

FALL 2025

The Arcticulate



Please drop off to: 115 Meadow Avenue, Scranton

United Way Day of Caring 2025

What a fantastic Day of Caring we had on Thursday, August 28th!

Once again, The Arc was thrilled to participate in this tradition—we're one of the original organizations involved! We welcomed dozens of enthusiastic volunteers from local companies who dedicated their day to transforming our facilities.

Thanks to their hard work, our sites received a much-needed refresh with fresh paint, extensive mulching, weeding, and general clean-up! This massive volunteer effort helps us save crucial funds

and allows us to focus our resources directly on supporting our mission. It's a true win-win: we get essential projects done, and new friends get to learn firsthand about the

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The Arc

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



We hope this message finds you well as you enjoy the beautiful Fall weather and prepare for the holiday season.

Over the past several years, I have developed a strong relationship with The Arc and deeply value my role in supporting the organization wherever I am needed. My gratitude is rooted in the opportunity to work alongside such caring and

committed staff who are fiercely dedicated to the consumers served by The Arc. You meet the inevitable new challenges of every day with remarkable respect and diligence. We are truly fortunate to have so many dedicated and caring employees paired with our wonderful consumers. It is always humbling to witness the high level of care you provide, 24/7, and I want to offer my deepest thanks for everything you do.

Because of your essential work, all of you are now in a unique position to help The Arc make an even bigger impact. Please "pass the word" to your friends and family about the wonderful things happening at our organization. Furthermore, we ask that you contact your representatives or candidates running for office to ask for their support in furthering our goal of providing superior services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. If you require any assistance on this matter or have questions, please do not hesitate to call Marsha

Pigga, Arc-NEPA Executive Director.

A heartfelt thank you once again to The Arc staff. Your dedication makes a difference every single day. On behalf of the Board, we wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Thanksgiving and holiday season.

Sincerely,
Ken Doolittle
Board President

P.S. We hope you'll join us for these festive events and consider a year-end gift - your donation helps sustain our critical Advocacy program:

- Poinsettia Sale (Arriving December 9th): Brighten your home with high-quality poinsettias from Corky's. Proceeds benefit Arc Responds. A flyer is in the mail and also contained in this newsletter.
- The Arc-NEPA Polar Express Holiday Party: Join our annual celebration on Friday, December 12th, at Fiorelli's Banquet Facility in Peckville. Call Mari or Holly at 570-207-0825 for tickets and details.
- Holiday Cookie Sale: Order delicious, ready-to-serve cookies by the pound! Order by December 11th for pick-up on December 18th. More information to follow. Contact Eileen with questions: 570-207-0824.
- Foundation Year-End Giving: Please consider a tax-deductible contribution to The Arc of NEPA Foundation. Your gift sustains our essential Advocacy Program.

Exec's Corner



Observing nature's transitions during the Autumnal shift is always a source of wonder. The familiar summer landscape undergoes a stunning transformation, trading its deep greens for a breathtaking tapestry of fiery crimson, gold, and amber. This natural spectacle assures us that every great change we navigate ultimately leads to a new, beautiful landscape ahead.

The Arc NEPA is fully embracing this spirit of change! We see the environment's powerful transformations mirrored by significant internal milestones that are driving our organization forward. We are dedicated to updating the crucial systems that support our mission, implementing major technological upgrades including the iCare Manage system, a new donor database, and an all-in-one Human Resources Information System (HRIS) to streamline electronic onboarding. These focused, efficient shifts ensure that every one of our services is delivered more smoothly, allowing our team to devote more time and

energy to the individuals and families we serve.

In this same spirit of profound physical transition, we are thrilled to announce the completion of our building renovations at Meadow Avenue! After two years of dedicated planning and construction, we are excited with how beautiful and welcoming the space is. This major investment is a physical commitment to our future, providing an updated and accessible environment for both our staff and the individuals who utilize our programs.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Board of Directors for their unwavering support and visionary leadership throughout this period of intense investment and transition. Their strategic guidance has been essential in making both the crucial system improvements and the Meadow Avenue renovations a reality.

