

SPRING 2026

The Arctiulate



Overwhelming Support and Sunny Skies!



What a day! On May 18th, the community came together for The Arc-NEPA's 26th Annual Golf Tournament, and we are absolutely thrilled to report that it was a spectacular success. From the first tee-off by Michael Christ (Celebrity Chair) to the delicious dining experience in the clubhouse, the day was filled with high energy and an incredible spirit of generosity.

We were deeply honored to have Michael Christ serve as our Celebrity Chairperson this year. Joining him in leading the festivities were our phenomenal Honorary Chairs, Jerry and Michele Musheno. Working alongside Jerry and Michele were

Carol Chisdak, Jim and Susan Brady, and Mike Christ, who were absolute joys, and their passion, dedication, and leadership played a massive role in making this year's tournament a monumental accomplishment. We are so grateful to have had them on the committee!

We want to extend a massive thank you to everyone who contributed to making the day run so smoothly and successfully:

Our Generous Sponsors - For their fantastic support of the tournament.

The Players - We are thrilled to see every one of you join us for an amazing day of golf.

Our Volunteers and Staff - Thank you to the incredible crew who worked behind the scenes, managing registration, coordinating the day of golfing splendor, and

(Continued on page 4)


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



Dear Friends, Members, and Families, Spring is a season of renewal and growth, and that spirit is truly alive at The Arc-NEPA. Looking back at the incredible momentum we have built over the past few months, I am filled with deep gratitude for our dedicated staff, our wonderful program participants, and the unwavering support of our community.

We recently kicked off our spring festivities with our Annual Bowling Banquet at Fiorelli's, where nearly 300 guests gathered for an unforgettable evening of celebration, camaraderie, and well-earned trophies. Just a week later, our Annual Golf Tournament brought in a tremendous wave of community support. We were absolutely thrilled to partner with our Celebrity Chairperson, Michael Christ, and our Honorary Chairs, Jerry and Michele Musheno, whose dedication made the day an outstanding success.

Behind the scenes, we are working harder than ever to secure the future of our programming and facilities. We're pleased to share that we have recently received several crucial grants, which will help us continue our advocacy, infrastructure, and educational activities.

Looking ahead, our summer calendar is packed with exciting happenings. Our multi-talented Arc Stars are busy rehearsing for their upcoming theatrical production, "Not Just Your Average Mermaid Tale," debuting on June 11th at the Lackawanna College Theater. We are also looking forward to our annual luncheon with the Aktion Club and Kiwanis Club on June 17th, which comes right on the heels of our Auxiliary Board's Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers on June 16th at Coopers.

Finally, I hope you will all join us for our Annual General Membership Meeting and Awards Recognition Luncheon on Tuesday, June 30th at Fiorelli's. This special gathering allows us to honor the incredible advocates, community partners, and individuals who make our mission possible, and will feature the presentation of the Joseph "Joey" Banik Memorial Fund awards.

Everything we achieve is a direct result of your commitment to The Arc-NEPA. Whether through membership renewals, our vehicle donation program, or legacy giving, your generosity keeps our advocacy strong. Thank you for walking alongside us as we champion inclusion and community.

Sincerely Yours,
Ken Doolittle
Board President

Exec's Corner



As the flowers finally begin to bloom across Northeastern Pennsylvania, I am reminded of the incredible growth and resilience that defines our community. Spring is always a season of renewal, and this year feels especially bright as we witness a historic shift in how our Commonwealth supports and represents the individuals and families we are so privileged to support.

At The Arc of NEPA, our mission has always been to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are included, heard, and protected. It is deeply encouraging to see those same values reflected at the state level. On April 15, Governor Josh Shapiro signed three landmark executive orders that truly put our community's needs at the forefront of Pennsylvania policy.

The first of these orders is a win for the dignity of the individuals we support; it reaffirms their rights and establishes strict new privacy safeguards to protect their personal data in health care and research. Beyond these protections, the Governor also created a permanent Advisory Commission on People with Disabilities. This commission will include 30 volunteers including

individuals with disabilities and their family members giving our families a direct seat at the table to guide the policies that affect their daily lives. Finally, the state has modernized the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Council. By strengthening this council, the Commonwealth is reaffirming its commitment to advocacy that promotes independence and true community inclusion goals that sit at the very heart of everything we do here at The Arc.

