

# The Arcticulate



More info on page 8

## Change...



Webster defines change as to make or become different; to alter; to replace with another. We are surrounded by the process of change. The seasons of the year

are always in motion with a few, short months of summer... which leads into an even shorter autumn- sometimes seeing glimpse of colorful landscape that transition overnight into frost laden lawns and windshields. The holidays approach without warning... Change.....

The nearing presidential inauguration will change who warms the desk chair in the oval office. Change is certain. The nature of which- is not.

Change, they say, can be a good thing, seldom easy, but certainly worth the effort with critical examination, determination and a clear direction.

The Center for Medicaid Services, (CMS), has done the critical examination and has determined that children and adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, (IDD), receiving services and supports through Home and Community Based Services, (HCBS), will have full access to benefits of community living and the opportunity to receive services in the most integrated setting. Yes----absolutely----high five! People with IDD are entitled to a life in their community, with family, friends and neighbors.

The Arc of the United States and Chapters across the country, like us, have long fought for the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To "put

your money where your mouth is" is, so to speak, walking the walk. To "actively support full inclusion and participation in community" has long been The Arc's mission.

Pennsylvania is, therefore, transitioning Home and Community Based Service to, "develop services and regulations that will increase access to high quality services and improve outcomes for consumers," (source- PA Department of Human Services HCBS Services Settings CMC Final Rule Statewide Transition Plan).

Over the course of the next few months The Arc of NEPA, will learn the details and requirements of the changing road before the folks we serve, their families, and providers. The Arc of NEPA's primary mission is, and has been, to advocate for children and adults with IDD. Our mission continues with new, and promising opportunities that, if approached with wisdom, and compassion, will open doors so long awaited.

Maryclaire Kretsch

**Upcoming Events**  
*Please mark your calendars!*

**Poinsettia Sale**  
 beginning Dec. 6th-Dec. 8th

**Holiday Party**  
 Lackawanna County – Fiorelli's  
 Dec. 9th

**Holiday Party**  
 Carbon County – Legion  
 Dec. 11th

**Cookie Walk**  
 Dec. 16th

**Holiday Show at Arc**  
 Dec. 16th

**MLK Day of Service**  
 January 2017



**The Arc**<sup>™</sup>

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# President's Message



I am honored to have been asked, well cajoled actually, to serve as Chair of The Arc Board for this coming year. Aside: If Don Broderick starts telling you what a great person you are...run for cover!

In point of fact I am honored and excited about this opportunity. As the father of a special needs child – and even more pointedly, someone who has experienced and benefitted from

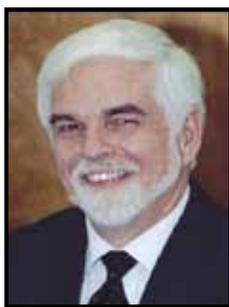
services at The Arc, I pose the question, "What can I/we do as volunteers to advance this cause?" Let's face it, most

aspects of The Arc's services are best left to the expert staff. So where do we fit in?

The old adage is that you help by bringing your time, talents and/or treasure to the effort. So I'd like to challenge my fellow Board members, volunteers, families, community leaders and others who share our concern for consumers of The Arc, to do more. To attend and participate in events; to add a few more hours to our volunteers efforts; and to dig just a little deeper into our wallets – to support an organization that provides critical services and advances the dignity of individuals with special needs throughout our community.

Bob Durkin

## Exec's Corner



All things are ramping up as we move into the holiday season. I discussed a number of items at our last Board meeting that I would like to share with you.

- We are still fighting hard for our DSP's (Direct Service Professionals). There is a crisis in our field regarding the recruitment and retention of DSP's. Simply put, it is directly related to the lack of resources that providers received to be able to pay

a fair living wage. Perhaps, after a long and hard fought battle, hope is on the horizon. I would like to quote for you an e-mail recently received from Maureen Cronin, our state Executive Director of The Arc of PA.

"Today (09-20-2016) I had the privilege to join The Arc Alliance and their families in a meeting with the Governor. I am happy to say the tide is changing. The Governor acknowledged that this year's increase of intellectual disability/autism funding was actually no new funding to address the Waiting List and merely the cost to continue services from the previous year. The Governor committed to proposing, in February, a significant increase in fund for intellectual disability and autism funding. We will now focus our advocacy on the size of that increase and to assure that it is supported by the General Assembly and remains in the enacted budget next July."

Let's hope he keeps his promise.

- Positive changes are happening in our day support services. More trips out of the building, enhanced recreational and volunteer activities, more community inclusion. Our consumers are loving it.
- A sincere and heartfelt "Thank You" from all of us here at The Arc for the fabulous support we received in our recent Capital Campaign Drive....and many, many thanks to the many, many volunteers that helped to make it happen.
- As you know, government support alone does not fulfill our day-to-day needs here at The Arc. Eileen Rempe has done a marvelous job securing several grants and major contributions that will help us "Bridge the Gap". You can help in many ways:
  - Help us with community contacts
  - Give us your ideas on new and innovative fund raising ideas.



