

The Arcticulate

Spotlight
on Quality
story on
page 4.



The Arc of Northeastern PA Celebrates Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania is joining individuals and organizations across the country to raise awareness about issues facing people with disabilities. Over the last 55+ years, The Arc and its network of more than 700 chapters across the country have made tremendous progress in promoting and protecting the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is due greatly to the advocacy efforts of The Arc that President Ronald Reagan officially declared March to be Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in 1987.

In Northeastern Pennsylvania, The Arc has been the leader in advocacy for inclusive practices at all levels of society for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc has championed inclusive education, closing state institutions in favor of community living, fair employment practices, and other positive societal changes at the state and local level.

The Arc advocates for and serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by promoting and protecting the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supporting their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes and without regard to diagnosis.

On Sunday, March 11th, the Diocese of Scranton celebrated people with IDD at St. Peter's Cathedral, Scranton. The Celebrant and Homilist was The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton. A reception was held after the mass at the former Holy Cross High School and Gerrity's Supermarket. Coopers catered the breakfast and Gerrity's sponsored it.

World Down Syndrome Day was March 21st and the PODS (Parents of Down Syndrome) sponsored an event with an evening at Idle Hours Bowling Lanes, Dickson City.

How did you celebrate World Down Syndrome Day?

The My Great Story public awareness campaign honors the 400,000 Americans with Down syndrome by sharing inspirational stories by and about them. The collection is authored by people with Down syndrome as well as their family members, friends, colleagues, others. The stories are displayed in a beautiful online storybook.

There are several sections in which participants can share their stories, including family, friends, education, hobbies, amongst others. There is a new section for World Down Syndrome Day stories! All are encouraged to share their stories and let everyone know how they celebrated!

In addition to sharing a story, there are other ways to participate in the My Great Story campaign as well. Everyone is invited to read through the collection of stories already on the site, and to comment and vote on their favorite ones. The top voted story each month wins the My Great Story of the Month Contest, and the top two voted stories are featured in the NDSS monthly e-newsletter.

Visit

http://ndss.org/index.php?option=com_mgs
to access the
My Great Story campaign site
and click the submit bookmark
to share your story.

Please Note: The Arc is not an acronym; please refer to us as The Arc, not The ARC or ARC.


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



The month is March—Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and our message remains unchanged.

“Achieve with Us” is the new universal message that is spreading coast to coast – inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Years in planning,

this tagline along with a unified logo says it all. This modern day message speaks to the core values that we convey in interacting with our friends with I/DD; given the chance, our friends have and can accomplish wonderful things.

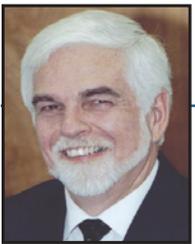
Although the month of March is set aside to bring awareness to people with I/DD, our focus and attention for inclusion and fairness continues throughout the year. More than any other year, we are faced with one of our greatest challenges – a stagnant budget along with dramatic budget cuts for services and programs

that affect our most vulnerable citizens.

YOU can help raise awareness regarding issues facing our friends. Take the time to contact your representatives or candidates running for office and enlighten them on these vital issues. We all have a responsibility to look out for our friends with I/DD. Together, we need to protect what has been accomplished in programs and services offered and available for them.

With a touch of spring in the air, it reminds me that it's membership time at The Arc of NEPA. If you haven't already, please consider joining us! Renewals are sent out quarterly and we would love if you would renew your membership to support our mission. The more members we have, the stronger our voice.

Respectively,
Alexandra “Sandy” Yantorn



Exec's Corner

Here we go again! The Governor presented his budget address in early February and it is not good. I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but I feel it

is my responsibility to present the facts as they are and make commentary on their potential impact.

The one positive in this budget presentation is a 1.9% increase in community based waiver funded programs. That is \$16 million across the entire system and in my opinion, to help pay for service that were previously authorized by the Dept. of Developmental Programs but not funded. That means there will be very little \$s available for increased costs we have all endured, such as gasoline prices and health care premium increases. There is no new \$s for 16,000 people with intellectual disabilities on the waiting list. We are all still struggling with the 2.5% cuts in rates from last year, a 6% cut in rates in November (RAF - revenue adjustment factor) and a 5% cut in rates from January on our county based programs.

