



Arc of Onondaga

PATTERNS

TURNING DISABILITY INTO ABILITY



Zoo to You
PAGE 8

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2019, Issue II

A Message From the Executive Director



Ellen Gutmaker

Dear Friends,

If I could sum this edition of *Patterns* up in one word, it would be: community. From rallying for fair wages in downtown Syracuse, to building a brand new house from the ground up in Baldwinsville, honoring businesses and community members who support what we do at our annual dinner, and being named a beneficiary at one of the biggest summer festivals in Central New York, Arc’s involvement and commitment to community inclusion, no matter your ability, has never been more evident than it is right now.

A new Membership Drive has again begun, and I ask that as we enter into this new year, you seriously consider becoming a member. The human services field as we know it is rapidly changing and your support is needed to ensure the benefits and services we have in place today can remain for future generations. As you will read on page 10 of this edition of *Patterns*, membership numbers are used to demonstrate to our elected officials just how many citizens support what we do. Your signature can advocate for so many who may not have the ability to advocate for themselves.

We’re excited to announce the details of our 25th annual Achievement Awards Dinner, happening on June 5th at

Drumlins Country Club. We’re celebrating some truly outstanding honorees and are thrilled to be able share their stories with you. Back this year by popular demand, online bidding! You can now view silent and live auction packages before the Dinner, and start bidding on silent auction packages starting May 22. Now you can bid from the comfort and convenience of your own phone or device, even if you can’t attend the Dinner. We also have our Diner’s Dream Raffle in which you can win \$1,200 worth of gift cards to restaurants around the area. The Dinner is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and all of the money raised goes right back into funding special programs and projects for Arc. It’s not too late to reserve your spot. Details about the event and how to purchase tickets start on page 4.

I think it *might* be safe to say spring is officially here to stay. I can tell by the bloom which has officially begun to invade our Sensory Garden. I hope you’ll stop by this summer to ignite your senses, even if just for a quick stroll or to relax for a few minutes on one of the benches. Make sure to mark your calendars for “Once Upon a Mattress” at the Redhouse June 21-23. We are, once again, extremely proud to be part of their Theatre Experience Series, which features productions that are focused on creating an educational experience for participants and audiences members. These family-friendly shows represent unique members of our community, celebrate diversity, and offer leading artistic experiences for all. Make sure to get your tickets before they sell out!

Remember, if you want to keep up-to-date on all of the latest happenings here at Arc, make sure to “like” us on Facebook, follow us on Instagram and Twitter, and send us your email at GoGreen@arcon.org so we can add you to our eblast list.

As always, your feedback is welcome.

Ellen Gutmaker



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NEW Arc Home for People With Autism Opens its Doors



Arc of Onondaga broke ground for an autism exclusive home this past September. The sensory-friendly, single story residence is located in Baldwinsville, NY and able to accommodate five adults diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The new build took almost nine months to complete and has many features specific to people with autism including an open floor plan for easy accessibility, durable materials, hard surface countertops, special blinds and window treatments, and a dedicated “sensory room” designed specifically to meet the many varying and individualized needs of those living on the spectrum.

Plans for the home began in 2017 when New York State recognized the need for more housing opportunities for people with specific special needs, including autism. Arc of Onondaga was allotted five beds out of a total of 49 granted regionally, to develop new residential opportunities in the area. Approval for the new residence was granted in December 2017 with construction cleared to begin in September 2018.

“We hope to see all five individuals moved into their new home starting on June 1st,” said Ellen Gutmaker, Arc’s executive director. “We’ve owned the land on Ellsworth Road for quite some time and have been waiting for the right opportunity to be able to develop it. This is a great opportunity that has come at a perfect time, and we’re excited to be able to serve such a specific need in the community.”

The 2,600 square foot home was designed by Harmony Architectural Associates in Syracuse and is being built by SJC remodeling.



Photo top left: Former Arc board president, Chris Centore, breaks ground with Ellen Gutmaker, Arc of Onondaga’s executive director, at the site of the new construction with Baldwinsville Mayor Richard Clarke and owner of SJC Remodeling, Steve Coglitore

2018 Dinner Honorees

Arc Achievement Award

Lindsay Webb works as an Information Officer for Mental Hygiene Legal Services(MHLS), a free legal advocacy program for people with developmental disabilities in New York State. MHLS is responsible for representing, advocating and litigating on behalf of individuals with I/DD- regardless of the person's guardianship status - and Lindsay is the first point of contact in mitigating those rights, wants, and desires for people with developmental disabilities in Onondaga County. Lindsay has to routinely navigate difficult, and many times sensitive teams, people and concepts. Using the utmost discretion, she always stays focused on the individual and works within their capacity to understand the choices that need to be made. Her ability to communicate at all levels is astounding. Whether she is talking with a person with a developmental disability, a family member, a service provider or a judge, her commitment to support and advocate for the people we serve is unwavering. Her calm demeanor, level-headed discussions, agreeable way of getting to the heart of the matter, and her passion for the individuals we support is what makes her advocacy so successful and deserving of the 2019 Arc of Onondaga Achievement Award.



