

PATTERNS

TURNING DISABILITY INTO ABILITY



Spitzer Advocates Revolution of Empowerment



Photograph: Michael Kieloch

Supporters of the event help the ongoing efforts of the Arc of Onondaga Foundation to ensure that the highest level of services for individuals with developmental disabilities remains available in our community.

"We must lead a revolution of empowerment, because in the end... It's about who we are as human beings. And it's about what kind of community we want to live in."

Spitzer, speaking to the largest crowd in Arc history, remarked, "We must start with the idea of putting people at the center of the support system; of empowering them and their caregivers with the supports necessary to live fulfilling, normal and productive lives... We must lead a revolution of empowerment, because in the end, the choice we face isn't about politics. It's about who we are as human beings. And it's about what kind of community we want to live in."

Additional dinner photos on page 15

Eliot Spitzer, the New York State Attorney General, advocated a revolution of empowerment for individuals with disabilities at Arc of Onondaga's Achievement Awards Dinner, June 6th. Spitzer, who was the keynote speaker at the 12th annual dinner, emphasized the family nature of New Yorkers.

"New York is a family. And those with disabilities are members of our family,"

Spitzer declared. "It is our obligation as a state to offer them the same opportunity, independence and empowerment that we aspire to for all members of our family."

The Arc Achievement Awards Dinner, at the OnCenter in Syracuse, recognizes members of the community and Arc consumers who embody the goals and mission of Arc. This year's dinner was the largest and most successful to date.

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A Message From the Executive Director



Stanford J. Perry

It is a true testament to community involvement when friends of Arc participate in our programs, tour our sites, and help build awareness of our mission.

Dear Friends,

This summer is an exciting and active time for Arc of Onondaga and I look forward to your involvement in a number of activities.

Our organization just celebrated turning disability into ability at our Arc Achievement Awards Dinner on June 6th at the OnCenter in Syracuse. In addition to the moving speeches by the award recipients, Arc was pleased to have New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer as the keynote speaker. The 12th annual dinner was also our largest and most successful to date. I thank all of you who participated and had a hand in this success.

Summertime also signals the approaching annual Arc Race festivities. With a variety of events and entertainment to offer, I invite all of you to visit us at Long Branch Park on September 9th for this truly enjoyable day. If you would

like to participate in one of the races or volunteer, information is available on our website or by calling our offices. You can also visit us at the New York State Fair in the Time Warner wing of the Science and Industry building.

Renovations are taking place at our Wilbur Avenue site, so please excuse our appearance while we make our headquarters more accessible and add needed additional parking. The construction was made possible through a grant obtained by Congressman Jim Walsh.

We continue to improve our flagship publication, *Patterns*, looking for ways to keep you better informed. I invite you to see our calendar of events on page 5, and our volunteer section, on page 11, for ways that you can become further involved in Arc's mission.

I would like to remind you that, as a friend of Arc, you are always welcome to tour any of our programs and locations. It is a true testament to community involvement when friends of Arc participate in our programs, tour our sites, and help build awareness of our mission by passing on Arc literature and information to friends and family.

I wish you, and all friends of Arc, a safe and enjoyable summer season. As always, your feedback is welcome.

Sincerely,

Stanford J. Perry
Executive Director

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CONSUMER SPOTLIGHT:

Graphics Designer Showcases Her Artwork



Photograph: Michael Kieloch

When you browse the galleries of an art museum, you are surrounded by exceptional works of art - works that artists have labored over and critics have praised. Similarly, when you see a catchy flyer, an advertisement in a magazine, or receive a postcard in the mail, you are viewing a work of art - applied art.

Elizabeth Roberts is an exceptional young woman who engages in several genres of artistic expression. She has a true passion for art.

When she shows you her portfolio, her face is glowing with pride and joy. But her portfolio isn't just limited to one genre. It is filled with photographs, drawings, acrylic paintings, clothing designs, and more. Page after page is filled with creative compositions of all kinds.

Elizabeth, a consumer at Arc of Onondaga for just over a year, has always had a creative side. When asked how long she

When she shows you her portfolio, her face is glowing with pride and joy... It is filled with photographs, drawings, acrylic paintings, clothing designs, and more. Page after page is filled with creative compositions of all kinds.

has been interested in art and design, she responds matter-of-factly, "since pre-school." Though she has a developmental disability Elizabeth certainly does not allow this to impede her artistic expression. Volumes of artwork fill her portfolio and other collections, including various designs for lines of clothing that she would like to someday see produced. She has drawn intricate designs for dresses and costumes for figure skaters and Broadway shows, even.

