

# The Arctiulate



## Please Meet Mrs. Claire Maldonato

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on May 13, 1912, Claire Maldonato is the daughter of the late Teresa and Enrico Quattrone. She was educated at Annunciation grade school and graduated from John Hallahan High School and Wharton Business School.

Claire met her loving husband, Dom, when she was sixteen. Dom was attending Dental school at Temple University and, through mutual friends, he ended up boarding at the large Quattrone house. It was here that their lifetime relationship was born. They were a match made in heaven, and after Dom graduated from Dental

school, they were married.

Claire moved to Scranton and became involved in the Dental Auxiliary and became President after a few years. During the third year of their marriage, their first child Leonard was born. He was a truly beautiful baby, blond, blue-eyed and so smart that he learned to walk at nine months of age. Tragically, he came down with celiac disease and died from pneumonia at seventeen months of age.

Claire was devastated by this loss of her beloved son, but she channeled her sorrow into a passion for helping

other. Thinking she might adopt since doctors thought she could have no more children, Claire became interested in St. Joseph's Center. She volunteered at the Center weekly where the sisters prayed with and encouraged Claire to think positively about having another child. Three years later, her daughter Annette was born. When Annette was seven, she was hit by a car and was in a coma for six days. It was touch and go, but through her prayers and faith of family and friends, she recovered and was schooled at home for six months.

The next year, the biggest test of Claire's life came about when their special child Donny was born. He was the test of love for her family and he showed them what was important in life. The love and strength of family and friends cannot be overlooked in raising their special son. From Dr. Stephen Pascucci to their daughter Annette and to St. Anthony's in Dunmore, Donny had become the joy of his family.

Claire and her husband Dr. D. J.

*(Continued on page 3)*

*Seated l-r: Mrs. Claire Maldonato; Claire Karsnak; Terry Rose; Eileen Quattrone; Elissa Garofalo; Beverly Pappa. Standing l-r: Leonard Maldonato; Kevin Karsnak; Teresa Karsnak; Joseph Karsnak; Cassie Profera; Joseph Profera; Annette Profera; Dr. Paul Mackarey; Donald Broderick; Louis Rose; Henry Quattrone; Farrah Pappa; Harold Roberts; James Pappa.*



*Committee Members: Seated (l-r) – Marie Maddi; Jeanne Gardier; Dolly Marie Densvich; Eileen Williams; Maron Bielovitz; Michele McDade; Betty Moreken. Standing (l-r): Carol Burke; Eileen Remp; Betsy Youngblood; Corolla Sawka; Ann Hoffman; Nancy Crafferty; MaryCarol Kanton.*



  
**The Arc™**

Northeastern Pennsylvania

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# President's Message



"Enlightened" ...The past two years, as president of The Arc of NEPA, has been an enlightening experience. Don and his staff, with the guidance of the board of directors, have accomplished many initiatives all to protect and serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

A new community home...new logo...  
new administrative initiatives...consumer achievements  
...inclusion and fairness...all within the challenges of  
dramatic budget cuts.

As I leave the office of president of this dedicated, committed and professional organization, I have great confidence that the staff and its board of directors will

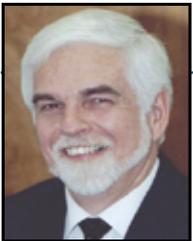
stay focused and steadfast in its mission of protecting, advocating and assuring a good quality of life for the consumers while remaining fiscally responsible.

A sincere thanks to all of you, Don and the staff, for the privilege of working with you and the confidence placed in me in overseeing the governance of The Arc of NEPA.

A very special thank you to the Auxiliary and POD's organizations for your wonderful and tireless work and commitment on behalf of people with I/DD. It is greatly appreciated.

Turning the page to the next chapter, I wish all of you an enjoyable summer.

Respectfully,  
Alexandra "Sandy" Yantorn



## Exec's Corner

Summer is finally here. Just the word makes you feel good. This is also the time of year that we at The Arc hold our annual meetings. Recently, I participated in the annual meeting of The Arc of NEPA Foundation. The Foundation was started back

in 1997, 15 years ago under the guidance of our first President Lynda Lynett who served for eight years, then Steve Seitchik for seven and now on to Alan Hughes newly elected president. The purpose of the Foundation was to generate funds to support and endow The Arc of NEPA. Over the years the Foundation has allowed us to utilize funds for start up costs (like our up front expenses at our Sanders St. group home) and matching funds when we changed all of our lighting fixtures at Meadow Ave. to receive a PPL grant.

