Dear Friends,

We did it! We made it through 2020! This past year was a year unlike anything we have ever faced before. As individuals, as families, as an agency and as a community, we have gone through something unprecedented in our lifetimes. Something that has changed all of us, something where we needed to respond quickly and creatively, something that has caused many of us to pause and reconsider how we do things. While we are still living in the midst of a pandemic, there is a deliberate sense of hope we can all feel as we begin to move forward and as our state and country begin to open back up.

By the middle of March, our worlds – within the agency and in our community – had turned upside down. Our day hab programs were ordered closed by OPWDD. We redeployed our day hab staff to our residential program. Our residential programs were “locked down” – no visitors, including family members, “essential” staff only, and no community activities or outings for the people who lived in the homes. We needed to immediately adjust our services and quickly respond to daily-changing guidelines and expectations.

We faced many long days and endless nights. Administrative staff were sent home to work remotely while our IT department worked tirelessly to accommodate the shift from an office environment to an almost completely virtual work world. The hunt for PPE was on as demand quickly increased and supplies dwindled, and, with the heaviest of hearts, we had to close the doors to our longest running program, Parkside Children’s Center, after 70 years of service to children and families in Onondaga county.

The well-being of the people we serve was of utmost importance as many people did not understand why they couldn’t follow their daily routines, see loved ones, or leave the house for outings. Our dedicated staff went above and beyond searching out and implementing new craft, beautification, and even cooking projects to keep everyone engaged. They even had a virtual dance-off between the houses.

Although we still face significant challenges ahead, it’s important to reflect on some of the opportunities that have emerged as a result of the pandemic - opportunities that most likely are here to stay. Providing services virtually has afforded us flexibility in how we can deliver services and accommodate more people. The high demand for cleaning and disinfecting workers has created employment opportunities for many of the people in our Enclaves program. The introduction of advanced technology into our general office work life has enabled us to operate more efficiently by bringing more people together for meetings and trainings and reducing the burden of travel.

As we reflect on the many changes that have come our way over the past year, we realize the biggest factor in our success is hearing from the people that matter most, YOU. If you haven’t already, please sign up for our online newsletter and email mailings. Let us know what we are doing right and where we can improve. If we’ve learned anything form 2020, it’s that staying connected is key to moving forward and we want you to be a part of that journey. Thank you, as always, for being a part of our community.

Sincerely,

Ellen Gutmaker
Executive Director

Chuck Seereiter
President

Jeannine Nolan
First Vice President

Susan Scharoun
Vice President

Jim Moran
Treasurer

Jim Flynn
Assistant Treasurer

Jim Cannon
Secretary

Carol Bullard
Joyce Carmen
Chris Centore
Gordon Eyer
Young Lee
Christopher Mason
Chris Paronis
John Powers

Board of Directors

A number of services didn’t close, but needed to shift to virtual services. We quickly started providing clinic, supported employment and community habilitation services virtually. The IT Department played a key role in obtaining and deploying laptops and iPads to expedite this service provision and to enable staff to work remotely. Grants from the CNY Community Foundation helped us to purchase some of the necessary equipment.
Residential services provide critical care 24/7

While everything in our community shut down – our residential program stayed open. Parents and family members were faced with the difficult decision to either bring their loved ones home, or live quarantined from them for an indefinite period of time. No people other than residential staff were allowed in and out of the houses. The staff in our residential programs worked hard at keeping people engaged in a variety of ways; helping individuals to maintain connections while staying safe, and finding new opportunities to keep busy in the absence of community outings and trips outside of the home.

From virtual bingo to front lawn pumpkin patches, gardening to backyard barbecues, Arc residents and direct support professionals tapped into their creative sides to stay busy, happy and healthy while spending their days at home. Quarantine continued for many months as residents celebrated birthdays and holidays separated from the ones they loved. Yet, they got through it the same way we did: by learning new skills such as cooking and crafting, taking care of themselves, and connecting with friends and family online.
The world learned something we have always known: our direct care staff are essential! From working through the shut-down and quarantines to wearing full PPE in the summer heat, Arc’s DSPs kept the agency and the people we support above water during some unprecedented times - working long hours despite having to return home to their own families and loved ones. Their dedication and commitment to keeping the people we support healthy and safe was seen through the smiles of the individuals we serve and through the gratitude expressed from their family members.

Not only did our supports and services look different in 2020, our events did, too. The Arc Race moved to a virtual platform for the first time, offering a 5k and half marathon. Registrants received all the perks as if competing in-person, but were able to run the race on their own time and chart their own course. Moving to a virtual race enabled people from all over the country to participate.

The Annual Achievement Awards Dinner was cancelled for the first time in 26 years, but was substituted with A Celebration of our Heroes - a virtual fundraising event honoring Arc’s direct support professionals.

