

SUMMER 2016

# The Arcticate

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## Arc Angels on Stage

### Magic Happens at The Arc

Betty Moreken, Nancy Crafferty, Corolla Sawka and the Arc Auxiliary Board and Education Committee

What a wonderful and beautiful experience it was to watch each person blossom and shine so bright. Come take a journey with us as we recall some memorable moments, the joy that happened and the magic that was created.

### A little background...

The Friends of The Arc and Geri Featherby, along with dance instructor, Christina Sohns-Williams, worked together to establish "Arc Angels on Stage." This 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 disabilities. A documentary style filming of these eight sessions was created and edited by Mark Migliore, showing the process of the development. The end result was a one evening presentation of the film/live performance for family, friends and community.

We invited family and friends to attend as well as community residents, educators and dignitaries. An outpouring of support from men, women, children, professional and laypeople who had no idea what to expect when they attended "Arc Angels on Stage." The audience laughed, cried, clapped and fully enjoyed the experience of the program. Those who attended were from all over the county, as well as outside of the area.

It was wonderful to find support in



the community from Sarno and Sons, who donated tuxedo pants for the men and women in our production. A bus was provided from V.I.P. Limo to transport the "Stars" to North Pocono High School on the evening of June 24th. The local newspapers provided extensive coverage of our program both before and after the event. There was support and positive responses from all! The community embraced the Stars and the show. The feedback was amazing with all the coverage on TV and in the newspaper, plus a letter from a North Pocono Board Member (below) and the Letter to the Editor (below). There was a real connection among the participants, parents, caregivers and the community. It was one of those times that we all wanted to shout, "ENCORE!"

### The journey...

This program was so unique and honestly, no one knew what to expect. We knew we had tremendous talent with Geri and her creative team of film production, dance instructors and theater buddies (students from North Pocono) but we just kept asking ourselves, how will all of this turn out?" No one really knew but Geri. She knew without any doubt that the experience would be great. Week One

was a leap of faith for all of us. We did not know if everyone would show or how they would interact or if this program would hold their interest, but once Ms. Featherby began to work her magic with the help of Ms. Sohns-Williams, Ms. Sohns-Petty and all the theater buddies, everyone came alive with smiles, giggles, laughter. The atmosphere in the room was contagious and before you knew it, we were all laughing and having a great time. Parents, caregivers, volunteers and friends were all amazed at how well everyone interacted and respected each other. You could feel the warmth each person had for the other.

The weeks that followed were filled with talent, kindness, understanding and love. We danced, acted and learned so

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**The Arc**<sup>™</sup>

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# President's Message



This writing marks my last message to you as President of The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania. It has been one heck of an interesting ride! I thought I knew a lot about The Arc before becoming your President however, over the past two years, I have learned so much more about this wonderful organization.

First and foremost, has been the strong dedication of our roughly 200 employees of this organization. The staff at The Arc are probably the most caring people I have ever met. They work so very hard at their jobs, giving "top of the line" care to our consumers while at the same time being held hostage to State budget issues that restrain salaries and benefits. It is only because of their total dedication to the profession that we are able to retain these very special people. To all of you I salute your efforts and more importantly, your results!

The 2nd item that I think gets overlooked or perhaps taken for granted is the strength of our Board of Directors. The Board that governs The Arc is a group of individuals who all serve in a volunteer capacity. It is a very diverse group of men and women who all bring a perspective to our meetings that is unique. This

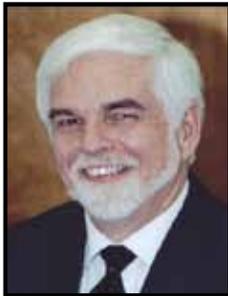
enables us to share our experiences in such a way that we make the best possible decisions on issues that we discuss. I was the beneficiary of this strong group of people and I would also like to thank them for their support too. I know that everyone (existing and new board members) will be just as supportive to our incoming President, Bob Durkin.

Lastly, I would like to draw attention back to where it should be. This includes the fine work that The Arc does on a daily basis! Individuals with intellectual disabilities have been ignored, abused and neglected throughout time. The Arc-NEPA has acted as an advocate for people with intellectual disabilities. The agency has done an incredible job of fighting for the rights of people who cannot fight for themselves. It serves as a fine example of what can be done to protect and promote the rights of these individuals. I couldn't be prouder to be associated with such a wonderful group of professionals. We've been around for 61 years and based upon the individuals that I have met through my affiliation with the organization, I am certain that we will be around for many, many more.....

Respectfully,

Ken Doolittle, President

## Exec's Corner



Hope everyone is doing well. Boy, are we busy here! I was so happy and fortunate to be a part of the signing of SB879, the PA ABLE Act bill that the Governor signed on April 18th in Hershey. Senator Casey, who was the author and major sponsor of the federal bill, was present with many dignitaries, including our own Sara Wolff, who was a local champion to get the bill passed. Also, kudos go out to Senator Lisa Baker

for her leadership and sponsorship to get the bill passed in PA. It will take another year to put the final touches on SB 879 but the heavy lifting has been done. Thanks to all who supported this legislation.

As you know, there is a budget crisis in PA. The fact that it took 8 months to pass this year's budget is indicative of the problem. Also, there is a serious financial crisis in the Intellectual Disability (I.D.) world also. There just isn't enough money available to do the hard work needed in our field. There must be a negotiated settlement to rectify these issues going forward. Of all the Medicaid funded services in PA, services to people with I.D. are at the very bottom. I have included a graph to exemplify the problem.

We work with various groups to attempt to change attitudes in Harrisburg. The Arc of PA and PAR are two of the strongest.

Below is the latest information we have on the 2016-2017 Budget that became law on July 12, 2016, even though it was not signed by the Governor.