They have also changed the rules of the game, giving Sec. Alexander carte blanche within Act 22, giving him the power to make cuts without legislative approval. We now understand that a block grant has been proposed, lumping seven county based programs in

on line item, the Human Services Development Fund (HSDF). Oh, did I mention that this program has been reduced by 20% or \$168 million? Whatever words you use to describe this proposal all add to something terrible; draconian, arbitrary, capricious, cruel, unconscionable, ridiculous and a few more colorful words that I cannot put in print. We must stop this runaway train, before it gets much worse.

I have been in this field for nearly 40 years and never have I seen such reckless behavior on the part of any administration. I beseech you to contact the Governor, Sec. Gary Alexander, Dept. Sec. Friel and your legislators and let them know how devastating these cuts will be to the people we love and care for. We have included a list of contacts for your use.

This is for real. We are in a battle to save what we have worked so hard for, for so long. I cannot emphasize enough how critical it is for you to get involved, and make your voice heard. The future of service for people with intellectual disabilities, and human services in general depends on it.

Respectfully Yours,
Don Broderick

P.S. If you would like further clarification on any of these issues, please feel free to call me at our office number - 346-4010.

What is Happening in the Recreation Department?

From Mari Pizur

The Recreation Department welcomed 2012 celebrating with New Year's Eve Parties in both Carbon and Lackawanna Counties! The gala events were embellished with noise makers, horns, hats, hors d'oeuvres, apple cider champagne and the balloons dropping at 8:00pm sharp! The merrymaking times had great music provided by John Serkosky!

In January, we also held our Advisory Meetings with our consumers in both counties. They provided us with great suggestions for upcoming activities. Here are some of the ideas mentioned: the return of our "Mardi

Gras Celebration", "Arc Idol Night", Juggler, Sports Events in Community, Theme Bingo Nights, Theme Dances and a trip to Gettysburg. Your input, suggestions and ideas for new recreational opportunities are encouraged and always welcome.

In February, both counties enjoyed Valentine's Dances and Mardi Gras Celebrations. At the Mardi Gras we made masks, had a parade, tossed candy, trinkets and beads to the crowds and topped the night with Mardi Gras Music and King Cakes. Good times were had by all!

The month of March events will

keep us busy. We will be entertained with our "Arc Idols". Wonder who will be our Idols this year! We will also be having a St. Patrick's Day dance in Carbon and a Sock Hop in Lackawanna!

On Sunday, April 29, the "Arc Tracks" bus trip will have an excursion to Gettysburg.

These are just a few meaningful recreational opportunities in both counties. Our participants get to share a laugh, a dance or just a moment with their friends! What could be better than spending quality time with your friends?

Happenings...

*Basketball Game at
West Scranton High School
Thursday, March 29, 2012*

*Bus Trip to Mt. Airy
Saturday, March 31, 2012*

*PODS Easter Egg Hunt at
Our Lady of the Snows Church
Saturday, March 31, 2012*

*Spring Flowers at The Arc Pickups
April 3, 4, 5, 2012*

*Kilcoyne's Celebrity Bartender
Monday, April 9, 2012*

*Take Your Child To Work Day
at The Arc
Thursday, April 26, 2012*

*Employee Recognition Dinner
at the Clarion
Saturday, April 28, 2012*

*Gettysburg Bus Trip
Sunday, April 29, 2012*

*Claire Maldonato's 100th Birthday
Celebration at St. Mary's Center
Sunday, May 20, 2012*

*Young Frankenstein at the
Scranton Cultural Center
Sunday, May 20, 2012*

*Arc Knight 2012
at Mohegan Sun Pocono Downs
Friday, May 25, 2012*

*12th Annual Golf Tournament
at Glen Oak Country Club
Monday, June 25, 2012*

For more information please visit
our newly designed website
www.thearcnepa.org

*The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania
cordially invites you to attend
a very special Birthday Party
and Community Tribute in honor of*

Mrs. Claire Maldonato

*"A celebration of her turning 100 years
young, her outstanding service to our
community and dedicated support of
people with intellectual &
developmental disabilities"*