Successfully navigating complex system upgrades and major renovations requires incredible dedication, which is why we want to express our profound appreciation for our staff. Their willingness to learn and adapt to these powerful new tools, while operating in a transitional

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A Fall Festival to Remember!

The Arc of NEPA's Twentieth Annual Event a Huge Success!

Submitted by: Mari Pizur

The Twentieth Annual Family Fun Fall Festival at Waldorf Park on Sunday, September 14, 2025, was an overwhelming triumph, drawing a fantastic crowd and raising crucial funds for The Arc of NEPA. With beautiful weather, incredible entertainment, and a generous community spirit, the day was a resounding success for everyone involved!

It was a perfect day for a festival! The weather truly cooperated, providing a picture-perfect setting for the day's activities. Attendees enjoyed the sunshine and the vibrant atmosphere throughout the afternoon and into the evening. The crowd was excellent, with families filling Waldorf Park to enjoy the delicious buffet and grilled sandwiches, along with the lively fun.

The band's generosity takes center stage! We want to extend our deepest gratitude to the sensational bands, East Coast Trio and The Wanabees, who donated their time and talent to the festival. Their fantastic music kept the energy high and gave everyone a chance to dance and celebrate. Their generosity is truly appreciated and helped make the event's proceeds even more impactful for The Arc of NEPA.

The Gift Basket Raffle was, as always, a massive hit! Thanks to the amazing generosity of local businesses and community members who donated theme baskets and gift certificates, the raffle raised significant funds. Congratulations to all the lucky winners! The Kiddie Korner also provided hours of fun for the youngest attendees, who spent their free tickets on games from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

The success of the festival is a

testament to the wonderful support of the entire community. Every ticket purchased, basket raffled, and donation made directly benefits the vital programs and services of The Arc of NEPA. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed! We would not be as successful without them.

People like President Paul Brady, Vice President Kevin Kearney, Linda Aebli, board members and staff from the Waldorf who have supported us from day 1! They helped us through the transition from a "Chicken Barbecue" to our "Family Fun Festival" and helped us create what it is today! They are the very best group of people to work with and who make our day a great success and we cannot thank them enough! The venue is beautiful and the sunset overlooking the city is always spectacular!

The day was grand, we had our folks singing on stage and playing the guitar! People had their faces painted and we had a fantastic Kiddie Korner that was run by the University of Scranton OT students, all 45 volunteers! This was a perfect setting for all to share a meal, dance and socialize together! So much to

enjoy throughout the day including a bake sale, basket raffles, instant bingo and 50/50s! Smiles were priceless and you could feel the excitement in the air! Good food, good music, good weather and good people are the perfect recipe for a magnificent day!

We would like to say THANK YOU, to all the volunteers, bakers, the donors and to everyone who attended. We really appreciate all that you do! You helped make a difference and made our day great!



Buddy Walk 2025!

The Buddy Walk was founded by the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) in 1995 as a vibrant celebration of Down Syndrome Awareness.

The event is designed as a family-fun day, filled with entertainment, food, raffles, and special activities for children. The highlight is the ceremonial walk, a powerful demonstration of love and support for individuals with Down Syndrome, transforming the day into an extraordinary event for public awareness.

The true impact of the Buddy Walk extends beyond the day itself. Unwavering community support and generous contributions are what make it

possible for our organization to provide a vital variety of support services to children, adults, and families affected by Down Syndrome year-round.

We recently witnessed this power firsthand at the Annual Buddy Walk of NEPA, held on October 5th at Scranton High School. The festivities garnered a tremendous response, with several hundred attendees joining us. We are proud to declare the event a resounding success, reflecting the deep commitment of the NEPA community.

We want to thank all those folks who made the Buddy Walk a wonderful success:
Our Emcee - Jon Meyer

Our Grand Marshal – Matthew Moran
The Moran Family
Michael Strasburger – DJ Extraordinaire NDSS
Mid Valley Jr. Spartans' PRIDE Squad
Pennsylvania Ambulance
Pennsylvania State Police
Scranton High Cheerleaders
Scranton High Penn Serve
Scranton Fire Department
Scranton Police Department
Scranton School District
University of Scranton OT Dept.
Violets...a little bit of everything



Buddy Walk 2025!

