

The Arcticulate

Supported Employment Department

The Supported Employment Department is expanding its efforts to bring new prospects for the folks we serve. With the creation of the vending department, the consumers are able to learn new skills and trades. Vending gives us the ability to create jobs, have goals to reach, and also, bring opportunities for earning money. We have four vending machines: two are located

at our Meadow Avenue site, one is our Senior site, and one is at a local daycare center.

The consumers assist with searching through the store ads, comparing prices, and looking for the products to offer in the vending machines. They shop at the stores and purchase the goods, help to stock the machines – weekly or as needed, rotate merchandise and ensure



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You shop. Amazon gives.

More info on page 5



machine quality.

Recently, the Kiwanis Club of Scranton donated gumball machines to our vending machine business. We reached out to the Career Technology Center, CTC, for help with restoring the machines to their original beauty. The students looked over, cleaned, sanitized, and repainted each of the units. When they were completed, we placed two machines at a neighboring business. Carl, who enjoys being helpful, volunteers to assist with the filling of these machines. It brings him joy to see the children enjoying the candy that he takes pride in helping to provide.

Our vending business is growing and we want to see a successful expansion in the future. This is only possible with the help from the consumers and community.

Sincerely,
Erica Francis



Northeastern Pennsylvania

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Scranton, PA 18505
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Email: frontdesk@thearcnepa.org

President's Message



Happy Winter!!!

We are finally receiving snow and arctic cold. I certainly can do with out the arctic blasts. I trust you enjoyed the holidays with your families and friends. Celebrating with food, fun, and festivities is a great joy.

The 'State of the Arc Union' is well and we are all grateful for that. We are serving those who

reach out to us and also supporting their family and friends. All programs are doing well and achieving results; thanks to our dedicated staff. Know that the Board is kept apprised of everything and we are very fortunate to have all of you on board. Grazie!!!

This February we celebrate two great individuals who have lead our country; i.e. George Washington and

Abraham Lincoln. Our democracy has served us well and may it continue to do so. We are the government of the people and must remain so. Take an interest in what we believe in and get as involved as you can. Your ideas and comments are always welcome. Call the Arc and/or board members to let us know what you are thinking. If you would like to visit and tour any of our programs we would welcome you. Our consumers enjoy talking to individuals about our mission and may surprise you. Contact me at any time by leaving a message at the Arc and I will get back to you. Bless you and enjoy each and every day.

Ann Hoffman
President

P.S. I am also active with the Auxiliary. We welcome new members and have a lot of fun doing our work. We educate the community about the Arc of NEPA and we fund raise for the good of the cause

Exec's Corner



A New Year.....

The weather station on the kitchen window sill shouts -10 degrees on this last morning in January. Any delusion of a mild winter has been dispelled. Tomorrow, February 1st, is Saint Brigid's Day, a traditional, and often a week long, celebration in Ireland and Scotland that reminds us spring is on its way. You see, it is now when the first

blades of grass so welcomely appear on the Emerald Isle, and the lambs, for weeks sheltered in the barns, return to their pastures. We are midway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. This is an "ahhh" moment and a very proper cause for celebration. Perhaps you pass these cold days of winter by planning your summer garden or maybe you prefer to binge watch a season or six of your favorite show on Netflix. Whatever the choice, I hope you find celebration in knowing we move closer to spring each day.

The months behind us were gloriously busy. We filled the December calendar with many holiday celebrations. Our annual Christmas Party, coordinated by Mari Pizur and Holly Scripp, brought us all together for a fine evening of merriment. Our Parents of Down Syndrome group, lead by Bert Morgan, hosted a festive breakfast with Santa as the special guest. Who doesn't love the

Friends of The Arc Auxiliary Cookie Walk followed by the Adult Day holiday show? This is a day when the spirit of the season fills every heart. We are fortunate to have such marvelous opportunities.

More recently, we have engaged in the Office of Developmental Programs, (ODP), Quality Assurance and Improvement process. This process is designed to conduct a comprehensive management review of service delivery to individuals with developmental disabilities and autism spectrum disorders. The Arc received accolades for our strong advocacy role in community as well as the initiatives we've taken to align our services with ODP changes. We have earned a reputation for quality in services and particularly for the respectful and caring relationships between staff and the folks we serve. Hats off to Kelly Peters, as he lead the Quality Assurance and Improvement Process, and to all Arc staff who know that what we do is much more than a job!

We have also committed our time and talents to serving on ODP's Residential Learning Collaborative. Staff from varying perspectives will travel to Harrisburg and spend a day brainstorming areas of focus necessary to better services. This is a don't miss chance to network over best practices with providers across the commonwealth. Yes there is lots more to do. Much more to look forward to as we move along the path to spring.

My best to you,
Maryclaire Kretsch
Executive Director

Hospice of the Sacred Heart Presentation

Kelly Peters attended the Hospice of Sacred Heart's monthly education training session to spread the word about services offered by The Arc and it's history.



New Hires

Welcome to The Arc Family!

Jonathan Sepe

Yulissa Escarraman

Haleemah Godfrey

Larry Kelly

Andre Diaz

Patricia Lewis

Kurt Fisher

Jennifer Posaski

Brandy Randall

Linda Carey

Joseph Bomenka

Kyana Holloway

Yelsy F. Sanchez

Allanah Colon

Peter Hidu

Channell Young

Brianna Julio

Mallory Kraemer

Jacob Wegielewski

Kimberly Hodge

Latisha McNeill

Edward Miller

Jamie Sacchetti

Designer Purse



BINGO



Sunday, May 5, 2019

Proceeds benefit: The PODS of NEPA and The Arc-NEPA

Eagle McClure Hose Co., 375 Milwaukee Avenue, Old Forge
Doors open at 12:00 noon - BINGO starts at 1:00 p.m.
Tickets are \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door

To donate or purchase tickets, please contact:

Eileen Rempe - The Arc-NEPA: 570-346-4010

Ticket includes 20 regular games (3 sheets per game).
Special game sheets sold separately at door. Raffles and Door Prizes!
Concessions available. No alcohol permitted by state law.