Even more impressive are her academic accolades. Elizabeth attended Onondaga Community College and earned two Associates degrees - an Associates of Science and an Associates of Arts. She then went on to earn her Bachelors of Fine Arts in Graphics Design from SUNY Oswego.

The BFA Graphics Design program is very demanding with a high degree of focus; over 50% of transfer students and 80% of freshman are denied entry. Elizabeth was required to submit a portfolio to even be considered for acceptance. However, not only was she accepted, she excelled to graduate in 2004 with a portfolio full of her work.

Though her favorite medium involves markers, colored pencils and colored pens, Elizabeth is proficient in creating designs digitally on the computer, with acrylic paints, and with other instruments. And once you've seen some of her sharp photographs, you'll also realize Elizabeth has a particular talent with the camera as well. She is a well-rounded artist.

Currently working for Frigo Design, a designer and custom manufacturer of home decor products, Elizabeth lists their merchandise on eBay. From their Syracuse office, she also manages customer payment notification for the company. She continually seeks opportunities to practice her artistic and design skills and aspires to become a full-time graphic arts professional.

Outside of art, Elizabeth leads an active life style. She enjoys bowling, browsing the books at Barnes & Noble, and of course, shopping at Carousel Center.

SkyChiefs Host Disabilities Awareness Night



Photograph: Michael Kieloch

People with disabilities took center stage July 14th when Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual), in cooperation with Exceptional Parent Magazine and the Syracuse Sky Chiefs, sponsored *Disability Awareness Night* at Alliance Bank Stadium.

In addition to honoring local champions of the national campaign to bring attention to the 54 million Americans with special needs, the event provided an opportunity for consumers and staff of Arc of Onondaga to attend the ballgame, thanks to tickets donated by Exceptional Parent and Daystar Financial Group, LLC.

"We are proud to be making a difference in the quality of life for people with disabilities, their families and caregivers. It is an honor to be recognizing the work of Stanford Perry and his community involvement."

Consumers from Arc of Onondaga's residences and day habilitation programs who were enjoying the game were treated to an additional surprise by SkyChiefs usher Jim Durkin, who stopped to chat with them and passed out free SkyChiefs posters and memorabilia. "I love the fans," said Durkin, a 46-year employee of the SkyChiefs. Eyes of the consumers lit up and were filled with joy when they received their SkyChiefs gifts. An Arc consumer from Midler Day Habilitation even won a free haircut during a mid-game raffle.

During the pre-game ceremonies on center field, Stanford Perry received the EP Maxwell J. Schleifer Distinguished Service Award from Ed Vespa and Ray Straub, of MassMutual. They were joined on the field by Robert Salluzzo, Chief Operating Officer of Exceptional Parent Magazine. Perry, who also threw a ceremonial first pitch to Scooch, the SkyChiefs mascot, was honored for his active community involvement as well as his role at Arc of Onondaga.

"We are proud to be making a difference in the quality of life for people with disabilities, their families and caregivers," said Ray Straub from MassMutual. "It is an honor to be recognizing the work of Stanford Perry and his community involvement."

Perry has served as executive director of Arc of Onondaga for 7 years and in that time has [insert accomplishments here].

In addition to his leadership at Arc of Onondaga, Perry is an active member of the community in both professional and volunteer capacities including: cabinet member for The United Way of Central New York; Treasurer of Human Services Leadership Council (where he formerly served as vice chair); member of the NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities' Advisory Council; and member of the Board of Directors of the Manufacturers Association of Central New York (MACNY) as well as other board and leadership roles.

This year marks the fifth year of the Exceptional Parent's *Disability Awareness Night* program, which began in 2002 with the cooperation of the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox. Since then, many professional ball clubs have joined the unique, emotional and powerful program of recognition and awareness.