*Pictured: (left of table) - Joy Pinkney; Susan Dodd; Jerry Madesky. Right of table - Jill Padfield; Pat Quinn; Holly Scripp; Greg Kenyon; Julie Verrastro; Kyle Juice; Emily Walsh; Don Broderick; Melody McClintock*

- Support our many community events sponsored by The Arc NEPA Foundation, The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary and our Recreation Department.
- Continue to support our annual membership drive
- Leave The Arc of NEPA a legacy by putting us in your will
- Donate stocks, bonds or property

All of these ideas are intended to help generate some thought of how you, personally, can "make a difference".

And finally, let me offer my kindest regards and sincere appreciation to "all" of our fabulous employees for the hard work that they do for this organization in helping improve the lives of our consumers.

And special congratulations go out to the following employees who are celebrating significant anniversaries with The Arc:

- 30 years – Maryclaire Kretsch, Julie Verrastro
- 20 years – Jill Padfield
- 15 years – Lorraine Kavalkovich, Jerry Madesky
- 10 years – Gregory Kenyon
- 5 years – Andrew Adams, Susan Dodd, Kyle Juice, Agnes Keller, Melody McClintock, Meredith Moran (camp), Sandra Moyer (Carbon County), Denise Nieratko, Joy Pinkney, Alan Sheridan, Holly Ann Scripp, Emily Walsh, Cheryl Wolf

That's all for now. See you soon!

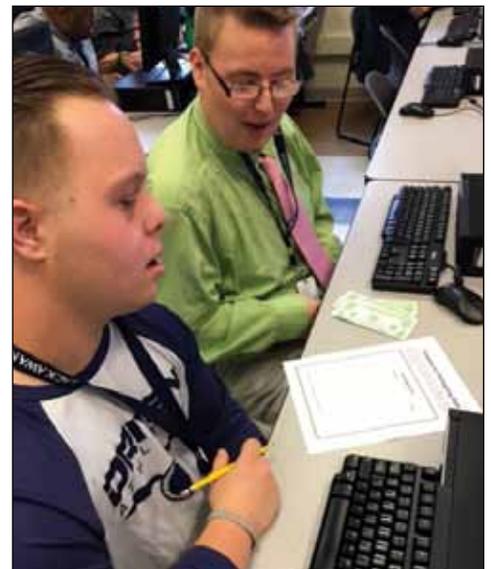
Respectfully Yours,  
Donald W. Broderick  
Executive Director

# “College For a Day”

On Thursday, October 13, 2016, The Arc and Lackawanna College collaborated on providing a college life experience for ten individuals served by The Arc. The inaugural “College for a Day” program began with a Lackawanna College orientation for the participants, during which they were issued official Lackawanna College I.D. badges. Real classroom experiences included instruction in math concepts and budgeting, followed by instruction in personal safety given by one of the College’s Act 120 Police Academy trainers.

Everyone enjoyed lunch in the cafeteria, where the group mingled with members of the football team (which included photo ops!) and other students. Next, our group participated in the College’s Human Services Club meeting. Student body members of the club asked the participants to help them with art projects themed around living cleanly and staying away from drugs. The collages that were made were autographed by our folks and will be on display in the community in the near future. Photos were taken with the club members, and then it was off to the student lounge to mingle with more students and share what was learned during the day. L.C. tee shirts were given to all participants as a gift before leaving for the day.

This was the first of what we hope to be many future collaborative efforts between The Arc and Lackawanna College. Future discussions are in the works to explore new ways to offer those we serve this type of experience. A special thank you goes out to Bridget Duggan (also a part time Arc employee), Katie Lavelle, and Carolyn Quinn from the college’s Continuing Education Department, as well as Kyle Juice and Samantha O’Donnell from The Arc for supporting our group at this wonderful event.



# The Family Fall Festival at Waldorf Park

Submitted by Mari Pizur

On Sunday September 18th we held our 14th Annual Family Fun Festival at Waldorf Park. The weather forecast was gloomy with threats of severe thunderstorms but it did not keep the crowd away. Once again we were blessed with a beautiful day! (The rain held out until after event.)

Our fabulous entertainment was

provided by East Coast Trio and the Wanabees. Once the music played the dancing began! We had sing-a-longs, guitar playing, face painting, bake sale, basket raffles and an amazing Kiddie Korner that was run by the University of Scranton OT students! This was a perfect setting for all to share a meal, dance and socialize together! We had a great time, with old friends and meeting new friends while enjoying



the beautiful outdoors and scenery of Scranton. Smiles were priceless and you could feel the excitement in the air! Good food, good music, good weather and good people is the perfect recipe for a wonderful day!

Thank You, Thank You and Thank You to all the volunteers, bakers, the donors and to everyone who attended. We really appreciate all that you do! You helped make a difference for the people we serve. Special Thanks to our Bands and the Waldorf Staff for all the years of support! Each of you made our day special!

I look forward to the many more Festivals in years to come!



## Celebrity Spotlight



Cheryl loves to dress up, have her hair and nails done. She likes wearing make-up, being a girly girl, loves her jewelry, hats and scarves. She loves her bling! Cheryl has been with us for 12 years and in those years, she has developed into a warm, loving woman. She is always happy and smiling while rocking in her chair.