(Continued from page 4)

Thank you for being part of this amazing day:

Party 2 Ya (Bounce House and Bluey)
Rob Smith the Juggler
Champ
Tux
Jump Start Cart
Xavi's Ice Cream on Wheels

We had some friends who joined us:

Advocacy Alliance
My CIL – Center for Independent Living
NEIU #19
Back Mountain Music Therapy
Human Resource Center
Center for Community Resources
Devereaux
Right to Education Task Force
The Arc-NEPA
PA Inclusive
United Cerebral Palsy
Vision for Equality

Sponsors:

The Moran Family
My CIL—Center for Independent Living

Gold:

Kelly Brown
William Dempsey - Northeast Rehab
The Peanut Bar—Mike Moran
ShopRite of Birney Plaza

Silver:

Cable Associates
Kiersten Murrin Gatto
Kerr Orthodontics
Robert and Faye Rosenberg
Saint Joseph's Center

Bronze:

Bill Pilling Graphics
Bill Burnell - Kate Holod
Citizens Savings Bank
Craig Connolly
Crew Systems Corporation
Leslie Cano Galante
Maureen T. Gallagher
Joe, Anne & Christian Grady
Sean - Nancy Hanahue
Robert W. Hoffman
Human Resources Center Inc
Italian American Club of Olyphant

Joy World Wealth Partners
Shelley & Kate Lang
Law Office of Harry T. Coleman
Lynda & Edward Lynett
Kurt and Casie Lynott
Annemae Martinelli
Michelle McLaughlin
Mark Mecca
Laura Mlckavicz
ArtieCraig Moran
Ellen Murphy
Northeastern Transit
PA Inclusive

Rossi Rooter
Brian Rappaport
Jeff Ryan
Joseph Tavernese Sr
Tim Wagner
Chris Walsh
Jean M. Walsh
Karen Walsh
Liz Walsh
Dan Yarros Agency— Allstate

*Thank you to all of our Donors,
Volunteers, Walkers & The Buddy
Walk Committee*



You are cordially invited to join us this holiday season at our



Friends of The Arc's "Polar Express" Holiday Party

Friday, December 12, 2025 • 5:00pm - 9:00pm

Fiorelli's Banquet Facility

1501 Main St. Peckville, PA

Evening Festivities:

5:00pm Registration

5:30pm Complimentary hors d'oeuvres

6:00pm - 7:00pm Buffet Dinner

7:00pm - 9:00pm Music Provided by E.J. The D.J.

5:00pm - 9:00pm Cash Bar

***Special Guest Appearance,
Golden Tickets, Bells and Holiday Raffles!***

Menu Includes:

Fresh Garden Greens with Vinaigrette Dressing

Penne Rigate Pasta a 'la Vodka Sauce,

Chicken Tenderloins Scampi Saute,

Hand-carved Certified Angus Sirloin of Beef,

Fresh Fish of the Day

And Oven Roasted Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetable de Casa,

Rolls w/butter

Dolce de Casa (Sweet of the House)

Coffee, Tea, Decaf, Soda

Cost: \$38.00



Mary Ann O'Shea contributing to the huge mural at the recent Learning Conference sponsored by the Scranton Area Community Foundation. Recently, Mary Ann O'Shea and Eileen Rempe attended a three day educational experience that was all about creating and strengthening our community—together, with purpose and action. With a focus on building trust and relationships, establishing credibility through clear messaging and collaboration, and prioritizing team culture. We heard from national thought leaders and local changemakers who guided us through interactive, transformative sessions designed to strengthen our organization from the inside out and amplify our impact in the community.

Bell Landmark

Local artist Cherie Fruehan crafted "A City of Hope, A State of Giving," a remarkable fiberglass bell and piece of the statewide America250PA public art initiative. It is one of only 108 bells symbolizing America's upcoming 250th anniversary, and it's a must-see landmark located right at the Scranton Area Community Foundation at the Century Club.