MICHAEL KORS



kate spade
NEW YORK

COACH

Please make checks payable to: The Arc-NEPA, 115 Meadow Avenue, Scranton, PA 18505

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

____ # of tickets @ \$20.00 = Total Enclosed \$ _____

____ Hold for pick up at the door

____ Mail tickets to: _____

If you have questions, please contact:
Eileen - erempe@thearcnepa.org



Calendar of Events

Please Mark Your Calendars **2019**

February

3 Local Bands @ the Hilton
Feb 22nd

Mass of Awareness - Feb 24th

March

WWE Smackdown Live - March 5th

Juggler Rob Smith - March 7th

World DS Day -

Sock Hop with PODS - March 21st

Escape: Ultimate Journey

Tribute Band - March 23rd

Intelligent Lives - March 26th

Nor'easters vs. Scranton Police
Basketball Game - March 27th

14th Annual Spring Break
for Autism - March 30th

April

Elvis (Shawn Klush) & Dinner
April 6th

Rat Pack @ the Theater North
April 26th

May

Match Day - May 3rd

Purse Bingo - May 5th

Golf Tournament - May 13th

Arc Stars practice begins - May 15th
PA Polka Band - May 23rd

Arc Tracks Bus Trip - Bronx Zoo
May 25th

June

Bowling Banquet - June 5th

RailRiders Baseball Game
June 19th

Foundation Annual Meeting
Annual Board/General
Membership/Recognition Event
Arc Stars Show - June 22nd

Celebrating The Holidays!

Submitted by: Mari Pizur

Happy Holidays!

Sometimes we lose sight of what is most important to us during the holiday season. We get wrapped up with commercialism, keeping up with the Jones' and rushing to keep up with a hectic schedule, we should all jump off the speed train and take time to not only appreciate the true meaning of the holidays and be thankful for what we have. Rather than embracing what they do not have -- this is what the holiday spirit is all about.

It is a time to give of yourself, your time and your love. No gift can accurately reflect the love we feel for those who are near and dear to us, we can show them that they matter by spending time and laughs together.

The week of December 9th the Recreation Department had our Holiday Parties in both Lackawanna and Carbon County.

The weather outside was cold and dreary for both parties, but inside Fiorelli's and the VFW the rooms were full of warmth. The rooms were beautifully decorated with Christmas trees, bows and garland, but what shined the most were the smiles, the joy and the happiness that filled the rooms. Friends and families excited to share another holiday together in the true meaning of the holidays.

This year our theme was "Jingle Bells"! The room was filled with laughter as the Recreation Staff entered the party in their Jingle Bell costumes. Adding to the spirit of the season a man in a red suit appeared with a smile and a hardy HO, HO, HO while dancing around the dance floor. We had record breaking attendance of 320 people. Each guest had time for a picture with Santa and received a gift. After all the Santa excitement,



everyone put on their dancing shoes and rocked around the Christmas tree until the party came to an end. We hoped everyone enjoyed the Holiday parties as much as we did! Thanks to all our volunteers who offered their time to enhance our holiday spirit!

Having said all that, this year I did take a moment to reflect on how truly blessed I am to have the opportunities to share my life with the people we serve and their families. Many laughs and sheer joy have been shared throughout the year!

On behalf of The Arc Recreation, I would like wish a very Safe and Prosperous New Year!

Calling All The Arc Stars!

We have been informed by the Lackawanna County Department of Arts and Culture that we are receiving a grant for the Theater Arts Program for adults with developmental disabilities for the fourth year in a row!! This performance will be "Back to Basics."

Also, The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary recently visited Moscow Intermediate School for a presentation on The Arc Stars documentary and the students were phenomenal. The ladies had a winter gathering for the Stars to celebrate all their successes and just to have a good time.

Practices will be at The Arc except for the Dress Rehearsal which will be at North Pocono HS:

Wednesday, May 15th

Wednesday, May 22nd

Wednesday, May 29th

Thursday, June 6th

Thursday, June 13th

Thursday, June 20th

Dress Rehearsal

Friday, June 21st

Show Time

Saturday, June 22nd @ 1:00p.m.



Shopping!!!

Welcome to
amazon smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Don't Forget About AmazonSmile

Please do not forget about using Amazon Smile; when you shop - Amazon gives! AmazonSmile is a program where Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization selected by each customer. It is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charity every time you shop, at no cost to you. Soooo, when you shop on Amazon, please think of The Arc and Happy Shopping.



**The Arc of NEPA
19th Annual Golf Tournament
Monday, May 13, 2019
Glen Oak Country Club**

**Honorary Chairperson:
Mark Kwiatkowski**

Please mark your calendars - the date has been set!

Please meet Mark Kwiatkowski:

In the Summer of 2013, the local chapter of Special Olympics, AREA P, went to the Pennsylvania Summer Special Olympics at Penn State and brought back several medals! Mr. Kwiatkowski won the Gold in the Golf Skills competition. Mark went on to the Special Olympics USA Nationals which was held in 2014 in Princeton, NJ and won another Gold medal for his skills in driving, long putt, short putt, chipping (his favorite) and sand traps! Mark has been on the Golf League since 2006 and he loves it. He is the son of Pat and Teddy Kwiatkowski, who are extremely proud of all of his accomplishments.

