

The Arcticulate



More info on page 7

Doing the Right Thing

There are times when it becomes difficult to be both an advocate and a service provider. It is the individual desires and needs that must play the dominant role during these times....and always.

When we consider the Center for Medicaid Services, (CMS) Final Rule and Pennsylvania’s Transition Plan, it is clear that we are engulfed in a time when it is difficult to be both an advocate and provider of services. Revised service regulations and the Office of Developmental Program’s, (ODP), initial Community Participation Supports Proposal have many talking, many applauding, and others concerned about the proposed changes and the impact of such on consumers who currently participate in services.

But, as recently as last week, the Office of Developmental Programs revised their Community Participation Proposal for Adult Day Services. ODP dropped the 50 and 75% community participation requirements. The revised proposal requires consumers to spend 25% of service time in community by September 2018. This proposal also includes the adoption of a community integration measure that will become part of a three year provider performance review. It is intended that consumers and families will have the performance review information available when choosing an Adult Day Service provider. Individual



exceptions for time in the community will be considered based upon medical, mental health or behavioral needs and/or a condition that affects one’s ability to participate in services in community.

Discussions among individuals, their families and providers are sure to continue. Arc administrative and departmental staff will continue to talk, and plan. Together we have shared our enthusiasm as well as our concerns for challenges to community participation as a meaningful piece to the whole of Adult Day Services. There are challenges. But we are used to challenges. Individuals with IDD, their families, and The Arc have faced many. Through years of change we have learned that concerns cannot be a deterrent to doing the right thing. Regardless of the issues we face, as we analyze and discuss the requirements of revised regulations and community supports, we arrive at the same

definition of what is the right thing.....

We will provide meaningful options in quality of services, tailored to individual wants and needs.

We will help individuals and their families to fully understand these options so that they can make informed choices for themselves.

We will be objective and impartial to particular services as to not have an impact on individual and family decisions in favor of one support over another.

The Arc’s mission defines quality as supports that offer inclusion in community. Children and adults with intellectual and development disabilities have a fundamental, moral and civil right to belong in their community. How can we successfully and meaningfully provide this opportunity? We will discover the answers together and we offer these opportunities as we continue to insure the safety and well-being of those who rely on us for their service. This is the right thing.

Maryclaire Kretsch



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President's Message



"Things do not happen. Things are made to happen." – John F. Kennedy

As you read through this issue of The Articulate you will learn about a number of interesting happenings going on under The Arc umbrella. Activities and events related to services, consumers, staff and volunteers. Things that are making a positive impact on the lives of the individuals and families served by this organization.

The professionals and volunteers associated with The Arc are an amazing group; who have committed themselves to a world that demands so much more than just the hours logged on a time sheet. They know the people they serve – the consumers, families and caregivers and tailor services to their needs. They know that a cookie

cutter approach doesn't work for everyone. They know each person is indeed an individual who has the need and right to be treated as such.

There are many things stirring in Harrisburg and Washington that threaten the programs and services – the "things" made to happen by The Arc and other providers of support for individuals with special needs. In the face of fiscal challenges the need to examine all aspects of government and the services it supports is both appropriate and necessary. But the answer is not to roll out formulaic mandates that ignore the unique requirements of individuals, and to disregard the time tested approaches to services offered by the professionals who work in the field every day.

Over its history The Arc has improved the lives of thousands of northeastern Pennsylvanians. That didn't just happen – It was made to happen!

Bob Durkin

Exec's Corner



There are two items that I would like to discuss with you today. They are the closure of Hamburg Center and what CMS (Center for Medicaid Services) calls "the Final Rule" on Community Inclusion for people with I.D. (Intellectual Disabilities).

The Arc applauds the Department of Human Services on the historic decision to close Hamburg State Center and to help current residents transition to community-based living.

"Moving away from a segregated, state-center model of living shows Pennsylvania's commitment to investing in the lives of people with disabilities," said Maureen Cronin, Executive Director of The Arc of Pennsylvania. "We've seen countless instances of people with disabilities – some of whom lived their entire life in a state center – flourishing when they move into the community. Individuals with disabilities deserve the opportunity to experience life in their community, just like anyone else."

Many individuals who live in Pennsylvania's state centers have not had the opportunity to experience life in the community. Experiences that connect people to their community – such as going to a coffee shop, attending a local place of worship or choosing where and who to live with – are not experiences that individuals living in state centers can routinely access. Their main interactions are with staff and other people with disabilities.

"We appreciate the leadership of Secretary Ted Dallas and Deputy Secretary Nancy Thaler, as well as the immense effort from advocacy groups, that led to this decision," said Ken Oakes, President of The Arc of Pennsylvania Board. "Inclusive, authentic community living has been a core priority of The Arc since our inception. We know that transition is never easy because we've helped people move out of state centers, and we are committed to supporting these individuals and their families in whatever way we can to make this a successful move to community-based living."

The Arc of NEPA stands ready to help in any way possible.

The second issue is "The Final Rule" from CMS. Let me first quote the rule that all states that receive Medicaid money for people with I.D. must follow. This statement concerns settings where people with I.D. are served.

The setting is integrated in and supports full access of individuals

receiving Medicaid HCBS to the greater community, including opportunities to seek employment and work in competitive integrated settings, engage in community life, control personal resources, and receive services in the community, to the same degree of access as individuals not receiving Medicaid HCBS – The HCBS Rule (Home & Community Based Services).

Each state is required to develop a plan to come into full compliance with this rule by March of 2019.

The major themes are to:

- Expand alternatives to 24 hour residential services
- Improve access, quality and accountability in residential services
- Promote employment to comply with the HCBS rule
- Increase community participation also to comply with the HCBS rule
- Open opportunities to people with Autism and not I.D.

The major issues and worries are:

- Community participation
 - ✓ Thresholds for participation
 - ✓ Thresholds for size of facilities
 - ✓ Time frames
 - ✓ Where will the money come from
 - ✓ Where will the staff come from
- Behavior Support in the residential rate
- Adding Autism as an eligibility group
- Provider rates and direct care salaries

As you can see, change is afoot. How all of this will evolve will take time and family, consumer and provider cooperation is a must... and so are additional financial resources to make all this happen.

Nancy Thaler made a comment recently that "we can't wish this away because PA has to report compliance with the HCBS rule and federal auditors will use the HCBS rule as their audit standard"... and finally, according to Mrs. Thaler "Status Quo is not an option".

There is "so" much more to come.

Please stand by!

Respectfully Yours,
Donald W. Broderick
Executive Director

Vocational Services at The Arc-NEPA

Vocational Services at The Arc-NEPA provide individuals with IDD, quality, job-related programming with many different types of employment skills needed for the ever changing and growing competitive workforce.