These changes are so much more than just policy; they are a validation of the work we do together every single day and give me great hope for a future where every individual is treated with the respect they deserve. We will closely monitor these developments to ensure they lead to real, tangible improvements for those we support because just as the season brings new life to our landscape, these milestones bring a renewed sense of possibility to our mission. Thank you for being such a wonderful part of our Arc community. It is a privilege to be with you in this work as we move forward together, full of hope for the many great things still to come.

Warm regards,
Marsha Pigga
Executive Director

Advocacy - WVIA

Roseann Polishan - Lead Advocate participated in the WVIA Keystone Edition TV segment for the month of April on the topic of Autism Awareness and Acceptance. She was joined by Lydia McFarlane, WVIA Healthcare reporter, Frank Bartoli, CEO of PA Inclusive, and Keystone Edition host Julie Sidoni. The full hour-long roundtable discussion also included community impact segments on Blue Envelope with Dallas Township Police and Misericordia University and Scranton School District's new center-based autism program. Roseann shared her expertise as both an advocate for autism and her parent perspective. You can find the full episode on the WVIA website. Here are some of the highlights:

What is the importance of your role as an advocate for NEPA's autism community?

The importance of my role as an advocate for the autism community in NEPA is to support and educate the individuals and families I serve so they understand their rights and can develop action plans for successful life transitions. I work with individuals, families and those that support them from early diagnosis through adulthood. As an advocate I can offer guidance, skill building, expertise in special education and future planning and community connections and resources. I can assist with rectifying a dispute, bringing the team to a consensus and sharing insights, where the rights and needs of the individual with autism are respected and honored, assisting with the support and services they require for inclusion and a meaningful everyday life.

What message do you hope to get across to the larger community during Autism Acceptance and Awareness Month?

The message of inclusion and



opportunity for those with autism. That with the right supports and accommodations, those with autism can flourish. I have seen this with my own son, who is 22 with autism. With understanding and willing community partnerships, individuals can access their community, have their needs met, and contribute. Individuals with autism can be impacted in different ways and to different degrees. There needs to be a continuum of services, individualized support, and increased funding. I would like to continue to highlight programs, businesses, organizations, self-advocates and champions of disability success.

Do you have any concerns or

hopes for the future of research on autism and opportunities for the community?

I would love to see an increase in supports and services for those with autism. Too many students are still falling off a cliff and graduating to the couch once school is over. Many are falling through the cracks as not qualifying for traditional services or lack of provider availability because of their high needs and the shortage of trained and caring staff. We need robust programs that offer choices. Funding cannot be cut, it must be prioritized and expanded for both research and for services to care for the population of those with autism and other developmental disabilities.

Overwhelming Support and Sunny Skies!

(Continued from page 1)

keeping everything on track.

The funds raised from this tournament are vital and meaningful. They directly fuel our mission at The Arc-NEPA to benefit children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and Autism (IDD/A), alongside their families. This support helps provide critical services and programming 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Beyond our around-the-clock care, these proceeds help us advocate for our community, expand our programming, and fund essential facility renovations, including building infrastructure.

Thank you again to our chairs, sponsors, players, and supporters. Because of you, our mission continues to swing forward into a bright and beautiful future!



Years of Service

We would like to congratulate the following staff on their years of service at The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania! We thank you for your dedication and commitment to our Mission and look forward to many more years to come!

15 Years of Service:



Kyle Juice:

I started my journey with The Arc in February 2011 as a part time employee. Although I never worked in the field before it didn't take long for me

to realize that this is what I wanted to do in life. The amazing individuals we support and my fellow coworkers truly have me feeling blessed to be able to be a part of The Arc of NEPA.

Holly Lewis: Reflecting on the past 15 years at The Arc of NEPA, I feel incredibly lucky to have grown alongside such a dedicated community. Starting my journey as a Coordinator and advancing to Assistant Manager of the Recreation Department has been a very rewarding experience that allowed me to see firsthand the power of inclusion and friendship. Every bowling league, community outing and every evening recreation has reinforced my passion for our mission. It has been a true privilege to help shape a department that brings so much joy and independence to the individuals we serve.