Pictured: Mari Pizur and Eileen Rempe attended the unveiling.

A huge thank you to local celebrity Jon Meyer for stopping by The Arc Adult Day Program! His visit was a massive hit—everyone loved connecting with him and sharing a special moment!



Penny Bordi and Jon Meyer



Mary Ann O'Shea, Jeremy Lewan and Eileen Rempe

We were honored to accept an invitation from WNEP for an insightful morning focused on the evolving media landscape. The event included a valuable opportunity to connect with a panel of streaming services experts, where we gained amazing, detailed information. We also enjoyed a personalized meet-and-greet and a comprehensive tour of the station, making for a wonderful, information-packed morning.

Great coworkers & good cheer, it's that time of the year!

All employees are invited to attend our annual

Holiday Luncheon

being held on

Friday, December 19th

in the Meadow Ave. Conference Room

12:00pm to 2:00pm.

**Come and enjoy the opportunity
to mingle with your co-workers
and share some Holiday Spirit.**

We hope to see you there!!



The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania

Spirit of the Season

CLA Tour 2025

Santa's helpers will be back on the streets of Lackawanna County, on Monday, December 15th, visiting our festive (and dare we say, competitive) CLAs for the holiday season. Judges will be looking for the most colorful, creative, magical decorations. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, but only one CLA will be presented with the coveted "Spirit of the Season" award!

Good Luck!

United Way of Lackawanna County Visit

We recently had the pleasure of hosting Angela and Dillon from the United Way of Lackawanna, Wayne and Pike Counties. During their visit, they received an in-depth look at The Arc's history, our diverse programs, and essential services. This meeting highlighted how crucial United Way funding is to supporting two of our cornerstone programs: Advocacy and the Adult Day Program.

The Arc has a rich, long-standing relationship with the United Way, a partnership that continues to make a powerful difference in our community.

Our Shared History

Established in 1921: The United Way has been helping people and improving lives in the community for over a century.

Member Agency Since 1956: The Arc has been a proud member agency for over 50 years! Our initial support came when we applied to the newly created United Fund and received \$4,800.

Broad Reach: The United Way helps support nearly 70 local programs within 45 organizations across Lackawanna, Wayne, and Pike Counties.

Local Generosity: Last year, employee pledges alone exceeded more than \$17,500 toward critical community services.

Where Your Support Makes a Difference

The Adult Day Program: Thriving with Purpose

Our Adult Day Program participants are enjoying a full routine of engaging daily activities! We offer meaningful opportunities for community involvement,



Roseann Polishan, The Arc Lead Advocate; Marsha Pigga, The Arc Executive Director; Angela Bassani, EdD, CPA - President and CEO of The United Way of Lackawanna, Wayne and Pike Counties; Dillon Colarossi Lukus, 2025-2026 Campaign Chair - United Way of Lackawanna, Wayne and Pike Counties.

health and wellness, and hands-on learning. Current favorites include: Yoga and meditation classes with

and in their neighborhoods. The Arc's Advocacy program works to: Help children with intellectual and

Last year, employee pledges alone exceeded more than \$17,500 toward critical community services.

Mindy; Dynamic dancing sessions and special dance parties hosted by our in-house DJs.

Advocacy by The Arc-NEPA: Securing a Full, Respected Life

Advocacy is crucial work that helps individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities live a full, respected life. Too often, people with disabilities are forgotten or shut out from everyday opportunities in school, at work,

developmental disabilities succeed in school; Assist parents in obtaining essential community services for their loved ones; Guide our friends and neighbors with intellectual disabilities to live, work, and enjoy their own communities.

For over 100 years, the United Way has been a beacon of help and improvement in our area. Please consider how you can help continue this vital support, and thank you for your generosity!

Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends"

The Arc was at Boscov's for the "Friends Helping Friends" Event on October 22nd!!! Boscov's helps out local non-profits with a shopping extravaganza in-store and online event - the annual "Friends Helping Friends" Event. The Arc is proud to be a part of this community fundraiser! Several folks represented The Arc for this special occasion. All proceeds benefitted AKtion Club.