These employment skills include advancing and improving an individual's general maintenance skills, house-keeping duties, packaging and stocking work, secretarial work such as shredding, mailing orders, and ordering supplies needed for our facility and completing piece by piece contract work. We see the individuals working are building relationships with their co-workers and developing a team work based structure.

In addition, the newest area of employment skills being taught and learned within the program is vending. The Arc pre-vocational team has been teaching our individuals a specific set of skills in order to maintain a successful vending machine service within our very own facility. The vending machine business teaches job skills to the men and women interested in this particular field of employment (vending services). These working employees are shown and quickly learn the necessary skills to successfully inventory, purchase, retrieve, count money and survey the consumers who use this service. The survey asks what they would like in their vending machine(s). They enjoy the experience and are being paid to do a job. Our vending service is growing and has the potential to be not only beneficial to the folks we serve but also to the community.

The folks who participate in the vending machine business are learning about community relations, marketing, financial planning, business management and future growth. The entrepreneurs (day program participants) will be a part of the soliciting new business while ensuring the quality of service for the current placements. The consumers will be providing a service to the community, as well as, earning a paycheck for themselves.



Amanda and the other guys and gals will stock and go shopping for the supplies for the vending machine. They enjoy their work duties and perform them with efficiency. We received a grant from the Scranton Area Foundation to purchase additional machines. We are very grateful for their continued generosity. Thank you from all of at The Arc-NEPA!

Spring Break for Autism

SATURDAY, MARCH 25TH
7:00- 11:00 PM

HONORARY CHAIRPERSON:
Congressman Matthew Cartwright

LA BUONA VITA
200 Reilly St, Dunmore PA

\$85 PER PERSON **COCKTAIL ATTIRE**
OPEN BAR

Please make checks payable to: "Spring Break for Autism"
PO Box 508, Dunmore PA 18512 Event Info: 570-878-8611

The Arc To Benefit Autism Programs Provided By: **the Y**

THE GREATER CARBONDALE YMCA AND
THE ARC OF NORTHEASTER PENNSYLVANIA

The poster features a large red sun icon and a vertical stack of four puzzle pieces labeled 'Food Stations', 'Music', 'Silent Auction', and 'Raffles'. At the bottom, there are logos for 'The Arc' and 'the Y'.

A Loving Tribute to a Sophisticated Lady



This is Barbie Kaschak.

Barbie was beautiful, glamorous, stylish, sweet, loving, and funny. She herself had a great sense of humor. Barbie loved to dress up, get her makeup done, and have her hair styled.

She took pride in her appearance with both her stylish clothing and jewelry.

Barbie will be remembered for her love of coffee, and ice cream, which her staff and friends always had in abundance just for her.

She enjoyed meeting and greeting new people, and socializing with her friends. Barbie showed a genuine concern for all those around her.

She loved going out to lunch and just being outside, or in the van for aimless drives. Barbie was an avid shopper, as well. She also liked animals especially dogs.

Barbie so loved her Direct Care Staff, Maryann Schlessler, as well as all of the Robinson Park Ladies.

She was a sweet woman and will hold a special place in all of our hearts for years to come.

Barbie will be remembered always!



*From all the ladies of
Robinson Park
and Kathleen Gilhooley*



*The retreat of winter
in February provided a
chance for spring to peek
out from behind the wall
of cold asking us to revel
in the glimpse, the tease,
of things to come. Do
as she asks. Dance the
dance and celebrate the
change of the season.*

~ Maryclaire

Employment Opportunities

Please join our caring team of professionals assisting adults with developmental disabilities

All positions require flexibility

**For more information, please contact Allison or Tina in Human Resources 570-346-4010 or visit our website – www.thearcnepa.org for any additional information or questions.

PLEASE NOTE:

Minimum requirements for these positions include:

***18 years of age or older

***High School Diploma/GED

***Valid PA driver's license

Previous Human Services experience helpful, but not necessary. Paid training provided.

Our outstanding benefit package includes:

Health insurance*

Dental insurance*

Vision insurance*

Life/AD&D insurance

Long Term Disability insurance

Pension

Vacation days*

Personal days*

Sick days*

Holidays

\$400 for new employee referral bonus

Fitness Club reimbursement

Credit union

Direct deposit

To be considered for one of these positions, a completed application must be on file with our Human Resources Department.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH The Arc.

World Down Syndrome Day

World Down Syndrome Day (WDS), observed on March 21st every year, is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. Each year the voice of people with Down syndrome, and those who live and work with them, grows louder.

Down Syndrome International encourages our friends all over the world to choose your own activities and events to help raise awareness of what Down syndrome is, what it means to have Down syndrome, and how people with Down syndrome play a vital role in our lives and communities.

WHY MARCH 21?

The date for WDS being the 21st day of the 3rd month, was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome.

HISTORY OF WDS

WDS was first observed in 2006 in many countries around the world and Down Syndrome Association Singapore launched and hosted the WDS website from 2006-2010, on behalf of DSi, for global activities to be recorded.



(Actual photo of our LOTS OF SOCKS logo socks)



On December 19, 2011, the United Nations General Assembly declared 21 March as World Down Syndrome Day. The General Assembly decided to “designate 21 March as World Down Syndrome Day, to be observed every year beginning in 2012” and “invites all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to observe World Down Syndrome Day in an appropriate manner, in order to raise public

awareness of Down syndrome”.

#MyVoiceMyCommunity – Enabling people with Down syndrome to speak up, be heard and influence government policy and action, to be fully included in the community

In 2017, we will focus on enabling people with Down syndrome (and those who advocate for them) to speak up, be heard and influence government policy and action, to ensure that they can be included, on a full and equal basis with others, in all aspects of society. See more at: <https://worlddownsyndromeday.org/>

Mike Munchak Scholarship

The United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne counties has established the Mike Munchak Community Service Scholarship program to assist high school students from Lackawanna and Wayne counties, who plan to pursue a post-secondary education.

To be eligible, candidates must be actively involved in community service activities in programs funded by this United Way, be full-time resident and/or students of school districts within Lackawanna or Wayne Counties and accepted by an accredited university, college or trade school, in a two or four year degree program track, for the 2017/2018 school year.

Following are program eligibility criteria and highlights:

- The scholarship amount for 2017 is \$6,300.00

- The scholarship will be awarded for a one-year period only
- Only open to graduating seniors within our school districts
- Demonstrate commitment through community service activities
- Demonstrate academic achievement
- Applicants must be graduating seniors from a public, private, parochial or charter school within either of the two counties

Scholarship packets including applications will be mailed to each school district in the Lackawanna and Wayne County areas.

