a variety of games that help promote exercise, social interaction, hand eye coordination, and our course laughter. Thank you to the Auxiliary for making this happen.

The Supported Employment Program is continuing with its mission of incorporating folks back into the community by way of an employment approach. We have been able to maintain those individuals currently being served within the department as well as gain employment for another skilled individual. By way of doing this, participants in the program have been able to expand upon their social network in addition to being a contributing factor to the community. While the long term outlook of employment is still uncertain, our vision and mission to help folks with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities gain meaningful and respectful employment will never change.

The good folks at the Robinson Park senior center were busy as usually. Although the past few months have been a time of uncertainty and unforeseen circumstances with respect to staffing, the group has been able to maintain its image of a feel good, do for approach. From outings, fundraisers, and social clubs meetings, to large planned

events, these folks have never really had time to sit around and question how many more days is it going to be 90 or above. Enough said there, as I'm sure Nancy will deliver a more detailed snap shot of the program.

Moving outside the confines of the Lackawanna county region, our Monroe Community Options is making it happen. A program that was development and geared towards providing services strictly within the community by using community resources only, is a busy place to be. These folks have seen and been to more places that offer's a part education to just pure fun in the past few months, than I have in the past few years. Our folks that work with this great group of participants, have delivered the consistency by continuing to provide meaningful and stimulating activities, which has aided in our success of the program going into its forth year already.

In closing for the Adult Day Program as a whole, we have been able to remain as a tight net community, with a history of long term employees which speaks volumes towards our commitment in providing a consistent, caring approach. So as the season changes, I know we won't in doing what we do for our folks. Thank you and have a wonderful fall.

14th Annual Foundation Luncheon



The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania held its 14th Annual Foundation Luncheon. Leave a Legacy Recognition was given to: The Broderick Family Fund; Lynda Lynett; The Maldonato Family; Annette Profera in memory of her husband, Joseph Profera.

Spotlight on Quality

"Calm Under Pressure"

Patrick T. Quinn

On Friday, July 29th, 2011, a powerful wind and rain storm ripped through the Tripp Park area of Scranton, causing considerable damage to the homes in that vicinity. Our Farr Street residence sustained more damage than any other dwelling- the beautiful open corner lot we occupy offered little protection from one of the fiercest storms I can ever remember. The front of the home was struck by lightning, and the back of the home had nearly all the aluminum siding torn off and blown everywhere. More siding and aluminum awnings hung perilously from the house, and the patio roof structure was smashed to the ground, blocking ingress and egress from the back door. Electrical wires fell to the street and power was lost. An evacuation order was given by emergency responders.

At the height of the disaster, two veteran Arc staff- Noreen "Noniey" Cosmark and Dottie Nelson calmly executed emergency protocols and arranged for the transfer of four gentlemen to various other Arc residences. They made sure everything that was needed was packed; they kept the men calm and facilitated their moves to the temporary locations. They arranged for familiar staff



to remain with the men while they were displaced. Telephone contacts were fast and furious, and by the time I was called, all of the arrangements were in place without a hitch.

I met Noniey and Dottie at 7:00 am the following morning, only to find them scouring the neighborhood to retrieve pieces of siding and fencing from our property that had blown as far as a block away. We took photos of the damage and had a few laughs and said "excuse us" as we removed an entire section of stockade fence from a neighbor's yard. You have to have a sense of humor.

The no-nonsense, confident approach through the entire ordeal displayed by Noniey and Dottie speaks volumes of their abilities and experience. They made the whole situation easy for those of us in administration.

We review our disaster plan documents on a regular basis. In this case, the plan came off without a hitch, thanks to the girls. Fortunately, the men were able to return to the home the following afternoon, and repairs to the home are underway.

The Royal Wedding



The bride was disarmingly elegant in her white custom-designed Court Street sculptured bustle and an Amber creation head-band tiara. Her groom was equally intriguing in his cotton golf shirt and royal striped Penney's tie. Their loving gazes at one another brought tears to everyone as they recited their vows. MaryAnn Bonavoglia officiated at the ceremony, carrying out her priestly duties in a most spiritual fashion. Many of the guests, sporting their Beatrice, Eugenia or Camilla sensational millinery toppers, also made wedding vows that day exchanging pipe cleaner rings.