Photo (from left to right): Centerfield at Alliance Bank Stadium to present the EP Maxwell J. Schleifer Distinguished Service Award are Robert Salluzzo, COO of Exceptional Parent Magazine; Ed Vespa of Daystar Financial Group, a MassMutual agency; award recipient Stanford Perry, Executive Director of Arc of Onondaga; and Ray Straub also of MassMutual.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

participate • get involved • be active

Arc Holidays

The Arc of Onondaga offices will be closed on the following 2006 dates:

- Monday, September 4th - Labor Day
- Monday, October 9th - Columbus Day
- Thursday, November 23rd - Thanksgiving Day
- Friday, November 24th - Day Following Thanksgiving Day

Arc Board of Directors Meeting

The Arc Board of Directors meets on the following dates at 6:30pm at Wilbur Avenue:

- Tuesday, September 26th
- Tuesday, October 24th
- Tuesday, November 28th

Foundation Board of Directors Meeting

The Executive Committee meets at 5:30pm, and the Foundation Board meets at 5:00pm on the following dates at Wilbur Ave.:

- Monday, September 18th - Foundation Executive Meeting
- Monday, September 25th - Foundation Board Meeting

Arc Race Committee

The committee for Arc Race 2006 will meet at noon on the following dates at Wilbur Avenue:

- Wednesday, August 23rd
- Wednesday, August 30th
- Wednesday, September 6th
- Race Day: September 9th!

Adult Services Committee

- Tuesday, September 12th. 3:00 to 4:00pm
- Tuesday, October 10th. 3:00 to 4:00pm.

Community Residential Services Cmte.

- Tuesday, September 12th

Arc Race 2006

The 12th Annual Arc Race is coming to Long Branch Park in Liverpool. Save the date and join Arc for a day of fun by walking, running or even volunteering.

- Saturday, September 9th.
- Registration opens 7am. First event starts at 9 am.
- Participate in the Half-Marathon, 5k, or Family Fun Walk. Three events to choose from!
- Family Fun Area with free refreshments and snacks, entertainment, music, hot air balloon rides, a petting zoo and more.
- To register or volunteer, visit Arc's website at www.arcon.org or call Gini Gozzi, Special Events Coordinator, at 315.476.7441, extension 147.

"The Right to Belong" Class Series

A practical course on including students with disabilities into the classroom. More about the course on page 10.

- October 5th, 12th, and 19th from 3pm to 6pm
- 600 South Wilbur Avenue, Syracuse
- Course registration fee is \$50. Groups welcome.
- Contact Peggy Keib at 315.476.7441, extension 128 or pkeib@arcon.org

NYSARC Events

- Improving Access to Hospice & Palliative Care Workshop
September 20th, 2006
Hospice and Palliative Care of Central NY, Liverpool
9:00am - 4:00pm. Free workshop.
- Autism: A Family Affair
A conference for families, advocates and providers of services and supports
Wednesday, September 20, 2006 to
Thursday, September 21, 2006
The Desmond Hotel, Colonie, NY
- Health Care Advocacy and Guardianship Conference
Wednesday, September 20, 2006 (6:00pm - 9:00pm)
to Thursday, September 21, 2006 (9:00am - 5:00pm)
Wyndham Hotel, Syracuse
- For more information on NYSARC events, visit their website at www.nysarc.org. Arc of Onondaga is a chapter of NYSARC, Inc.

The Superlative Wedding Gift: Giving



The latest trend in wedding registries isn't asking for dishes, toasters or bedding. More and more, American couples are making philanthropy a part of their wedding day by asking their guests to donate to their charities of choice.

Just how many couples do this? The I Do Foundation, a group that helps couples incorporate philanthropy into their weddings, estimates that about 10% of couples getting married between May 2005 and May 2006 said "I do" to charity.

"It's not surprising that so many couples are now adding the experience of charitable giving to their weddings. It offers them another way to share what's personally important to them with their guests," says Bethany Robertson, Executive Director of the I Do Foundation, whose website is currently visited by more than 10 percent of engaged couples each year. "Our goal is to make charitable giving an accepted and expected part of every wedding."

Couples who want to support individuals with developmental disabilities have several options for making a difference

on their special day. "Some couples have already included Arc of Onondaga in their wedding plans," indicated Dan O'Hara, Director of Development at Arc. "We encourage area couples to consider helping the cause of individuals with developmental disabilities by making giving a part of their start together."

"Your wedding is one of the best times to give back. It's a great expression of community, and it's a time to express your own values to people who love you," says Noam Unger, whose July 3rd wedding benefited a charity of choice.

Registries for Charity

Online gift registries like the I Do Foundation (www.idofoundation.org) and JustGive (www.justgive.org) make it simple for an engaged couple to invite their friends to share with their favorite charities. Through the registries, friends and family donate to their selected charities while still allowing the inclusion of traditional gift options.

Donations Favored Over Favors

Think of the last wedding you attended. Do you remember the wedding favors? Did you take yours home, and if so, do you still have it? Traditionally used by the bride and groom as a way of sharing their good fortune with their guests, favors can now be used to involve guests in their favorite cause.