The Arc
Northeastern Pennsylvania

We Are

HIRING

Join our team!

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

Please scan the QR code or visit:
<https://thearcnepa.applicantpro.com/jobs/>

CALL US:
570-346-4010



VISIT US:
www.thearcnepa.org

Fall Fun at the Day Program

Prior to welcoming Fall - we had a blast on a rainy day at the RailRiders! We were so proud to root our home team to victory!

Now we are enjoying Autumn which is filling the day program with warmth and color! We started the season by celebrating the harvest with a "Pumpkin Painting Contest", welcoming the crisp air and preparing for the cozy months ahead.

Recently, we enjoyed a thrilling "Fall Festival Fun Fair" day. All individuals participated in a ring toss game to see who had the "golden arm." If they successfully hooked a ring, they got to pick a festive prize from the table.

This year's "Harvest Hayride Hootenanny" was the setting for some amazing time spent with our hooved friends. We love being with these beautiful animals and they give us so much love!

Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Veterans Day were all amazing, meaningful holidays celebrated on the floor.

We are so thankful to have an amazing team at the day program who work together to create all these and many more meaningful days for everyone.



Pike County Transition Fair

On October 7th, The Arc of NEPA's Advocacy department organized the first ever Pike County Transition Fair at Delaware Valley High School. The Arc partnered with IU20 and the Delaware Valley School District in an effort to bring resources from Pike County together to showcase their services for individuals with disabilities entering their transition years through adulthood.

Over 30 providers participated in this well attended event and families were able to collect much needed information to help with future planning. It is so important that parents play an active role in the transition from school age services to adulthood so that individuals are not impacted with a loss of services and that all the needed steps are taken to ensure participation in the community, workplace and further education. Contact The Arc of NEPA's advocacy department if you would like more information on transition planning.



Advocacy

The Advocacy Department attended the 24th annual US Conference on Disability : presented by the Leahy College of Health and Sciences and the Edward R Leahy Jr. Endowment. The conference took place at The Denaples Center at The University of Scranton on October 8th. The day-long free community conference was titled "A.I- Access-Action", a very fitting topic with the monumental increase in using artificial intelligence in today's world. How can we harness and use this expanding technology for the disability workforce, for communication and beyond?

The Arc was one of 11 sponsors of this historically well attended conference which also featured former United States Senator Bob Casey, a champion

for disability rights and now a University of Scranton Leahy Distinguished Fellow in Public Service, as the opening speaker for the day. Some other speakers included Issac Shapiro, Co-Ceo and President of Clean Logic which is employing individuals with disabilities throughout the country including their new facility in PA, Kathy West- Evans and John P. Evans who work with the vocational rehabilitation departments across the US to help increase employment for individuals with disabilities, and Tiffany Yu, CEO and Founder of Diversability and The Awesome Foundation that offers monthly micro grants for disability projects.

Many people stopped at The Arc of NEPA table, where we highlighted advocacy and many of our other

programs, to introduce themselves, chat or share a story. It was a fantastic opportunity to hear high caliber presenters on relevant topics and network right in our "backyard" We look forward to attending again next year!





Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays to You and Yours!

Dear Friend of The Arc,

Hope this letter finds you well and looking forward to the upcoming holiday season filled with special moments and memories that last a lifetime. As the end of the year approaches, we ask that you remember the children and adults served by The Arc of Northeastern PA and please consider making a donation to our Year-End Campaign. Your year-end contribution assists The Arc of NEPA to sustain our Advocacy Program. By supporting our year-end campaign, you are helping to build a better year for people with disabilities and their families.

Advocacy provided by The Arc-NEPA assists individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live a full, respected life! People with disabilities are too often forgotten, left behind and shut out from an everyday life in school, at work and in their neighborhoods. By supporting Advocacy, you are:

- Helping children with intellectual and developmental disabilities to succeed in school.
- Assisting parents to obtain community services for their loved one.
- Guiding our friends and neighbors with intellectual disabilities to live, work and enjoy their own communities.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call us at 570-346-4010. We are grateful for your consideration. Thank you from The Arc family to your family and best wishes for a wonderful new year!