Ran my first 1/2 marathon today!!! 😊 feeling happy.
#arcofonondaga #dunkinrace #RunningForArc2020
Some things are virtually here to stay

If there is one thing we learned during 2020, it’s the importance of keeping people connected. Keeping those we support connected to each other and their families, staff connected from site to site, the community connected to what it is we do through a newly launched eNewsletter and eblasts; a new virtual reality. Virtual services provided a lifeline to the people we support during the pandemic, and we hope to continue this way of providing services. Virtual Habilitative services – implemented quickly in early April for those people in our day hab programs who live with their families – has grown into a robust learning and socializing opportunity. Every day, starting with “the breakfast club,” groups meet over the course of four hours with people participating in activities of interest and staying connected to their friends.

In mid-July, OPWDD allowed day programs to open, with strict guidelines. People attending program and staff were screened daily. Our numbers are limited by the size of our facilities, but nearly 100 people are currently attending day hab or community pre-vocational programs.
Arc of Onondaga’s services and programs cost over $22 million to operate in 2020 and continue to expand to meet the growing needs of people with developmental disabilities in Onondaga County.

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.

Sources of Revenue

- Medicaid
- Other Government Support
- Workshop Sales
- Fees
- Other Income

Total Revenue: $24,154,903

Expenses

- Individualized Services / Day Hab
- Monarch Enterprises
- Community Residential Services
- Parkside Children’s Center
- Horizons Clinic
- Community Outreach
- Employment Services

Silver lining opportunities

Since the pandemic began, we have had an increase in requests for our custodial services, leading to employment opportunities for more of the people we support. We’ve been able to obtain several Clorox 360 machines through a Community Foundation grant which can thoroughly disinfect a large area in a short amount of time. The sprayer can increase productivity while at the same time maximizing efficiency, making our services desirable for many businesses in the community.

Legacy of Love Society

The following individuals are recognized for their leadership in giving to the Arc of Onondaga Foundation’s annual fund drive. Members of the Legacy of Love Society demonstrate exceptional generosity and help ensure the continued support of individuals with developmental disabilities in our community. Entry into the Legacy of Love Society is made with a donation of at least $500 to the annual fund campaign. Membership is maintained by making donations of $500 or more each year. Donations are cumulative and each year provide the opportunity to move up to higher giving circles.

Diamond Circle: ($10,000 & up)
- Masue Bernholz
- Gordon & Judy Eyer
- Carol Ann Fisher
- Ellen Gutmaker
- Klaus Schroder
- Carolyn Stark
- Robert Walsh

Platinum Circle: ($2,500-$4,999)
- Marcel Bingham
- Craig McKinney
- Edward & Sharon Moran
- James Moran
- Mary & Gary Saltimbicci

Gold Circle: ($1,500-$2,499)
- Joanna Bowell
- Margot Paronis
- John & Marilyn Skopek

Silver Circle: ($1,000-$1,499)
- Mark & Lauren Eyer
- Chuck & Anne Seereiter
- Dr. Frank Smith

Bronze Circle: ($500-$999)
- John Hassett & Judith Crawford
- Donna & David Loveland
- Carol Paronis
- Susan & J. Michael Tierney

Ruby Circle: ($5,000 - $9,999)
- Joyce Carmen
- Barbara Davis
- William Horsington
- Jeannine Nolan
- Russell & Marlin Smith

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2020 A Celebration of Our Heroes

$1,000 to $1,999
Community Bank, N.A.
Firefly, Moran, Frer and Eassa, CPA, PC
National Grid

$500 to $999
Mary Ellen Kaier
Bruce Macknight
Brenda & Christopher Stone

$100 to $499
Jeanne Albanese & Christopher Centore
Julie Boehme
Todd Brown
Jimmy Curtin
Cindy Denesha-Whipple
Josh Duthie
Brian & Laurie Hurley
Shelly Janack
Raymond King
Debbie Kramer
Young & Jack Lee
John Powers
Linda Ruckdeschel
Chuck & Anne Seereiter
Carrie Spencer
Brian Traub
Mary Wassel
Ellen Weinstein

Up to $99
Lauri Hoover
MaryBeth Horton
Scotton & Joanna Jewett
Elizabeth Keyes
Paulette LaClair
Donna Loveland
Barry Lyon
Jennifer Marco
Dale Marris
Craig McKinney
Tina Meehan
Pamela Mikels
Scott Montroy
Shannon Moore-Carlson
Sandy Mueller
Dee Dee Murray
James & Kristin Nicoll
Charlie Noel
Kristen Panzetta
Colette Powers
Babette Puzey
Mike & Sandy Raziwiun
Ruth Ann Riposa
Jennifer Rosenbarg
Kelsey Scanlon
Susan Scharoun
Gordon Spooner
Adam Stone
LindaSwanson
Christine Sweeney
Colleen Tanner
Mike Tanner
Susan Tierney
Mary Varik