10 Years of Service:

Samantha Donahue: 10 years has really flown by! I started at The Arc as a Direct Support Professional and have since grown into my

current role as a Residential Program Specialist. On my very first day, I remember calling my supervisor, Noniey, and telling her I didn't think I was the right person for the job. She simply told me, "Give it a week." Now, 522 weeks later, I still proudly call The Arc home and hold our mission and the individuals we support close to my heart.

I can truly say that The Arc of NEPA has shaped me into the person and advocate I am today, continually showing me that strong advocacy helps turn barriers into opportunities. I am incredibly thankful for the opportunities I've had along the way, for the dedicated staff who show up every day to support our folks, for the individuals who never fail to remind me why I come to work each day, and for everyone who has shown

(Continued on page 6)

Advocacy - Day On The Hill

May 5th was an exciting day for advocacy as The Arc of PA descended on the hill in Harrisburg for their annual Advocacy Day!

Roseann Polishan- Lead Advocate, attended again this year to spend a day meeting with our legislators and their staff to discuss important issues and budget priorities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the families and professionals that support them.

The Arc of PA was thrilled to have First Lady Lori Shapiro give remarks at the press conference in support of policies and initiatives that Governor Shapiro had released recently and to meet with self advocates at the base steps of the rotunda.

This day is always exhilarating and provides momentum to the priorities we all advocate for locally on a daily basis!



Photo was requested to be taken to put in our newsletter and all agreed. Roseann Polishan- Arc of NEPA; Arc of PA staff: Sarah Taglang, James Sawor, Alexa Brill; Arc of PA board member: Josh Stranix- co-president; Advocate: Hana Feiner.

Years of Service

(Continued from page 5)

me what it truly means to be part of The Arc family.

Bridget Duggan: I can't believe it's been 10 years! In the past 10 years, I have been fortunate to say I still love working with the individuals who have become family to me! The best part of my day is the welcome that I get when the guys come home from program and start telling me about their day. It never gets old to me!



Amanda Mendez: I have proudly served The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania for 10 years, beginning my journey as a Direct Support

Professional in the Adult Day Program. Now, as a Fiscal Assistant, I am able to apply my frontline experience to the administrative side of our mission. What I find most rewarding is ensuring the resources are in place to enhance the quality of life and independence of the individuals we serve. Outside of work, I am a proud mother of two who keep me on my toes. I have a lifelong love for all things spooky and —true to my style— my favorite color is always black.



Renee Gallagher: My name is Renee and I have been with The Arc for 10 years. I started off in the Residential department as a DSP and CLA Supervisor for

almost 5 of those years. For the last few years, I have been in the Adult Day Program. I like the excitement and motivation we bring to our guys and gals and enjoy seeing

them smile. My hobbies outside of work are spending time with family, camping, flea markets and I enjoy musical shows.



Cara Phillips: Hi my name is Cara. I started part time in the residential department as a DSP, then became a CLA Supervisor. For the last six years I've been working in the

ADP department. I enjoy taking our guys out in the community to have fun activities. I also enjoy welcoming our folks into program to see their excitement! I am a NeNe to two great boys! I enjoy spending time with my family. We have a good time camping, and going to beach trips and sporting events.

Angel Puckett: I have worked as a DSP Float and a Supported Living Coach. I am now back in Residential as a full time DSP. The things I love most about my job is watching the clients achieve their goals and gaining their independence. My hobbies are spending time with my children and reading a good book.

5 Years of Service:



Sandra Dailey: I have been with The Arc closer to 10 years as I started with working summer camp and then adult recreation. Then I left for a little bit due

to health issues and raising my kids. Now I have been back with adult recreation again. I love all our consumers and their families. They are like an extension of my family. It is the most rewarding job!! When not working I enjoy reading, spending time with my family and country music. I hope to get to

Japan in the near future to visit my youngest son who is currently serving in the Air Force.

Also celebrating 5 years of service:

Candice Balmer, Sarah Hartman and Louis Holbeck.

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.