Mary Carol and Robert J. Fisher Founders Award

The Mary Carol and Robert J. Fisher Founders Award recognizes those who have made significant and long-term contributions to Arc of Onondaga, and this year, we are proud to recognize Christopher Centore. Chris has been a committed member of the Arc of Onondaga Board of Directors since 1999. He has spent the past 20 years supporting change and advocating for independence, serving Arc in a number of roles including chairing the Nominating, By-Laws and Human Resources Committee, being an active member of the Facilities Committee, and serving as Vice President of the Board of Directors. Most recently, Chris finished a third one-year term as President of the Board of Directors, where he spent countless hours providing direction, leadership and guidance to the agency during some rapidly changing and challenging times. In addition to his involvement with Arc of Onondaga, Chris is also a generous supporter of the Arc of Onondaga Foundation, and an active member of the Westhill Central School District Educational Foundation.



Robert D. McAuliffe Community Service Award

Walgreens will receive this year's Robert D. McAuliffe Community Service Award which recognizes a local business that works to integrate individuals with developmental disabilities into their daily workforce. Through their Retail Employees with Disabilities Initiative (REDI), a training program which provides practical retail experience for individuals with disabilities while allowing them the opportunity to explore their career interests and abilities, Walgreens has helped many individuals served by Arc find meaningful work experiences. Individuals "go to work" twice a week at Walgreens where they acquire socially appropriate work habits and behaviors such as greeting customers at the door, making eye contact, and assisting them with locating products. They also learn valuable workplace skills such as: learning when to transition to a new task, how and when to ask for help, and the importance of following instructions and completing a job. Walgreens has not only welcomed, but has gone out of their way to make the people we support feel a part of their team. Because of the great experience, both Arc and Walgreens have agreed to extend their partnership to encompass two retail stores in the CNY area.



Person of the Year Award

Paul Fisselbrand



The Person of the Year Award recognizes an individual with a developmental disability who has demonstrated significant progress towards living an independent, inclusive life to their fullest potential, and this year's recipient, Paul Fisselbrand, has done just that. Leading a fulfilling and busy life, Paul is the loving brother to six siblings, an active member of the community, and dedicated housemate and friend. He has been a devoted volunteer at Upstate Hospital Community Campus for over 15 years where he not only greets people visiting, but also helps to transport patients by wheelchair throughout the hospital. Paul is a known self-advocate in the CNY community. He sits on the Arc Achievers, Arc of Onondaga's self-advocacy committee comprised of a group of individuals dedicated to advocating for the causes and people that matter most to them so they may be regarded as respected and active participants in the life of their communities. His work on this committee has enabled him to visit assemblymembers and senators, write letters to the Governor of New York State, and attend rallies both local and regionally. Most recently, Paul was asked to speak at a news conference in Syracuse for the #Fair2DiectCare campaign, a workforce funding effort striving to provide a living wage for those who support individuals with disabilities. When he is not busy volunteering or advocating for his peers, Paul enjoys attending Arc's community hab program three days a week, grocery shopping for his housemates, gardening, and being an active member of his local chapter of the American Legion.

THE ARC OF ONONDAGA FOUNDATION'S
TWENTY FIFTH ANNUAL
Achievement Awards Dinner
PRESENTED BY DURHAM SCHOOL SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE FIFTH 2019

DRUMLINS COUNTRY CLUB

Enjoy cocktails, dinner, and live & silent auctions.



476.7441 x 1147

www.arcon.org/events/dinner



Arc's 25th Annual Achievement Awards Dinner

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

Drumlins Country Club

315-476-7441 x 1147
www.arcon.org/events/dinner

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN ONLINE BIDDING

View and bid on the vast array of live and silent auction items from your own phone.

Auction opens May 22, 2019 at
www.bidpal.net/arcdinner19



No. 001	DINER'S DREAM RAFFLE <i>Dine out for a year with \$1,200 worth of gift cards to some of CNY's favorite restaurants.</i>	No. 001
	Pre-sale: \$10 per ticket or \$20 for 3 tickets	Name
	Night of: \$10 per ticket	Address
	<i>Winner to be drawn June 5, 2019 @ 8:45 p.m.</i>	Telephone
	Proceeds to benefit the Arc of Onondaga Foundation <small>Winner need not be present to win</small>	Email
Call 315-476-7441 for tickets!		

