Dear Friends,

If we could sum up 2016 in one word it would have to be...Success!

As we find ourselves saying year after year, the nature of the field of providing supports and services to people with disabilities, and the philosophy behind that service delivery, is constantly evolving. Every year we are challenged to do more with less, accept and embrace change, and proactively and innovatively respond to new ways of thinking. In 2016 we were faced with rate rationalizations, the reality of our sheltered workshops closing, and centralizing services. Yet it's not the challenges we're faced with, but rather how we embrace challenge which defines success.

Throughout the year, our focus remained steadfast on the two most important aspects in our field: providing the highest quality supports and services, and putting the individuals we serve first. We were able to realistically evaluate how our programs operate and look for ways to improve upon them, expand our existing community partnerships and create new ones, and find ways to increase involvement at various levels of service by the individuals we support.

By looking at the whole person instead of focusing merely on the services they receive, we were able to implement centralized plan coordination and centralized nursing –transitioning away from setting divisional and programmatic goals and developing a more integrated, person-centered approach to providing supports. By promoting choice and providing options, the individuals we support were able to explore new places and engage in new activities, resulting in increased program participation and community interconnectedness. By providing more opportunities for integrated employment, employees who may have once been hesitant to venture outside of sheltered workshops are gaining confidence and newfound independence. By challenging our staff to rethink their roles as supporters instead of caregivers, we've been able to empower individuals to make decisions and take an active role in their own lives.

It has become increasingly clear that change is not just something we must accept, but should embrace. How we provided care in the past may no longer be viable, and how we will deliver services in the future is changing. What we do know is that as the field of human services continues to change, we must evolve with it by providing meaningful, proactive and successful options for the people who depend on us.

Sincerely,

Ellen Gutmaker
Executive Director

Chris Centore
President

Supporting someone in achieving their dreams

Arc’s 2016 Person of the Year Award recipient, Steve Richardson, has been a part of the Arc of Onondaga community for almost 20 years. He works at Monarch’s Lowell Avenue Woodshop, lives in one of Arc’s community residences, and serves on the Arc of Onondaga Safety Committee. His role on the committee encompasses more than just attending meetings, though. Because of Steve’s life-long passion for safety and his drive to one day have a job in the field, he’s earned increased responsibility and currently advises on policies and procedure. He presents safety trainings to staff and programs supported by Arc, conducts safety inspections at various sites, and played an integral role in facilitating and planning Arc’s first-ever agency Safety Fair.
Being connected to community

Residential and day programs fostered meaningful community relationships. Whether it meant taking someone who presented behavioral challenges to their first SU game, preparing and delivering holiday treats to neighbors, or delivering a hot box of coffee on a cold winter’s day to the local firehouse, staff and individuals enjoyed developing new relationships outside of Arc’s walls and appreciating the communities in which we live.

...Success is

Meaningful and integrated employment choices

In 2016, Arc’s vocational division increased opportunities for integrated employment and continued to provide support and opportunities for individuals to work independently in the community. Production workers were hired to work alongside individuals supported by Arc – helping to meet production demand and provide integration.

Greg, a graduate of Project SEARCH, has always pushed himself to be as independent as possible and be the best worker he can be. His hard work and dedication were recognized by FedEx when he was named “Package Handler of the Month.”
Whether sharing their collective voice through agency-wide projects such as the “ME” campaign, attending rallies in support of issues that are important to them like #bFair2DirectCare, or standing alongside US policymakers in support of independent living for all people with disabilities, Arc advocates continue to ensure their voices, and the voices of those who cannot speak for themselves, are heard.

Supporting people in sharing their voice

A year ago, Isaiah was new to Arc of Onondaga. He became involved in Arc’s self-advocacy group and volunteered to be a presenter for Spread the Word to End the Word, a national campaign designed to educate teens at local area high schools about the stigmatizing and offensive use of the word “retard” in common vernacular. His newfound confidence gave him the courage to pursue a career of his choice and apply for a job as a receptionist at Arc of Onondaga. Isaiah is now the first face you see every afternoon as you enter the doors at Arc.

“If you want to help a person with a disability, make friends with them. Be there to support them.”

