

Arc of Onondaga

# PATTERNS

TURNING DISABILITY INTO ABILITY



## Special Times Were Had By All at Arc's 60th Anniversary Gala



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Photo courtesy of Jim Cooke

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2011, Issue III

# A Message From the Executive Director



**Stanford J. Perry**

Dear Friends,

First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere thank you to all who not only attended, but tirelessly worked to make Arc of Onondaga's 60th Anniversary Gala such a success. The event truly was a reminder of how far we have come in the past 60 years and the many milestones we have to celebrate.

Although the Gala may be over, our 60th year is still going strong. Coming in a few short weeks, our 17th Annual Arc Race. Last year record crowds attended the event, and we are anticipating the same again for this year. Along with the half marathon, 5K and 3K Family Fun Walk, we are pleased to announce the New Kidz 1 Mile Fun Run! Come and enjoy the day at Long Branch Park with fun for the whole family. Also on the horizon, Arc's partnership with Syracuse Stage and their upcoming production of *The Boys Next Door*; a gentle comedy set in a community residence for people with developmental disabilities. I hope you will celebrate with us on opening night at our pre-show reception party. Details for both events are in this edition of *Patterns*.

Congresswoman Buerkle will be visiting Arc on September 2nd and I invite you to come and show your support for the services Arc of Onondaga provides. On the discussion block will be how Medicaid and block grants affect

the people we serve. The forum is designed to educate our representative on services provided by Arc of Onondaga with an emphasis on the need to preserve appropriate funding for our most vulnerable citizens.

The Administrative Interchange Restriction proposed by OPWDD will severely limit our ability to ensure proper oversight of programs and services. I urge all of you to call your elected assemblyman or senator and ask them to support the repeal of this legislation which will severely hurt services to people with DD and their families.

To review the regulation and to contact OPWDD with your concerns regarding this regulation, please type the following link in your browser [www.opwdd.ny.gov/regs/hp\\_regs\\_Interchange\\_emergency.jsp](http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/regs/hp_regs_Interchange_emergency.jsp). Given the cuts already endured from July 1, 2011, another cut of this nature would devastate our system of oversight and care to the vulnerable people receiving our services

Of course, the best part of living in upstate New York is the summer season! Our beautiful sensory garden is in full bloom and I invite you all to stop in at any time to visit. Many classes and community members have already made visits throughout the spring and summer months to walk through the garden, relax on one of its benches, and use the sensory benefits for community based classrooms. The sensory garden is a great opportunity to memorialize a loved one, give to the Legacy of Love Society, or just purchase a brick in honor of your favorite staff, family member, or program to show your appreciation.

As always, your feedback is welcome.

Sincerely,

## Your U.S. Legislative Contacts:

*Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand*

*Senator Charles E. Schumer*

*Representative Ann M. Buerkle*

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## Arc and Syracuse Stage Partner for 60th



# The Boys Next Door

October 19–November 6, 2011

Syracuse Stage

Join Arc of Onondaga as they partner with Syracuse Stage in their 2011-12 season to bring you *The Boys Next Door*! Celebrate our 60th Anniversary with an opening night pre-show reception, Friday, October 21. Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, complimentary wine & beer, and the opening night performance. Tickets are \$60.

To purchase tickets call 315.476.7441 or go to our website at [www.arcon.org](http://www.arcon.org).

*Meet Arnold Wiggins. He's basically a nervous person. He lives with Lucien P. Smith who likes to read very big books, and Norman who works in the doughnut shop, and Barry who imagines he is a golf pro (lessons \$1.13 per hour). In addition to an apartment, these guys share a caseworker named Jack who, despite his genuine concern for his clients, is on the verge of total burn-out. The Boys Next Door is a gentle comedy from the late 80s set in a group home for people with developmental disabilities. As playwright Griffin reveals the daily struggles of his characters to make sense of their world and their places in it, he reminds us to consider how much we take for granted every day. The Boys Next Door is very funny and very touching.*

This coupon good for 2 tickets @ \$20 each for The Syracuse Stage production of **The Boys Next Door**

Tickets good for

Wednesday, October 19, 7:30pm • Thursday, October 20, 7:30pm • Sunday, October 30, 7:00pm  
(Discussion to follow the Sunday performance)



For Questions call the Syracuse Stage Box Office  
315.443.3275  
[www.SyracuseStage.org](http://www.SyracuseStage.org)



Limited availability

Coupon must be presented at time of purchase and cannot be duplicated or applied to previous purchases.