## Employment Opportunities

Online applications can be filled out at:  
[www.thearcnepa.org](http://www.thearcnepa.org)

### Full Time (Benefit\* Eligible)

Mon-Fri (CLA Supervisor)  
Flexibility required  
8am-4pm 1 position available

Wed-Fri & alt. Sat.  
11pm-9am 3 positions available

Sun-Tues & alt Sat.  
11pm-9am 3 positions available

Mon-Fri (Supported Living Coach)  
11:30am-6:30 pm 1 position available

Mon-Fri (DSP)  
35 hours per week 1 position available

### Part Time-A (Partial-Benefit Eligible)

5 days per week  
4pm-9pm 1 position available

### Part Time-B (Non-Benefit Eligible)

Must be able to work every other Sat & Sun  
9am-3pm 11 positions available  
3pm-11pm 10 positions available

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

### 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.

### All positions require flexibility

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

Released in The Scranton Times - Letters to the Editor - 10-15-16

# Enduring Mission

Editor: October is National Down Syndrome Month. The Parents of Down Syndrome of NEPA recently held the 14th annual Buddy Walk at Nay Aug Park.

Bert Morgan, president of the group; Carmen Morgan, Buddy Walk coordinator; and board members Michele Reese, Joann Calvert and Mike Crist did yeoman's work to coordinate a spirited event enjoyed by families, friends and neighbors. Nay Aug Park came to life as folks danced in the park pavilion, took the Buddy Walk around the park and savored good food and great company.

The Buddy Walk began in 1995 by the National Down Syndrome Society to celebrate Down Syndrome Month and to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with the disability.

The local group started 20 years ago when Phil and Cindi Rossi entertained eight families who had children with Down syndrome. From that gathering, friendships have grown, information and experiences were shared and members realized they were not alone. The group has raised nearly \$150,000 since the first Buddy Walk. Donations are used to provide opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome and networking support for families.

Today, the membership has grown to more than 60 families. Children and adults with Down syndrome enjoy planned events throughout the year thanks to money raised at the Buddy Walk and the dedication of the group's board members. Sara Wolff, public



JASON FARMER / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Hundreds turn out on Oct. 2 for the Parents of Down Syndrome of NEPA Buddy Walk at Nay Aug Park. A writer praises the group, which organizes the annual event.

speaker and advocate, was first to embrace the idea of the local Buddy Walk in 2002 when she made it her senior high school project. It is now an anticipated autumn event in NEPA.

I am honored to be associated with the Parents of Down Syndrome of NEPA, an

affiliate of the Arc of NEPA. Their mission, to pursue the rights and dreams of their children, endures, and rightfully so.

MARYCLAIRE KRETSCH  
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
THE ARC OF NEPA, SCRANTON

## Sara's 2nd Annual Bowlathon

We had a wonderful time and made some money too! It was really great to see everyone and I know you had lots of fun. I've added some pictures from my Bowl-A-Thon Weekend with my family, friends and The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary.

Thank you to ALL you who bowled, donated, participated, sponsored lanes and worked so hard to help me with this event. Can't Wait For Next Year's Bowl-A-Thon!

Love you, Sara



All proceeds will benefit Arc-Responds in memory of Tom Williams (Eileen Williams' husband, Stephanie Williams' dad and a very good friend of The Arc). We miss you Tom!

# Knights of Columbus

The Arc honored the Knights of Columbus on November 18th, for all their hard work and dedication to The Arc. The Appreciation dinner was held at Waldorf Park and everything was wonderful. Between the Measure-Up Campaign and the Arc-Knight Program a total of \$351,156.91 has been raised over 37 years. This friendship with the Knights means the world to us and we are so grateful for their continued support.

*Seated - Ralph Manento, DD #35; Ed Yost, PGK Council #7141; George Vagelakos, DW #35; George Schneider, Sr., Council #6050; James Straub, Jr., Council #12573. Standing - Don Broderick, Arc Executive Director; Richard Kovaleski, GK Council #329; Bill Jones, F.S. Council #4159; Mark McDade, Assembly #938; Tom Carlucci, Assembly #2714; Tom Murphy, Council #7622; George Schneider, Jr., DD #50*



## Arc Knight 2016

Arc Knight was held on August 13th at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs. Everyone knows that this is a great

event and we had a wonderful turnout with every seat filled! The Knights assist in raising over \$11,000 a year.



*Standing from left to right: Charlie Vagnarelli; Al Leone; Mark McDade; Eileen Rempe; Paul Vilgos; Ron Mroccka; John Mohila*

### **Platinum Sponsors:**

CC Young Insurance Agency, Knights of Columbus Council #329, Bob Rosenberg, PNC Bank, Corky's Garden Path, Center for Independent Living, Michael Barbetti CPA

### **Gold Sponsors:**

Knights of Columbus Council #10729 - Home of the State Deputy - Charlie Vagnarelli, Knights of Columbus Council #7622, Knights of Columbus Assembly #938, Knights of Columbus Council #4084, John J. Kelley Jr., Inc., A.J. Guzzi General Contractors