At the Foundation meeting, we also had the pleasure to thank representatives from the Briggs Foundation and The Scranton Area Foundation for their support to help with some much needed repairs and renovations to a number of physical plant issues. The Briggs Foundation representative, Bill Calpin, accepted a plaque for their ongoing support of our agency. In the past they have assisted us in the purchase of computers, equipment, and furniture for our resource room at Meadow Ave., assisted us at summer camp when we lost funding for 8 children with autism and most recently to repair and replace major roof problems at Robinson Park and our Newton Township group home.

The Scranton Area Foundation, represented by Jeanne Bovard, who recently retired as Executive Director after 25 years of dedicated service, Maria Pappa and Laura Duceschi, the new Director and CEO, also received a plaque of gratitude for their ongoing support of The Arc. In the past Scranton Area Foundation has assisted in our conversion from steam to gas heat, the purchase of defibulators and most recently to assist in replacing a worn out boiler at Rebecca Ave. and a ramp and patio at our Court Street site

to make that site more handicapped accessible.

Since the state Office of Developmental Programs has made substantial changes in the reimbursement system, it has become increasingly difficult to fund renovation and repairs. We thank all of our benefactors who help us accomplish our mission of supporting consumers and family members through our direct care and advocacy efforts.

On another note, as of this writing the state budget has not yet been passed.

In discussions with the Governor on next year's budget, Senate and House Republican leaders are proposing a budget that does not raise taxes, but does spend the revenues from existing taxes for next year that are projected to be available by the Independent Fiscal Office (\$2.7 billion).

The Governor is arguing that the economy hasn't turned the corner, revenues this year aren't as good as they hoped and any budget must be sustainable beyond the upcoming year.

Any budget that doesn't use at least the level of revenue projected to be available next year by the Independent Fiscal Office will not be big enough to allow for full restoration of the Governor's proposed cuts in human services block grant, or for an ID Waiting List initiative.

Please call the Governor today at 717-787-2500 and ask him to –

- Support a budget that uses all of the monies projected by the Independent Fiscal Office to be available from existing taxes in next year's budget (\$2.7 billion);
- Support full restoration of funding for behavioral health and intellectual disability services and abandon his proposal for a human services block grant; and
- Support funding for an ID Waiting List initiative.

As always, thank you for your help and ongoing support.

Respectfully Yours,  
Don Broderick

# Mrs. Claire Maldonato

(Continued from page 1)

Maldonato were truly the birth parents of The Arc in the region of PA. The Maldonato's and other parents of children with intellectual disabilities fought hard in the early 50s seeking educational and recreational activities for their children. The Arc of the U.S. was found in 1949 to fight for these same services and programs all across the nation. The Scranton School District heard the message loud and clear and developed one of the first educational programs in the nation for children with Intellectual Disabilities. Their son Donny was one of the first students to be enrolled in that class.

Parent meetings were held in the Maldonato's home and the local chapter of The Arc was formed in 1955.

The Arc was an early member of The Lackawanna United Fund receiving \$5,000 to develop appropriate recreation and support services, and Claire and Dr. Maldonato's influence secured Robinson Park as the home base for these services.

Through all her trials and tribulations, Claire has truly been an outstanding example of graciousness, charity and love. Her indomitable spirit has been a source of inspiration for her family. She tirelessly cares for the health and welfare of those she loves. In addition to Claire's

perpetual dedication to her family, she is steadfast in her commitment to serving others, particularly evident through her membership, hard work and loyal support of several local organizations.

Claire is one special lady, who has given her life in the service of others. To

have been so active, so involved, and so committed to so many community organizations for so long, Claire is truly remarkable and indeed well deserving of community recognition of our latest centenarian. The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania celebrated Claire's life and her 100th birthday On Sunday, May 20, 2012 at St. Mary's Center, Scranton.

## The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania Teed Off Twelfth Annual Golf Tournament



Pictured - Carol Chisdak; Eileen Rempe; Elliot Schoenberg; Pat Cole; and Mark Lynn.

On June 25, 2012, The Arc of NEPA sponsored a Golf Tournament at Glen Oak Country Club in Clarks Summit. Pennstar Bank was the Tournament sponsor

for this year's event.

Additional photos, sponsorships and news will be featured in our Fall edition of the Articulate.



Pictured l-r: Jeanne Bovard, Scranton Area Foundation; William Calpin, Margaret Briggs Foundation; Lynda Lynett, Arc Foundation Past President; Steven Seitchik, Arc Foundation Past President; Laura Ducceschi, Scranton Area Foundation; Alan Hughes, Arc Foundation President; Donald Broderick, Arc Executive Director.

The Foundation Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, June 7 at the Radisson, Scranton. The Margaret Briggs Foundation and The Scranton Area Foundation were recognized for their Outstanding Philanthropy. These grants were utilized to assist with repairs at several of our physical sites.