*Sunday, the twentieth of May,
Two thousand and twelve*

*St. Mary's Center 320 Mifflin Avenue,
Scranton, PA 18503*

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

\$45.00/1 \$85.00/2

*All proceeds will benefit The Arc-NEPA
Foundation and
Friends of The Arc-NEPA Auxiliary.*

Spotlight on Quality

On January 11, 2012, Residential Assistant Gloria Nardelli had escorted an individual in her care to an oriental buffet for lunch, per the individual's request. Soon after lunch began, the gentleman began to cough and indicated he was choking. Gloria immediately went to work performing abdominal thrusts while a bystander called 911. After several rounds of abdominal thrusts, Gloria successfully brought up a piece of broccoli that the gentleman had choked on. His breathing returned to normal and his life was indeed saved by Gloria that day. Paramedics arrived on scene and praised Gloria for her fast action and proper technique. Gloria is pictured here receiving a token of our appreciation from Don Broderick, Executive Director, and Jason Koelsch, Residential Program Specialist.



Arc Responds



Pictured are Don Broderick, Joy Pinkney and Noniey Cosmark.

The Arc Responds Holiday Project was an unparalleled success. Even in these difficult economic times we managed to make this holiday brighter for over 20 members of our Arc Family! So, whether you made a monetary gift or purchased a gift or supported the cause in any way, you made a big difference.

As you know, The Arc Responds is an employee-driven, charitable fund available to assist Arc Affiliates, and their families who are experiencing serious difficulty. They may feel they have no where to turn and that is when The Arc can and will Respond. With your consistent support The Arc Responds has provided assistance for many, many families and for that we are truly grateful.

Please know your generosity and support is greatly appreciated. Two events are coming up quickly to benefit Arc Responds: The Annual Arc Nor'easters vs. Scranton Police Department Basketball games (March 28) and Kilcoyne's Celebrity Bartender Evening (April 9).

Dodge for Downs

A contribution of \$567.00 was received from the Lakeland Jr./Sr. High School dodge ball tournament, "Dodge for Downs". The tournament was organized by Michele Mack, Katie Polacek, James Polito for their Senior Project. What a great idea and awesome way to raise money!

The Arc is so proud of their commitment to our mission and helping to raise awareness. It is an honor to be the organization that they considered worthy of their time, effort, respect and generosity.



Pictured are Maryclaire Kretsch, Arc Deputy Executive Director, Michele Mack, Katie Polacek, James Polito

Arc Knight 2012 - "Enjoy a Night at the Races" - 21st Annual

Friday, May 25, 2012

MOHEGAN SUN AT POCONO DOWNS

Route 315, Wilkes-Barre, PA



Sponsorships

Platinum Sponsors: \$500.00

Gold Sponsors: \$350.00

Silver Sponsors: \$200.00

Dinner Tickets: \$35.00

Includes choice of 10oz. Prime Rib or Chicken Parmesan

Dinner: 6:00 p.m. & Post Time: 6:30 p.m.

Sponsored by: The Knights of Columbus, Lackawanna County &
The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania

All proceeds benefit The Arc of NEPA.
Please reserve by Friday, May 11th. Thank you!



Parents' Toolbox: Building Success For Your Child

By Jeannie Lally

On behalf of leadership members from Local Right to Education Task Force's #19, #20 and #21, I would like to thank the Arc of PA for awarding us the grant money that made this upcoming parent training a reality. Further, we extend our gratitude to the IU's 19, 20 and 21 for agreeing to off-set the cost of lunch. Domenico Cavaiuolo, PhD, ESU Director, Special Education, is especially acknowledged for all his fine advice, support and making the Keystone Room available. I know that I speak for our team when I say that we believe that this opportunity will be memorable and beneficial for all involved and it is our hope to

look forward to the SECOND ANNUAL 'Parents' Toolbox'!!!

This parent conference is scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, 8:30AM – 1:30PM in the East Stroudsburg University's Keystone Room. The day will be divided into four sections:

- 1) How to use you head, to plan and to prepare ~ Ken Oakes
- 2) Be hands on and get it done. Parent experience panel ~ Jeannie Lally and parents
- 3) Follow your heart, think of the possibilities ~ Domenico Cavaiuolo, PhD
- 4) Envision the future, begin with the end in sight, the real

experience ~ Parents Colleen Tomko and Trudy Fulmer

During our lunchtime we will take questions, generated during the AM, and encourage discussion. This empowering learning opportunity is made possible FREE of charge; however, we do require RSVP by calling Ramona at the Arc of Lehigh/ Northampton at 610-849-8076 ext 25 by May 8th.