### Base Funding

- Human services funding was cut 10% across the board in 2012 and these cuts have not yet been restored. Governor Wolf's 2016-17 budget proposal includes restoring a portion of these cuts, which includes base funding for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Base funding continues to decrease each year, despite Governor Wolf's proposed increases that would ameliorate the significant 10% cut that occurred in 2012. In 2013-2014 funding was cut by \$305,000; in 2014-2015 it was cut by \$1.24 million and in 2015-2016 it was cut by \$1.45 million. Base funding allows counties to respond to crisis needs in their communities, mostly due to families waiting for waiver funding and facing needs in the midst of this wait.
- We know funding was used from intellectual and developmental disabilities to pay for other human services areas in counties using the human services block grant. A transparent report is still needed to that Pennsylvanians know the true impact of the human services block grant.

### Waiting List Funding

- Nearly 14,000 individuals with disabilities continue to struggle on the intellectual disabilities waiting list, with almost 5,000 heightened crisis situations without access to the supports they have a right to use.
- Funding to support people with intellectual disabilities who are desperately waiting for services has dwindled in recent years while thousands wait for services. In 2012-2013, waiting list funding was \$17.8 million; in 2013-2014, \$19.9

*(Continued on page 9)*

# 2016 Golf Tournament

On June 13th, The Arc-NEPA sponsored a Golf Tournament at Stone Hedge. The day featured a Captain and Crew format with a shotgun start. We would like to thank everyone who helped make this tourney such a success. We couldn't do it without you!

## Major Sponsorships

### Bronze Sponsor

Michael Barbetti

### Dinner Sponsor

MetLife  
NBT Bank  
Tunkhannock Auto Mart

### Cocktail Hour Sponsors

John & Carol Heim - A.J. Guzzi General Contractors

### Hole-In-One Sponsors

Carol Chisdak & Pat Cole  
Toyota of Scranton

### Lunch Sponsor

Peoples Security Bank  
PNC Bank

### ProShop Sponsor

"A Friend of The Arc-NEPA"

### Halfway Point Sponsors

Howell Benefits  
Kanton Realty  
Mark Lynn  
Waste Management

### Hole Sponsors

A-1 Auto Sales  
American Janitor  
Rick Bishop  
Center for Independent Living  
Citizens Bank  
DG Nicholas  
The Durkin Family  
Frank Edwards  
FNCB  
Steve and Mary Fox  
Tom and Helga Harrington  
Hendrick Manufacturing  
Ann and Bob Hoffman  
Kearney Funeral Home  
Keystone Community Resources  
Lackawanna Mobile X-Ray  
Lamar Advertising  
Mike Mardo and Iris Liebman  
Mark and Michele McDade  
NEPARE Corporation  
Northeastern Transit  
Oliver, Price and Rhodes



Sidney Prejean and Melinda Ghilardi  
Prescription Center  
St. Ann's Monastery - In Honor of  
Jimmy Holman  
Scranton Chapter UNICO  
Tim Wagner  
Topp Copy  
Wayne Bank

### Cart Sponsorships

1st Alarm Security  
A-1 Auto Sales  
Kurt Lynott  
Tom and Joan Morgan  
Service 1st FCU  
Sandy Yantorn

## Golf Teams

Lou Auriemma, Michael Auriemma,  
Jerry Auriemma, Joe O'Brien; Bill  
Burnell, Will Burnell, Dan Holod,  
Don Broderick; Carol Chisdak, Elaine  
Shepard, Sandy Yantorn; WNEP; Ken  
Doolittle, Bryan Boles, Frank Edwards,  
Mike McGrath, Kelvin Hickin, Wayne  
Smith; John Heim, Rick Galdieri;  
Jim Henkelman, Guy Cali, Paul  
Woelkers; Howell Benefits; Medline;  
Barbetti CPA; Kelly Peters, Joe Sepe,  
Penny Spory, Kyle Juice; Dave Pompey,  
Carla Pompey, David Pompey, Bob  
Hiza; Pat Quinn, Carolyn Quinn,  
Joe Barrett, Kevin Quinn; Center for  
Independent Living, Mike Ruane, Josh  
Ruane, Reilly Ruane, Tim Wagner;  
Keystone Community Resources

## Special Thank You

Hilton, PNC Field/RailRiders, Sandone  
Tire, Loading Dock, EFO, AAA,  
Mendicinos, Lakeland Golf Club, Lamar  
Advertising, The Scranton Times-  
Tribune, Brucelli, Jaworski, Superior  
Trophy & Stone Hedge, WNEP & to all  
the individuals & companies who have  
so graciously donated to this year's  
tournament.



## Easter Egg Hunt

*Hippity Hoppity Here Comes Peter Cotton Tail!*



On March 19th the Recreation Department hosted its Second Easter Egg Hunt at The Arc. The rooms were adorned with bunnies, eggs and bunny prints on the floor.

We started our day with a Coloring Contest for each age group. Each winner received prizes from huge lollipops to stuffed chicks or bunnies. Citizen Bank Southside Branch put all of the colored pictures on display for the week of Easter!

Our Easter Egg Hunts were broken down by age and each age group had to find the "Special Surprise Eggs" to win prizes. There were "Dotted" and "Golden" eggs, if they found a Dotted Egg they got to pick a prize and the Golden eggs won an Easter Basket full of goodies!

We had Basket Raffles filled with candy and stuffed Bunnies, Peeps, Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

Let's not forget pictures with the Bunny to end our fun filled day!

The hunt was open to the public for children ages 1 through 21. We had about 40 children participate!

## Buddy Up Tennis

*As a follow-up to last season's article on The Arc welcoming Dr. Murugu Manickam we would like to share an article that was on WNEP's site:*

### 'Buddy Up Tennis' Program Helps Children with Down Syndrome

Posted 6:27 pm, April 30, 2016, by Bill Michlowski

SOUTH ABINGTON TOWNSHIP -- Some children with Down syndrome learned about fitness while having fun through an adaptive tennis program in Lackawanna County. The kids can work with instructors to develop their tennis skills while staying active and making new friends.