Applications must be received or postmarked by March 31, 2017.

Life Sharing Opportunity!!

Family Living/Life Sharing offers an opportunity for an individual with an Intellectual and Developmental Disability and a family or individual to share their lives. This program is based on the importance of enduring and permanent relationships as the foundation for learning life skills, developing self-esteem and learning to exist in interdependence with others. Interested in a Life Sharing through Family Living opportunity with a pleasant 25-year-old male?

If you would like additional information, please contact Pat Quinn for more details - 570-346-4010

Around The Arc

The Arc-NEPA News

* Employees who are celebrating years of service will be treated to lunch at Coopers on April 18th at noon. Members of the Boards will be joining us in congratulating the staff for their dedication and excellence in care.

* We have met with representatives from WBRE/WYOU to begin working with the station on a year-long public relations campaign that will accomplish several purposes: highlight fund raising events, deliver public service announcements, air employment opportunities, feature our programs and services with special attention on the abilities of the folks we serve.

* Sara Wolff's bowling event – Rockin and Rollin Bowlin will be held on June 1st at Idle Hour Lanes. More information will follow as we approach the date.

Auxiliary Information

* The membership campaign is underway. Many members participate in events and help with volunteer and fund raising needs.

* We have received \$2,300 from the Lackawanna County Department of Arts and Culture for Theater Arts for adults with a disability. Geri Featherby will be directing the program, "The Polar Express". We will be inviting The Arc Stars to come back for more theatre and dancing excitement. It is our goal to continue the educational and fun learning experience that the Arc Stars

enjoyed last year. If you have not seen the documentary and would like to, please let me know and I will be happy to send you the link to YouTube.

* The Education Committee will present the documentary from 2016 to the three Scranton middle schools in the Spring. We were very welcomed at North Pocono (about 1,500 children) showing the film with a Q & A after the video, for the Stars, their Buddies and the students.

* Girls Night Out will be hosting their BIG event on May 2nd which will benefit the Ladies Auxiliary. Many more details to follow but I can guarantee that you will not want to miss the fun. They are hosting a chili cookoff on March 12 at the Y-Knot. I know our very own, Paul Sawka, will be one of the contestants who will be serving his "secret" recipe...

Foundation Overview

* The End of the Year Foundation donations were earmarked to assist with the "Bridge the Gap" appeal and were very successful with donations totaling nearly \$10,000.

* Plans for the Golf Tournament for 2017 are underway. The committee will be meeting to firm up the details but it seems that the overall thought is maybe a Nine and Dine in the Fall. A keep the date postcard will be sent out ASAP when plans are formalized.

* Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs has been contacted to secure a date for Arc-Knight at

the Races. Live racing starts in March so we want to plan a good date for everyone to join in the racing and casino thrill.

The Arc Responds and the Employee Driven Group

* The Arc Responds "Giving Tuesday" and the "Snowflake Tree" Holiday Project 2016 were great successes. Even when times are so tough, people come up to the plate and made it happen for folks who needed our help. With you, every gift was purchased and we managed to make this holiday brighter for over 20 members of the Arc Family! The employees are very proud of this accomplishment and ask for your continued support at their events.

* The basketball game against the Scranton police will be on March 22nd at Scranton High. The flyer is in this edition. Please join us for a fun evening out.

* Guess who has been chosen as one of the Scranton Area Foundation's Match Day recipients...? Yes...US! We will be working with SAF and 25 local organizations to raise money for each of our causes. Please look for updates on FACEBOOK and share with friends and family.

* The Committee is considering a PURSE BINGO in 2017 but no definite plans have been made. A contact has been made with Eagle McClure Banquet facility in Old Forge.

ALL ABOARD!



Catch the fun and excitement of Railrider's Baseball!

We will be the "Community Organization of the Night"

One of our participants will be throwing the FIRST PITCH!

Our logo will be getting some time to shine on the video board!

Listen for The Arc's Group on the Railrider's Network Broadcast.

We will also have a table set up inside the gates!

A VISIT FROM THEIR MASCOTS ARE A MUST!

When: Wednesday, June 14, 2017
Time: Game start at 6:35pm
Who: Railriders vs. Pawtucket (Red Sox)
Where: PNC Field - First Baseline Bleacher Seats
Donation: \$10.00 per person which must be paid prior to game.
(You will receive your tickets upon payment)

For questions or for more info, call Mari @ The Arc 570-207-0825



Chili Cook-Off

March 12 - 2 PM

\$10 Adults - \$5 Kids
Prizes to Top 3 Winners
Raffle For a Beer Pallet!



Join us for a "Fool's Eve Fundraiser"!

Enjoy a casual Family/Friendly Social Night Out
on the Eve of April Fools' Day!

Feel free to play a couple of practical jokes
on your friends!



Where: Radisson Hotel - Trax

When: Thursday ~ March 31, 2017

Time: 5:00pm to 8:00pm

Cost: \$10.00 per Person (Cash Bar)

Price includes Hors d'oeuvres and
Entertainment by DJ Jack Martin

Music, food, fun with friends and family!

Any questions please call:
Mari or Holly at 570/207-0825
Proceeds benefit: The Arc-NEPA



Bring your family and friends
all are welcome!

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.



Don't Forget about AmazonSmile

Welcome to
amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Please do not forget about using Amazon Smile; when you shop - Amazon gives! AmazonSmile

is a program where Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization selected by each customer. It is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charity every time you shop, at no cost to you. Soooo, when you shop on Amazon, please think of The Arc and Happy Shopping.

MLK Day of Service 2017

An Amazing Day of Giving Back! Thank you to the Corporation for National and Community Service and The Arc of the United States for giving us this opportunity to be a part of a greater whole. Our folks worked alongside Jenny Sladen and Ilyse Kramer from The Arc-US and the young adults in the United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania Leaders in Training Program to stock the shelves at UNC-NEPA Angel's Attic Food Bank. The supplies will feed between 500-600 families until the end of February/beginning of March. We learned a lot from this experience such as: this was just one day of help, our help is needed everyday...people are very

giving, kind and generous, just ask; our folks are hard workers and love what they do; Angel's Attic is an awesome and welcoming space where people are given what they need; Jenny and Ilyse were two of the kindest people to meet and we were grateful for their help and their visit was wonderful. So, I propose to keep the momentum going, let's fill the food bank all winter and ensure folks have what they need to keep their bellies full. We are an exceptional community where no one should ever go to sleep hungry. Thank you Gene Calibani for inspiring us to help others and educating us on what great neighbors we have. You are always remembered. #TheArcMLK17



JUNK THAT JUNKER AND SUPPORT The Arc-NEPA!