### **Silver Sponsors:**

Knights of Columbus Council #1095, Knights of Columbus Council #7403, Knights of Columbus Assembly #2768, American Legion Post #610, Keystone Chapter UNICO, Knights of Columbus Assembly #2714, Knights of Columbus Council #6611, Scranton Dodge, Mr. and Mrs. Al Leone, Peoples Security Bank, Ann and Bob Hoffman, The Durkin Family, Knights of Columbus Council #6050, Knights of Columbus Council #280, VFW Post #25

### **Contributors:**

A Friend \* Lou & Mary Auriemma \* Bill Burnell & Kate Holod \* Christie and Garth Estadt \* Chris Falzette \* Maureen Gallagher \* Mary Ann Garvey \* Karen Locker \* Tom & Joan Morgan Northeastern Transit \* Steve Orloski \* St. Ann's Monastery - In Honor of Jimmy Holman \* Pauline Shields \* Janet & Vito Verni \* VFW Post #7963

# MLK Day of Service

## We have some excellent news!

The Arc-US along with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the federal agency that leads the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service, has awarded The Arc-NEPA \$10,000 to organize service projects where our guys and girls will volunteer alongside local students to help provide food to people in the community who are in need. We have asked United Neighborhood Centers and the local MLK Commission to work together with us to accomplish the

following goals:

- Community Integration for our folks
- Students Working Side by Side with us
- Gather as many non-perishable items as we can to fill the Progressive Center Food Bank on Olive Street (approximately 100 people visit the Center on a daily basis)

If you could help in any way please do not hesitate to offer assistance...this is a huge undertaking but the need is so great. Thank you for anything you could do.

## Unico National Foundation Donation

UNICO National Foundation donated \$5,000 to The Arc-NEPA to purchase technology for program participants. The Arc of NEPA serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We provide a day program experience that enhances the lives of

the people we serve. They have goals which assist with their everyday lives from cooking, cleaning, organizing to contract work, job skills and social interactions. Technology such as IPADS helps with communication, fine motor ability, coordination and access to the latest applications.



*Pictured: front row - Donald W. Broderick, The Arc-NEPA Executive Director; Michele McDade representing UNICO National Mental Health Committee. Second row: Jerry Madesky; Eileen Rempe; Garrett Brown; Atty. Frank Blasi representing UNICO National Foundation, Mark E. McDade, District Governor PAII UNICO National. UNICO is the largest Italian American Service Organization in the United States.*

## Don't Forget about AmazonSmile

Welcome to  
**amazon**smile  
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 Arc and Happy Shopping.

## 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.





*Ritter's – A day at the pumpkin patch!*



*Carl's Birthday was made very special this year by the ladies at Roseannas Pizza, Scranton. They gave him gifts that he truly loved. We are so grateful for their friendship.*



*Boscov's Community Days*

# Around The Arc...

The Robinson Park and Adult Day Folks have been taking advantage of the beautiful weather, community activities and the start of the holiday season...

- Pumpkin Pa Looza was a BIG Success for the folks at The Arc! On October 29th at the Steamtown National Historic Site, Robinson Park participated in the decorated pumpkin contest and won "Most Fun Theme"!
- Community Clean-Up – Agnes and Henrietta joined together and helped to clean up downtown Scranton "Improving Our Communities" on October 5th which was an initiative sponsored by Lowe's Home Improvement.
- 2016 Art: The Universal Language Art Contest – Vivian, Josephine and Arthur each entered a piece into the contest and were acknowledged by Devon D. Grant, Executive Director, Governor's Cabinet and Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities
- Halloween Party sponsored by the Friends of The Arc Auxiliary. Donuts, Cider, great music by Mike Strasburger, gifts and fun were had by all!



Enjoying a swim at the YMCA



Having fun with Dan and Gala



# Arc News and Information



The Annual Board Retreat was held on October 18th at Cooper's. We had representatives from each Board and Jeremy Yale, Administrator of the Lackawanna-Susquehanna Behavioral Health/Intellectual Disabilities/Early Intervention Program, was the Guest Speaker.

## Recreation:

The Arc Recreation department will sponsor The 16th Annual Friends of The Arc Holiday Party at Fiorelli's on December 9th. It's a great time for everyone who attends. The night is filled with fun, dancing, enjoying good food and wonderful friends. Also, we will celebrate the holiday in Carbon county on December 11th. This party is always a huge success and the guys and girls have a ball.

## Auxiliary Information:

A Night at the Races was a WONDERFUL SUCCESS! We had a great time on November 4th. Sid Michaels Kavulich was beyond awesome! The ladies rocked! Their hard work and dedication were

beyond words. Just around 250 people joined in the festivities and the night was full of winners.

The Education Committee will visit Moscow Middle School on December 9th. They will be showing the Documentary of the Arc Stars that was live on stage in June. The ladies will also visit each of the Scranton Middle Schools as well. As you know, the grant that we received from the Lackawanna County Department of Arts and Culture for Theater Arts for a documentary to be produced featuring adults with disabilities was hugely successful. The outcome from the project was eight weeks of incredible. The overwhelming response from this experience has inspired us to include the arts into our wellness grant requests, as well as, apply for another grant for next year!

The ladies treated the folks at Meadow Avenue to a Halloween Party with cider, donuts, candy corn, snack money and Mike Strasburger! The afternoon was so much fun, everyone laughed and enjoyed themselves. What a great time :).