Please join us.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call Eileen at The Arc – 570-346-4010.

Rotary Holiday Auction Fundraiser

Submitted by: Mari Pizur

The premiere community service event for The Rotary Club of Scranton is the Holiday Auction which is a dinner event that features a live and silent auction of various items.

The Arc of NEPA was fortunate again this year to receive the proceeds from the Auction.

The gala event was held on December 6th at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel in Scranton. It was in the Grand Ballroom which was decorated with white lights throughout giving the neoclassical structure a warm holiday feeling. Holiday spirits filled the air as we listened to Scranton High School Night Rhythms singing holiday songs directed by Lisa McConlogue.

They were wonderful and a great way to start the evening.

The silent auction had all types of prizes from gift cards, blankets, home goods and games. The live auction had a variety of items briefcases, alarm systems, computers, tools, ladders and much more that were open for bids. The live Auctioneers were

fantastic and full of fun. There was a wine number pull table where everyone who played was a winner!

The Arc of NEPA is so grateful for the tremendous support from the community and Rotary Club. The time, the effort and dedication by the Rotary members was impeccable and greatly appreciated.



SAVE THE DATE

"Spring Break for Autism Fundraiser"

Where:

La Buona Vita, Dunmore, PA

When:

Saturday, March 30, 2019

Time:

7pm to 11pm

Price:

\$85.00 per person

Food Stations

Open Bar

Live Auction

Basket Raffles

Wheelbarrow of Cheer

Proceeds benefit:

The Arc of NEPA,

YMCA Carbondale and Arts Alive!

Come and Join Us for a Basketball Game

The Arc Nor'easters

vs.

The Scranton Police Department

Wednesday, March 27th

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Pride Squad at 6:00 p.m.

Game begins at 6:30 p.m.

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

**Scranton High School
63 Munchak Way, Scranton, PA 18508**

Admission: Adults \$5.00

Students \$3.00

Children under 5 - FREE

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

There will be food, baked goods and raffles.

Proceeds benefit The Arc Responds

Scranton Area Community Foundation Announces 2019 NEPA Match Day Participants

We were pleasantly surprised by the overwhelming response we received from nonprofit organizations looking to participate in 2019 NEPA Match Day!

Providing an opportunity for 30 local nonprofit organizations, participation in 2019 NEPA Match Day, which will take place on Friday, May 3, 2019, was open on a first-come, first served basis to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations serving the people of the Lackawanna County region. We received all 30 applications on the same afternoon that registration opened.

On the first Friday in May, the following 30 nonprofit organizations will work together with the goal of making 2019 NEPA Match Day the biggest day of giving in the Lackawanna County region's history!

1. Northeast Regional Cancer Institute
2. Griffin Pond Animal Shelter
3. Friends of the Poor
4. Scranton Fringe Festival

5. Greater Carbondale YMCA
6. Lacawac Sanctuary Environmental Education Ctr.
7. Jewish Family Service of NEPA
8. Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania
9. The Wright Center for Community Health
10. Valley Community Library
11. Greater Scranton YMCA
12. Victims Resource Center
13. Everhart Museum
14. Dress for Success Lackawanna
15. Countryside Conservancy
16. AFA (Artists For Art) Gallery
17. Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple
18. Outreach - Center for Community Resources (formerly EOTC)
19. Indraloka Animal Sanctuary
20. NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania
21. The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania
22. Marley's Mission
23. Meals on Wheels Community Services of NEPA
24. The Greenhouse Project
25. Family Service Association of Northeastern PA
26. Women's Resource Center
27. The Philharmonic Society of Northeastern PA
28. Saint Joseph's Center
29. Discovery MI Preschool
30. Northeast Pennsylvania Youth For Christ, Inc.

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.

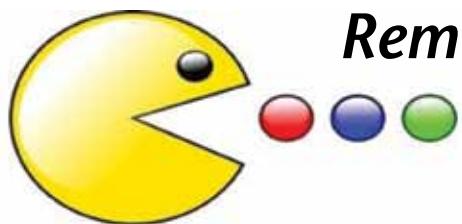
Leaving a Legacy...

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.

Remembering Stacy

written by Noniey Cosmark



Tears streamed down my face when I heard the news today.

One last goodbye I never had the chance to say..

I know you finally found your peace and you're in a better place,
but ya see we just weren't ready, we want one last embrace.

The many times you told us jokes and all we could do was laugh,
and say one day you'll be famous and I'd want your autograph.

Then the day we hit the casino and you won all the cash,
and here I was the loser, and you of course had to talk some trash.
How many times we played Uno and you of course kicked my butt,
you would remind me ever gently that I must be in a rut.

I truly wish you saw how much love you really shared,
and hope you never doubted how much we really cared.

I guess God must have known 'cuz he only takes the best,
He knew that you were ready and it was time for you to rest.

Sadly, it is our time when we have to grieve your loss,
until the time comes once again when our paths do cross.



Mikayla Resh

On March 26th of 2010, The Friends of The Arc Auxiliary hosted an educational day with Mikayla Resh. Over 500 third graders from Scranton and North Pocono School Districts had the honor of meeting Miss Resh, a young woman with severe disabilities, at St. Mary's Center. Mikayla educated those students (Seniors this year) with her amazing story and continued to be an inspiration to thousands more over the years. On January 30th, Mikayla passed away. Please help continue to honor her memory by sharing her beautiful story.

When Mikayla was a third grader at Lower Nazareth Elementary School she and her classmates did something quite extraordinary.