This is the fourth time Kelly Carey of Newton Township has brought his

daughter Nora to participate in the program. "She loves it. The instructors and the staff here are fantastic. They're patient. They support the kids, and they really try to get them to work to the best of their ability," Carey said.

\*\*\*Birchwood Tennis and Fitness Club near Clarks Summit hosted the clinic on Saturday mornings for six weeks.

## Youth Day of Caring

Students from All Saints Academy volunteered with The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania at Robinson Park in Scranton on May 19th. The Arc has participated in Youth Day of Caring since its inception, and we have hosted hundreds of school students throughout the years for volunteer opportunities, and more importantly,

the experience of visiting the Arc and the folks we serve. The students did a fantastic job in giving the park a clean, springtime freshening. Thank you again for all your support!!!



# 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!

## Outstanding Media Support Award

Tom Donohue

## Extraordinary Leadership Award

Peter Danchak

## Special Recognition

Geri Featherby and her Creative Team: Cristina Sohns-Williams, Jennifer Sohns-Petty, Mark Migliore, Nancy Crafferty and Betty Moreken

## Extraordinary Dedication Award

Arc Responds/

Employee Driven Committee

## Board Member Term of Service Award

(for completion of two consecutive three year terms:)

Louis Auriemma

Peter Kanton

Alexandra Yantorn

## Board President Term of Service Recognition

Ken Doolittle

## SDDS Donation



Pictured left to right: Tammy Hallock; Marissa Walker; Chris McLean; Jerry Madesky; Corey Martin; Carrie Akers, Don Broderick; Stacy Mallory and Erica Francis

Reprinted from the SDDS Summer Newsletter

As a thank you for consistently helping with National Children's Dental Health Month (NCHDM), the SDDS donated to The Arc-NEPA. Proceeds from this year's golf tournament will also help fund this worthwhile organization.

## Employee Anniversaries

**30 Years:** Maryclaire Kretsch, Julie Verrastrò

**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 Mc-

Clintock, Meredith Moran CAMP, Sandra Moyer (Carbon County), Denise Nieratko, Joy Pinkney, Alan Sheridan, Holly Ann Scripp, Emily Walsh, Cheryl Wolf

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

We welcomed new Board Members: Christine Carroll, Mark McDade and John Worobey.

## Auxiliary Happenings

### Looking Back – June, 2015 to present

- **June** - we introduced three new members to our Auxiliary Board – Helga Harrington, Michelle Reilly and Peggy Tenelly.
  - **July** - thanks to Mary Murphy Fox, we had our meeting on the patio of the Scranton Canoe Club at Lake Winola – what a beautiful view.
  - **August** - brought us to Weston Park for an ice cream social with the campers. We celebrated Christmas at our Membership Mixer at McDade Park. Carols were sung and many danced the hula. We had our meeting at The Arc and treated the day program to an ice cream social.
  - **September** – we helped at The Arc in the Park with a donation of cookies for the bake sale.
  - **October** – another busy month... We had a fund raiser at Friendly's. The Education Committee went to Moscow Elementary School. Most of us attended the 60th Anniversary Gala – Boy!!! What a night with magic and juggling. Hats off to The Arc for putting on such an event. We celebrated Halloween with a party. We had a lot of fun watching the consumers dance to the music of the D.J. Mike Strasburger. Also, we made a scarecrow with orange hair for a competition at a park in Clarks Summit.
  - **November** – brought us to the Apple Orchard of the Night of the Races. What a turn out! We all had a good time. All the hard work was worth it. The Education Committee visited two schools, Jefferson (North Pocono) and Lackawanna Trail.
  - **December** – was another busy month with our Christmas Party at Sibio's, the Cookie Walk, the selling of poinsettias and tying red ribbons on our Christmas gifts (jackets) for the consumers.
  - **January** – we all needed a rest. However, we did help our little angel, Fiona, and her family.
  - **February** – we filled love bugs for the consumers along with a dollar for the vending machine. We also had the membership drive.
  - **March** – was another busy month, with filling Easter presents, selling flowers and helping at the Basketball game.
  - **April** – was a quiet month. We made arrangements for our Dine and Donate fund raiser at the Olde Brook Inn.
  - **May** – the Arc Stars started rehearsing for Arc Angels on Stage. Love was the theme. Geri Featherby and her creative team did a fantastic job. The show was fabulous and the feedback was very positive. We look forward to more opportunity through the Lackawanna County Arts and Culture. The Arc Angels of the Month is doing great, with the help of Allison and Erica.
- All in all, we had a fantastic year.
- Thanks for all your help.
- Sincerely,  
Corolla Sawka, President

# Celebrity Spotlight

All the names of the folks who are served by The Arc are put into a canister and pulled to see who will be our Celebrity for the month. We take a picture, have a little write-up and learn about their interests and showcase the display in the Day Program area. We all have to the opportunity to get to know the person a little more, plus they receive a certificate, t-shirt and gift certificate for Friendly's.



Quinn has been here for 16 years. He recently moved into a St. Joe's group home and now his roommate is also his best friend.

He likes playing basketball, listening to music but enjoys quiet time too, swimming and swings.

He loves spending time with his mom and dad, especially riding in his dad's convertible with the top down and his hands up!



Andy has been at The Arc since 1977. He is a lifetime Board member and very involved with the United

Way and Aktion Club. Andy also loves to be active with the Dunmore Football and he would never miss a game. His outgoing and friendly personality are a big hit while Andy does his contract work during the day.

In 2014, Andy moved to a community living home where he reunited with an

old friend and they get along great!

He enjoys bowling in the Arc Fun and Friendship league, playing Bingo and dancing. Andy is an all-around good guy with a gentleman way and contagious smile who will always help his fellow friend. He loves singing Elvis and all the oldies. His solo of Hound Dog is one of the many highlights in the Christmas Show.