DONATE YOUR USED CAR, VAN, TRUCK, BOAT WITH A TRAILER, OR RECREATIONAL VEHICLE TO The Arc-NEPA SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, 24 HOURS A DAY. The proceeds from the sale of your donated vehicle will help to improve the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. We accept any vehicles regardless of age and condition!

Don't want the hassle of arranging the car drop off? Don't worry! We offer free towing from anywhere in the US! In addition to free towing service, you also qualify for an IRS tax deduction.

You can donate online at www.thearcnepa.org, or call 1-877-ARC-CARO (1-877-272-2270)



Donate your vehicle today!
tax deduction and free towing
(877) ARC-CARO
(877) 272-2270

PAABLE

Expected by End of March

During a state budget hearing, Pennsylvania State Treasurer Torsella said that PA ABLER should be open for enrollment in about 45 days. If you haven't already, make sure you sign up on the PA ABLER website to be notified when the program is available.

If you want to know more about ABLER accounts and how they might work for you or your family member, visit The Arc of Pennsylvania's ABLER Resource page at www.thearcpa.org.

Upcoming Events

Please mark your calendars!

March

Arc Membership Drive

The "Rat Pack" Dinner/Show-March 4th

Basketball Game –

Nor'Easters vs. Scranton Police
March 22nd

Spring Break for Autism
to benefit The Arc-NEPA and
The Carbondale YMCA - March 25th

Happy Hour at the Radisson –
Fool's Eve - March 31st

April

Kiwanis/Aktion Club Luncheon - April 5th

Easter Egg Hunt - April 8th

Easter/Spring Flowers - week of April 10th

Board Lunch w/ Emp. Anniv. - April 18th

Illusionist at SCC - April 22nd

Bring Your Child to Work Day - April 27th

May

Girls Night Out - May 2nd

SAF NEPA Match Day - May 5th

Knights of Columbus Measure-Up Campaign

Bowling Banquet - May 30th

June

Sara's Bowlathon - June 1st

Aktion Club Flea Market - June 9th

RailRiders Game - June 14th

Foundation Annual Meeting

Annual Board/General Membership/
Recognition Luncheon

July

Camp in Lackawanna & Carbon counties

September

United Way Day of Caring

Fall Festival at Waldorf Park - Sept 17th

October

Buddy Walks

Board Retreat

November

Knights of Columbus Appreciation Party

Night at the Races – November 3rd

December

Poinsettia Sale

Cookie Walk

Holiday Party - Dec. 8th

Celebrating Abilities

During the month of March, The Arc celebrates Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Awareness Month. We are commemorating the progress toward improving the lives of people with I/DD and also highlighting the challenges that remain in achieving full inclusion for people with I/DD. Nearly a quarter of a century ago, The Arc's advocacy effort led to President Ronald Reagan officially proclaiming March to be Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This national declaration generated renewed respect and increased awareness for people with I/DD and their families.

Year round, The Arc works to promote and protect the rights of people with I/DD to live, learn, work and play as valued and contributing members of their communities. We fight for legislation to remove barriers to full participation and inclusion and have been successful on many fronts. But sometimes the barrier has nothing to do with the width of a doorway or an employer's hiring practices. Sometimes the barrier is as subtle as a nervous glance from an uninformed person in line with you at the market.

The Diocese of Scranton celebrated Developmental & Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Sunday with a Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton on Sunday, February 19th with Bishop Joseph C. Bambera as the principal celebrant and homilist. This liturgy prayerfully celebrates the many gifts people with developmental and intellectual disabilities bring to the Church and the community. Catholic Television broadcasted the Mass.

Introducing GNO 2.0

2017 has marked a lot of new beginnings nationwide. Our local nonprofit has modified our look a bit as well, marking a new beginning in our Girl's Night Out- Scranton brand.

Our 2017 GNO Main Event will be held on Tuesday, May 2nd from 5-8 PM at the Hilton Scranton & Conference Center on 100 Adams Ave, Scranton, PA 18503.

Our chosen 2017 beneficiary is The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania.



March is
**Developmental
Disabilities**
Awareness Month



Bring Your Child to Work Day
Thursday, April 27, 2017

Children (ages 8-18) will have fun while doing contract work, activities and crafts, listening to speakers and having breakfast and lunch. Each child will also get a certificate for participating in this fun-filled day!!



**Aktion Club
 Flea Market**

It's that time of year again!
 Aktion Club will be having its Annual Flea Market on Friday, June 9th at Robinson Park under the Pavilion!

Start your Spring cleaning and sort out all of those timeless treasures!

Please drop them off at Meadow Avenue (Pre-Voc) or Robinson Park.

**The Arc's
 Got Talent
 Part 2**

Calling All Stars!!

Geri Featherby will once again be producing and directing an awesome theatrical experience with acting, dancing and singing.

Our special thanks goes to the Lackawanna County Arts and Culture, Geri Featherby, North Pocono School District and the many volunteers who will be a part of this awesome collaborative project!

We will be looking for interested folks who would like to be a part of this wonderful opportunity which will showcase your talents. The process will begin in May and everyone will meet once a month until October when we will meet twice and the show will be in November. If you are interested in being a part of this extraordinary performance, please call The Arc at 570-346-4010. We will notify you when the first meeting will be. Thank you so much.



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.

Measure-Up Campaign 2017

Dear District Deputy, Grand Knight, Faithful Navigator and Knight of Columbus members;

Hope this letter finds everyone well. The Measure-Up campaign will be in full swing for most of you and we are hoping you are having a very exciting year for this fund raiser. You raised \$116,000 last year and you have set a goal for \$130,000 this year!!! That is amazing! You have shown your extraordinary support toward us and for that we are grateful.

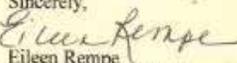
As you may know, your involvement in the Measure-Up Campaign and the money it raises goes directly to the children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. This year your continued efforts will continue to support the many programs offered at The Arc-NEPA. *Our folks require all different levels of assistance and we provide individualized attention to each person in our programs.*

Please join us and together, we will continue to offer excellence in service that is filled with quality, value, understanding, friendship and respect which enriches the lives of the people we serve. Thank you for being a friend to The Arc. As you may know The Arc provides year-round, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week service to hundreds of individuals through a variety of programs.

As in the past Measure-Up monies have benefitted hundreds of Pennsylvanians with IDD and their families. Over the 38 year relationship with The Arc, local Knight's councils have raised over \$5.9 million dollars for chapters of The Arc!