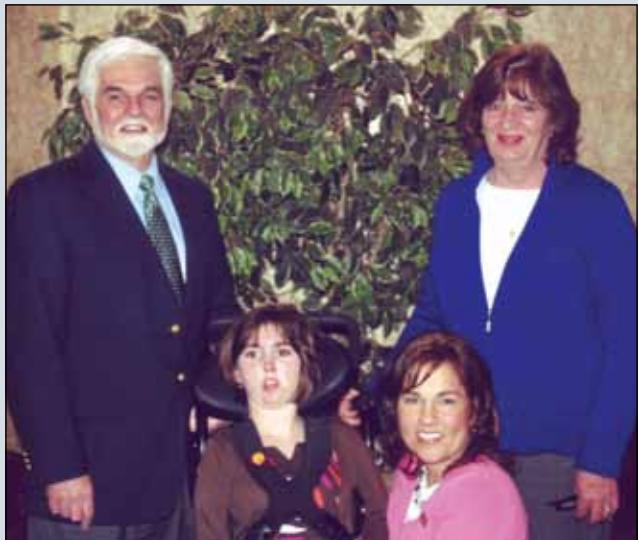
Having already known Mikayla for two years, her classmates knew what it was like to meet someone with disabilities for the first time. Not only did they understand what it meant to meet someone different, they also knew what it was like to have a friend with multiple disabilities.

Motivated by her belief that children often could offer the best explanation to other children, Kim, approached Mikayla's principal and teacher and asked them to let her help Mikayla's friends write and illustrate a book about having a friend with a disability. Both being advocates of inclusion, they agreed.

The class had just written autobiographies and since Mikayla was unable to write her own, the children were very eager to help Mikayla tell her story. After several class discussions concerning Mikayla's disabilities the children wrote paragraphs about what they understood. There were 75 thoughtful essays and wonderful illustrations depicting their feelings and interactions with Mikayla. Kim used the children's work, and by embedding their phrases and

sentences, Mikayla's classmates' work became an outline for the book, Our Friend Mikayla. The book wrote itself.

Our Friend Mikayla was published in late 2006 with the financial support of The National Inclusion Project, founded by Clay Aiken. <https://www.mikaylasvoice.org/blog/our-friend-mikayla/>



Mikayla Jade Resh NAZARETH

Published in The Express Times on Feb. 5, 2019

Mikayla Jade Resh, 24, of Nazareth, was at home with both her parents, Michael and Kimberly, when she took her last breath on Jan. 30, 2019. She waited to leave for Heaven until her dad could get home and her sister, Lauren, had called to say she loved her. She will be missed by countless family and friends, especially Logan, Hannah, and Dalia.

Despite Mikayla's multiple disabilities, she was fully included at Lower Nazareth Elementary School, where her third grade class wrote and illustrated a book about having a friend with a disability. Mikayla was never able to speak, but these young authors told Mikayla's story, giving her a voice through which to share some of life's most valuable lessons. "Our Friend Mikayla" was first published in 2006, donated to every PA public elementary school in 2012, and is the inspiration for Mikayla's Voice.

Founded in 2010 by her family and friends, Mikayla's Voice

is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization inspiring kids of all abilities to share the message of inclusion. Two more books written by kids for other kids, school assemblies, a wheelchair painting program, and an annual youth triathlon all allow kids to enjoy and demonstrate successful inclusion as they work and play together. All programs are designed for children of all abilities so they may teach others to celebrate diversity and promote kindness.

Born on Dec. 23, 1994, in Flemington, NJ, Mikayla had a life full of love with her family and friends. She vacationed with Logan's family. Spent long weekends at the cabin. Ran in 5K races prior to her triathlon days. Went to her prom. Danced at weddings. Fed a giraffe. And loved to hold babies.

Mikayla's family promised that her "Voice" would continue to be heard. Louder. Stronger. Farther. A Voice for Inclusion. Kindness. Friendship. Love.

Stacy Mallory: Beauty Challenging Boundaries



To our friends and colleagues from Community Options Incorporated, where Stacy most recently resided, we collectively thank you for all you have done in the short time you had the opportunity to get to know and serve her.

To the caregivers from The Arc here today- and those Arc staff who are here in spirit while tending to their duties elsewhere, but who were close-to Stacy.... I think Stacy would thank all of you a thousand times over. To Theresa, Shannon, and Pauline, you need to know that all of us here love you very much. AND that Stacy loved you very much. Sometimes she had a hard time showing it. But she did, and you know it- because you have all shared wonderful memories of your sisterhood with Stacy. I'll talk about those memories in a few moments.

Lastly and most importantly...to Mom Judy, Stacy's sisters and brother, and her nieces- we are honored to be here with you to celebrate Stacy's life; we are honored that you entrusted Stacy to our family -- thus becoming an extension of your family. And although we celebrate Stacy's life here today- all of us grieve with you. It's what families do. Her passing was too sudden; and it's very hard. The people in this room who you entrusted don't just perform a job. They accept, they embrace, they learn, love, and celebrate. And just like families- they fret, they worry, they struggle, they doubt, they try again, they support, and they help. And they always love. So we all grieve with you...with many different last names other than yours here today, but sharing one person who we all love with you.

And so now to Stacy, who hears and sees and knows all, as we all know: Your boundaries and your obstacles have always been challenged and contested by your own resolve and by the strength of your character. And some days, those boundaries and obstacles prevailed. You relented when you had to, but you rose each day to greet the world with the magnificence that you possessed. On the days that you were AT your best, we admired you and cheered you on. On the days that weren't --- we let you tell us what to do. The lesson here was that if you were dealing with something... and if we were worth our salt- we would honor your plan, whatever that might be.