Jackie has been with us since 2000. He loves giving bear hugs. He has the best smile that will light up a room.

He enjoys being outside. He

likes going to sporting events, movies, shopping, fairs, picnics and walks.

Everyone who meets Jackie loves him!

## Red Cross Everyday Heroes

Scranton Police Officer William Golden came to the rescue of Arc consumers and staff when he rushed into an Arc sponsored group home that was on fire. Officer Golden was off-duty at the time, but noticed flames and heavy smoke enveloping the outside of the structure in Scranton's Tripp Park section. The on duty staff, who was with two women who require full attendant care, was unaware of the ensuing fire at the time, as the interior smoke alarm had not yet activated.

Officer Golden entered the home and alerted the on duty staff to the situation. He quickly recognized that the eldest of the consumers, who was on oxygen at the time, would need to be carried from the home. He picked her up and carried her to safety across the street while helping to guide the other two involved.

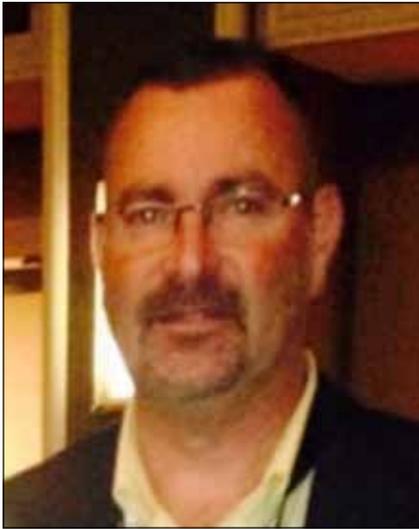
A Police officer encounters many fast acting scenarios during the course of his or her career. On this particular day, while not on duty, Officer William Golden's selfless actions and bravery make him an "Everyday Hero", as well as a lifesaver.



Should there be a photo ID with this photo??????

# Workers in Noble Field Not Adequately Valued

This piece was originally published in the Sunday Times by Patrick T. Quinn/Published: April 3, 2016



Patrick T. Quinn is Director of Residential and Adult Day Services at The Arc of Northeastern PA Which is based in Scranton.

The history of care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities — formerly termed mental retardation — is scripted by an evolution in social values.

Long ago, people with these disabilities were thought of as menaces to society and often were sent away to large, congregate living facilities — out of sight and out of mind. Parents who chose to keep their children home faced daunting obstacles as a result — there was no schooling and few to no available services. The first wave of social value change occurred in the 1950s, when Arc chapters along with other grass-roots organizations for change sprang up around the country.

In 1963, President Kennedy's administration was the first to look into matters of care for this population via the first "President's Committee on Mental Retardation." Pennsylvania followed suit in 1966 with the state's Mental Health/Mental Retardation Act, which mandated that services and supports be available through county-supported programs, essentially paving the way for today's community-based network of care for folks with these disabilities. Today, there are approximately 50,000

people served statewide in community-based programs, as opposed to only 985 who remain in Pennsylvania's five remaining state-run institutions.

Nonprofits like the Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania were established to relieve the government of its burden of duty for the care of people with disabilities and as a result the system of community care began to thrive. New and improved residential support options, family support programs, day services, employment opportunities and educational laws laid the groundwork for a burgeoning and evolving approach to supporting people with disabilities in experiencing an "everyday life" — Pennsylvania's doctrine on what supports should look like.

In the last decade, it appears that the pendulum has swung back toward a devaluation of the importance and dignity of serving these people with adequate resources to do so. Direct support professionals working in community programs across the state have not seen a cost-of-living increase in seven years. Agencies have seen their rates of reimbursement plummet through "revenue adjustment factors" served up from Harrisburg. Some services have converted to inflexible fixed rate models, occasionally resulting in the cost of providing the services being higher than the rate of reimbursement. The state budget impasse forced many providers of these services, as well as other human services organizations and school districts, to fall back on bank loans and lines of credit, with applicable interest, of course.

In the course of the aforementioned growth of the community system, wages were historically low in the helping professions, which is widely known. However, solid benefit packages balanced the career experiences of those caring professionals dedicated to this field. Now, with agencies forced to implement staggering austerity measures to keep their doors open,

even benefits such as health care, for all intents and purposes, have become unaffordable for some of these workers. Agencies cannot sustain the high percentage increases of providing health care without raising deductibles to the already cash-strapped caregivers. The fact that 43 percent of direct support professionals nationally depend on public assistance is a sad testament to the devaluation of the critical work they do day in and day out supporting people with special needs.

Great things happen every day at the Arc and at other service providers statewide to promote the "everyday life" experience for our friends with disabilities. Perhaps not fully understood, however, is the fact that people's lives are quite literally in the hands of underpaid and largely unappreciated caregivers. At the Arc, a modest recognition protocol is in place to recognize those who perform acts of heroism, such as rescue breathing, the Heimlich maneuver, CPR and other measures. It's a safe bet that our legislators would want that sort of responsibility for the care of their loved ones entrusted to someone making more than \$9 per hour. We do have some champions of our cause in the state House and Senate; however, the larger legislative bodies on both sides don't view the call to care for Pennsylvania's most vulnerable citizens to be a legislative priority or a moral human priority. The pendulum must swing to re-value this profession.

It's no secret that declines in state tax revenues drive the tightening that is felt in human services. There is no excuse, however, for not recognizing the vital efforts of caring professionals who work tirelessly to support complex individuals. They need more than thanks for doing "God's work." They need to be compensated appropriately. This can only be achieved through a bipartisan legislative agenda that places a high value on the primary responsibility of government — to rightfully care for its citizens, especially those most vulnerable.