~ Isaiah

...Success is

Challenging and encouraging others to advocate for themselves and their peers

Whether sharing their collective voice through agency-wide projects such as the “ME” campaign, attending rallies in support of issues that are important to them like #bFair2DirectCare, or standing alongside US policymakers in support of independent living for all people with disabilities, Arc advocates continue to ensure their voices, and the voices of those who cannot speak for themselves, are heard.
Success is...

Staff that understand their roles as supporters

An agency-wide culture shift from providing care to empowering individuals helped to reshape how services are provided. The “I Support...” campaign assisted staff through self-identifying how they redefine their positions; focusing on their role as supporter and encouraging individuals to make personal, professional and self-gratifying decisions for themselves.

Promoting Choice

Exploring new places, participating in new activities, volunteering in a new setting. Day Services staff are being challenged to provide new and different experiences and activities for those we support – providing individuals with greater input into options through empowerment, cooperation and collaboration.

Whether it is a trip to The Harriet Tubman House, apple picking, the SU pep rally, or some on-air time with Ted & Amy at 93Q, the people we support have a greater say in and choice of how they spend their days; resulting in increased confidence and independence.

The Midler Singers spread holiday cheer through the gift of song. Travelling with a keyboard and caroling from site to site, their successful concert at Parkside Children’s Center led to a new, unexpected relationship between the adults at Midler and the children at Parkside resulting in a new partnership and monthly volunteer opportunities.
Arc of Onondaga’s services and programs cost over $26 million to operate in 2017 and continue to expand to meet the growing needs of people with developmental disabilities in Onondaga County.

Among the individuals Arc serves, more than 100 live in residential homes and apartment settings provided by Arc’s community residence program. Over 300 people receive day services at one of seven sites and almost 100 more people are employed by Monarch, Arc’s vocational division.

It takes over 500 full and part-time staff to provide Arc’s high-quality services to over a thousand individuals and their family members living in Onondaga County.
2016 Achievement Awards Dinner

$10,000 and up
Durham School Services

$5,000 to $9,999

AmeriCar

Wegmans

$2,000 to $4,999
Abbott-Nastri Partnership
Brown & Brown Empire State
Don McPherson Enterprises, LLC
First Niagara Bank
Mr. & Mrs. Karen and Bill Fisher
KeyBank National Association
Dr. Frank Smith
The Bonadio Group

$1,000 to $1,999
ARRIS
Barclay Damon
BCI Empire Division
Boeheim Enterprises
Bond, Schoeneck & King
Mr. & Mrs. Sean Broderick
C & S Companies
Empower Federal Credit Union
Excelsior BlueCross/BlueShield of CNY
Finley, Moran, Freer & Eassa, P.C.
Galaxy Communications
Geddes Federal Savings & Loan
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Hettler
Le Moyne College
Leon Sharpe Motors Sales Inc.
Mackenzie Hughes LLP
Ms. Marjorie Head & Mr. Mark Reid
Hon. Thomas J. Murphy
National Grid
OneGroup
Rich & Gardner Construction Co., SUNY Upstate Medical University
The Bank of New York Mellon
Total Advertising
UPS

VNA Homecare
Dr. & Mrs. Howard Weinstein
Welch Allyn

$500 to $999
Avalon Document Services
Catholic Charities
CNY Central Media Group
Community Bank, NA
K-Mase Productions
MACNY
Modern Kitchens of Syracuse
R.B. Woodcraft, Inc.
Syracuse Behavioral Healthcare
Syracuse.com

$100 to $499
AAV Electrical
ACR Health
Arise
Charlene and Fred Brissette
Ms. Joyce Carmen
The Centers at St. Camillus
Christian Brothers Academy
Susan and Craig Cobb
Mrs. Martha J. Cuddy
Ryan D’Amico
Eastern Managed Print Network
Empire Archives, Inc.
Judith and Gordon Eyer
Food Bank of CNY
Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park
Gear Motions Foundation
Gifford & West Pharmacy
Virginia Goodall
Ms. Ellen Gutmaker
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Hafer
Hancock & Estabrook, LLP
Harmony Architectural Associates, PC
Ms. Cheryl Herzog
Hill & Markes
Ianuzi & Romans Land Surveying, P.C.
Jeffrey’s Auto Body Inc.
JGB Enterprises, Inc./Generation Power