# Why We Do What We Do

I have heard Don Broderick say, "this is why we do what we do", many times. I recently had an moment when I felt the awe of what we do and I'd like to share this heartwarming story with you.

The Arc's Fun and Friendship Bowling League is quite well known in these parts. The league has grown over the years not only in members but in many other ways: friendships between bowlers, networking and support among parents and caregivers. The bowling league is important to many and as many of you know- June is the end of the year Bowling Banquet. Trophies are awarded. Bowlers are celebrated.

Unfortunately, Jimmy, a very enthusiastic bowler, was to receive a trophy. But he was unable to attend. After the lights of the annual banquet were turned off, and the doors were closed, Jimmy's trophy was carted back to the Recreation Office. We hoped that Jimmy could stop by one day soon to receive his award. After a few days went by, I decided to deliver the trophy to Jimmy

personally. I had no idea what was to follow.

I walked up the steps, stood on the front porch and rang the door bell. I told Jimmy's mother the purpose of my visit. She eagerly called Jimmy to the door. When he saw me, he stepped out onto the front porch. His mother retreated to the house, quietly giving Jimmy and I a moment together.

I held the trophy out and said, "You won!"

With the same contagious display of enthusiasm he shared throughout the bowling season, Jimmy sang, "I won. I won!!" So appreciative, his eyes filled with tears. "I have to show my Mom," he said. I was flushed, overcome with the moment. The trophy was no less than a million dollar winning lottery ticket to Jimmy.

Hours of assembling and cleaning trophies each year for Fun and Friendship Bowlers.....priceless, as they say.

When I shared this story with Don



Broderick, he revealed to me that he drove Jimmy in an Arc van to and from The Arc's preschool program back in 1970ish...

Don added that Jimmy was just as enthusiastic about life at 4 years old. Some forty years later, Jimmy continues to show us "why we do what we do."

*Margaret Ann Esgro*



The Arc Nor'easters versus the Scranton Police Department Basketball Game was held on Thursday, March 29th at West Scranton High School. The proceeds from the game benefited Arc Responds. The Arc Responds project is a special discretionary fund that has been created to assist individuals and families affiliated with The Arc. These people may be experiencing difficulty and have no other means available to them. This project was created as another way The Arc can and will be there for those who have nowhere else to turn. This event is one way the Arc employees are fund raising and seeking support to build The Arc Responds. A BIG thanks goes out to the Scranton Police Department, all the volunteers, players and cheerleaders.

# Aktion Club



Aktion Club's sponsorship of Bring Your Child to Work Day was again an extremely special and successful day. Fourteen Arc employee young people attended the event which was designed to provide our next generation with an opportunity to experience first hand the mission of The Arc in action.

The day began with breakfast in the conference room and a presentation by Pat Quinn about a brief history of the organization as well as some sensitivity role playing. The remainder of the day was spent in the Pre-Voc room where the group exercised in the morning and took on a Pre-Voc "buddy" to learn how the contract piece work was done. The remainder of the morning was a presentation by Sara Wolff, who shared with the group

"her story" presenting a challenge to each one about the impact that they can have speaking out against bullying, use of the "r" word, being sensitive to others' needs and feelings and rising above it all to be successful – being the best that you can be no matter what obstacles you may face. Sara was definitely an inspiration to each as they listened attentively to her words of advice and encouragement. The love of pizza always transcends any boundaries so with the pizzeria talents of our own Erica, everyone indulged in the most delicious pizza for lunch.

Promoting the concept that we are all about serving and giving regardless of level of ability, the afternoon program involved a group project decorating small burlap tote bags for nursing home residents and filling them with personal care items. Aktion Club members later delivered them to friends at St Mary's Villa and Riverside Nursing Home.

## Scranton Prep Volunteers



The Arc welcomed twelve young men from Scranton Preparatory School during the week of June 11- June 15, 2012, for their annual service project at various Arc locations. This year, projects included painting and sidewalk sealing, weeding, mulching, planting, and porch, deck and ramp staining at several Arc locations.

Under the guidance of Mr. Aaron Holzman, a physics teacher at the school and former Arc employee, Scranton Prep students volunteer their time and talents year after year to help improve our physical site locations. The Arc values its partnership with Scranton Prep and looks forward to future collaborations to come!

The final event was a fun-filled take on the TV show, "Minute to Win It." The children chose an Aktion Club member as a partner and competed in teams testing their skills in various games similar to the ones on the actual show. You could hear the laughter and cheering upstairs as ping pong balls were tossed, eggs were carried on spoons and pretzels were hung on straws.

The day ended with an ice-cream treat and each one being presented with a certificate in appreciation for their participation and challenge to spread the word as an advocate for The Arc and for the people we serve. Comments received as the children left were especially positive and encouraging; one young man was so inspired that he made arrangements to volunteer with the evening Rec. program. How about that?