# Congratulations Sara and See You Soon Reverend Woodruff



*Pictured: Ken Doolittle, Immediate Past Board President; Sara Wolff; Reverend Howard Woodruff; Don Broderick.*

The Arc is proud of the accomplishments and many friendships we have cherished over the years. We are very fortunate for two such people: Sara Wolff and Reverend Howard Woodruff. Sara received the prestigious Catalyst Award at the Arc National Convention (more info below) and we are very sad to say farewell to Reverend Woodruff. The Reverend is relocating and will be a valued member of his new congregation. Sara - we want to congratulate you and know you will keep up the awesome work you do and Howard - you are an amazing man and will not be forgotten. We hope this is just, "See you soon."

## **The Arc's Catalyst Awards - 2015 Honorees**

This year during The Arc's National Convention in Indianapolis in October, The Arc will present its inaugural Catalyst Awards. These national awards were created to recognize individuals, businesses, and other organizations that are catalysts for achievement in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Public Policy Victory of the Year

The Stephen Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014  
(Presented to recipients listed below)

The Stephen Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE) Act was signed into law on December 19, 2014 after many years of advocacy and bipartisan work in both the House and Senate. The law allows eligible individuals with disabilities the ability to establish "ABLE accounts" for qualified

beneficiaries that resemble the qualified tuition programs, often called "529 accounts", that have been established under that section of the tax code since 1996. The new ABLE accounts will allow the person with a disability more individual choice and control over spending on qualified disability expenses and limited investment decisions, while protecting eligibility for Medicaid,

Supplemental Security Income, and other important federal benefits for people with disabilities. Without these accounts, many people with disabilities have very limited avenues to save and allow for further independence. The passage of this bill comes after years of advocacy by Members of Congress and leaders in the disability community. Honorees include:

Chief Sponsors of the bill:

Congressman Ander Crenshaw (FL-4)

Congressman Chris Van Hollen (MD-8)

Senator Richard Burr (NC)

Senator Bob Casey (PA)

Other Members of Congress whose work helped to ensure final passage:

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (CA-23)

House Rules Committee Chairman Pete Sessions (TX-32)

House Republican Conference Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-5)

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin G. Hatch (UT)

Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (OR)

Sara Wolff - A powerful self-advocate who has long supported the passage of the ABLE Act. She has worked closely with the lead sponsors of this bill in Congress and participated in a number of national events to raise awareness and promote passage.

Stephen Beck (will be honored posthumously, his wife Catherine Beck will accept the award on his behalf) - For years, Stephen Beck was the driving force behind this bill. He dedicated nights and weekends on top of his full time job to lobby Members of Congress and work with national organizations like The Arc to support passage.

John Ariale - John Ariale is the former Chief of Staff for Chief of

Representative Ander Crenshaw. He drafted and steered the ABLE Act through the 8+ year process, leading to its final passage last year.

## **Employment Opportunities**

Employment opportunities are available at The Arc of NEPA. Please join our caring team of professionals assisting adults with developmental disabilities.

### **Our 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
- \$300 new employee referral bonuses
- 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.

To be considered for a position at The Arc-NEPA, a completed application must be on file with our Human Resources Department.

*For more information, please call 570-346-4010 or visit our website ([www.thearcnepa.org](http://www.thearcnepa.org))*

# Exec's Corner

(Continued from page 2)

million; 2014-2015, \$12.2 million; 2015-2016, approximately \$12 million. Governor Wolf has proposed \$11.5 million in waiting list funding for fiscal year 2016-2017 that will remove 750 people from the waiting list.

- There is still no accurate count of how many people in Pennsylvania need autism support services. While many individuals in Pennsylvania who have autism are also receiving intellectual disability services, there are thousands who do not qualify for intellectual disability services. There could be as many as 185,000 people with autism in Pennsylvania; currently Pennsylvania has waiver spots for 518 in the Adult Autism Waiver and 146 in the Adult Community Autism Program.

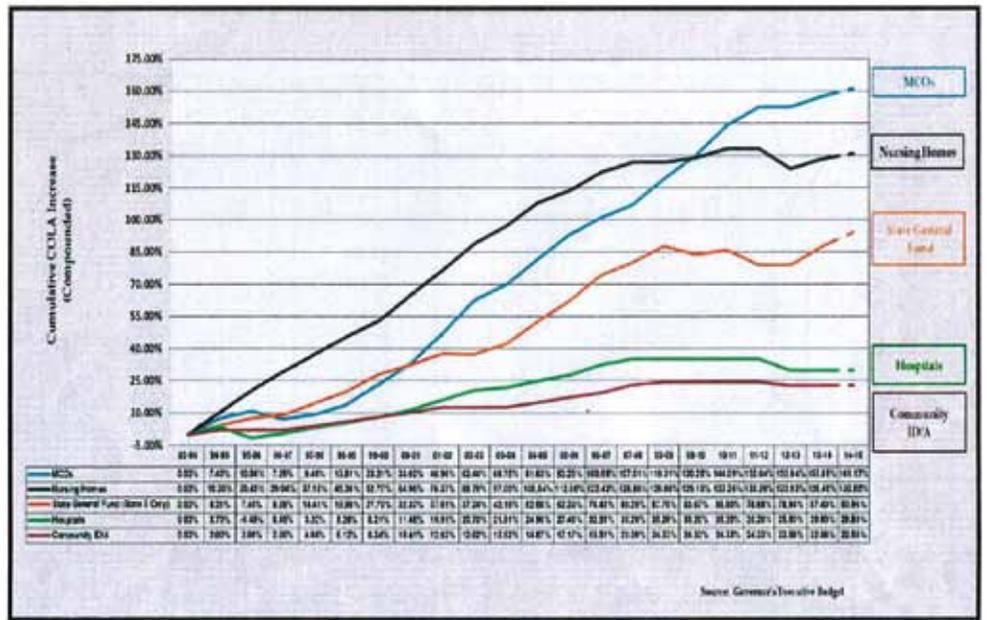
## Disability Services Funding

- Consolidated Waiver funding has been markedly inconsistent and trending downward in recent years. Funding increased \$106.9 million in fiscal year 2013-2014; \$48.1 million in fiscal year 2014-2015; \$127.8 million in fiscal year 2015-2016; and \$71.4 million is proposed for 2016-2017 with \$11.5 million dedicated to getting people off the waiting list and supporting recent graduates.