"It's not surprising that so many couples are now adding the experience of charitable giving to their weddings. It offers them another way to share what's personally important to them with their guests."

More and more often, wedding guests have found a simple and heartwarming card at their place setting informing them that a donation has been made in their name to a charity picked by the bride and groom. Arc of Onondaga gladly provides couples with these placecards for their wedding guests as a creative alternative to traditional favors.

Giving to Arc of Onondaga

Arc of Onondaga invites families to consider involving philanthropy and support for individuals with developmental disabilities in their special occasions. For more information about setting up charitable registries, making donations in honor of your wedding guests or otherwise supporting Arc's mission on your special occasion, please contact our Office of Development at 315.476.7441 or email us at info@arcon.org.

Don't Touch That Dial

Luciana Halliday

Witnessing the culmination of all of the individual attention to detail that goes into each remote is remarkable. Our individuals and staff enjoy watching the work evolve from delivery to distribution.

The smell of popcorn dances around the house, the kids are in bed and your *TV Guide* has got your evening agenda booked. The Friday sun is dunking itself into the horizon to begin the weekend and you couldn't be more content. You plop down and nuzzle yourself into the corner of the sofa while balancing the popcorn in one hand and beverage in the other.

Finally, it's time to turn on the television and relax. To your dismay, Thursday's nightmare became Friday night's reality - you can't find the remote control! Is it too loud? "Un-nuzzle" yourself, get up and turn the volume down. Does that commercial compel you to boycott the product? Finagle your way off the couch, leave your cushion impression unscathed and fiddle for the channel button in the dark.

Before you glue your remote to the end table, take a deep breath and thank your lucky stars for the Wilbur Work Center, a division of Monarch Enterprises. The Arc of Onondaga has got you covered.

One of the many jobs that the Wilbur Work Center works on for the community is something we are all very familiar with; the Time Warner Cable remote control.

Everyday at the Wilbur work center, individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities complete a sequence of tasks that aid us in much more than just channel surfing.

2,440 of those remote controls were completed by the work center in June 2005 and in the past year, Monarch Enterprises delivered 10,000 Time Warner Cable remote controls.

The Time Warner Cable remotes arrive in a jumbled mixture of digital remotes, digital video recorder remotes and cords. Upon arrival in the work center, individuals untangle the mass, separating them into remotes and cords. The remotes are inspected for damage, usage, and function. The batteries are taken out of the remotes and placed into a bin to be tested. The remotes that pass inspection are then taken to the work floor and distributed among our individuals for the cleaning and drying step.

After being cleaned and dried, the next step is to pack them. Packing them involves placing the remote in a plastic bag, matching it with the correct instruction manual, inserting two batteries previously tested for power, and then sealing the bag. They are then delivered to Time Warner Cable and distributed among the subscribing community - over 338,000 subscribers in Central New York alone.

This process involves many different individuals encompassing all skill levels. Some individuals are involved in the sorting of the remotes and cords. Other individuals prefer to clean and dry the remotes. Perhaps the most exciting is to see all of the processes synergize in the final packing process. Witnessing the culmination of

all of the individual attention to detail that goes into each remote is remarkable. Our individuals and staff enjoy watching the work evolve from delivery to distribution.

It's okay to go home and inspect your remote. We know we did a good job but if you want to make our job a little easier, keep the remotes away from your pets and your Friday night popcorn fingers.

Oh yes, please do not glue your remote to the end table - you may have to turn it in to Time Warner Cable at some point and we don't wash end tables - yet.

About the Author

Luciana Halliday is a vocational counselor for Monarch Enterprises, a division of Arc of Onondaga. Luciana graduated from SUNY Oswego with a B.A. in Human Communications.

Photo (below): John McMahon, an employee at Monarch Enterprises' Wilbur Avenue work center, seals a freshly cleaned Time Warner remote control.

Photograph: Michael Kieloch



Get Ready, Get Set... Arc Race! September 9th

Registrations are now being accepted for the 12th Annual Arc Race 2006, presented by Time Warner Cable.

Hundreds of runners and walkers from the area and surrounding states are expected to register and participate at Long Branch Park in Liverpool on Saturday, September 9th in one of the three events.

The Arc Race events include the only certified, fall-time half marathon in the Northeastern United States, a certified 5k run, a non-competitive Family Fun Walk as well as a Family Fun Area. The Family



Fun Area has attractions and entertainment for people of all ages including hot air balloon rides, a petting zoo, face painting, music, free refreshments and food, giveaways and costume characters including Bugs Bunny, Al the Gorilla from the Syracuse Crunch, Scooch from the Syracuse SkyChiefs and the Sunny102 Sun.