The ladies purchased windbreaker jackets for all the folks in our programs. They are very nice with The Arc logo on the front.

On Friday, December 16th from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., The Auxiliary will have their Cookie Walk and a small Bazaar. So please stop by for some delicious cookies and little trinkets that will brighten someone's holiday. Also, you are more than welcome to stay and enjoy the concert performed by The Arc Angels at 12:30p.m. Remember, the turkey introduces us to the...."Most Wonderful Time of the Year"!!!!

## Foundation Overview:

One word - POINSETTIAS! We are taking orders for these beautiful posies and please don't miss out!!! They make great gifts and what a gorgeous way to begin the holiday season in your home. The plants will be delivered fresh from Corky's on December 6th. Pick-ups are at The Arc on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday - 12-6,12-7,12-8.

## Fundraiser Success

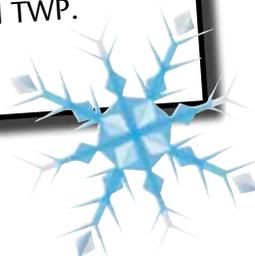
Letter to the Editor – 11/12/16

Editor: On Nov. 4, the Friends of The Arc Auxiliary held its fundraising event, a "night at the races" at St. Mary's Center in Scranton.

The event was a huge success, thanks to the numerous donations of food and baked goods. We thank those who made donations and those who attended.

Thanks also to the members of The Arc and the auxiliary for their hard work in making this come true.

COROLLA SAWKA, PRESIDENT  
Arc AUXILIARY, JEFFERSON TWP.



## "Ask" Appeal

The End of the Year Foundation "Ask" appeal will be coming your way soon. This is a wonderful way to give to a worthy cause, benefit some great folks, renew your membership (all donations will be counted as your annual membership if you have not renewed) and it may be tax-deductible...

*Sounds like  
a winner to me ;)*

# The Arc of NEPA Foundation Fund

Important types of funds administered by the Scranton Area Community Foundation are agency endowment funds. Nonprofit organizations that establish an agency endowment fund at the Foundation help to ensure their permanence by creating an additional steady, dependable revenue stream.

The Foundation is privileged to be administering The Arc of NEPA Foundation Fund, and is delighted to feature this important fund and the work being done by its corresponding nonprofit organization, The Arc of NEPA, as part of our "Focus on a Fund" series.

The Arc is dedicated to the important works of securing for each individual with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to realize personal dreams through choice in how one lives, learns, works and enjoys life. The Arc is further committed to reducing the incidence of intellectual and developmental disabilities through research, education and advocacy. As part of this mission, The Arc facilitates a variety of projects and programs for people in our community.

For example, this past year, The Friends of the Arc worked with creative community leaders to present the program "Arc Angels on Stage". The workshop provided eight weeks of instruction, consisting of one and one half hour sessions, divided between theater and dance for adults with a variety of intellectual abilities. A documentary style filming of these eight sessions was created and shown to the participants and families at a live performance. The end result was an evening presentation of the film and live performance for family, friends, and community.

In addition to engaging programs, such as the "Arc Angels on Stage", The Arc also operates adult day centers, vocational training programs, recreation activities, supported employment, supported independent living, and provides advocacy. This year, The Arc joined advocates from across the state to be heard as a unified voice on behalf of Pennsylvanians with disabilities. Hundreds rallied to request more help in the coming year. Members of the PA House Autism and Intellectual Disability Caucus hosted the 2016 Disability Funding Rally in partnership with 12 non-profit organizations, including The Arc of PA, Disability Rights Pennsylvania, and Vision for Equality, to address the need of increasing funding for disability services and increasing wages for service providers.

With the ongoing support of its organizational endowment, The Arc of NEPA will continue to

provide outstanding services to the people in our region. If you would like to donate to The Arc of NEPA Foundation Fund, and to help advance the critical work that they provide for those in our community with intellectual and developmental disabilities, go to: <http://www.safdn.org/donate/> or mail your contribution to the Scranton Area Community Foundation, at 615 Jefferson Avenue, Suite 102 Scranton, PA 18510.

If you would like to learn more about how to establish an organizational endowment fund to benefit an agency of your choice, please contact us by phone at (570) 347-6203.

### **Donate | Scranton Area Community Foundation**

*Funds established today at the Scranton Area Foundation will provide an essential stream of income decades ahead to meet the needs of our changing community.*

## **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](http://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.***



# COMPASS

find your direction

We are a group of graduate occupational therapy students from The University of Scranton working on a grassroots project aiming to enrich the lives of young adults living with Down Syndrome through relationship building, engagement in meaningful activities and promoting social interaction among peers. You are the experts in determining what enhances your life. Through your participation in Compass, you would support the advancement of this group.

For more information, contact  
verna.eschenfelder@scranton.edu  
570-941-7714

Maryclaire Kretsch - mckretsch@thearcnepa.org



## Family Savings Account Program

Eligible families residing in Lackawanna or Wayne County can receive a \$1 for \$1 match for savings up to \$2,000!