****** Your participation in Measure-Up is critical.
 We count on you and the children and adults we serve, count on us! ******

Thank you for your continued support and generosity. Your State Arc Chairman is Ralph Trofino and you are free to contact him by phone or email. Please let us know if you have any questions, concerns or if you need anything - supplies, store contacts, etc. - 570-346-4010.

Sincerely,

 Eileen Rempe
 Director, Public Relations and Development

We are so proud to have you as part of The Arc Family!

Making It Happen!!

Patrick T. Quinn

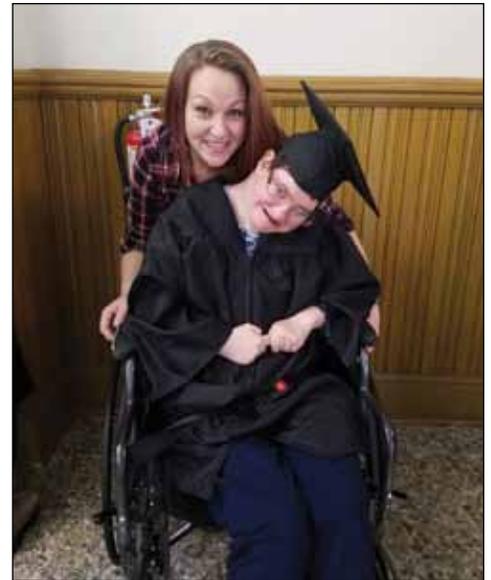
In the last edition of The Articulate, Maryclaire Kretsch wrote about the changing times in our line of work. Change takes time. Change can be hard to adjust to. What holds us back from making the changes that the CMS Final Rule dictates that we make? Fear of the unknown? I've been reminding people lately that we are The Arc- we are the organization that was founded by families at grass roots levels who fought for change in the first place. They fought for the right to education, in our chapter's case, and formed this organization in the process, joining The Arc chapters from all over the country to continue promoting change, in areas including but not limited to, rights, employment, leaving institutions, and acceptance in the community. I submit that the change our fore -bearers fought for decades ago was more daunting than the changes we hope to put into motion now. So, The Arc, by our very nature, history and value system, has been leading change all along.

In January, I attended the National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities at the University of Delaware. This was a powerful, eye opening experience. I was reminded throughout my stay at their Leadership Institute that promoting real change in the ways in which we support people should not simply happen to come into compliance with the CMS Final Rule. Rather, it's simply the right thing to do! The folks we support have always had their own civil rights struggles, as other groups have. We have to be their champions. It's essentially a social justice issue. Our folks deserve every real life opportunity we can present to them. Nancy Weiss, Co-Director of The National Leadership Consortium at Delaware wrote the following:

"...All I can think is that to make a major shift in the way we support people forces us to come to grips with the fact that, with the best intentions, with every desire to do right by the people we support, we've been underestimating them, isolating them, and holding them back. That's

an uncomfortable thought, but surely not so uncomfortable that it justifies our allowing the lives of the people we support to be stranded permanently in a time gone by..."

We have some good momentum going here at The Arc. We're seeing more and more real community involvement for the folks we support. These efforts require participatory leadership- everyone getting involved. We have collaborations with local food banks, Lackawanna College, The YMCA, and The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, to name a few. In addition, staff are finding new and creative ways to introduce those we support to new experiences. A steering committee dedicated to making recommendations for embracing the community has formed. Anyone is welcome to join, and everyone has an equal voice. The only requirement is that members should have a passion for escaping mediocrity and embracing a future that is alive with all sorts of possibilities for those we support. Because, you can't find inclusion on a GPS, but you can sure find segregation with one. "Community" is not a destination; it's a sense of belonging. We need to create a culture where we truly are person-centered, not one where we only talk about it. I look forward to working with all of you and learning from your gifts, talents, and insights.



**One day.
One donation.
One big difference.**

On May 5, 2017, for every dollar you give to one of these 25 nonprofits, *the Scranton Area Community Foundation* will match your gift. Dollar for dollar. Up to \$1,000 each.

\$5.00 becomes \$10.00
\$100.00 becomes \$200.00

Together, in one day, we can provide over \$50,000.00 worth of funding to the nonprofits of Lackawanna County.

Our partnering nonprofit agencies educate our children and give them hope, rescue animals, rebuild and revitalize our neighborhoods, empower the disadvantaged, and promote culture.

Take the challenge on the first Friday in May and help these 25 nonprofits raise \$1,000 each. The Scranton Area Community Foundation will double that amount. At the end of the day, we can raise over \$50,000 to strengthen the invaluable work and services these organizations provide to the citizens of Northeastern PA.

During the past two years, your generosity provided over \$173,000 of support to our most essential programs. Join NEPA Match Day this year and, together, we will do more.



For one day ONLY, the Scranton Area Community Foundation will match every dollar you give to one of these groups, dollar for dollar, up to \$1,000...each!

1. Abington Community Library
2. AFA Gallery
3. Alzheimer's Association
4. Boys & Girls Clubs of NEPA
5. Children's Advocacy Center of NEPA
6. Dress for Success Lackawanna
7. Greater Carbondale YMCA
8. Greater Scranton YMCA
9. Indraloka Animal Sanctuary
10. Jewish Family Service of NEPA
11. Lacawac Sanctuary Field Station and Environmental Education Center
12. Lackawanna Historical Society
13. Make-a-Wish Greater PA & WV
14. Madley's Mission
15. Maternal & Family Health Services
16. Meals on Wheels of NEPA
17. Northeast Regional Cancer Institute
18. Scranton Cultural Center
19. Scranton Fringe Festival
20. The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania
21. The Greenhouse Project
22. United Neighborhood Centers
23. Valley Community Library
24. West Scranton Hyde Park Neighborhood Watch
25. Women's Resource Center

Yes! I want to build stronger nonprofits for a stronger community. Please count my donation of \$_____ toward the NEPA Match Day goal for the following organization:

(please write organization name here)

What you give makes a difference!