Sincerely,

Your Friends at The Arc-NEPA

The Arc-NEPA supports children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities since 1956.

The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania Year-End Campaign - 2025

Please consider how you can help to support the Advocacy Program through a year-end donation:

\$ _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ \$1,000 _____

Any amount you can give would be very helpful.



Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to: The Arc of NEPA Foundation and mail in the enclosed envelope. To donate with a credit card, please visit www.thearcnepa.org and click on the Donate Button (Year-End in Memo). Your gift may be tax-deductible in accordance with PA State Law for 501(c)(3) organizations. Thank You!



United Way Day of Caring 2025

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impactful work happening every day at The Arc!

The day also kicked off our United Way Employee Campaign, which is easier than ever now that we're participating in the e-pledge system for the first time!

A huge shout-out to all the amazing Arc staff who coordinated the sites and organized lunch—your planning made the day run flawlessly! It was an absolute success and a true testament to community partnership.



You are cordially invited to join us this holiday season at our

Friends of The Arc's "Polar Express" Holiday Party

Friday, December 5, 2025 • 5:00pm - 9:00pm

Bernadine Hall (Saints Peter and Paul Church)

(Entrance in rear of Hall)

13 Hudson Road, Plains, PA

Evening Festivities:

5:00pm Registration

5:30pm - 6:30pm Buffet Dinner

6:00pm - 9:00pm Music provided by DJ Mike

Special Guest Appearance, Bells and Golden Tickets!

Menu Includes:

Fresh Garden Salad

Penne Pasta, Meatballs, Chicken, Potato and Fresh Fish of the Day

Rolls w/butter

Dolce de Casa (Sweet of the House)

Coffee, Tea, Decaf, Soda

Cost: \$35.00

Community Meet-and-Greet

A special invitation was extended to our local legislators for a Community Meet-and-Greet at our facility on September 3, 2025. This informal gathering, hosted in our conference room, offered a unique opportunity for direct, one-on-one conversation over coffee. Following the meet-and-greet, we offered a brief tour of our facility which allowed the group to personally engage with our dedicated staff and meet some of the community members whose lives are impacted by our shared work.



Seated: Gerald Smurl, Council President; Representative Kyle Donahue; Jen Fitzpatrick, Senator Marty Flynn Chief of Staff; Victoria Cole, Senator Marty Flynn Communications Director; Representative Bridget Kosierowski; Dr. Kathleen Sottile, NEIU Executive Director. Standing: Roseann Polishan, The Arc Lead Advocate; Representative Jim Haddock; Sean O'Shea, Representative Kyle Donahue Chief of Staff; Mary Ann O'Shea, The Arc Human Resource Manager; Mari Pizur, The Arc Recreation Manager; Marsha Pigga, The Arc Executive Director; Eileen Rempe, The Arc Public Relations and Development Director; Brian Fallon, Bridget Kosierowski Chief of Staff; Tom Schuster, City Councilman; Representative Kyle Mullins.

Holiday Poinsettia Sale

Proceeds Benefit:

***The Arc Responds Fund**

Please have your orders placed by: Friday, November 21, 2025

- * **\$12.00 Each**
- * Choice of Red, White, Pink or Marble - 6 1/2" pots
- * Foil wrapped container
- * Delivered fresh from Corky's!



Great Holiday Gifts for Family, Friends, Co-Workers!

Flowers will be available for pick-up (Arc Conference Room) on:

Tuesday, December 9th from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 10th from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 11th from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State & Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Email: _____ Paid via Paypal: _____

Please let us know your day and time of pick-up: _____

Please reserve the following plants for me:

#Red _____ #White _____ #Pink _____ #Marble _____

Please visit: <http://thearcnepa.org/donate.html> to pay by credit card (poinsettia in memo) and return this order form to The Arc or make checks payable to: The Arc Responds and return this order form along with payment in the enclosed envelope.