"Let Me Call You Sweetheart" sung by one of the guests, concluded the

official ceremony.

The luncheon was also royally elegant with chicken salad croissants, minted pear salad and cole slaw. A chocolate fountain with fresh fruit and beverage fountain were the culinary elements most essential to highlight this royal event. And if that wasn't just the "mostest", key lime pies and traditional wedding cake made this feast complete.

Let the dancing begin!! Janice Chesna kicked off the afternoon's festivities by bringing everyone to their royal feet with all of the oldie and standard dances and songs. It was a day not soon to be forgotten.... and we were all participants in this great historical event.

Who ever said that royalty couldn't come to East Mountain?? It certainly did on July 27, 2011.

The pavillion at Robinson Park was transformed into Westminster Abbey, complete with tissue paper stained glass windows, bows and netting, matching table centerpieces and a drapery covered fireplace which was transformed in to the altar. Guests arrived donned in their finest royal hats and gloves, each one taking turns riding in the royal gilted carriage. The only difference between this one and William and Kate's was wheels made from fan covers and wheels made from fan covers have some unique class anyway.

Rose petals were strewn, the orchestral strings sounded (through a CD) and the ceremony began.



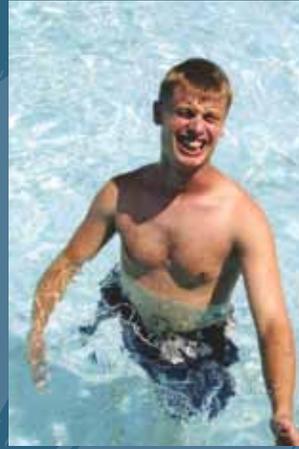
Recreation

Submitted by Mari Pizur

Every year I say "It's hard to believe that our Summer Camp programs have come to an end"! We had a camp in Carbon County for 4 weeks and a Camp in Lackawanna County for 6 weeks.

Both camps had a lot of fun going to various City, County and State parks. Carbon's camp enjoyed going to the Butterfly Sanctuary, visiting a Zoo and traveling to Lackawanna County to join us for lunch and to enjoy the Water Slides at Nay Aug Park. Lackawanna's camp we enjoyed Christmas in August, we painted ornaments and Santa Claus arrived at camp on a fire truck! We had a Halloween parade in August and created Halloween decoration. This summer was weather was great! Our theme this year was "Under the Sea" Both camps had a lot of fun things planned. Some of our Arts and Craft projects consisted of Fish Frames, Fish Sun Catchers, Fish Foam magnets, Sponge Bob creations and Whales and Dolphins Bead designs. We Swam, went for Walks, played Basketball or Kickball, played Table Games and had different Art Projects everyday. We also, played Bingo, had Water Balloon contest, Tye-Dyed tee shirts, had a Special Olympics day, played Musical Chairs and Duck, Duck Goose too!

This year's camp was blessed with a



great group of counselors in both Carbon and Lackawanna and I would like to commend them on a great job! Each counselor contributed his or her own special talents, which help camp run smoothly. We welcomed Karl Sussman to his first year as Assistant Camp Director. Kudos to the Carbon staff for all the extra help with scheduling this year! Special thanks to Courtney Kennedy as our Head Counselor at Lackawanna's camp, she did a remarkable job with scheduling our one-on-one camper's daily schedules and scheduling our camp's off ground trips. Hats off to all, job well done and making this year camps a success.

As camp was winding down we invited family and friends to our 2011 Campers Awards ceremony in both counties. Each camper presented with a photo frame they made with their picture, an Arc summer camp T-shirt with our new logo and a metal for a great summer!

Fun to be had by all!