# The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania and United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties "Youth Day of Caring"

Robinson Park in Scranton, home of the Arc of NEPA Seniors Program, was the site for the 2012 "Youth Day of Caring" sponsored by the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties. On May 22, 2012, twenty-seven eighth grade students from Our Lady of Peace School came to the park for an orientation to the Arc's mission and services, a tour of the Seniors Program, and an inspirational talk given by Sara Wolff on the "R-word" campaign, respect for all persons with disabilities, and reaching for the stars in personal aspirations.

The students also participated in a cleanup project on park grounds as part of the day. Tasks included raking leaves, cleaning up debris, and weeding and mulching flower beds. The efforts of the participants made for a wonderful spring cleanup appearance on the grounds, and the message of the Arc was well-received by the students, as evidenced by



their eagerness to help and their expressions when meeting program participants and Ms. Wolff.

"Youth Day of Caring" was a huge

success at every level. The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania welcomes all opportunities to work with area youth in making them ambassadors of the Arc and its vision and mission.

## Cards for Charity Card Party/Luncheon

Cards for Charity is sponsoring a card party/luncheon for The Arc-NEPA. You are invited to play cards, a game of your choice or socialize with your friends. The venue will be the Elmhurst Country Club on Tuesday, August 21, 2012 with

registration and a cash bar at 11:00. Lunch will begin at 12:00 noon and the cost of the lunch is \$25.00 per person. Please make reservations for tables of four or more to Rose Baas - 344-7049 or Maureen Pesavento - 346-6437.

Checks are made payable to Cards for Charity and you can mail them to Maureen Pesavento, 1526 Oram Street, Scranton, PA 18504. Reservations are needed by August 16th. All proceeds benefit The Arc-NEPA.



*The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary. First row: Jeanne Gardier; Claire Maldonato; MaryCarol Kanton; Maron Bielovitz; Dolly Densевич; Michele McDade. Second row: Eileen Rempе; Corolla Sawka; Betty Moreken; Betsy Youngblood; Nancy Crafferty; Carol Burke; Eileen Williams; Marie Maddi.*



*Cards for Charity Committee. Claire Maldonato; Maureen Pesavento; Mary Ann Hazzouri; Rose Baas; Joan Kennedy; Rose Martin; Jeanne Polumbo; Mary Lynn Sciacca; Ruth Marmo; Alice Micone; Joan Hrycow; Betty May.*

# 2012 Employee Recognition Dinner Awardees



**40 years of service:** Don Broderick

**25 years of service:** Dottie Nelson

**20 years of service:** Noniey Cosmark,  
Lisa Jezorwski

**10 years of service:** Kathy Ciullo,  
Doreen Mahan, Joyce Miller, Mari Pizur

**5 years of service:** Chelsea Cosmark,  
Deanna Decker, Lindsay Gerber,  
Robert Gigliotti, Sheila Hartranft,  
Angela Hoffa, Jason Koelsch, Matthew  
Molinaro, Desiree Vojta

## United Way Thanks the Arc for Contributions



The Arc of NEPA and the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties have a rich history of working together to serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. One constant has remained and served to foster the goals of both organizations: the yearly commitment by Arc staff to support the annual United Way community fund drive through individual staff donations.

This spring, the Arc and its employees were presented with

the "Bronze Hand Award", in recognition of excellent employee support for the people of our community. On May 10, 2012, Gary Drapek, President of the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, and Nikki Keller, Vice President, Community Impact Marketing, visited with an assembly of Arc staff from several departments to say a few words of thanks to the staff, and to remind them how valuable their ongoing contributions are during these trying economic times.

## 21st Annual Arc Knight



The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania and local Knights of Columbus Councils sponsored the 21st Annual Arc Knight. This event was held at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs on Highway 315 in Pittston on May 25, 2012.

*Standing from left to right: Donald Broderick, Arc Executive Director; Mark McDade, Knights of Columbus Council #12297; Eileen Rempe, Arc Director of Public Relations/Development; Drew Olick, Knights of Columbus #7622; Ron Mroczka, Knights of Columbus Council #7622.*



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 disabilities are entitled to  
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Affiliated with the  , The Arc of PA and The Arc of US.

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*Sign  
 Up!*

## Membership is the key...

You can help. Become a member of The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania today. Benefits include:

- National, state, and local newsletters with current information on intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- The opportunity to participate in The Arc affairs at a local, state, and national level.
- Attend conferences, conventions, and seminars at a reduced cost.
- Discount prices on publications.
- Insurances services, credit card 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:

  
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