Questions, please call (570) 346-4010

**The Arc Responds is an employee-driven, charitable fund available to assist Arc Affiliates, and their families who are experiencing serious difficulty and/or tragedy. They may feel they have nowhere to turn and that is when The Arc can and will respond. With your support The Arc Responds has provided assistance for many, many individuals and families and for that we are truly grateful.*

SAF Visit

Cathy Fitzpatrick, Director of Grants and Scholarships at the Scranton Area Community Foundation, recently visited The Arc-NEPA to tour the significant building renovations completed at their Meadow Avenue facility. The Scranton Area Community Foundation was a proud and instrumental funding partner, ensuring The Arc-NEPA could complete this vital work to better serve the community.



Seated: Ken Doolittle, The Arc Board President; Bill Burnell, The Arc Immediate Past Board President. Standing: Marsha Pigga, The Arc Executive Director; Cathy Fitzpatrick, Scranton Area Community Foundation Director of Grants and Scholarships; Eileen Rempe, The Arc Director of Public Relations and Development.

Sibshops

Siblings are some of the longest relationships that a person with a disability will have. The sibshops were created with this in mind. They were created to give support and community to the siblings of people with disabilities and their special place within their families and among their peers. This past September, Beyond Behavior was host to the Arc's Sibshops. They brought us to their wonderful new facility at 166 Slocum Street, Forty Fort, PA. We had a wonderful time playing Halloween twister, imagining our most fun places and decorating pumpkins while talking about all the unique aspects of being a sibling to someone with a disability. The Sibshops were created in the 1980s, by Don Meyer to help siblings of children with disabilities connect to other siblings through play, fun and activities.



Cookie Sale

When: Orders need to be placed by:
Wednesday, December 10

Orders will be ready for pick-up on:
Thursday, December 18 - 11 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Where to Pick-up: Dunmore Presbyterian
Chestnut Street, Dunmore

Looking for a tasty way to enjoy the holiday season...Please consider purchasing some yummy cookies! The cookies will be sold by the pound featuring a mixed assortment of flavors. The cost will be \$12.00/lb. and will be packaged in a decorative box. The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary would like to thank you for your continued kindness. If you have any questions, please call 570-346-4010.

Name: _____

Best Number to Reach You: _____

_____ # lbs.

_____ \$Amount Enclosed

Please make checks payable to: The Arc Auxiliary - Thank you!

Direct Support Professional Recognition Week

On September 7, 2025 through September 13, 2025, we celebrated Direct Support Professional (DSP) Appreciation Week!

Direct Support Professionals are the heart of our mission, providing essential support to the individuals we serve. The week was a great opportunity for The Arc of NEPA to highlight our appreciation for the direct support workforce that is dedicated and compassionate in supporting people with disabilities.

We kicked off the week with a baseball-themed luncheon. Coopers was grilling up some great burgers and hot dogs and of course we had to have some Cracker Jacks! Each DSP left with a stadium bag, t-shirt and baseball fidget keychain. For the rest of the week, we brought out our competitive nature with Tina's Trivia-thank you all for playing along!

During DSP Week, we aimed to recognize and honor the Direct Support Professionals at The Arc of NEPA! We hit it out of the park with our leading team!



Welcome to The Arc Family!

*Please help us welcome The Arc's new employees!
We're glad to have you on the team!*

Nahbesha Cornish
Audrey Parker-Jackson
Denise Dongvort
Paris Stephens
Kelly Hinz
Richardalyn Teaman
Janice Benjamin
Antoinette Morgan

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.



Do you have what it takes to be the most festive door on the floor?

We're looking for the most colorful, creative, magical decorated doors! Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, but only one group room will be presented with the coveted "Spirit of the Season" award!

Judging will take place on Monday, December 15, 2025.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone's entries!

Good Luck!

Exec's Corner

(Continued from page 2)

environment, is what truly drives our progress. It's their commitment that turns technological updates and building upgrades into tangible improvements for the people we support. Thank you to every staff member for embracing this period of growth and transition!