You are cordially invited to attend the
**70th General Membership/
Annual Meeting Luncheon**

for:
The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania

on:
Tuesday, June 30, 2026

at:
Fiorelli Family Catering
1501 Main Street, Peckville, PA 18452

Cost: \$30.00

*Lunch Buffet at Noon followed by
The Annual Meeting*



It takes a special heart to be a nurse, but it takes an extraordinary one to be a nurse at The Arc-NEPA. Thank you for your patience, your kindness, and for always putting the needs of our individuals first. You make our community a safer, brighter place just by being in it.

Advocacy Programs and Grants

The Advocacy department is excited to share some of their innovative programs and the support of the local community partners to bring these programs to the community.

We have recently received a grant from Autism Awareness NEPA to bring Wings for All - the Arc US airport rehearsal program back for another successful run at the Wilkes Barre -Scranton International Airport. This program was very successful in 2019 and we received amazing feedback on the success of individuals being able to fly after utilizing this event to practice.

In addition, we received a grant from the Luzerne Foundation to expand our SibShops programming. This innovative program offers support for the siblings of individuals with intellectual and developmental disability who often will have the longest lasting relationship with their sibling which will evolve over time. This program offers a fun and interactive space for siblings to feel supported and connect with other siblings.



The Arc of NEPA Supports Local Task Force

The Arc of PA played an instrumental part in ensuring the right to education for students in PA with disabilities with the groundbreaking lawsuit, PARC vs Commonwealth of PA, which resulted in the PARC decree being established in 1972. The PARC Decree requires each IU to have a Local Task Force who reports to the State Task Force. Every LTF is also required to have a member of their local Arc chapter as a member.

The Arc of NEPA Advocate, Mandy Colville, has served as the chairperson for LTF 20 for the past 4 years carrying

on the important work providing training, resources and offering a space for families, schools and providers to collaborate on how to best serve the needs of students.

This past year, the Bureau of Special Education and The Arc of PA partnered in an effort to revitalize the LTF throughout the commonwealth. Through various efforts, LTF 20 did see an increase in participation from both families and school representatives. LTF 20 hosted a culminating event on April 24th entitled "Growing Stronger

Together: Strengthening Systems Through Partnership" with keynote speaker Dr Jenna Mancini Rufo to help more families become engaged in their LTF and encourage home/school relationships to form.

Mandy hosted her final LTF 20 meeting as chairperson on May 4th and will continue to be involved as a consumer representative and as an Arc Advocate. The Arc of NEPA Advocates also participate in LTF 18, LTF 19, and LTF 21, ensuring that our duty to honor the spirit of the PARC Decree remains.



Resource Fair

On April 15th, The Arc of NEPA's advocacy department hosted a resource fair held at Delaware Valley High School, in conjunction with The Special Olympics Track and Field invitational. Schools and families from Pike and Wayne Counties participated in the event with over 500 people in attendance. There were 30 agencies on hand to showcase the services they provide and how they can help support individuals with disabilities. Representatives from The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, CMP-MHDS, PA Treasury, and The Center for independent Living were among some of the providers on-hand to network with families with others whose services ranged from supportive employment, recreational and therapeutic opportunities, early intervention, support coordination, behavioral services, transition to adulthood, parent support, and advocacy.

The Arc of NEPA's advocacy department knows the importance of outreach and connecting families with valuable resources in order to ensure individuals with disabilities are maximizing their potential. If you are in need of resources, please reach to the advocacy department for assistance.



WE ARE HIRING!

Looking for
talented
individuals to join
our team.

APPLY NOW

570-346-4010

<https://thearcnepa.applicantpro.com/jobs/>



The 2026-2027 Fun & Friendship Bowling League



Season bowling will commence on

Tuesday, September 8th at Idle Hour Lanes North

(Route 6, Dickson City)

and **Friday, September 11th at Idle Hour Lanes South**

(125 Beech St, South Scranton).



Both Tuesday and Friday bowling practice begins at 4:35pm. **League bowling begins promptly at 4:45pm.** You must be on time!!! The season consists of approximately 30 weeks and will conclude at the end of April. **Bowling will cost \$12.00 per bowler per week, if unable to bowl there is an absent fee of**

\$5.00 per week. Bowling fees must be paid on a weekly basis to The Arc recreation staff before you begin bowling. Should we need to cancel bowling because of inclement weather, you will receive a voice message through our calling system (dial my calls).