## Siblings of Children With Developmental Disabilities Connect Together

It was "Adventure Time at the Zoo" for brothers and sisters of children with developmental disabilities! This past May, eight lucky siblings gathered for a day of exploring, picture taking, snacking, and general camaraderie at the



Rosamond Gifford Zoo. Each child was given a backpack full of goodies such as cameras, books and snacks, and spent the day taking pictures, laughing, and spending time connecting with other children who have siblings with developmental disabilities.

In June, the children met at Arc's administrative building for a scrapbooking pizza party. Each child was given their own personal art kit, developed pictures from their day at the zoo, scrapbooks and scrapbooking materials. Together, they were able to make their own scrapbook while reminiscing about their time together at the zoo. "It was a great time for everyone," said Kristen Rhoades, support services supervisor for Arc of Onondaga. "We know that being the brother or sister of a person with a developmental disability can be both challenging and rewarding. By creating opportunities for children who share this special circumstance to connect with one another, we're helping them



to realize they are not alone and at the same time are able to point out the many important contributions they make within their own family structure."

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*Funding for the Adventure Time at the Zoo program was made possible by a grant from Price Chopper's Golub Foundation.*

## Community Residences Love Zumba!

It's official, community residences love to Zumba! The Latin-influenced dance-fitness program which has inspired a nation to "party yourself into shape" has found its way into the hearts of Arc of Onondaga's program participants. Every Monday evening at 7:30 you can hear the rhythmic beat with a salsa flare and sounds of joy and laughter emanating from All About Fitness in Cicero. "The Residential Program had several residents who loved to dance and also needed to increase their exercise levels," said Donna Loveland, director of residential services. "We were looking for a dance or Zumba class that they could join but for many, the pace was too fast for our residents to keep up." As luck would have it, an Arc of Onondaga employee who works in the community residences had a friend who taught Zumba and was willing to offer a modified class for Arc residents.



Gina Rhode, a mother of three with two grandchildren, has been a Zumba instructor for two years. She willingly donates her time and expert instruction for Arc of Onondaga residents. "Gina has been wonderful working with the individuals," said Donna. "The class is high energy but the participants can do it at their own pace and to the best of their ability. Everyone has fun and at the same time are staying fit."





Saturday, September 10  
Long Branch Park, Liverpool

Half Marathon  
5K

3K Family Fun Walk  
NEW! KIDZ 1 Mile Fun Run

Arc Race is a community event perfect for the whole family. With music, free refreshments and snacks, and the expanded Family Fun Zone, there's something for everyone! Come and enjoy a petting zoo, games, face painting, and visits from local mascots in a family friendly atmosphere.



Register online or by calling 315.476.7441

[www.arcon.org](http://www.arcon.org)



## Clifford Visits Parkside Children's Center



Students from Parkside were elated when Clifford the Big Red Dog popped in for a surprise visit to their classroom this past August. Greeted by hugs, smiles and cheers, Clifford made two appearances at the Children's Center, both in the morning and afternoon so every student had an opportunity to visit with him.

As part of the WCNY Family Literacy Program, coordinator Sue Butler visits Parkside twice a month for their Read Aloud Story Time; an interactive storytelling experience with the goal of promoting reading and literacy as part of everyday life. At the end of each story time, she leaves hands on activities for the students to take home, including pictures and coloring activities incorporating Clifford the Big Red Dog. At the end of the year, each child is given a book of their very own to keep. "Sue is a great asset to us! And the kids, they

just love her stories," said Parkside director Sue Prince. "She offered to bring the Clifford costume to Parkside and asked me if I would wear it. I just couldn't say no. It sure was hot, but well worth the priceless faces and reactions the children had when they saw Clifford come to life through their classroom door."

The mission of WCNY's Family Literacy Program is to connect families to resources, strategies, and experiences that support emergent literacy skill development necessary for success in school, with the bulk of the program focusing on working directly with children.



# 60th Anniversary Gala A Success

Arc of Onondaga celebrated its 60th Anniversary this past June with a lavish gala at the Turning Stone Resort & Casino. The black tie optional event served as Arc's Annual Achievement Awards Dinner except with an added flare to commemorate Arc's special anniversary. The room, adorned in floating metallic butterflies, hundreds of live and silent auction items, a 2012 Ford Mustang decked out in a bow tie, and an ice sculpture luge were just some of the sights guests took in as they entered the event center.

The awards program honored seven exemplary individuals and organizations who have made it a priority to help individuals with developmental disabilities achieve their fullest potential. Master of Ceremonies, Doug Logan, introduced these outstanding people to a room of over 700 community members. Also part of the program, a live auction emceed by Jim and Juli Boenheim and a drawing for a new 2012 Ford Mustang donated by Americar.