Savers can use their savings and match towards one of the following three asset areas:

- Purchase of a First Home
- Postsecondary Education
- Small Business Startup



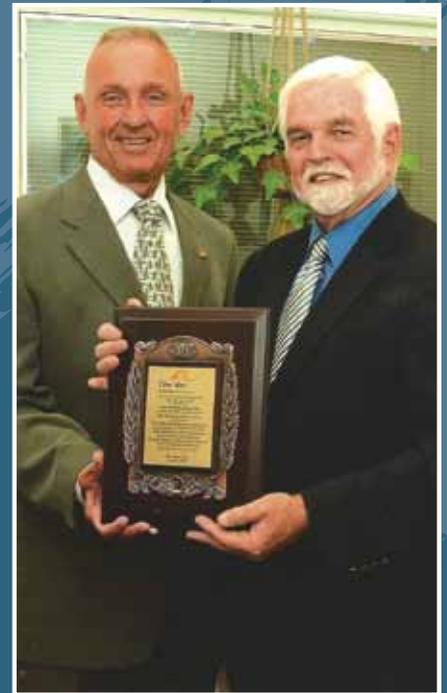
### To Be Eligible, Savers Must:

- Have gross income that does not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level **OR** be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit on the federal tax return.
- Agree to save an average of \$40 per month for not less than 6 months (in a custodial bank account at either Wayne Bank or PNC Bank).
- Attend a minimum of ten hours of training offered by The United Way of Lackawanna & Wayne Counties which will cover such topics as budgeting and credit repair, loans, and personal financial planning.

**LIVE UNITED**<sup>TM</sup>   
United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties

For More Information,  
Contact:  
Angela Bassani, CPA  
Director of Financial Stability  
abassani@puwic.net

## General Membership/ Annual Meeting Luncheon and Awards Reception



The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania held its 61st General Membership/ Annual Meeting Luncheon and Awards Reception. Congratulations to all the people who were recognized this year. Your help, time, effort, commitment and on-going support mean the world to us. Thank you from all of us to all of you!

The recipient of the 2016 Arc Award was  
Representative  
Sid Michaels Kavulich

## The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary Board Welcomes New Members

At a recent meeting of The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary, three new members, Mary Theresa Montoro, Maryann Schlessler and Liz Toms were welcomed onto the Board. The ladies discussed several events and plans are underway for the upcoming events and the new year.

*Seated: Eileen Williams, Vice President; Corolla Sawka, President; Carol Burke, Corresponding Secretary; Betsy Youngblood, Recording Secretary.*

*Standing: Eileen Rempe, Arc Dir. P.R./Dev't; Sara Wolff; Betty Moreken; Ann Hoffman; Mary Theresa Montoro; Jeanne Gardier; Liz Toms; Peggy Tenelly; Jean Biggar; Helga Harrington; Linda Kusy; Mary Murphy Fox; Maryann Schlessler*



## Direct Service Professionals Week

The week of September 12th was Direct Service Professionals week. We honored our co-workers during this week with gifts, prizes, a pizza party and lots of thank yous. Prize drawings-DSP week 9/12/16-9/16/16

### Day 1 winners

Brenda Fritzingler  
Theresa Leggat  
Mari Pizur- Buffalo Wild Wings  
Carrie Akers-Minich  
Mary Philbin

### Day 2 winners

Rebecca Cole-cash  
Susan Dodd-Red Robin  
Renee Needham- Buffalo Wild Wings  
Lisa Jezorwski- Regal  
Doria Mahoney- Darden

### Day 3 winners

Agnes Keller-cash  
Heather Costanzi- Buffalo Wild Wings  
Samantha Franklin- Red Robin  
Patricia Ryan- Regal  
Vicki Nixon- Darden

### Day 4 winners

Vernon Billings-cash  
Stephen Vaccaro-Regal  
Sheila Hartranft-Red Robin  
Lisa Gruszecki- Darden  
Melody McClintock- Buffalo Wild Wings

Letter to the Editor – 9/14/16

### Support staff praise

Editor: Direct support professionals provide varying levels of services for Pennsylvania's citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

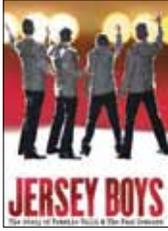
The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania employs approximately 150 direct support staff. Our staff assists more than 375 individuals every week. Direct support professionals are our lifeblood. They work with individuals in the Arc's adult day, employment, residential and recreation programs. The direct support staff fulfills our vision: People with intellectual and developmental disabilities will live full, self-determined, respected lives.

Direct service professionals are critically important to people and families the Arc serves. Staff builds caring, respectful relationships that often last for years. They are exceptional caregivers and their work is not easy. They provide direct personal care and assist in managing complex medical and behavioral needs. This commitment is not for everyone. Yet average compensation for direct support staff in Pennsylvania is inadequate and does not recognize the value and demands of their work. A respectable, living wage is due to each direct support professional in our field.

The Arc of NEPA salutes these people during Direct Support Professionals Week, which began Sunday and continues to Saturday. They share the responsibility of caring for Pennsylvania's most vulnerable citizens. We will not relent in our continuing advocacy to encourage our legislators to see that direct support professionals are the very foundation of services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Pennsylvania. Please help us to recognize the important work that they do.