Arc of Onondaga Named Beneficiary for 2019 Taste of Syracuse



One of Central New York's biggest summer events, the Taste of Syracuse, recently announced its theme for the two-day festival of food and music: Tribute to Youth. The festivities, scheduled to take place June 7th and 8th in and around Clinton Square in downtown Syracuse, will have non-stop music featuring a total of 32 bands, a local talent show with youth from the CNY area, and the chance to sample delicious items from local eateries for only \$1. This past March, The Summit Federal Credit Union and TOPS Friendly Markets accompanied by Galaxy Media, announced at a press conference that in keeping with their theme, Arc of Onondaga and Elmcrest Children's Center will be the beneficiaries of the events for the weekend.

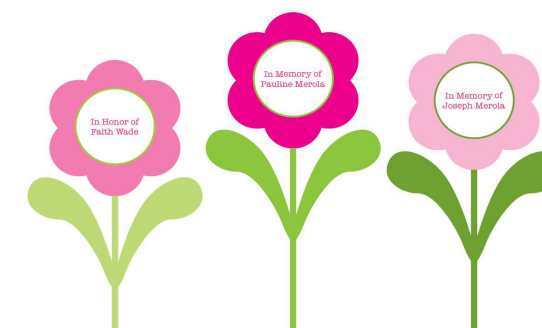
"The Summit is thrilled to be back as title sponsor of Taste of Syracuse," said Cheryl Pohlman, vice president of marketing and community relations for The Summit Federal Credit Union. "As a local credit union, part of our mission is to support organizations that strengthen this community, which is why we've chosen Arc of Onondaga and Elmcrest Children's Center as the event's beneficiaries."

Multi-platinum band, Sugar Ray, will headline the festival on Saturday night. It will also be a qualifying stop for the infamous Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest. Festival goers are encouraged stop by The Summit, TOPS, and other vendors' tents all weekend long to raise money for Arc of Onondaga. All proceeds from the weekend will be donated to both Arc and Elmcrest.

Look at what's blooming in our Butterfly Gallery

When you make a tax-deductible gift, your name will appear on a NEW spring flower!

Or, if you prefer, you can make a special gift in memory or honor of a loved one or group, and have their name appear for all to see.



In appreciation of your gift, your personalized flower will remain a permanent part of our Butterfly Gallery.

Go to www.arcon.org to order yours today!

News Conference Demands DSPs Not Be Forgotten



In support of increased pay for Direct Support Professionals who work with people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities in our community, Arc of Onondaga and The Arc of Madison Cortland held a news conference this past February in support of the #bFair2DirectCare campaign – a workforce funding effort striving to provide a living wage for those who support individuals with disabilities. Staff members, direct support professionals, advocates, parents, self-advocates, supporters of individuals with disabilities, and CNY-based members of the NYS Legislature packed Memorial Hall at the Onondaga County War memorial in downtown Syracuse highlighting the need to continue to increase pay for direct support workers who routinely receive sub-par compensation for their life-altering work.

Joined by Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon, Senator Robert Antonacci, Assemblyman Al Stirpe and representatives from Arise, Arc of Oneida-Lewis, Community Options, EFR and H.O.M.E. Inc., Arc of Onondaga and The Arc of Madison Cortland spotlighted the important work of those who work directly with individuals with disabilities perform on a daily basis, and highlighted the turnover within these positions; noting how many valuable employees leave for higher paying jobs at fast food restaurants.

Across New York, over 130,000 people with disabilities depend on the care of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) to live, work and learn as part of their communities. These employees perform difficult and intimate work with some of our state's most vulnerable citizens. Arc of Onondaga, The Arc of Madison Cortland and other non-profit providers rely on government support for funding these vital services, a large majority of which goes directly to staff wages.

Non-profit providers deliver these services on behalf of the State. They rely on government funding to provide these vital services, and DSPs are compensated at rates set by the government. Staff are entrusted by the state to do this crucial work, and deserve a fair rate of pay for the care they provide.

Zoo to You Visits Day Program

Thanks to a grant from the Arc of Onondaga Foundation, individuals at our Fremont day program welcomed some unlikely and somewhat furry visitors this past January. Zoo to You, the traveling animal education program through the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, seeks to help increase awareness of the animal kingdom while encouraging individuals to do their part to become more environmentally conscious. Participants were able to touch some of the animals, including an iguana and chicken, as well as many biofacts including pelts, fossils and snake skins. Individuals were able to participate as much or as little as they felt comfortable, which provided an inviting and educational sensory-friendly experience.