Just as the seasons demand resilience, advocacy is more critical than ever as we closely track significant legislative and regulatory activity to protect and advance the lives of individuals with Intellectual and Developmental

Disabilities (I/DD) and their families. While we acknowledge that persistent budget impasses and funding debates are creating intense pressure on the entire I/DD service system, we want to assure every individual and family that The Arc of NEPA's mission does not pause and our services will continue. We remain the unwavering voice for the human rights of people with I/DD, and our commitment to those we serve remains absolute.

Just as the leaves have completed their final, brilliant transition, we will soon be experiencing the sheer delight of the winter holidays! This

festive season will be marked by celebratory gatherings scheduled in the Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Carbon areas, which will include our special holiday production (with a possibility of a performance by our own talented staff!). Witnessing the joy and festive atmosphere created by the individuals we support is always the most rewarding part of the season, and we look forward to the new season of light and joy these celebrations will usher in.

Until then, I send you my warmest wishes for a Thanksgiving filled with connection, gratitude, and true abundance. May your table and your heart overflow!

Most Sincerely,
Marsha Pigga
Executive Director

You are cordially invited to join us this holiday season at our



Sunday, December 14, 2025 • 12:30pm - 3:30pm
Nesquehoning Hose Co.
953 W Catawissa St., Nesquehoning, PA 18240

The Afternoon's Festivities Include:

12:30pm - 1:30pm Registration
1:00pm - 2:00 pm Buffet Style Dinner
2:00pm - 3:30pm Music Provided by DJ Dave Gasker

Buffet Style Menu Includes:

Salad, Baked Ham and Roast Turkey
Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Stuffing
Green Beans, Corn, Rolls
Dessert
Coffee, Tea, Soda

Cost: \$30.00

Hopefully we will get a visit from a special guest in red!

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.



Northeastern Pennsylvania

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

Achieve with us.

*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities
and their families.*

To Our Valued Advocacy Partners,

In order to maintain quality and reliable individual advocacy services, in the mission of The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania's nearly 70-year history of promoting and protecting the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supporting their full inclusion in the community from birth through adulthood, we have instituted a new process for advocacy intakes.

Effective December 1, 2025 all new intakes obtained from either website, email or phone calls will be directed to fill out an online intake form. Once form is completed, an advocate will be in touch within 3-5 business days with next steps. All necessary documents, including IEP's, evaluations, and other relevant reports will need to be obtained to begin the advocacy case.

Advocacy services are designed to resolve the current situation for a limited time of 3-5 months on average and provide parental/guardian/individual training. Advocacy is designed to facilitate resolution of a current issue and is not designed for long term support or case management. Our advocates will provide the resources and connections to help obtain necessary supports in a number of these areas. Once the situation at hand is resolved the case will be closed and a new intake form will need to be filled out for future advocacy requests.

Advocacy Services are provided in 7 counties in NEPA which include Lackawanna, Susquehanna, Wayne, Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Luzerne by our team of 3 experienced and trained advocates. Advocacy services are provided to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, which by definition includes the following:

- Intellectual Disability: Limitations in both intellectual functioning, which include the ability to learn, reason, problem solve, and other skills and adaptive behavior needs, which include everyday social and life skills.
- Developmental Disability: Disabilities that are present during the developmental period (before age 22) and can include autism, cerebral palsy, down syndrome, ADHD, FASD, certain brain injuries and genetic conditions.

Advocacy Services are at no charge, but depend on community organizations and grants for funding. Donations and Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania memberships are always welcome and appreciated.

We look forward to continuing our advocacy efforts at the individual level to ensure that those with intellectual and developmental disability live full, self-determined and respected lives in their schools and communities with the supports they need for success.

Please see our website: thearcnepa.org for our Advocacy Intake Form

Please direct any questions to Roseann Polishan- Lead Advocate- Arc of NEPA at rpolishan@thearcnepa.org

The official registration and financial information of The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, in Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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



of Carbon County and Lackawanna and Wayne Counties



Northeastern Pennsylvania

115 Meadow Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505



VISIT US AT:
www.thearcnepa.org
Like us on Facebook

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

DESIGNED BY: BILL PILLING GRAPHICS

Sign Up!



Membership is the key...

- 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