Holidays observed by The Arc include November 27, 2026, December 25, 2026,

December 29, 2026 and January 1, 2027.

The Arc's staff is not responsible for the supervision of league members. Parents/staff must stay with the bowler.

In order to register for the 2026-2027 bowling season you should contact Mari Pizur at 570-207-0825.

NADSP Credentialing Program

The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania takes great pride in its ongoing collaboration with the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) to implement a credentialing program designed for Direct Support Professionals and Front Line Supervisors. This initiative aims to honor the essential contributions of Direct Support staff, enhance our dedication to maintaining high-quality standards, and bolster our efforts in recruiting and retaining talented employees. Through the NADSP E-Badge Academy, Direct Support staff at The Arc of NEPA can achieve national certification, starting with the DSP-I level, by earning stackable electronic badges. These badges are awarded after completing a minimum of 50 hours of training, practical experiences, and compiling a portfolio, showcasing the knowledge, skills, and values that DSPs apply in their daily roles. This program not only

highlights the professional growth of our staff but also ensures that their hard work and dedication are recognized. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the employees who have successfully met all the requirements and earned their national certification; your accomplishments make us proud!

Applications are still being accepted. For more information, please contact Human Resources.

Employee	Credential Earned
Selena Casino	DSP-I
Renee Gallagher	DSP-I
Angel Puckett	DSP-I
Candice Balmer	DSP-I
Nichole Blair	DSP-I
Cassandra Clark	DSP-I
Jasmine Cloud	DSP-I
KyleeRae Davies	DSP-I
Bridget Duggan	DSP-I
Janice Frahn	DSP-I
Erica Francis	DSP-I

Melinda Gunton	DSP-I / FLS
Tracy Henriksen	DSP-I
Louis Holbeck	DSP-I
Kyle Juice	DSP-I
Amy Kearney	DSP-I
Lindsey Kotarski	DSP-I
Doreen Mahan	DSP-I
Jeanie Repecki	DSP-I
Rebecca Mordente	DSP-III
Linda Tobin	DSP-III
Lydia Westlake	DSP-III
Angela Anthony	FLS
Noreen Cosmark	FLS
Amy Craig	FLS
Samantha Donahue	FLS
Melinda Gunton	FLS
Iasia Hill-Oates	FLS
Dorothy Nelson	FLS
Victoria Nixon	FLS
Elizabeth Parker	FLS
Susan Pywar	FLS
Ann Slack-Mills	FLS
Barbara Slocum	FLS

The 2026-2027 Fun & Friendship Bowling League Luzerne County



Season bowling will commence on
**Tuesday, September 8th and end on
April 20th at Chacko's Family Bowling Center**



(195 N. Wilkes Barre Blvd, Wilkes Barre)

Bowling **practice begins at 4:20pm** and **league bowling begins promptly at 4:45pm. You must be on time!!!**

Bowling will cost \$12.00 per bowler per week which includes 2 games, ball and shoes. If unable to bowl there is an absent fee of \$5.00 per

week. Bowling fees must be paid on a weekly basis to The Arc recreation staff before you begin bowling. Should we need to cancel bowling because of inclement weather, you will receive a voice message through our calling system (dial my calls).

Holidays observed by The Arc include November 24,

2026 and December 29, 2026.

The Arc's staff is not responsible for the supervision of league members. Parents/staff must stay with the bowler.

In order to register for the 2026-2027 bowling season you should contact Mari Pizur at 570-207-0825.

THE ARC OF NEPA
RESIDENTIAL DEPARTMENT

MONTH LONG Basket Raffle

COMING AUGUST 2026

\$25 FOR 1 TICKET

\$45 FOR 2 TICKETS

\$60 FOR 3 TICKETS

IDD Transition Fair



Roseann Polishan, Lead Advocate and Andrew Hoppes, Director of Program Operations at The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania helped organize and attended the Lackawanna Susquehanna County Community of Practice

IDD Transition Fair at the Viewmont Mall.