I think, Stacy that you were perhaps one of the most courageous individuals I have ever met. You could look all of us in the eye and ask if we really knew what you were feeling, what it was really like to be you, to really and truly dare us to walk- or to wheel- a mile in your shoes. You didn't ask us these things often, but when you did, it would have a profound impact on our thinking.

The plans of (support?) ---that WE have to develop and work with to help people don't often match the real illustration of what a life really looks like - a life that just so happens to be trusting of our help and our support We're good at knowing the basics. We do it well. We will

never, however, know the heart-the mind- or the dreams. You, Stacy, ,more than anyone we've met, let us know continually that we needed to stay on point- to try to keep pace with your spirit. Because HERE'S the thing:... we found you to be brilliant beyond all the formalities we engaged in trying to support you – , all the meetings.... and all plans, and all that stuff. This was your challenge to us to try to keep up. Winston Churchill said something germane to this best in 1939 with his great quote: "It is a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside ...an enigma". This was the spirit of Stacy Mallory. Your spirit gave us these things:

1. Laughter: this is my best memory..... A laughter that was infectious and unmistakable. It most times would require patience on our ends for it to subside before we could even get a word in edge-wise. You laughed better than anyone I know, Stacy. Your body rose from your chair up to the clouds when you laughed hardest.

2. A challenge: a call to us to take you on in a card or a video game- some of your favorite things. You seldom lost. You showed some of your greatest confidence in yourself when you knew people like me didn't have a chance. I think you challenged every scratch off lottery ticket to dare you not to be a winner. . I remember times when you'd whisper to me that you'd won a few bucks.

3. An admirable quest: a quest to push yourself. Walking –swimming- exercising to the extent you could.... when the inevitable dictated that most of your days would keep you in your chair. But I will never ever forget your perfect posture the day you filmed a video for the United Way , thanking the community for helping to support people like you, as well as all sorts of folks from different walks of life who need just a little help. And you were proud that you gave back to those in need.

4. A family love: Your Mom and your family meant the world to you. And if we remove any label of disability, like you always wanted- you were simply a loving daughter, and sister, aunt, friend. When you spread your wings to move from your family home, as adult gals do, you were so very proud to have your family visits at your new home.

5. A lifelong learner: you pushed us to help you to not be defined as a woman who needed services: you pushed us to help you harness the drive within you to acquire skills typical of women your age: computer skills, office skills, public speaking and interpersonal skills. Another of our most precious memories of you will be your experience at Lackawanna College .You flourished there. The truth is- you, Stacy, were the inspiration for the "College for A Day" experience which led to more collaborations for you and your friends to be on a college campus, doing things that enrolled students were doing. And, after that with the wind in your sails, you applied your newfound confidence. You typed memos to be sent home agency –wide, always ending with "Typed by Stacy". You assisted us in training those who were new to helping others at new hire orientations. To serve anyone the Arc serves- a new hire would very often have to meet with you for approval. You asked us to help you embellish this knack you had- and you went from interviewing potential caregivers, to helping to onboard those folks through your own personal advice on knowing what was important to you- as a representative of those with a voice, and those without. You were elected as President of the "Speaking out with Friends" self –advocacy group, typed your agendas, and learned the rules of order to conduct a meeting.

6. A question: Did we all know what you gave us every single day? Do we know how blessed we have been to experience you amazing each of us with something we didn't know about you? Do we know when you would ask us for private time to speak with us how privileged we were? And in those private talks, do we know that you were light years ahead of us thinking of your self-worth, your self-doubt, your forks in the road; your wishes and dreams, or your patience or impatience with us?

7. A humility and an exuberance (we'll tie these things together):

You were humble to the point of not wanting anyone to stare at you. You were humble to the point of saying, " Pat, I'm nervous...do you really think I can do this...?". But when given opportunities to speak, to enlighten others, to shine... when we told you we'd like you to help us to do something special.. That's when the exuberance kicked in. And it always tied into the infectious laughter I just mentioned- and it always tied into that same posture rising to the clouds, as hard as it was for you- and such self-pride. It must be a true gift to live in humility by nature, but to allow yourself exuberant pride when you know you've earned it.

8. A devilish side (in only a good way).- ask anyone who has been called out and busted by you. Ask the handsome aqua therapy instructor you just MAY have put the moves on....

9. A giving, concerned, and loving- very loving-Stacy. This is your spirit legacy, Stacy, beyond all these other attributes we just reflected on. Day to day, quietly, you did these simple things: You always wanted to know how WE were. You greeted us with "gimme a hug". You battled days when it was hard for you to offer such love; and hard for us to find it. But none of that was ever your fault. I can't imagine how hard those days might have been for you. " A riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma": flourishing, learning, laughing, and loving. So it's worth repeating that you, our dear Stacy, were brilliant beyond anything we could possibly try to help you with. The late famed professor Stephen Hawking said: "Remember to look up at the stars, and not down at your feet. And never give up working".

So let's return to the gifts that Theresa, Shannon, and Pauline enlightened me with the evening we told them that you had gone to God. The real you. We talked about "best memories" and the challenge to remember the very best of Stacy. Theresa said you gave her a coloring book that she still uses. Shannon said you invited her to be your video game partner. Pauline said that when she first moved in with us, she was so scared- and you, Stacy, were her reassurance- her welcome- her confidant, beyond what staff could say. And those are just your former housemates- you shared and gave much of the same to your friends you met in other places. Your family is blessed by counting you as one of them. All of us are blessed for knowing you. Your slip of your earthly bonds will remind us that there is always an "I love you" that should have been said again,... a "thank you" for your giving of yourself to others, an "I understand" when it's not such a great day, and an indelible lifelong reminder that beauty challenges boundaries.

Soar with angels, Stacy. Keep it fair in the card and video games. We love you tremendously and foreverly. Keep us in check. God bless you.