**Arc Race
2019**

Saturday, Sept. 7th
Long Branch Park, Liverpool

25th Annual



Half Marathon 5k Run 3k Fun Walk KIDS 1 Mile Fun Run

Family Fun Zone

Race bags, t-shirts and medals for all participants

Visit our Runners Fuel Station

Register at:

www.arcrace.org

For more info contact 315.476.7441 x 1103



Support People With Developmental Disabilities With Your Signature - Become a Member

Membership numbers are used to demonstrate to our elected officials just how many citizens support what we do. The larger our membership, the larger influence our advocacy efforts will have with legislative and governmental officials - supporting tens of thousands of children and adults who have developmental disabilities and may not be able to advocate for themselves.

Your membership helps NYSARC chapters:

- Influence policy and funding decisions of county legislators, boards of education, community services boards, village and city administration
- Advocate for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities
- Fund information, education, advocacy and support programs for parents, family members and the general public
- Help people with developmental or intellectual disabilities plan for their own services
- Find volunteers for critical programs and policy efforts
- Develop legislative agenda that reflects the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Provide leadership and training opportunities
- Build coalitions with parents and professional organizations in planning and implementing public policy on a statewide level



Download your membership form today at:
www.arcon.org

In Case You Missed It



Arc of Onondaga held its annual Meeting of the Membership this past April in which Chris Centore, president of the board of directors for the past three years, swore in Chuck Seereiter as the new acting president. Chuck, a longtime board member and parent, will serve a one-year term while Chris will remain active as a director. *Pictured above Arc Board of Directors from left to right: (front) Jim Flynn, Klaus Schroder, Jeannine Nolan, Young Lee (back) Gordon Eyer, James Cannon, Mark Reid, Chuck Seereiter, Carol Bullard, Jim Moran, Chris Centore, John Powers, Susan Scharoun (absent) Joyce Carmen, Chris Paronis, Denise Stephens*



The Arc Achievers, Arc's newly invigorated self-advocacy group, held its first monthly meeting this past April. The robust and energized team discussed what it means to be part of a group, and of the importance of leadership and communication. They also made a list of initiatives and goals that they would like to see carried out at future meetings. Special thanks to Robert and Mike from Self-Advocacy Association of NYS - SANYS Statewide Page for spending time with our group.



Arc's westside neighborhood received a little TLC this past April as staff and individuals spruced up the area in honor of Earth Day. Armed with garbage bags, tongs and gloves, Arc supporters took to the streets picking up trash and debris, giving the area a much needed facelift.



Fine dining in a casual atmosphere. That's what the Arc of Onondaga Foundation's first-ever Pasta for a Purpose dinner delivered to its guests this past March. Patrons enjoyed Italian cuisine, raffles, prizes, a relaxed and social environment, and the announcement of the Arc of Onondaga Foundation's coveted Person of the Year Award honoree.



OPEN INTERVIEWS

Last Thursday of every month

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
600 S. Wilbur Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13204

- Full-time/Part-time/Relief Direct Support Professionals - increased hourly rates
- Residential Program Manager
- Behavioral Intervention Specialist
- Speech Pathologist

- Please bring your resume
- Valid ID required
- Registration preferred at www.arcon.org/jobs

SIGN-ON INCENTIVES FOR DSP AND RN POSITIONS



For more information contact:
talent@arcon.org or 476-7441 x 1197



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Arc of Onondaga is an Equal Opportunity Employer

SERVICES:

Arc of Onondaga is one of the largest providers of services to people with developmental disabilities in Onondaga County serving thousands of individuals and their families and employing 500 people. With nearly 40 different sites throughout Central New York, Arc provides a wide array of services including residential, day, employment and clinical, and recreation programs. In addition to these supports and services, Arc operates two major subsidiaries: Parkside Children's Center, an integrated preschool and Monarch, a vocational program and outsourcing company with corporate partners throughout the region.

Clinical Services 476-7441
Horizons Clinic Ext. 1167

Community Supports 579-5625
Day Habilitation
Senior Retirement
Community Habilitation
School-aged Respite

Community Outreach & Family Support Services 473-5068
Community Recreation Services
Corporate Guardianship
Family 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
Evaluation Services
Family & Parent Support
Pre-School
School-Age Transition
UPK for SCSD

Residential Services 476-7441
Residence Living Ext. 1160
Supportive Apartment Living

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Development & Public Relations Ext. 1103
Facilities & Operations Ext. 1162
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Safety / Transportation Ext. 1155
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