It was a very successful event with many area students, families and professionals in attendance to share and support each other.

Basketball Game



The energy was electric at our recent basketball game, and what a spectacular evening it turned out to be! Players, families, and fans gathered for a night filled with incredible teamwork, friendly competition, and plenty of slam-dunk moments.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who made this game possible. We are incredibly grateful to our dedicated coaches,

players, staff and volunteers who helped organize the event, the scorekeepers and referees, Scranton High, the cheerleaders, and, of course, the families and fans who brought the noise and enthusiasm to the stands!

Congratulations to all of our athletes on a phenomenal game—we already can't wait to see you back on the court for the next one!

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.



\$5,000 Grant From the Lackawanna County Arts and Culture Department



We are thrilled to share that The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Lackawanna County Arts and Culture Department.

Funding from the 2026 Community Programs grant will directly benefit our incredible Arc Angels on Stage theater project, helping our talented performers shine under the spotlight.

Donate Your Vehicle

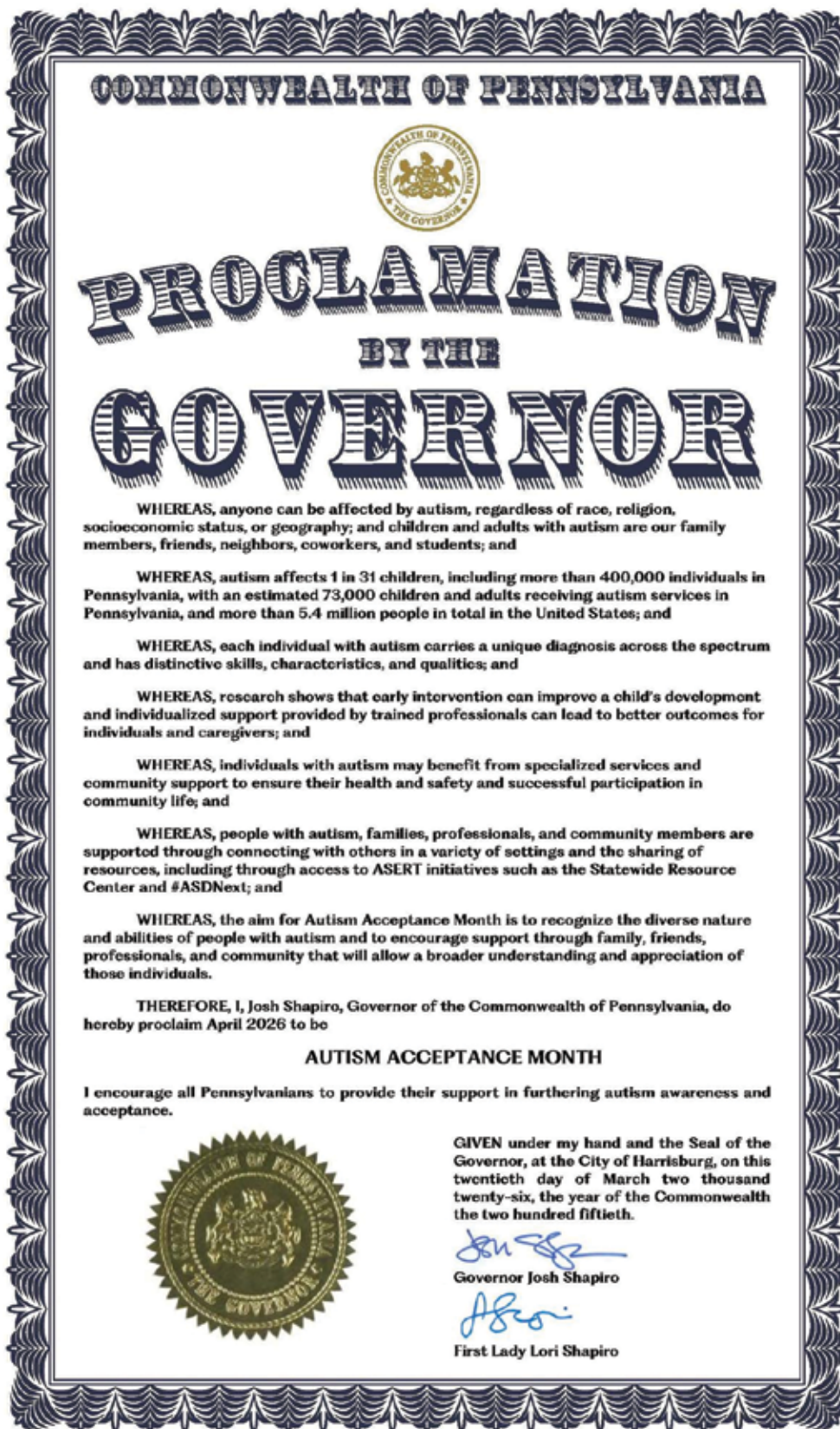
An Easy Way to Turn Cars into Cash for Charity