Around The Arc

Arc Update

The Arc recently received two grants for Capital Improvements:

The Moffat Family Charitable Trust awarded us a grant to remodel two Residential bathrooms. Thank you very much to the Moffat Family Charitable Trust for being so good to us. Your outstanding benevolence toward our mission is gratefully appreciated.

The Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust awarded us a grant for: remodeling two bathrooms in the Adult Day café area, installing new ceilings and lighting in two program areas, adding wall bumpers in program hallways and replacing furniture. Many, many thank yous to Edith Trees for your overwhelming support to our program and services. We are very excited about these awards and have begun the work on several of the projects.

We are meeting quarterly to discuss additional needs are held throughout the year. 1st quarter emphasis - Nutrition, Wellness, Capital, Technology

The Knights of Columbus (Monroe County) invited us to join them for their Christmas party at the Burnley Workshop that was held on December 7th.

PPODS North welcomed the Christmas season with a holiday party on December 1st at Stony Acres in East Stroudsburg and PODS of NEPA hosted

their Breakfast with Santa on December 16th at Fiorelli's. The children's faces lit up when Santa made his appearance. Great times spent with great people.

M&T Bank requested our presence for a luncheon and check presentation at the Westmoreland Club on December 5th. We were very happy to have been notified that once again, we are one of the organizations who was to be recognized on that day. We received a \$2,000 donation.

***For the second year, the Rotary Club of Scranton designated The Arc as the recipients of their Holiday Auction which was held on December 6th. We are so grateful for this friendship. The event is super and we were very excited about being a part of the evening. The entertainment was phenomenal and bidding was competitive. Thank you to the Rotarians for continuing to support The Arc!

The Christmas Show this year featured Sounds of the Season and once again, we had a packed house! We enjoyed favorites such as: Joy to the World, Silent Night and Deck the Halls, listened to the extraordinary playing of bells, watched spectacular choreography, sang along to familiar melodies and was awestruck at the talent and ability of all the participants. There is no better way to bring the feeling of the holidays to each and every one of us.

On December 6th, we all had the pleasure of being with great family, friends, enjoying food and frivity! The employee holiday gathering was held and it was wonderful to see everyone. Thank you to all you came to enjoy each other's company and kudos to all the planners. It was very much appreciated.

Recreation:

Arc Tracks is starting the year with lots of choices for everyone. Valentine's Dances at Keystone and the University; a Music Festival featuring three bands (Fab Three, The Wanabees, Jeffrey James Band) with opening act Elvis Impersonator - Gino Mercuri on February 22nd at the Hilton; WWE Smackdown Live at Mohegan Sun on March 5th; Escape: Ultimate Journey Tribute Brand - Theater North and the Rat Pack on April 26th at the Theater North. As you know, there is always something for everyone to enjoy and we welcome you to enjoy in any activity that interests you.

Auxiliary Information:

The Night at the Races event was a Grand Time! We had a huge turnout, lots of food and big smiles on November 9th. Jackie Lewandoski did a fabulous job on emceeing the event! The ladies and gentlemen who

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United Way Campaign

Gary Drapek and Nikki Keller from the United Way visited The Arc on January 4th to thank the staff for their outstanding support of the United Way Campaign. The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania presented a check for \$20,634.00 to the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties representing The Arc employee pledges made during the United Way Campaign. This is a record breaking amount and we are so proud to report on this level of generosity. Please see the news clip from WNEP on our Facebook page.



Pictured: l-r - Kyle Juice, The Arc DSP; Deanna Decker, The Arc DSP; Gary Drapek, United Way President and CEO; Pat Quinn, The Arc Director of Program Operations and UW Campaign Chair

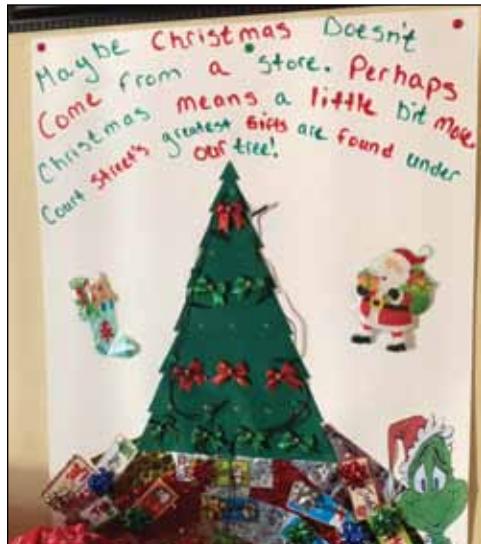
Spirit of the Season

*Driving through the county...
In a 12 passenger rudolph van...
Over the potholes we go...
Bouncing all the way...
Antlers on the windows...
Big, red nose on the grill...*

What a ball we had bringing Krispy Kreme and seeing all of our friends and their beautiful homes!

We had a great time visiting all the CLAs and seeing their gorgeous holiday decorations. Everyone really outdid themselves and the voting was tough. The categories were color scheme, originality, festive feel, best theme, overall experience, other... Several staff and consumers had some special

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Success is sweet...and we want to hear all about it!

We are looking to spotlight your stories in upcoming Articulates and on our Arc of NEPA Facebook page!

To share your story, please respond to the following:

1. How long have you worked for The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania?
2. What do you enjoy most about being a Direct Support Professional?
3. What advice do you have for other DSPs or for people who are thinking about becoming a DSP?
4. If you were a candy bar, which one would you be and why?