**24 Hours
25 Nonprofits
\$50,000**

www.safdn.org

— Arc Recreation Schedule - March 2017 to August 2017 —

Easter Egg Hunt The Arc of NEPA, 115 Meadow Ave., Scranton. **Saturday, April 8, 2017.** REGISTRATION: 10:00am to 10:30am. Coloring Contest. HUNT TIMES: Egg Hunting will begin at 10:30am starting with youngest age group. Groups will be by age as follows: Ages 1 to 4, Ages 5 to 8, Ages 9 to 12, Ages 13 to 16, Ages 17 to 21. SPECIALS: Special "Surprise Egg" in each age group – Win a Prize! Pictures with the Bunny! Basket Raffles and Much More! COST: \$5.00. Reservation are required by Friday, March 24, 2017

"A High-Tech Magic Extravaganza" -The New York Times. Direct from Broadway, is the world's best selling magic show! This mind blowing spectacular showcases the jaw dropping talents of some of the most incredible Illusionists on earth. **THE ILLUSIONISTS** has shattered box office records across the globe and dazzles audiences of all ages with a powerful mix of the most outrageous and astonishing acts ever to be seen on stage. This non-stop show is packed with thrilling

and sophisticated magic of unprecedented proportions. Truly Amazing-A Solid Ten. **Saturday April 22, 2017.** Scranton Cultural Center. 5:30pm. \$55.00. RSVP: By Friday, March 31, 2017. Reservations will not be accepted after March 31, 2017. Make your reservations today! The Arc Recreation has reserved lower level seats. We only have 40 tickets reserved, first call, first served basis. You will be responsible for your own transportation and supervision.

Fun and Friendship Bowling Banquet 2017! When: **Tuesday, May 30, 2017.** Fiorelli Banquet Facility, 1501 Main St., Peckville, PA. 6:00p.m. – 10:00p.m. Cash Bar. Menu Includes: Cheese and Crackers with Fresh Vegetables and Dip, Fresh Garden Greens/w Vinaigrette Dressing, Penne Rigate Pasta a'la Vodka Sauce, Chicken Tenderloins Scampi Sautee, Hand-Carved Certified Angus Sirloin of Beef, Baked Fish, Oven Roasted Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetable de Casa, Rolls w/ Butter, Dolce de Casa (Sweet of the House), Coffee, Tea, Decaf, Soda. 7:15p.m. - 8:00p.m. Awards Presentation.

8:00p.m. – 10:00p.m. Music provided by E.J. The DJ. Registered Bowlers are free & the cost for per guest is \$28.00. Reservations are needed for both bowlers and guests. Reservations and Payments are due by Monday, May 1, 2017. Your check should be made payable to: The Arc Recreation, 115 Meadow Ave, Scranton, PA 18505 (Do Not Send Cash in the Mail) ** Dinner must be paid for in advance, absolutely no exceptions. ** Please be advised that if you have 7 or more in your group we will be glad to reserve you a table.

ATTENTION Parents/Guardians of School Age Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Are you looking for a fun-filled, enjoyable and meaningful Summer Day Camp experience for your special needs child? The Arc of NEPA offers a terrific summer program from **July 5, 2017 thru August 8, 2017.** Monday thru Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm If you are interested in attending or would like more information please contact Mari or Holly at 570/207-0825.

For Reservations call Mari or Holly at 570-207-0825

Robinson Park Happenings

Submitted by Barb Day and the ladies of Robinson Park

Welcome Aboard. Make your Life Anew! Robinson Park is on the move. The Travel Club Members here at the Park packed their bags and were on the road. First Stop, Italy where took a ride in the gondola, and sampled some Italian cuisine. Then we were off to the Nation's capitol, Washington, D.C. Of course we had to vote and tour The White House, which by the way is pretty nice. Then we took a trip to Disney World, in order to help Mickey Mouse Celebrate his Birthday on Nov. 18th. We even have our own homemade passports which get stamped everywhere we go.

Of course we can't forget the tremendous talent that exists throughout the Arc Family as we diligently began work on our 17th. Annual Christmas Show, presented by The Arc Angels. This year the theme was Toyland. We will never look at the song "O Come All Ye Faithful" the same way again. Our Angels performed it with an island twist, where even Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus along with the Wise Men were dancing to the beat with the audience. Then much to our surprise, right before our very eyes, the show finished out with all of the toys coming to life.

At the Park we celebrate birthdays. We interact with outside visitors, as you can see in the photos. Some are human and others are of the animal family. A little music and dancing goes on every day. We celebrate life in general.

In our spare time we help our folks learn a little about today's modern technology. We do this with, smart phones, Kindles, iPads, and FACETIME.

Crafts are at the top of our agenda, also. We have staff teaching and helping folks to learn various crafting skills. Sewing, needle point, cutting and pasting so the end product not only becomes a proud accomplishment but a treasured gift.

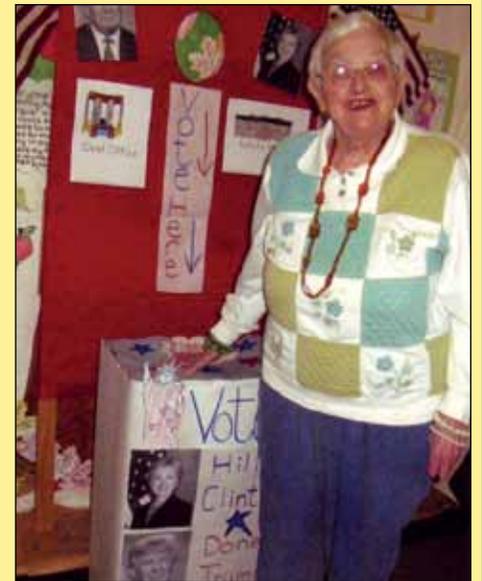
Oh and by the way we like helping others. We brought in the Lil Tykes kiddos and had a little Thanksgiving Party with them. Our folks engaged with them by making a craft together, reading a story to them, and then enjoying a snack together.

We participated in Operation Christmas Child. The Aktion Club Members were able to fill 15 boxes for children overseas with Christmas goodies. This was our 2nd year for this project. We also helped with the Martin Luther King Jr. Food Drive, and the Snowflake Tree for Christmas. Our folks like nothing better than to help others in need. Then we catch 40 winks!

This year all the folks here at the Park have decided unanimously to skip the winter season of 2017. We did this by decorating our environment around us with all the fixings of a Tropical Island. Palm trees, the ocean, sand and of course sunglasses. On our Annual Inspection Day off we went

to the Isles of Hawaii, hula skirts and all. We learned all about the Island via video on our iPads. Tropical drinks were in order along with a little sprinkle of coconut on some homemade cupcakes. Next music was provided by our own fabulous in house entertainer, Janice Gambo. Boy those hula skirts were just a swinging in the breeze, along with our hips. Everyone had a blast including the Inspector herself, Judith Orr. Then we need to refuel and catch another 40 winks... after all we are the Senior's Program! LOL

If ever in our neck of the "Woods," please stop in and share some of the Love!



Come and join us for a Basketball Game

The Arc Nor'easters

vs

The Scranton Police Department

Wednesday, March 22nd

Doors open at 6:00p.m.

Game begins at 6:30p.m.