*There is very little new money for expansion, flat funding for state based rate services, slightly more for residential and cost based services.*

- Inadequate provider reimbursement rates hurt Pennsylvanians with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism. Providers are responsible for providing residential, employment, transportation and other vital services that support people with disabilities so they can live full lives in the community. Insufficient reimbursement rates decrease the ability of providers to meet the needs of Pennsylvanians with disabilities.
- Direct Support Professionals work with Pennsylvanians with disabilities each day while receiving minimal pay, leading to extremely high turnover in staff. For Pennsylvania to have a truly robust community support system, the state must address this workforce crisis and make investments to have a sustainable community-based workforce.

## ID/A Rate Increases for Community Services Lag Well Behind the Increases Received by Other Major Medicaid Providers in Pennsylvania



### We are advocating for:

- Funds for at least 420 new openings in the Consolidated waiver and 700 new openings in the P/FDS waiver that would serve all 2016 school graduates.
- The Governor proposed an \$11.5 million increase for waiver services, covering only an additional 250 individuals with intellectual disabilities (Consolidated waiver) from the emergency waiting list and 500 students with intellectual disabilities graduating from high school (P/FDS waiver).
- This is a significant step backwards from the last two years:
  - Fiscal year 2013-2014 – 380 Consolidated waiver spots and 700 P/FDS spots
  - Fiscal year 2014-2015 – 400 Consolidated waiver spots and 700 P/FDS spots
  - The Office of Developmental Programs also holds back waiver spots each year for emergency situations that arise, particularly for individuals who are referred to waiver services through Adult Protective Services. This means that there will be even fewer new spots to remove individuals from the emergency waiting list. Currently there are nearly 5,000 individuals on the emergency waiting list.

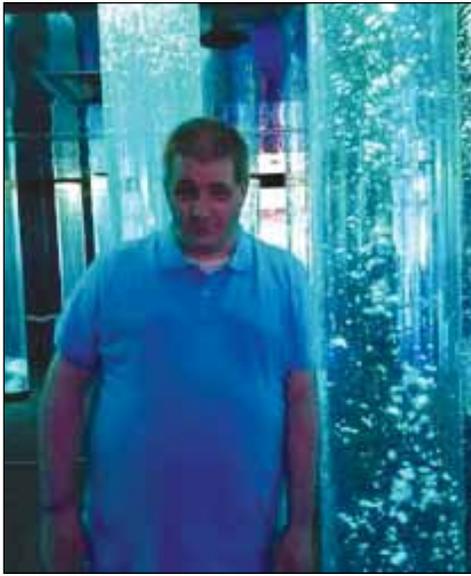
While more funding is critical to supporting Pennsylvanians with disabilities, we would, at the very least,

like to see the increases identified in the Governor's proposed budget be in the final budget:

- An increase of \$10.69 million, or 7.2%, in community base funds, which helps fund respite support and county programs that address the gap in ID support services.
- \$1.2 million increase in Infant/Toddler Early Intervention.
- \$2.5 million to offer waivers to 100 adults with autism.
- \$955,000 to transition 75 individuals currently residing in the state intellectual disabilities centers to the community.
- \$2 million increase for OVR which would leverage \$8 million in federal funds. OVR provides supported employment services to adults with disabilities.
- \$50 million increase to special education which would be distributed according to the new Special Education Funding Formula.
- The Arc of Pennsylvania continues to advocate for a strategic plan to fully fund I/DD services so that there will be no waiting list.
- Creating an Autism Waiting List so Pennsylvania has an accurate count of how many people need Autism waivers.

On first blush, this is not a great budget for ID services but no excessive cuts either. We will pass along additional information and further analysis when it becomes available.

## Recreation Highlights



Arc Tracks went to the Inner Harbor on May 14th and enjoyed the Aquarium as well as the shops! Lots of other traveling opportunities to come! Arc-Recreation had their Bowling Banquet at Fiorelli's on May 24th. Approximately 300 people shared in the festivities of the evening and there were a lot of happy faces showing off their trophies. Also, several folks enjoyed the Classic Rock Fest (March) and a dinner and show (April) featuring the Jersey Four and on May 26th, everyone had their dancing shoes on for the PA Polka Band at Weston Park.

## Prep Kids



For many years we have had the pleasure of Mr. Aaron Holzman (Arc alumni) and his students from Scranton Prep School visit us and perform hours of volunteer work on the property grounds of the Adult Day and Senior's Program and several community homes. Their outstanding dedication for their generous commitment of time and

energy that they have given to The Arc-NEPA for almost two decades has not gone unnoticed. You have helped to beautify and enhance the properties of The Arc and for this we are sincerely appreciative. Thank you so much for being such wonderful friends of The Arc. A check was presented to The Arc for \$1000- a donation made by his volunteer students!

## Aktion Club



A luncheon, hosted by the Aktion Club, was held for members of the Kiwanis Club on April 6th. A buffet luncheon was served and the entertainment was enjoyed by all.

## Bring Your Child to Work Day



Thursday, April 28th was Bring Your Child to Work Day! The kiddos who participated had a lot of fun while helping to do contract work, activities and crafts, listening to

speakers and having breakfast and lunch. Each child received a t-shirt and certificate. What a great way to bring some visitors to the folks in Day Program.

# Earth Day

Earth Day was celebrated by The Arc! A group went to the New Natural Park on Nay Aug Avenue which is run by LHVA. We have fun wherever we go but we also accomplish a lot of hard work as well as learning about the environment.



## RailRiders



We were the featured non-profit of the evening at the RailRiders game on May 11th. There were approximately 140 people watching and enjoying the game while supporting The Arc. Michael Phillips was so proud to throw out the first pitch! It was beautiful evening again this year and it was so good to see everyone.