Internationally acclaimed band, *Flame*, brought the crowd to their dancing feet as they played the best of classic rock, country and blues songs spanning the past five decades. The band, from upstate New York, is made up of ten people, all of which have developmental and/or physical disabilities. The outcome of a recreation program at Fulton County Chapter, NYSARC, Inc., they have released three CD's and average over 70 performances a year in 15 different states and throughout Europe.

"We couldn't have asked for a more perfect evening," said event coordinator Gini Gozzi. "It was a spectacular night that was only made possible by the help and support of so many dedicated staff, volunteers, community members and local organizations. It truly was a night to remember."

## Special Thank You

The Arc of Onondaga Foundation would like to extend its sincere thanks to the 2011 Gala Anniversary Chairs. Your dedication and leadership have made this very special evening for Arc of Onondaga a celebration unlike any other. We appreciate your support!

Pictured below from left to right: Syd Tenenbaum, Theresa Broderick, Sean Broderick, Stanford Perry, Mark Reid, Marjorie Head and Mark Hettler.



Congratulations to Linda Mulvey of Fayetteville, NY! Winner of the brand new 2012 Ford Mustang. Linda bought her winning raffle ticket from Jim Cannon, Arc of Onondaga board secretary. Pictured below, Kris Tucci of Americar (left) gives Linda (right) the keys to her new car!





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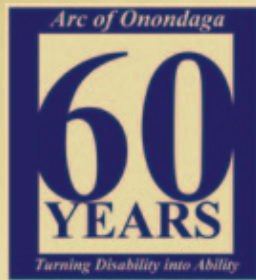
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Photo 1: View of Turning Stone Event Center from the balcony

Photo 2: Arc of Onondaga Board President Jim Moran (left) stands with Founders Award recipient Kris Tucci of Ameriac, Arc Foundation Board President Sean Broderick, and Arc Executive Director Stanford Perry

Photo 3: Jim and Juli Boeheim emcee the live auction

Photo 4: Arc Executive Director Stanford Perry (left) stands with wife Daphne, and President's Award recipients Shirley and Tyrone Goddard of H.O.M.E., Inc. (right)

Photo 5: First-ever Milestone Award recipient and Executive Director of NYSARC, Inc. Marc Brandt (center) with wife and Assistant Executive Director of Public Information and Special Projects Sue Brandt (left) stand with family, friends and NYSARC staff

Photo 6: Person of the Year Award recipient Mary Beth Cusano stands with her sister at the podium as she delivers her speech

Photo 7: Syracuse Stage Producing Artistic Director Tim Bonds (left) socializes with Arc Achievement Award recipient Susan Crossett

Photos courtesy of Jim Cooke

# Syracuse Celebrates the 21st Anniversary of the ADA With a March Through Downtown



Hundreds of people marched through the streets of downtown Syracuse on July 28th to show their support for people with disabilities and celebrate the passing of the Americans With Disabilities Act 21 years ago. The historic act, which was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush, prohibits discrimination based on disability including employment and in public accommodations.

Passersby honked, marchers chanted, and people held signs and posters in support of this wide-range, civil rights law which has provided opportunities for so many of the people Arc serves. Over 100 employees and program participants from Arc of Onondaga took part in the day's festivities which included the march, a message from WSYR News Channel 9 Chief Meteorologist Dave Longley, an official proclamation by city and county officials, live entertainment and a resource fair.

*Photo left:* Alonzo Brown, community habilitation specialist, marches through the streets of downtown Syracuse with program participant Robert Gauthier at the 21st celebration of the Americans With Disabilities Act

## Arc Celebrates Families



*Photo above from left to right:* Jon Miles with wife Donna and daughter Katie, Skills Instructor/LPN Barb Van Dusen, Skills Instructor Taia Jones, Kathy Littlejohn (front), and Skills Instructor/LPN Melanie Nord

In honor of Arc of Onondaga's 60th Anniversary of serving the central New York community, Arc staff put together a family celebration to commemorate and acknowledge the impact families have had on the agency. Arc's roots are grounded in families and was started by concerned parents of young children who worked tirelessly to create opportunities for them during a time when there were no opportunities available. As those children matured into adults, so did Arc's mission of serving all people with developmental disabilities. Today, Arc of Onondaga serves 3,000 individuals and their family members and is the largest provider of services of such in the county.