(Foul Shooting Contest at Half-time: 3 shots for \$1.00)

Scranton High School

63 Munchak Way, Scranton, PA 18508

Admission: Adults \$5.00 Students \$3.00 Children under 5 - FREE

For more information, please call The Arc @ 570-346-4010

There will be food, baked goods and raffles.

Attention all Arc-NEPA Employees: NEW EMPLOYEE REFERRAL BONUS PROGRAM

The Arc of Northeastern PA regularly seeks potential candidates for employment who can assist us in providing quality programs and services. Arc-NEPA employees are encouraged to help us in this endeavor by referring interested individuals who meet the qualifications for available positions.

In return, The Arc-NEPA shall provide the following referral awards:

A \$150 bonus will be awarded to an

employee whose referral is offered employment and works a minimum of 30 days beyond date of hire.

An additional \$250 bonus will be awarded to the same employee after successful completion of the referral's 90-day probationary period.

Please refer to Human Resources for program rules. Thank you for all you do to make The Arc-NEPA a great place to work!

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.



FREE TAX SERVICE!

VITA Program Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

- Free tax preparation if 2016 household income was less than \$54,000
- Don't pay for filing, taxes, or refund
- VITA is filing is FREE and FAST!
- May be eligible for up to \$4,209 in Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

**The most need for VITA services is for people to participate*

Appointments will be taken after January 2, 2017

To make your appointment
(for mobile locations ONLY), visit:

www.uwlc.net

If you are not able to make your appointment online,
You may call United Way at 570-504-0614.

Walk-in service available at:

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR SCHEDULE

Locations throughout Lackawanna
and Wayne Counties will be
Open from
February 2-April 7, 2016

Make sure you bring these documents with you to have your taxes prepared:

- Valid picture ID
- ALL W-2's + 1099's, Unemployment
- Real estate tax receipts for rent/tax rebate
- Form 8332 required for non-custodial parents
- Social Security Numbers or ITIN for yourself and all dependents (e.g. spouse, children- please bring your children's social security cards with you)
- Completed W-7's as appropriate. (Application Tax Identification Number for individuals who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents)
- Last year's return (optional, but very helpful)
- Any records relating to income & expenses (e.g. business, rental income, dividends, sale of stock- you must bring information on the original cost of the stock)
- Personal bank account check (if you would like direct deposit into your bank account)
- Any documentation relating to year health insurance for the year! This could be Forms 1095-A, 1095-B, 1095-C, or a list of who on your tax return had health insurance coverage in 2016 and for which months they were covered. Any paperwork from the Health Care Marketplace must be brought as well!

VITA Program Partners:



Free Tax

Please note: Dates crossed off are filled. No more appointments are available on those dates.

UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON
FIRST FLOOR, BRENNAN HALL
100 BLOCK OF MADISON AVE., SCRANTON, PA
THIS SECTION LISTS THE DATES OF OPERATING FOR WALK-INS, NO APPOINTMENTS: THE UNIVERSITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CAP THE # OF WALK-INS FOR THE DAY!

**** Appointment Only Dates:**

Super-Sunday	Feb. 5	9:00am-4:00pm
Saper-Sunday	April 2	9:00am-1:00pm
Monday	Feb. 6	9:00am-3:00pm
Tuesday	Feb. 7	9:00am-3:00pm
Wednesday	Feb. 8	9:00am-3:00pm
Friday	Feb. 10	9:00am-1:00pm
Monday	Feb. 13	9:00am-3:00pm
Tuesday	Feb. 14	9:00am-3:00pm
Wednesday	Feb. 15	9:00am-3:00pm
Friday	Feb. 17	9:00am-1:00pm
Monday	Feb. 20	9:00am-3:00pm
Tuesday	Feb. 21	9:00am-3:00pm
Wednesday	Feb. 22	9:00am-3:00pm
Friday	Feb. 24	9:00am-1:00pm
Monday	Feb. 27	9:00am-3:00pm
Tuesday	Feb. 28	9:00am-3:00pm
Wednesday	March 1	9:00am-3:00pm
Friday	March 3	9:00am-1:00pm
Monday	March 6	9:00am-3:00pm
Tuesday	March 7	9:00am-3:00pm
Wednesday	March 8	9:00am-3:00pm
Monday	March 20	9:00am-3:00pm
Tuesday	March 21	9:00am-3:00pm
Wednesday	March 22	9:00am-3:00pm
Friday	March 24	9:00am-1:00pm
Monday	March 27	9:00am-3:00pm
Tuesday	March 28	9:00am-3:00pm
Wednesday	March 29	9:00am-3:00pm
Friday	March 31	9:00am-1:00pm

NOTE: Tax sessions will be cancelled if there is inclement weather. We will call all individuals with an appointment either the night before or the morning of the appointment to notify you if there is a cancellation.

This program is for low and moderate income households and senior citizens from Lackawanna and Wayne Counties and surrounding areas. Wage earners and non-wage earners are eligible for this service. Appointments can be made after January 2, 2017.

**** Designated Dates that are available for appointments only - Absolutely NO WALK-INS! ****
Please review the listing of documents that you MUST bring with you to complete your return.

UNITED WAY OF LACKAWANNA & WAYNE FIRST FLOOR, CONFERENCE ROOM 615 JEFFERSON AVE., SCRANTON, PA FREE PARKING LOT! APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE TO CLIENTS SERVED BY UNITED WAY IN 2016 ONLY! PHONE APPOINTMENTS ONLY: 570-504-0614		
Thursday	Feb. 2	3:00pm-7:00pm
Friday	Feb. 3	8:00pm-6:00pm
Thursday	Feb. 9	2:00pm-6:00pm
Friday	Feb. 10	3:00pm-7:00pm
Tuesday	Feb. 14	2:00pm-6:00pm
Thursday	Feb. 16	3:00pm-7:00pm
Friday	Feb. 17	1:00pm-5:00pm
Tuesday	Feb. 21	2:00pm-6:00pm
Thursday	Feb. 23	3:00pm-7:00pm
Friday	Feb. 24	1:00pm-5:00pm
Tuesday	Feb. 28	2:00pm-6:00pm
Tuesday	April 4	2:00pm-6:00pm
Thursday	April 6	3:00pm-7:00pm
Friday	April 7	1:00pm-5:00pm

APPOINTMENTS IN THE RIGHT COLUMN CAN BE MADE AT WWW.UWLC.NET OR BY PHONE 570-504-0614

VISIT WWW.UWLC.NET TO DO YOUR OWN TAXES & E-FILE YOUR FEDERAL AND STATE TAX RETURNS FOR FREE!!