Moving into the fall and preparing for our Adult Recreation programs. We are looking forward to a new bowling season starting on Tuesday, September 6th and Friday, September 9th. All other recreation programs in Lackawanna will resume on Thursday, September 8th with an Advisory Meeting and Ice Cream Social. Carbon's bowling will be Monday, September 12th and their Advisory Meeting and Ice Cream Social will be Tuesday, September 27th.

Keep your eyes open for our "Family Fun Fall Festival" on September 18th at Waldorf Park. The festivities begin at 3:00pm with a Buffet, Kiddie Korner, Volleyball, and Horseshoes. We will have live entertainment with Phil Rossi Duo and The Wannabees. Please join us for some great food, great entertainment, great friends and a great time!

Thanks to The Scranton District Dental Society

The Scranton District Dental Society (SDDS), during their annual golf tournament, recently donated \$1000 to The Arc. The Arc partners with SDDS each year to prepare thousands of gift bags for local children during National Children's Dental Health Month in February. According to Golf Co-Chair Dr. Fred Bonacci, "The Arc has supported SDDS and the children of this community for years. We wanted to show them our appreciation and give something back to them."



Carl Hallock; Eileen Rempe, The Arc Human/Public Relations Director; Caroline Perry; Don Broderick, The Arc Executive Director; Roseann Atoria; Dr. Jessica Falk.

The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania Tees Off Eleventh Annual Golf Tournament

On Monday, September 19, 2011, The Arc of NEPA is sponsoring a Golf Tournament at Glen Oak Country Club in Clarks Summit. The day will feature a Captain and Crew format and is open to everyone looking to have a fun day at one of the last tournaments of the year. The shotgun start is at 12:00 noon with registration beginning at 11:00 a.m. There are plenty of contests and games throughout the day for you to try your skill and luck! A buffet lunch and dinner is included in the tournament fee of \$175.00 per person (by 9/2) or \$185.00. Sponsorships and openings are available. For more information please contact Eileen Rempe at The Arc - 346-4010. Pennstar Bank is the Tournament sponsor for this year's event.



Peter Kanton; Mark Lynn, Chairperson; Ken Doolittle; Pat Cole, Chairperson; Don Broderick, The Arc Executive Director; Eileen Rempe, The Arc Human / Public Relations Director. Missing from photo: Carol Chisdak, Chairperson.

Bus Trip to Sands Casino!

**Saturday
September 17, 2011**

Leaving The Arc - 8:15 a.m.

Departing from Sands Casino,
Bethlehem - 4:00 p.m.

Returning to The Arc - 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$25.00

*Passenger Rebate:
\$20.00 Slot Rebate &
\$5.00 Food Voucher*

RSVP by Friday, September 9, 2011

Please make checks payable to:

The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary
and send to: The Arc
115 Meadow Avenue, Scranton, PA 18504

Any questions please call 346-4010.

Proceeds benefit The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary.

Sara Wolff

October is National Down Syndrome Awareness Month. The Friends of The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania will honor Sara Wolff for her extraordinary dedication as an Advocate for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Sara will be honored at a Dinner at Fiorelli's in Peckville on Sunday, October 2nd with a Reception at 4:00 p.m. and Dinner at 5:00 p.m. For further information call The Arc at 346-4010.



Friends of The Arc Auxiliary with Honoree Sara Wolff are pictured: Front row from left to right: Mary Carol Kanton, Honoree Sara Wolff and Jeanne Gardier. 2nd row from left to right: Dolly Densvich, Nancy Crafferty, and Carol Burke. 3rd row from left to right: Betty Moreken and Connie Wolff. 4th row from left to right: Michele McDade and Auxiliary President Eileen Williams. 5th row from left to right: Corolla Sawka and Betsy Youngblood.



The Arc[™]

Northeastern Pennsylvania

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Our Vision

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



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*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 programs and long distance telephone services.

Stay Informed!

Membership Registration

New Member

Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Type of Membership

\$25.00 - \$49.00 Friend

\$100.00 - \$499.99 Supporter

\$1,000.000 + Partner

\$50.00 - \$99.99 Sponsor

\$500.00 - \$999.99 Benefactor

Please remit to:



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