## Spares That Care



Spares that Care was held on April 24th at Valley Lanes. Every lane was taken and there were lines to get in! Absolutely amazing baskets and very generous lane sponsors. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible.



# Around The Arc

## **Arc Update**

The Arc is continuing its efforts to improve areas of need. We are still identifying new projects and completing renovations. We received a donation from a Foundation recently for \$2,500 to continue updating the Learning Resource Center. Also, new for this year, we have developed the Bridge the Gap appeal which will support the deficit in the Adult Day program. Each fund raising event will have this tagline so we can raise awareness of just how much help we need to continue the services we provide. Thank you once again for all your dedication.

Arc Knight is scheduled for August 13th at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs. Everyone knows that this is a thrilling event so please join us for some horse racing excitement. More information in this edition.

Sara Wolff is planning a Bowlathon for Saturday, October 8th at Idle Hour Lanes. Look for the flyer soon!

First Friday Health Fair — The Lackawanna County Medical Society had its annual health fair to offer education and health screenings. The Fair was June 3rd on Lackawanna County Courthouse Square, Scranton. There was blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose checks and also immunizations for the public. The event was designed to educate the public on healthy living and provide basic preventative services. The Arc shared information on Shaken Baby Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

## **Auxiliary Information**

The membership mailing is out and we are receiving renewals every day! Thank you so much for joining us once again. Many members participate in events and help with volunteer and fund raising needs.

We have received a grant from the Lackawanna County Department of Arts and Culture for \$3,000 for Theater Arts for adults with disabilities. Geri Featherby directed the program and we filmed a documentary which will be posted for all to see. The show was on Friday, June 24th at North Pocono High

School. Front page article...

The Education Committee along with Sara Wolff visited Prescott Elementary on May 13th and Kennedy on June 3rd. The ladies talk to the children about the importance of acceptance and respect. The students are very receptive to the message that all people want the same: to have friends, learn and experience new things. We are working to lessen the amount of bullying happening at the middle school and high school levels by talking about compassion and dignity at the grammar schools.

Dine and Donate at the Night out at Olde Brook Inn was a delicious night out and we made over \$450.00!!! Thank you for joining us for a great night out.

Celebrity Spotlight – All the names of the folks who are served by The Arc are put into a canister and pulled to see who will be our Celebrity for the month. We take a picture, have a little write-up and learn about their interests and showcase the display in the Day Program area. We all have to the opportunity to get to know the person a little more, plus they receive a certificate, t-shirt and gift certificate for Friendly's. Celebrities are featured in each edition of the newsletter.

## **Foundation Overview**

The Foundation Annual Meeting was held at Cooper's on June 10th.

## **Aktion Club**

The Flea Market was on June 17th at

Robinson Park. Great turn out and thank you for all the donations!

## **Just a little bit of information...**

The membership renewals are in each newsletter, as well as, a mailing that went out for the first quarter. Your renewals are vital to our organization. As you know, the more members we have the more votes we have when it comes to legislative issues affecting the folks we serve.

Do you know anyone who would like to donate their car? We have recently been enrolled in The Arc Vehicle Donation Program which accepts all cars, trucks, motorcycles, RVs; regardless of their condition. Please visit our website for more information.

I believe most know that The Arc has a Memorial/Honorarium program. Several of you utilize this way of expressing your thoughts and remembering your loved ones, friends, neighbors, etc. We are very grateful for your generosity and please continue to let us send along your notes.

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.

## **Hey Arc Employees!**



Money! Money! Money!  
Refer a friend!! Receive a \$300.00 Referral Bonus for full and part time new hire referrals (with completed paperwork).

Contact the  
Human Resources Department  
for more information

# Disability Funding Rally

**June 6, 2016**

## **Pennsylvania State Capital Rotunda Harrisburg, PA**

Self-Advocates and Advocates from across the state joined together to be heard as a unified voice on behalf of Pennsylvanians with disabilities, some who cannot speak for themselves.

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 issue of: increase in funding for disability services and increased wages for service providers.



## Legislator Honorees

*Reprinted from the Abington Journal:*

The Arc of Pennsylvania honors a legislator annually who has demonstrated leadership to address the needs of Pennsylvanians with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. This year, The Arc selected state Sen. Lisa Baker (R-20) and state Rep. Mauree Gingrich (R-101).

Baker has been an ardent and vocal supporter of legislation that has advanced The Arc's efforts. Among the bills, the organization recognized Baker

for this legislative session was the creation of the Pennsylvania ABLE Act which allows people with disabilities to save money for needed living expenses, without losing vital benefits like Medicaid.

Baker has been actively involved with the ongoing #IWantToWork campaign and continuously listens to people with disabilities, their families, their caregivers and advocates to make sure their needs are being met in Harrisburg.



*Pictured: Senator Baker and Sara Wolff*

## In Memory Of Justin Kavulich



Barbara Naumann who works at Prime Med on Quincy Avenue, Scranton, contacted The Arc to make a donation in memory of Justin Kavulich. Barb and her family stopped by with a very generous amount of puzzles, toys and games for all the folks who are served here at The Arc. We cannot

thank all of them enough for their kind thoughts and well wishes. Justin will always be in our memories. He is missed.

*Pictured: Keith Carroll; Katie Kavulich; Keeley Carroll; Barbara Naumann; Kelsey Kavulich; Katarina Carroll*

# Arc Angels on Stage

(Continued from page 1)

much about theater and the process. Time flew by and each week ran into the next and before we knew it, we were at rehearsal. Dress rehearsal was all about making everything run as smooth as possible. We wanted the night of the show to be perfect and to show everyone how hard we

worked to give them a performance that they would always remember. No one will ever forget the ride to North Pocono, the red carpet walk, all the cameras and happy faces. I can still see the standing ovation and hear the applause the Stars received for a performance unlike any other.