Each submitted form returned to Human Resources will receive a sweet treat as a 'Thank You' for sharing your story! Stories will randomly be selected to be shared in our newsletter and social media pages. *Those selected must have a signed photo release form which authorizes The Arc of NEPA to use photographs and/or audio-visual materials in various publications.



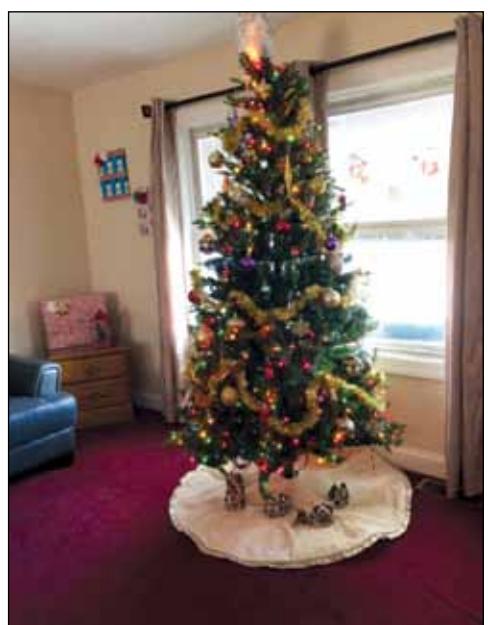
Spirit of the Season

(Continued from page 11)

quotes that they wanted to share:
"Winfield is the North Pole!"
Lindsay; "Sanders is going to win!"
Pauline; "If you really love garland,
you will really love Newton!"
Brittany; "Merry Christmas from the
Rebecca family." Joe.

While everyone was a winner and
we loved every minute - Winfield
was first, Court was second, Sanders
was third with Honorable Mentions
for Newton, Seymour, Scott Twp.,
Summit, Farr, Rebecca, Theodore,
Chesterfield

Congratulations to all of you - every
single one of you is a winner!



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.



The Aktion Club is hosting a supply drive for Operation Gratitude. They are collecting supplies to be packaged and shipped to active military, veterans and their families, and first responders. Below is a list of suggested items to be collected from February 11th to March 25th. Collection boxes will be located at Robinson Park and Meadow Avenue. Donations are greatly appreciated and thank you for your support!

All Purpose Wipes (Individual wipe or Pack of 30ct or less) →
Socks (Black) → Unused Greeting Cards or Stationery →
Mini Flashlights → Gum, Mints → Knit Hats & Scarves → Cool Ties →
Paracord Survival Bracelets → Video Games → Flash Drive/Power Banks →
Earbuds/Earphones → Lip Balm/Chapstick → Dental Floss →
Beanie Babies, Webkinz, Trolls, or other small plush toys →
Gloves (Black) → Cotton Swabs (packs of 50 or fewer) →
Facial Tissues (travel size packs) → Jerky Bag or Stick (Individual Serving) →
Mechanical Pencils → Small Notepads → Crystal Light (Individual Packets)



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.

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.**

2019 Mike Munchak Community Service Scholarship

BACKGROUND Mike Munchak has been teaming up with the United Way annual charity golf classic for the past 23 years serving as our tournament host and NFL Celebrity for nearly the entire time. In 2002 the event was changed to the Mike Munchak Charity Golf Classic and continues to be one of the premiere golf events in our area each season. In honor of Mike's commitment to our community and the United Way of Lackawanna & Wayne Counties, during the 2011 event it was announced that a special Mike Munchak Community Services Educational Scholarship is being formed with the initial scholarship awarded at our event in June 2012.

PROGRAM The United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties has established the Mike Munchak Community Services Scholarship to assist high school students from Lackawanna or Wayne Counties, PA who plan to continue their education at an accredited university, college, or trade school in a two or four year degree program. To be eligible candidates must be participants in programs funded by United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, have a demonstrated commitment through community service activities and be full-time residents and/or students of a school district within Lackawanna or Wayne Counties. Additional requirements including academic achievement, agency recommendation and a track record of community service as described in the section entitled "Eligibility". The scholarship will be awarded for a one year period. This is a one-time scholarship for graduating seniors and is not renewable beyond this one year period. The Award recipient will be chosen by the Scholarship Selection Committee and all decisions of the Selection Committee are final. The scholarship will be awarded annually at the discretion of the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties pending the availability of funding. Funding for the scholarship will be made available from the proceeds of the Annual Mike Munchak Charity Golf Classic to benefit United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties.

AWARDS If selected, the scholarship recipient will receive \$6,300.00 for the 2019/2020 award. A formal awarding of the Scholarship will take place at the Annual Mike Munchak Charity Golf Classic dinner. The 2019 dinner is scheduled for Monday, June 24, 2019 at the Country Club of Scranton. Photos of recipient and parent(s) will be taken with Mike during the program portion of the tournament. A current photo release must be on file with the United Way prior to the event and is included in the application packet. Awards are granted without regard to race, creed, color, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, disability or national origin.

ELIGIBILITY Applicants for the Mike Munchak

Community Service Scholarship shall:

- Be graduating seniors from a public, private or charter school in Lackawanna or Wayne Counties, PA and/or be full-time residents of Lackawanna or Wayne Counties, PA.
- Have demonstrated community service activities within programs/agencies funded by United Way.
- Meet minimum academic requirements (GPA of 2.5 or better).
- Submit a valid FAFSA Score (EFC Number). Copy of the page indicating score must be attached.
- Be accepted by an accredited university, college or trade school in a two or four year degree program.
- Complete and submit a valid signed application form along with all required documentation, essay response and letter of reference from the nominating United Way funded program/agency.