The Arc Vehicle Donation Program

accepts all cars, trucks, motorcycles, RVs, regardless of the condition of the vehicles. Towing is free to the donor. If you want to donate your vehicle, please click on the link on The Arc's website www.thearcnepa.org or call 1-877-272-2270. All you will need to do is provide the year, make and model of a vehicle, the general condition, the vehicle identification number and the title of the vehicle of the must be available for information purposes when calling. All vehicles that are donated to our program must have a clean title. Please indicate The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania as the chapter to receive the proceeds of the sale of the vehicle.

Donating is easy!
It may be tax-deductible.



Melody May

2026 Pennsylvania DSP of the Year - ANCOR

Congratulations Melody!!!! We are so proud and grateful for your kindness, compassion and dedication!

*The Arc Northeastern Pennsylvania
Clifford Township, PA*



When a resident arrived at a home following a traumatic experience, they kept their distance -- avoiding eye contact, declining activities, and staying withdrawn. Melody May knew that she needed to rebuild trust, but that would take patience and small gestures. Sometimes that meant just sitting nearby during meals, offering quiet reassurances without asking for anything in return.

Over time, those small moments made a difference. The resident gradually began to open up, join group outings, and even decorate their living space -- all signs that Melody's efforts had worked and they felt part of the community.

Melody brings that same thoughtful approach to everyone she supports. She adapts activities to match individual interests, introduces creative tools like visual schedules or art-based engagement, and encourages people to make choices about their daily lives. Colleagues and families often note the warmth and patience she brings to every interaction. For Melody, person-centered care means recognizing the whole person and helping them rediscover their place in the community.

Twenty First Annual

Family Fun Fall Festival Waldorf Park

(All proceeds benefit The Arc of NEPA)

Kellogg's Classic Country Band and The Wanabees

When: Sunday, September 13, 2026

Time: 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Tickets at the door: Adults \$40.00

Children 4 to 12 \$10.00

Children 3 and under are free

Each child will receive 5 free tickets to play games in Kiddie Korner.

Adult Pre-Sale Tickets Available for \$35.00. Pre-Sale Tickets must be purchased by Wednesday, September 9, 2026. Pre-purchased tickets may be picked up at The Arc's front desk or we will hold them at the festival's registration desk upon request and payment.

Ticket includes Buffet served between 3:00pm to 6:00pm and Grilled Sandwiches served 6:00pm to 7:00pm.

Entertainment:

Kellogg's Classic Country Band and The Wanabees

Kiddie Korner – 3pm to 6pm

Gift Basket raffle, 50/50, Bake Sale, Cash Bar and Much, Much More!

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the day of Fun!!!

(You do not need to be a member it is open to the public)

Rain or Shine (areas sheltered)

More Information, call Mari or Holly at 570-207-0825

We are in need of Donations of Theme Baskets and/or Gift Certificates

OCT



SAVE THE DATE

4



BUDDY WALK
2026!

The PAR 2026 Policy Conference & Capitol Advocacy Days

On March 24–25, 2026, self-advocates, families, and support professionals gathered at the Crowne Plaza and the Pennsylvania

State Capitol in Harrisburg for the PAR Policy Conference and Capitol Advocacy Days. This multi-day event provided a powerful

platform for our community to connect directly with Pennsylvania State Representatives and Senators to discuss critical legislative and budget priorities impacting the ID/A system. The focus was on three essential legislative actions aimed at stabilizing and strengthening the ID/A community: Competitive Wages; Long-Term Sustainability; House Bill 700.