In commemoration of this milestone achievement, friends, family, staff, and program participants gathered for a celebration at Arc's administrative offices on Wilbur Ave where they enjoyed music, cake and refreshments, live entertainment, and drawings from local caricature artist, J.P. Crangle. "We wanted to be able to offer a no-cost way for families and those we serve to celebrate together in a fun and relaxed environment," said Stanford Perry, executive director. The day also featured some fan favorite encore acts from Arc's Variety Show which was held last April.



*Photo above:* Day hab program participant, Lisa Weinstein, sits for caricature artist J.P. Crangle

Photos courtesy of Jim Cooke

## All Around the Arc

Arc encourages visits and tours of our sites to help support our mission of raising community involvement and awareness. We were proud to welcome Onondaga County Comptroller Bob Antonacci this past June, Syracuse Stage Producing Artistic Director Tim Bonds in July, and La Liga Spanish Action League.



Photo above from left to right: Executive Director Stanford Perry with Onondaga County Comptroller Bob Antonacci



Photo above from left to right: Producing Artistic Director Tim Bonds with Arc Executive Director Stanford Perry



Photo above from left to right: Director of Residential Services Donna Loveland, Rolando Alvarado, Priscilla Santana, Director of Day Habilitation Scott Montroy, Associate Executive Director Michelle Gillespie, Director of Facilities and Operations Dale Marris, Director of Human Resources Jessica Seals, Director of Parkside Sue Prince, Director of Development Sara Abbott, Support Services Supervisor Kristen Rhoades

## Heritage Society



The Heritage Society represents those who have made plans to include Arc of Onondaga in their estate plans, whether by will, trust, insurance, life income arrangement, or through current income gifts. Your concern and appreciation for Arc of Onondaga will extend far beyond your lifetime, ensuring that high-quality services and programs will continue to be available for the people we serve well into the future.

To find out how you can become a member of the Heritage Society, contact the development office at 315.476.7441.

The Heritage Society would like to welcome Gordon Eyer as its newest member.

### Members as of August 2011

Gordon Eyer  
Mary Carol Fisher  
Mary Louise Dunn Fund  
Naomi B. Chamber Charitable Trust

Arc of Onondaga and the Arc of Onondaga Foundation sincerely thank all those who give their support. We recognize the following individuals and companies for their contributions between May 1, 2011 and July 31, 2011.

Contributions made after July 31st will appear in our next issue. If we have made an error or omission, please forgive us and contact our offices.

To find out ways you can contribute to the work of the Arc of Onondaga Foundation, visit our website at [www.arcon.org](http://www.arcon.org) and click on **Contributing to Arc.**

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Naomi B. Chambers Charitable Trust

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\* Green highlights indicate those who contributed to the Sensory Garden



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Executive Director  
**Stanford J. Perry**

Director of Development  
**Sara Iritz Abbott**

Marketing & Communications Spec.  
*Patterns* Editor  
**Christine Hall**

Photographers  
**Jim Cooke**  
**Christine Hall**

Arc of Onondaga is an Equal Opportunity Employer

# SERVICES:

Arc of Onondaga was founded in 1951 by a group of parents who wanted to help their children with developmental disabilities achieve independence and inclusion in the community. We have grown over the decades and now provide services to almost 3,000 individuals and their families, enabling them to live a successful and productive life. Our mission is to assist individuals with developmental disabilities achieve their fullest potential. Arc of Onondaga is the largest provider of services for those with developmental disabilities in the county, maintaining 38 different locations and facilities.

**Clinical Services** 476-7441  
Horizons Clinic Ext. 1167

**Day Services**  
Day Habilitation 579-5625  
Senior Retirement 579-5625

**Community Outreach & Family Support Services** 473-5068  
Community Recreation Services  
Corporate Guardianship  
Medicaid Service Coordination  
Respite Reimbursement

**Monarch** 476-7441  
Community-Based Employment 432-5560  
Supported Employment 437-2025  
Transition to Career 437-2025  
Work Centers 424-6000

**Parkside Children's Center** 468-1632  
Day Care  
Early Intervention - Home & Site Based  
Evaluation Services  
Family & Parent Support  
Nursery School  
Pre-School  
School-Age Transition

**Residential Services** 476-7441  
Residence Living Ext. 1136  
Supportive Apartment Living

**Administrative Offices** 476-7441  
Office of the Executive Director Ext. 1122  
Development & Public Relations Ext. 1103  
Facilities & Operations Ext. 1162  
Finance Ext. 1152  
Human Resources Ext. 1173  
Information Technology Ext. 1177  
Safety / Transportation Ext. 1155  
Quality Assurance Ext. 1127  
Fax 476-7446