Mrs. Peggie Keib
Kinney Drugs Foundation
Laci’s Tapas Bar
Young and Jay Lee
Literacy Volunteers of Greater Syracuse
Mrs. Jeanine Nolan
NYSID, Inc.
Ms. Patricia Oatman
Oneida Nation Foundation
Onondaga Community College
Paul deLima Company Inc.
Pinnacle Investments, LLC
Dr. John Powers
Sandra Radziwon
Red House Arts Center, Inc.
Melanie and Ken Richardson
Ms. Lynne Ryan
Mr. & Mrs. Charles and Anne Seereiter
Ms. Carolyn Stark
Syracuse Crunch Hockey Club
Syracuse Label & Surround Printing
Terek Living Trust
Patti and Vince Tripoli
Mr. Dene Zografos

Up to $99
Chris Burrows
Ms. Abby Chinitz
Kathleen Dadey
Ms. Shirley DeGouff-Brassard
Nora and Sean Kirt
Donna and David Loveland
Mr. Robert McCall
Ms. Lauren Merola
Kristen and Robert Morye
Mr. James Pitts
Ms. Christine Price
Ms. Marlene Reilly
Nicole Reynolds
Ms. Lisa Spadafore
Mr. April and Joseph Tracy

2016 Dunkin’ Run Arc Race

$5,000 to $9,999
Dunkin’ Donuts, Inc.

$2,000 to $4,999
Brown & Brown Empire State
First Niagara Bank
UPS

$1,000 to $1,999

AmeriCar
Anaren Microwave
C & S Companies
Don McPherson Enterprises, LLC
The Bank of New York Mellon

VNA Homecare

BPAS
Community Investment Services, Inc.
Crouse Sports Medicine
Excelsior BlueCross/BlueShield of CNY
Galaxy Communications
IRONMAN Foundation
KeyBank National Association
Kinney Drugs Foundation
Lan-Co Companies
Pathfinder Bank

$500 to $999

AVA Electrical
Avalon Document Services
Barclay Damon
Byme Dairy
Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park
Harmony Architectural Associates, PC
Jeffrey’s Auto Body Inc.

$100 to $499

Lynden Ryan
Mr. & Mrs. William and Anne Seereiter
Ms. Carolyn Stark
Syracuse Crunch Hockey Club
Syracuse Label & Surround Printing
Terek Living Trust

Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Walsh

Ms. Karen and Bill Fisher
Mrs. Martha J. Cuddy

$2,000 to $4,999
UPS

$10,000 and above

KeyBank National Association
Naomi B. Chambers Charitable Trust
NYSARC
P. Drescher Co., Inc.
Mr. Klaus Schroeder

$5,000 to $9,999

Mrs. Masue K. Bernholz
Boeheim Enterprises
The Dorothy and Marshall M. Reisman Foundation
Ms. Carol Ann Fisher

$1,000 to $1,999

Central New York Community Foundation
Judith and Gordon Eyer
Ms. Ellen Gutmaker
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Hettler
Mrs. Susan S. Langley
Mary Louise Dunn Fund
James Moran
Mr. James Pitts
Sandra Radziwon
Ms. Carolyn Stark
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Walsh

$500 to $999

Ms. Mary V. Andriello
Ms. Tiffany Bird
Ms. Joyce Carmen
Vincent Darden
Catherine and Francis Debritz
Don McPherson Enterprises, LLC
Ms. Michelle Gillespie
Joanna Jewett

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Eyer
Mr. Robert Ferri

Dale Fine
Marlon C. and Daniel J. Glauber
Sarah Grosso
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Hafer
Mr. Judith Crawford and John Hassett
Mr. Daniel Heelon
Ms. Christina Hubert

Ms. Linda S. Jackson
Jan Lane
Ms. Janet Lindsley
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Lazopoulos
Mr. Matt McCabe
Ms. Tina Meehan

2016 Annual Appeal and General Contributions

$10,000 and above

UPS

$5,000 to $9,999

UPS

$1,000 to $1,999

Mr. Sydney Tenenbaum
The Benevity Community Fund
Mrs. April and Joseph Tracy

$100 to $499

Mr. Steve Vasick
Wegmans Food & Pharmacy
Mr. John Williams
Sheryl and John Wood

$500 to $999

Mr. & Mrs. Karen and Bill Fisher
Ms. Karen and Bill Fisher

$10,000 and above

UPS

$5,000 to $9,999

UPS