2020 Dunkin’ Run Arc Race
$5,000 to $9,999
Dunkin’ Brands Group, Inc., Wegmans Food & Pharmacy

$1,000 to $1,999
Excelsior BlueCross BlueShield
Molina Healthcare of NY

$500 to $999
Brown & Brown Empire State
Mifcon
Mackenzie Hughes
NYSID, Inc
Syracuse Orthopedic Specialists

$100 to $499
AVV Electrical Contracting, Inc
Award Winning Landscapes

Jeffrey’s Auto Body
LaBella Associates

2020 Annual Appeal and General Contributions

$10,000 and above
CNY Community Foundation
COVID-19 Community Support Fund

P. Dresher Co, Inc
KeyBank National Association
Naomi B. Chambers Charitable Trust
Klaus Schroder

$5,000 to $9,999
Gordon & Judy Eyer
Carol Ann Fisher
Carolyn Stark

$2,000 to $4,999
Masue Bernholz
Craig McKinney

$1,000 to $1,999
Marcel Bingham
William & Sylvia Cohen
Barbara Davis
Mark & Lauren Eyer
Elen Gutmaker
Susan Langley
James Moran
OneGroup
Margot Paronis
Chuck & Anne Seereiter
Frank Smith
Brian Speller
J. Michael & Susan Tierney
United Healthcare Services

$500 to $999
Joyce Carmen
John Hassett & Judith Crawford
Ron & Joanna Jewett
KeyBank Foundation
Sandra Gingold
Independent Retirement Partners, LLC
Donna & David Loveland
Jonathan & Donna Miles
Edward & Sharon Moran
Jeanine Nolan
Carol Paronis
Mary & Gary Salibici

Marilyn & John Slopek
Marlin & Russell Smith
Sutton Real Estate Company, LLC

Up to $99
Robert Althen
Julie Billings
Sandra Boys
James Cannon
Abby Chinitz
Scott Cole
Michael Copanas
Peter & Elizabeth Costello
John & Jamie Cucinotta
Bianka Fey
Patty Cafarichio
James Cannon
Joseph Charles
Christopher Wood Phillips Fund
Susan & Craig Cobb
Wendy Coleman
James Curtis
Dorothy Davis
Fairmount Carpet & Linoleum
James & Patricia Flynn
Bruce & Shirley Hale
Michael Herbst
James & Mary Lyn Hettler
Paul & Justina Horsington
Margaret Howard
Brian & Laurie Hurley
Linda Jackson
Young & Jack Lee
Lockheed Martin Charity
Custodial Account
Barry Lyon
Dale & Susan Marris
David Mason
Matthew McCabe
Lauren Melia
Pamela Mikels
Jonathan Miles
Vanessa Millet
Scott Montroy
Bobette Morin
Sandy Mueller
Elizabeth Pflister
Sharon Poplawski
Babette Puzey

Mark Reid
Ruth Ann Riposa
Charles Romano
Kelly Scanlon
Lois & Wayne Scott
Adam Stone
Cornell Strickland
Christine Sweaney
The Lewis Roth Family Foundation
Ann Thomas
Tippery Hill Neighborhood, Inc.
John Williams
Cheryl Anne Woloszyn

In Memory of Paul Scharoun-Deforge
Susan Scharoun

In Memory of Mario and Thomas DeSantis
Marsha Tait

In Honor of Thomas DeSantis
William & Cynthia Biglin
Mary Anne Blaney
Marilynn Brown
Barbara Delorio
Joseph & Anne Demarchi
Irwin Golding
Nina Haley
Janet House
James & Susan Jerome
Maryanne LaClair
Kathleen Kotz
Anne Masterpole
Donna Neal
Paula Petosa
John & Jeanette Reale
Lenore Sealy
Darlene Tanner
Diane Trent

In Memory of Magaret Freund
Patricia Rogers

In Memory of Linda Krawczyk
Ron & Joanna Jewett

In Memory of Robbie Milligan
Rhonda Anderson
Karen Hurley
Kathleen Jones
Carol Smith
Judy Wakefield

In Memory of Mary Shanahan
Masue Bernholz
Barbara Davis
Maureen Morris

In Memory of Donald Sawdson
Masue Bernholz
Eric Carlson
Barbara Davis
Sue Falzone
Michael & Rosemary Federici
Helen & Richard Giglioti
Tony & Dennis Giglioti
Clifford Gannon
Sheila & John Kubinsky
Barbara & William Ponte
Margaret & James Schneider
Floyd Wallace
Miriam Weiner

In Memory of P. Drescher Co, Inc
Klaus Schroder

In Honor of Charles Romano
Lucy Cohen

In Memory of Mary Shanahan
Masue Bernholz
Barbara Davis
Maureen Morris

In Memory of Donald Sawdson
Masue Bernholz
Eric Carlson
Barbara Davis
Arc of Onondaga
600 South Wilbur Ave.
Syracuse, NY 13204

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