DON BRODERICK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
THE Arc-NEPA

# Recreation Happenings



## Enjoy a Night on the Town!

Winner of the 2006 Tony Award for Best Musical, Jersey Boys tells the story of how Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons went from being unknown New Jersey kids to international pop superstars. The show features over 30 beautifully sung tunes, including "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry" and "Can't Take My Eyes Off You."

**When:** Saturday, January 21, 2017

**Show Time:** 2:00pm Scranton Cultural Center

**Show Cost:** \$62.00 a person

**Reservations:** Due by Monday, January 2, 2017 and must be paid in full in advance. (Do not send cash in the mail)

Only 40 Seats are reserved at Cultural Center.

## Monster Jam 2017

Join us for a night of excitement!!!! Monster Jam® featuring the AMSOIL Series is a points-based format that showcases the best lineup of Monster Jam vehicles that deliver what fans want to see most – more trucks, more racing, more freestyle, more donuts, more wheelies, more action! The Central and West tour tests the versatility of the athletes as they go head-to-head in seven different competitions driving three different vehicles — Monster Jam trucks, Monster Jam Speedsters and Monster Jam ATVs. These athletes battle for points in challenging racing and freestyle events that push themselves and their machines to the limit. The point leader from each series will receive an automatic bid to the prestigious Monster Jam World Finals® to compete for the title of World Champion.



**When:** Saturday, February 25, 2017

**Where:** Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza, Wilkes-Barre

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Cost:** \$35.00

**RSVP:** By Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Reservations will not be accepted after February 1st. Make your reservations today!

The Arc Recreation has reserved lower level seats. We only have 40 tickets reserved, first call, first served basis.

**Mail and make payments to: The Arc's Recreation Department, Attn: Mari, 115 Meadow Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505**

**Note: Participants provide their own transportation and supervision. Questions? Call Mari Pizur at 570-207-0825.**

## —Arc Recreation Schedule - December 2016 and January 2017—

### Wednesday, December 14, 2016

**"Tis the Season"** Holiday Bingo will be at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Carbondale. From 6:00pm-8:00pm. We will be playing all kinds of bingo games, Straight Bingo, Four Corners, Crazy T, Crazy L, and Fill the Card. Win Ornaments, Stockings, Bows, Gift Wraps, Candy Canes, and much, much more! We will end this fun filled night with a holiday snack and beverage! Reservations due by Monday, December 12th. Fee: \$5.00

### Thursday, December 15, 2016

**Kick Off the Holiday Season together!** All aboard a buggy ride through Nay Aug's Holiday Light Display. 6:00pm-8:00pm. Oh the weather outside is frightful, but sharing with friends is so delightful and since we've no place to go. Let's enjoy the Light Show! Let's enjoy the Light Show! Bundle up! A snack & beverage will be served. Reservations due by Monday, December 12th. Fee: \$10.00 Everyone must pay.

### Wednesday, December 21, 2016

**Gift Exchange and Cookies with Santa** at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Carbondale. 6:00pm-8:00pm. Enjoy a night of hot potato gift exchanging. Everyone bring a \$5.00 unisex wrapped present. We will have games and a surprise visit from the big man dressed in red!! The evening will end with a holiday snack and drink. Reservations due by Monday, December 14th. Fee: \$5.00

### Thursday, December 22, 2016

**Holiday Music, Caroling, Dancing, and Cookies with Santa** at The Arc from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Enjoy a visit with Santa. Listen, dance, or sing along to Holiday Music. Holiday cookies and milk will be served! Reservations due by Monday, December 19th. Fee: \$3.00

### Thursday, January 5, 2017

You are invited to join us for our Ninth Annual **"The Arc's First Night 2017"** – **New Year's Celebration!** The party of the New Year will be at The Arc starting at 6:00pm and ending at 8:00pm! The New Year's Count Down will take place at 7:30pm sharp! Music, Dancing, Party Hats, Noise Makers, Hors d' oeuvres, Beverages and More! Fee \$8.00. Everyone must pay including all staff, guardians and family aides. Reservations due by Monday, Jan. 2nd

### Thursday, January 12, 2017

All of Lackawanna County is invited to attend our **Advisory Meeting** at Idle Hour Lanes 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Bring your ideas and wish list for your 2017 Recreation Program plans. We will be serving Pizza & Drinks while you enjoy a social hour with your friends. Fee \$5.00. Everyone MUST pay including all Staff, Guardians and Family Aides. Reservations due by Monday, Jan. 9th

### Thursday, January 19, 2017

**"Winter White Out" dance party at The Arc** 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Everyone wear

white and warm up by dancing the night away! Join a friend or two and get your picture taken under the Snowflake arches. Snacks and drinks will be served!!! Fee \$4.00. Reservations due by Monday, Jan. 16th

### Saturday, January 21, 2017 Jersey Boys

### Wednesday, January 25, 2017

Beat the winter blues and celebrate with a **Winter Festival** held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Rectory, Carbondale 6:00pm to 8:00pm. We will enjoy winter-time inside with games and fun for all!!!! Stuff a human snowman, dress like a snowman relay race, snow ball relay games are just a few!!! Who knows we might even enjoy an indoor snowball catching game! We will end the evening with hot cocoa & cake. Fee \$4.00. Reservations due by Monday, Jan. 23rd