APPLICATION Interested applicants are required to complete the application, enclose all required documents of support including your essay and letter of recommendation and mail to the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, ATTENTION SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE, PO Box 526 Scranton, PA 18501-0526. An online version is available and can be completed on our website located at www.uwlcnet.org. Applications are to be postmarked or submitted no later than March 31, 2019. Applicants will receive acknowledgement as to the receipt of their application on a rolling basis. Applicants will be evaluated on the information supplied. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated. All information received is considered confidential and will only be reviewed by the Scholarship Selection Committee and appropriate staff support.

PROGRAM/AGENCY LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION All applications must include a written recommendation from the Executive Director or their authorized official Agency Staff Representative documenting community service involvement and reasons applicant should be selected. The recommendation must be from a program/agency funded by United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne counties.

SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS One recipient will be selected in any given year. The award will be for one year only. Recipients will be selected from a pool of qualified applicants with consideration given to those who demonstrate an extraordinary involvement in community service with a United Way funded program/agency, past academic performance and future potential, statement of career goals, unusual personal family circumstances, response to the essay question and stated recommendations of program/agency Executive Director or their authorized official Agency Staff Representative. Selection of recipients is made by the Scholarship Selection Committee. At no time

will any officer or employee of the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties be part of the selection process. All applicants, in submitting a signed application, agree that the decision of the Scholarship Selection committee is final.

EXCLUSIONS United Way staff, board members and their immediate families, the Scholarship Selection Committee and their immediate families are not eligible to apply.

PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIPS United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties will pay the scholarship in TWO equal installments mailed directly to the college, university or trade school with the checks made payable to the school in the name of the student. The scholarship recipient must furnish the official name, address, phone number and point of contact to the United Way for the check to be posted. The first payment will be released in August once written notification of acceptance from the school is received by United Way. The second payment will be released in January upon written notification from the recipient demonstrating they maintain a full-time status with the school. At no time will the scholarship amount exceed the total cost of tuition, books and room and board.

OBLIGATIONS The recipients of this scholarship shall have no obligation to the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, its funded programs and/or agencies. They are, however, required to notify the United Way of any changes in address, school enrollment or status, or other relevant information that may affect the intended utilization of this scholarship. The recipient agrees that the United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties may use his/her name and/or photograph for publicity purposes upon acceptance of this scholarship without further notification or compensation. This scholarship shall become null and void and no funds shall be tendered if the selected recipient violates any of these agreements, including withdrawal from school or dropping below full time student status.

REVISIONS The United Way of Lackawanna and Wayne Counties reserves the right to review the conditions and procedures of this scholarship program and make changes at any time including termination of this program. All applicants understand that this is a one-time one-year scholarship and is nonrenewable. The availability and amount of the Scholarship will be determined annually based on available funding.

Interested applicants are required to complete the application. Please visit: <https://www.uwlcnet.org/mike-munchak-community-service-scholarship>

Around The Arc

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volunteered rocked! Their hard work and dedication were beyond words. Around 200 people joined in the festivities and the night was full of winners.

The ladies purchased long sleeve tee shirts for all the folks in our programs. They are very nice and will keep our folks festive in the Irish green color with The Arc logo on the front. They also purchased kitchen supplies for the day program kitchen, as well as, a refrigerator for Summer Camp and several events for all the consumers to enjoy!

On Friday, December 14th, The Auxiliary had their Cookie Walk and a small Bazaar. We were sold out in no time and we wish to thank everyone for

stopping by to visit! Your support helps to purchase many needed items in The Arc program and also, continue the projects that the folks love to participate in such as Arc Stars. A round of applause for all the folks who baked, bought and enjoyed the day with us

The membership mailing for the Auxiliary will be headed your way soon... Many members participate in events and help with volunteer and fund raising needs. We continue to have interest in the group and we feel very proud of all the work that is being done.

We have been informed by the Lackawanna County Department of Arts and Culture that we are receiving a grant for the Theater Arts Program for

adults with developmental disabilities for the fourth year in a row!! Also, we recently visited Moscow Intermediate School for a presentation on The Arc Stars documentary and the students were phenomenal. The ladies are having a winter gathering for the Stars to celebrate all their successes and just to have a good time.

Foundation Overview:

The End of the Year Foundation "Ask" appeal was designated to assist with costs associated with Advocacy efforts in our neighboring counties. We are proud to report that we were very successful with the Appeal. The community is very good to us and we are grateful for the support.

The Arc Responds and the Employee Driven Group:

The Arc Responds "Snowflake Tree" Holiday Project 2018 was a great success. Even when times are so tough, people are very generous and give what they can to help another have a better holiday. We are extremely proud of this project and are very grateful for your continued support of all the fund raising activities.

The poinsettias were here and gone!!! They were very popular and we sold almost 600 flowers which is an extraordinary amount of community support. The Adult Day Program oversaw the posies and Arc Responds was the beneficiary of the proceeds.



National Wear Red Day

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women. To increase awareness of this devastating

disease and its effects, The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania is proudly participating in National Wear Red Day.



Seated - l to r: Mari Pizur; Mary Ann O'Shea; Eileen Rempe. Standing - Tina O'Malley; Allison Wruble; Ellen Sechler; Desiree Vojta; Kelly Peters.





Northeastern Pennsylvania

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DESIGNED BY: BILL PILLING GRAPHICS

*Sign
Up!*

Membership is the key...

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

- National, state, and local newsletters with current information on intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- The opportunity to participate in The Arc affairs at a local, state, and national level.
- Attend conferences, conventions, and seminars at a reduced cost.
- Discount prices on publications.
- Insurance services, credit card program, and free one year subscription to ABILITY digital magazine.

Stay Informed!

Membership Registration

New Member

Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Type of Membership

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

Please remit to:



Northeastern Pennsylvania

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Scranton, PA 18505