SCRANTON
PENNSYLVANIA

Office of the Mayor

Proclamation honoring

World Down Syndrome Day

March 21, 2026

Whereas, adequate access to health care, early intervention programs, appropriate research, and inclusive education are vital to the growth and development of the individual; and

Whereas, World Down Syndrome Day is a global public awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012; and

Whereas, the date being the 21st day of the 3rd month was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication of the 21st chromosome present in people born with Down syndrome; and

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Down syndrome remains the most common chromosomal condition diagnosed in the United States, with Down syndrome occurring in approximately 1 in every 700 babies born in the U.S.; and

Whereas, for World Down Syndrome Day 2026, the theme centers on ending stereotypes of those with Down syndrome, which are often based on limited information and cause underestimation and exclusion; and

Whereas, for people with Down syndrome and intellectual disabilities, stereotypes are especially harmful, and it is essential to recognize how each person has their own individual identity, interests, gifts, and talents; and

Whereas, The Arc NEPA, formed in our community in 1955, is Scranton's chapter of the largest organization dedicated to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, and they provide vocational, supported employment, recreational, advocacy, and community services to meet the needs of its clients; and

Whereas, on March 25, 2026, The Arc NEPA will face the Fraternal Order of Police in a charity basketball game at Scranton High School in honor of World Down Syndrome Day.

Therefore, I, Mayor Paige Cognetti, declare March 21, 2026, to be World Down Syndrome Day in the City of Scranton and encourage all citizens to work together to end harmful stereotypes and celebrate the uniqueness of those with Down syndrome.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paige G. Cognetti".
Mayor Paige G. Cognetti



Welcome to The Arc Family!

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

Aneliese Ewerth
Jenna Raymer
Makayla Walker
Karaline Howey
Lindsey Miller
lasia Hill-Oates
Alan Gordon
Courtney Neal
Kurt Fisher
Gendy Felix

CHOP Out Hunger

We spend time each week volunteering with CHOP Out Hunger, a local non-profit dedicated to ensuring no child in our community grows up knowing hunger. Their reach is incredible, supporting 20,000 students across 16 counties. They are also a driving force behind In-School Pantries, which provide a discreet and dignified way for students to access food. We enjoy working with the extraordinary folks at CHOP, sorting donations, packaging bags, and filling food containers for local schools.



County Commissioners


 Lackawanna County
 Pennsylvania

Proclamation

Whereas, *adequate access to health care, early intervention programs, appropriate research, and inclusive education are vital to the growth and development of the individual, World Down Syndrome Day is a global public awareness day, officially observed by the United Nations since 2012; and*

Whereas, *the date being the 21st day of the 3rd month was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication of the 21st chromosome present in people born with Down Syndrome. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Down Syndrome remains the most common chromosomal condition diagnosed in the United States, with Down Syndrome occurring in approximately 1 in every 700 babies born in the U.S.; and*

Whereas, *World Down Syndrome Day 2026, the theme centers on focusing on combating isolation by promoting true inclusion and connection for people with Down syndrome in communities, schools, and workplaces, highlighting loneliness as a health and rights issue; and*

Whereas, *the Arc NEPA, formed in Lackawanna County in 1955, is dedicated to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, and they provide vocational, supported employment, recreational, advocacy and community services to meet the needs of clients.*

Now Therefore, *We, Thom Welby, Chris Chermak, and Bill Gaughan, Commissioners of the County of Lackawanna, Pennsylvania, do hereby recognize and proclaim March 21, 2026, as:*

"World Down Syndrome Day"
In Lackawanna County

In witness thereof, we have hereunto set our hand and caused the seal of the Commissioners of Lackawanna County to be affixed this 25th day of March 2026.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS


 Commissioner Thom Welby


 Commissioner Chris Chermak


 Commissioner Bill Gaughan


 Attest



The Arc™

Northeastern Pennsylvania

115 Meadow Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505



Our Vision

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



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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