### Thursday, January 26, 2017

Forget the cold and let's go **Swimming at The University of Scranton Long Center Swimming Pool!** The University of Scranton's Swim Team would like to join us in the pool for water exercises. That is right swimming in January and Mari will be teaching the swimming class! So put on your favorite swimming suit and enjoy the aqua fun from 6:00pm to 8:00pm! Healthy snack will be provided. Fee \$3.00 Reservations due by Monday, Jan. 23rd

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

# 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 honoree, 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, fees, or report refund
- VITA is FREE and FAST!
- May be eligible for up to \$4,200 in Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

*"The most used VITA program to be eligible to participate  
Appointments will be taken after January 2, 2017"*

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

[www.uwlc.net](http://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 W2'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 your health insurance for the year! This could be Forms 1095-A, 1095-B, 1095-C, or a list of who an year 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 Preparation

UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON  
FIRST FLOOR, BIRNAN HALL  
500 BLOCK OF MADISON AVE., SCRANTON, PA  
THIS BLOCK LISTS THE DATES OF OPERATION FOR  
FREE TAX PREP. 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-1:00pm  
Super Sunday April 2 9:00am-1:00pm

Monday	Feb. 8	9:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday	Feb. 9	9:00am-1:00pm
Wednesday	Feb. 10	9:00am-1:00pm
Thursday	Feb. 11	9:00am-1:00pm
Monday	Feb. 15	9:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday	Feb. 16	9:00am-1:00pm
Wednesday	Feb. 17	9:00am-1:00pm
Thursday	Feb. 18	9:00am-1:00pm
Monday	Feb. 22	9:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday	Feb. 23	9:00am-1:00pm
Wednesday	Feb. 24	9:00am-1:00pm
Thursday	Feb. 25	9:00am-1:00pm
Monday	Feb. 29	9:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday	Feb. 30	9:00am-1:00pm
Wednesday	March 1	9:00am-1:00pm
Thursday	March 2	9:00am-1:00pm
Monday	March 6	9:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday	March 7	9:00am-1:00pm
Wednesday	March 8	9:00am-1:00pm
Thursday	March 9	9:00am-1:00pm
Monday	March 13	9:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday	March 14	9:00am-1:00pm
Wednesday	March 15	9:00am-1:00pm
Thursday	March 16	9:00am-1:00pm
Monday	March 20	9:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday	March 21	9:00am-1:00pm
Wednesday	March 22	9:00am-1:00pm
Thursday	March 23	9:00am-1:00pm
Monday	March 27	9:00am-1:00pm
Tuesday	March 28	9:00am-1:00pm
Wednesday	March 29	9:00am-1:00pm
Thursday	March 30	9:00am-1:00pm

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	1:00pm-5:00pm
Tuesday	Feb. 7	2:00pm-6:00pm
Thursday	Feb. 9	3:00pm-7:00pm
Friday	Feb. 10	1:00pm-5:00pm
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](http://WWW.UWLC.NET) OR  
BY PHONE 570-504-0614

VISIT [WWW.UWLC.NET](http://WWW.UWLC.NET) TO DO  
YOUR OWN TAXES &  
E-FILE YOUR FEDERAL AND  
STATE TAX RETURNS FOR FREE!!

**\*\*ARINGTONS AREA:**  
Arlington Senior Center  
1151 Winsla Road, Clarks Summit, PA  
Monday March 6 2:00pm-6:00pm  
Tuesday March 7 2:00pm-6:00pm

**\*\*NORTH POCONO AREA:**  
North Pocono Library  
1315 Church Street, Moscow, PA  
Thursday March 2 2:00pm-6:00pm

**\*\*WAYNE/TIPEL COUNTIES AREA:**  
Woodloch Pines (TBA)  
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 12:00pm-4:00pm  
Tuesday March 28 2:00pm-6:00pm

**\*\*UPPER VALLEY AREA:**  
Carbondale Senior Community Center  
66 North Church Street, Carbondale, PA  
Tuesday March 7 2:00pm-6:00pm  
Saturday March 18 9:00am-2:00pm  
Friday March 31 2:00pm-6:00pm

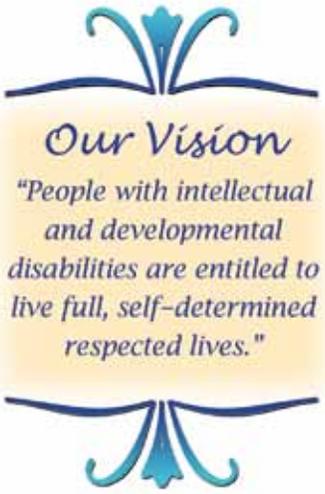
**\*\*MID-VALLEY AREA:**  
Valley Community Library  
739 River Street, Peckville, PA  
Friday March 3 12:00pm-4:00pm  
Saturday March 11 10:00am-2:00pm  
Thursday March 23 12:00pm-4:00pm

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.



**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](http://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 Please remit to:

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

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