Gerri created this world of Magic that

she called "A World of Love Makes a World of Difference!" but what she actually did was give the people involved wings. She said, "This project changed lives." There were no disabilities or obstacles, there was just freedom to be anything they wanted, freedom to enjoy life and all that it has to offer, everyone was just themselves and that was beautiful.

Hello Mrs. Featherby:

Accolades to you and your team!!

What a wonderful performance tonight. My wife Cindy and I were amazed at the absolutely terrific job that you, Ms. Sohns-Williams, Ms. Sohn-Petty and Mr. Migliore did with and for the Arc Angels. I am sure that we were not alone with tears of sheer joy as we watched the video and the on-stage performance. I hope you are as proud of yourself and your team of theater buddies and especially your Arc Angel performers as I am to be associated with such talented and committed teachers and students. I can't thank you enough for inviting us to witness such a wonderful event.

I think one of the comments that a family member made in awe - that one of your characters raised his hands above his head - said it all. You have proven that with a little time, perseverance, compassion, commitment and a lot of laughter, wonders can be done with disabled adults. The Arc Angels were beaming with pride from the time they were introduced all the way through the final stage performance. The standing "O" was well deserved.

Thanks again to you, the Friends of the board, and all of your helpers. It was truly a wonderful experience. I hope you and the Arc will continue this program into the future. I can hardly wait to come back again next year!

Howard McIntosh  
North Pocono School Board Member

## Lasting Memory

Letter to the Editor, published July 5, 2016 in The Times-Tribune

Editor: With all the bad news these days, I have good news about something that happened recently.

On June 24, The Arc Auxiliary of NEPA sponsored "Arc Angels on Stage" at North Pocono High School. The production was directed by North Pocono drama teacher Gerri Featherby and was funded by Lackawanna County. To witness the joy in the faces of the special needs actors as Mrs. Featherby and the students of North Pocono High helped them was truly an amazing experience.

It certainly made everyone present feel good to see the teenage students helping people in need.

As president of the auxiliary, it made me proud of all who participated and all of those who helped in the production. It provided a lasting precious memory for me and everyone who attended.

COROLLA SAWKA  
JEFFERSON TWP.  
PRESIDENT, The Arc AUXILIARY

*Thank you to everyone who made this experience so special and a HUGE thanks to:*

Lackawanna County Arts and Culture

A program of Lackawanna County Commissioners

Patrick M. O'Malley, Jerry Notarianni, Lauren A. Cummings



**SAVE THE DATE & TIME**

**STRIKE OUT  
DOWN SYNDROME!**



**JOIN US FOR OUR  
SECOND ANNUAL  
BOWL-A-THON**

**IDLE HOUR LANES**

**OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 2016  
NOON - 3 PM**

# Visitors to The Arc

Tom Donohue from Lamar Advertising and Nikki Keller from United Way stopped by to tell the staff how much they appreciate their generosity in the United Way campaign - we received the Bronze Hand Award.

Speaking of visitors... we have had several: the Scranton Dental Society who thanked us for all the work that was put into the packets for the school children (picture from SDDS newsletter featured in this edition); Eric Deabill from WBRE came by as a follow to the Gensiak case and Senator John Blake spent some time with us discussing the significant issues of what Direct Support Professionals face when they receive a less than adequate paycheck because human services professions do not meet the priority list when it comes to where the funding stream flows. Employees met with the Senator and gave him a lot of food for thought.



## Arc Knight 2016 "Help Bridge the Gap" 25th Annual Evening of Excitement! Saturday, August 13, 2016 MOHEGAN SUN AT POCONO DOWNS Route 315, Wilkes-Barre, PA

### Sponsorships

#### **Platinum Sponsors: \$500.00**

Includes reserved seating for 4 and sole sponsorship of the race of your choice. Prime Rib, Chicken Francaise or Seafood Stuffed Flounder dinner tickets, recognition in the race program and on the tote board, photo, plus an award presented to the sponsoring individual or company.

#### **Gold Sponsors: \$350.00**

Includes (4) Prime Rib, Chicken Francaise or Seafood Stuffed Flounder dinner tickets, photo of sponsors with winning horse and recognition in the race program and on the tote board.

#### **Silver Sponsors: \$200.00**

Includes (2) Prime Rib, Chicken Francaise or Seafood Stuffed Flounder dinner tickets and recognition in the race program and tote board.

#### **Dinner Tickets: \$35.00**

Includes choice of: Prime Rib, Chicken Francaise or Seafood Stuffed Flounder, clubhouse seating, race program.

\*All dinners include dessert & coffee  
(Cash Bar Available)

### **Sponsored by:**

The Knights of Columbus  
The Arc or Northeastern Pennsylvania

**Dinner: 6:00 p.m. & Post Time: 6:30 p.m.**

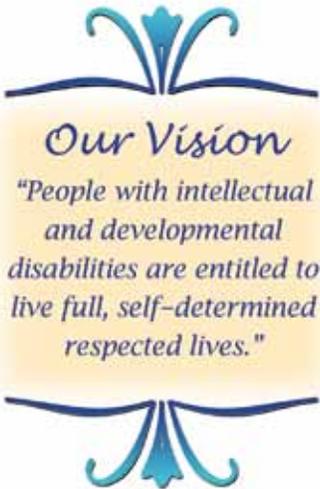
All proceeds benefit The Arc of NEPA  
For more information, please call The Arc at (570) 346-4010

**Please reserve by Friday, August 5th.  
Thank you and Hope you could join us!**



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

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

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Affiliated with the  , The Arc of PA and The Arc of US.

DESIGNED BY: BILL PILLING GRAPHICS

*Sign  
 Up!*

## Membership is the key...

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

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

*Stay Informed!*

### Membership Registration

New Member      Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please remit to:

  
**The Arc**  
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 115 Meadow Avenue  
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