** ARINGTONS AREA: Arlington Senior Center 1151 Winola Road, Clarks Summit, PA		
Monday	March 6	2:00pm-6:00pm
Tuesday	March 21	2:00pm-6:00pm
** NORTH POCONO AREA: North Pocono Library 1315 Church Street, Moscow, PA		
Thursday	March 2	2:00pm-6:00pm
** WAYNE/PIKE COUNTIES AREA: Woodloch Pines (TR-4) 731 Welcome Lake Road, Hawley, PA		
Saturday	Feb. 11	10:00am-2:00pm
** LOWER VALLEY AREA: Taylor Community Library 710 South Main Street, Taylor, PA		
Saturday	March 4	10:00am-2:00pm
Friday	March 10	10:00am-4:00pm
Wednesday	March 20	2:00pm-6:00pm
** UPPER VALLEY AREA: Carbondale Senior Community C 66 North Church Street, Carbondale, PA		
Thursday	March 9	2:00pm-6:00pm
Saturday	March 18	10:00am-2:00pm
Friday	March 24	2:00pm-6:00pm
** MID-VALLEY AREA: Valley Community Library 739 River Street, Peckville, PA		
Friday	March 10	10:00am-1:00pm
Thursday	March 16	10:00am-2:00pm
Thursday	March 23	12:00pm-1:00pm



Spring Flower Sale

The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary

Orders must be received by Friday, March 31, 2017. Pick-ups on April 11, 12, 13 -12:00 noon - 4:30p.m.

Please pick up your order by Thursday, April 13th. We cannot guarantee freshness after this date.

\$10.00 Each - Lilies (4+ blooms/buds)

Tulips (6 1/2" pots-all colors) Hyacinthis (6" pots-assorted colors) Mini Daffodils (6" pots)

Foil wrapped containers. Delivered fresh from a local greenhouse!. All plants may be transferred to your yard.

Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State & Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Please reserve the following plants for me:

#Lilies _____ #Hyacinthis _____ #Tulips _____ #Daffodils _____

Please return this order form and checks made payable to:

The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary

115 Meadow Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18505 (570-346-4010)

Membership Campaign 2017

Dear Friend of The Arc,

The Arc of the United States has a network of more than 140,000 members and close to 700 affiliated chapters nationwide. By becoming a member, you can be a part of the largest grassroots movement to protect the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). As part of this network, you'll be connected to others with and without disabilities who share your beliefs and your challenges. Self-advocates (an individual with I/DD), their family members, experts and professionals in the field and advocates and activists work together through The Arc to ensure that people with I/DD have the resources to meet their needs and live self-determined lives.

We are asking if you would join our worthwhile cause. As a member, you are uniting with an organization who has dedicated its time and energy to children and adults with I/DD and their families. People who deserve to have the support and services they need, want, and enjoy.

Benefits of Membership

Your membership means building better lives and also entitles you to many benefits:

- Newsletters from The Arc-US, The Arc-PA and The Arc -NEPA - with up-to-date information on The Arc and developmental disability information.
- Access to a portfolio of services and programs developed with you in mind.
- Representation in local, state and national policy forums.
- The opportunity to participate in The Arc affairs and to attend conferences, seminars and conventions at a reduced cost.
- Discount prices on publications, insurance services, credit card programs and a free one year subscription to ABILITY and Apostrophe digital magazines.

We need you in order to continue our services and advocacy, and also to provide a strong voice in Harrisburg and Washington on behalf of the individuals we serve. The more people who join as members equals more voting privileges on legislative issues affecting people with I/DD. Our members mean the world to us and we are so very thankful for your support.

Please fill out the form on the back of this newsletter and send it back to The Arc, along with your support. If you would include your email address that would be great! Information will be forwarded to you as soon as it becomes available. Thank you for your continued commitment and generosity. We are here because children and adults with I/DD need us to be and rely on us. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Eileen Rempe
Director, Public Relations and Development



The Arc of Pennsylvania Commends Governor Wolf's Budget Initiatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 7, 2017

CONTACT: Maureen Cronin, Executive Director
717-234-2621 mcronin@thearcpa.org

Harrisburg, PA: The Arc of Pennsylvania is elated with Governor Wolf's proposed improvements to intellectual and developmental disability services in the 2017-2018 state budget. Governor Wolf's proposed budget includes initiatives that will increase the opportunities for Pennsylvanians with disabilities to thrive in their communities. The proposed \$26.2 million in waiting list funding will ensure 820 high school graduates receive supports so they can transition to community living and employment instead of "graduating to the couch". Additionally, it will provide funds to serve 1,000 people currently waiting for emergency services through a new Community Living waiver option.

Executive Director Maureen Cronin states that "The Arc of Pennsylvania enthusiastically supports the disability funding increases in the Governor's proposed budget, particularly the commitment to young adults graduating from high school. This is the type of investment Pennsylvania needs to ensure our disability service system supports individuals and families while using taxpayer dollars efficiently. Investing in services for young adults after they graduate means they will have a better chance at securing employment, creating a community network, and building skills - instead of needing higher-cost services later. The proposed waiting list initiative is a huge relief to families who have children graduating soon as well as adults currently waiting for services. This is the most forward-thinking budget for people with disabilities in at least a decade, and it is clear the Governor heard the concerns of people with disabilities, families, and advocates."

President of the Board, Ken Oakes, particularly notes the proposed budget's approach to improving cost-efficiency of disability services. "The Governor's budget proposal promotes community inclusion, which is not only what individuals actually want but is also between three to five times less expensive than living in institutional settings. The proposed budget makes a clear effort to ameliorate underfunding and cuts to intellectual and developmental disability funding that have weakened the community service system over the past few decades." The Arc of Pennsylvania has also supported the Department of Human Services' recent plans to close Hamburg State Center and combine state departments, administration initiatives that promote fiscal responsibility.

The Arc of Pennsylvania appreciates how leadership in the General Assembly has shown strong commitment to Pennsylvanians with disabilities and their intent to ensure individuals have the support they need to seek employment, build community connections, and keep families strong. The Arc of Pennsylvania looks forward to working with the General Assembly to ensure the final enacted budget is one that empowers the most vulnerable in our communities.

For 68 years, The Arc of Pennsylvania has worked to ensure that children and adults with autism and intellectual/ developmental disabilities receive the supports and services they need, are included in their community, and have control over their own lives. The non-profit organization is part of The Arc US and is affiliated with 33 local chapters. The Arc of Pennsylvania advocates for quality services and to protect the rights of our constituency, provides information and resources to families, and increases public awareness of disability rights issues.

###

Editor's Note: The Arc is not an acronym; always refer to us as The Arc, not The ARC and never ARC. The Arc should be considered as a title or a phrase.

The Arc of Pennsylvania
www.thearcpa.org



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.
- Insurances 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