Please do share this information with all parents who will find learning that they possess everything that they require to advocate for their child... HEAD, HEART and HANDS! Should you have any questions please contact me at The Arc NEPA @ 570-346-4010.

White House Community Leaders Briefing

On Friday, February 10, Donald Broderick, Executive Director from The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania joined 150 leaders from The Arc who were invited to attend a White House Community Leaders Briefing. Over the course of the day, leaders of The Arc, including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), were briefed by high level White House and Administration officials on topics ranging from Medicaid to education to community living and employment for people with I/DD. "This was an excellent opportunity for members of The Arc from across the nation to engage in dialogue about serious issues affecting people with Intellectual Disabilities and their families," Donald Broderick, Executive Director, The Arc-NEPA.

At the White House, Arc participants heard from senior White House officials including Jon Carson, the Director of the Office of Public Engagement. Additionally, there were a series of policy breakout sessions that allowed for more detailed discussions on certain issue areas, like community living, education,

and Medicaid. The purpose of these briefings was to allow White House and administration officials to hear from leaders of The Arc about how government policies affect the lives

of people with I/DD and impact their ability to live full, independent lives.

This unique, face-to-face opportunity to speak directly to people in positions to make change from within the government allowed leaders of The Arc to make the voices of the millions of people with I/DD heard at the White House. "I was extremely pleased to have been invited to attend this important briefing to represent The Arc of NEPA and the six counties that we serve," Don Broderick, The Arc-NEPA.

"The Arc, as one of the largest

organizations working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, brings a wealth of experience and insight to discuss today's most important concerns facing persons

with intellectual and developmental disabilities." Jon Carson, the Director of the Office of Public Engagement.

The session, held just for The Arc, included an unannounced visit from President Barack Obama. The President spoke of his commitment to people with disabilities saying, "I've got your back." This surprise appearance by the President of the United States was the highlight of the day for many attendees, along with the opportunity to interact with high level government officials about how they can support people with I/DD to live in the community.

"This was an excellent opportunity for members of The Arc from across the nation to engage in dialogue about serious issues affecting people with Intellectual Disabilities and their families,"

Donald Broderick, Executive Director, The Arc-NEPA.

Wells Fargo Community Partners Program

As Wells Fargo reached an important milestone with their 160th anniversary, they are celebrating by saying "thank you."

Wells Fargo is giving back to their communities...

They have donated more than \$2.5 million dollars to more than 60 charities and we were honored to be one of them!



Find Us On Facebook

The Arc-NEPA has a brand new Facebook page to keep in touch with consumers, families, Board members and friends of The Arc.

Visit www.facebook.com/thearcnortheasternpennsylvania to view the page and click the "like" button to keep in touch. The page is a work in progress but will eventually give you information about upcoming events, trainings, ideas and more.



Greg Collins-Community Bank President; Jodi Cegelka-Store Manager; Don Broderick, Arc Executive Director; Gregory Redden-Regional President.

The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania 12th Annual Golf Tournament

June 25, 2012

Glen Oak Country Club

Format: Captain and Crew

11:00 a.m. - Registration & Lunch Buffet

12:00 noon- Shotgun Start

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. - Cocktail Hour

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Dinner Buffet

\$175.00 entry fee Dinner only: \$50.00

Major, Hole and Cart Sponsorships are available.



The Arc™

Northeastern Pennsylvania

115 Meadow Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505

Non-Profit
US Postage
PAID
Scranton, PA
Permit #122



Our Vision

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



VISIT US AT:
www.thearcnepa.org
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.
- Insurance services, credit card program, and free one year subscription to ABILITY digital magazine.

Stay Informed!

Membership Registration

New Member

Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Type of Membership

- \$25.00 - \$49.99 Friend
- \$50.00 - \$99.99 Sponsor
- \$100.00 - \$499.99 Supporter
- \$500.00 - \$999.99 Benefactor
- \$1,000.00 + Partner

Please remit to:


The Arc™
 Northeastern Pennsylvania
 115 Meadow Avenue
 Scranton, PA 18505