Arc Race uses the famous ChampionChip technology, familiar to avid athletes. Special chips are worn by the runners in the competi-

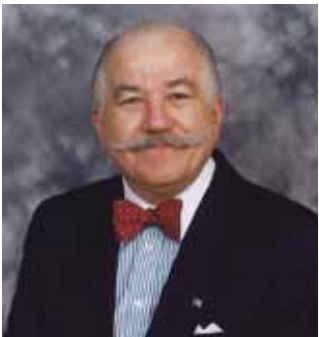
tive events allowing exact start and finish times for each athlete.

Entry fees vary for each category and runners receive a long-sleeve race shirt, race materials and complimentary refreshments and snacks at Long Branch Park. Prizes are awarded to the top finishers in each category. In addition, friends and family are encouraged to make a pledge to help support individuals with developmental disabilities.

For more information, or to request a team captain's packet, please contact Gini Gozzi, Special Events Coordinator, at 315.476.7441, extension 147, or by email to ggozzi@arcon.org. Race information is also available on the web at www.arcon.org.

PROMOTION

Special Care Planning Specific to Child's Needs



Edward J. Vespa

MassMutual and the American College have established the Special Care Planning Certification Program. Our role is to help parents ensure that their special needs child enjoys a secure, comfortable and meaningful life even when the parents are no longer able to provide it.

We know that during childhood, parents are the primary source of care and that parents' health insurance and government programs are the primary source of benefits. Special Needs Associations, specific to the child's

needs, are often the primary source of information, advocacy and guidance. Information can also be obtained from various government programs.

We have worked with families for many years (whether or not they have a special needs child) helping them determine how much money is required at death, disability or retirement. We call these the "three economic hazards."

The added dimension that families with a special needs child face, is the realization that their special needs child will be dependent on them long after their non-special needs children are independent: and that their child will continue to be dependent on someone or some organization after they pass away or become too old to care for them properly.

The first phase of the planning process is to determine how much money will be needed at the occurrence of any of the economic hazards. There is the development of an estimate of probable current and future costs.

This phase also identifies various financial resources. Financial resources may come from a variety of sources, including government, family, gifts and inheritances, investment earnings, legal settlements, life insurance, and real estate.

The second phase is to determine the parents' thoughts, wishes and intentions about such things as living arrangements, education and training, employment, social life, religious life, medical care and guardianship arrangements.

The final, and equally important phase is to make sure that the family's estate planning is done properly with the help of an attorney who specializes in wills and trust arrangements for people with special needs. This will help ensure that the assets provided by parents are actually used for the special needs child.

About the Author

Edward J. Vespa, and Ray Straub, of the Daystar Financial Group, a MassMutual agency, are both Special Care Planning Certified.

Celebrating the Americans with Disabilities Act



The Americans with Disabilities Act has been protecting against discrimination to Americans with disabilities for 16 years. The Americans with Disabilities Act, or ADA, is a broad civil rights law signed into law by President George H. W. Bush. The bill received overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress. The 1990 law makes provisions for equal access in employment, public services and transportation, lodging, and telecommunications.

This July, thirteen Central New York human services agencies joined together to celebrate the advances that the ADA has made for individuals with disabilities in the last 16 years. Syracuse Mayor Matt Driscoll and Onondaga County Executive Nicholas Pirro issued a joined proclamation declaring July 2006 as *Disabilities Awareness Month* in the city and the county. The two officials presented the proclamation at the ADA celebration held at ARISE's James Street offices. Consumers and staff from nine area human service agencies lauded the strides made

so far for individuals with disabilities, while enjoying refreshments.

The celebration helps to raise the public's awareness of the needs of individuals with disabilities living in our community.

The ADA isn't just wheelchair ramps. It means equal treatment, access and opportunity in all aspects of life.

"The ADA has helped to open doors for people with developmental disabilities. While the gains are noteworthy since the enactment of the ADA, there is still much that must be done..."

The ADA has certainly improved accessibility and opportunities for individuals with various disabilities, but there still

remains more to be done. Not every business complies with the ADA's requirements meaning accessibility still remains an issue for many, from citizens going to restaurants to students attending state universities. Non-compliance isn't always intentional, however. Many businesses are simply unaware of the scope of the ADA.

The fact remains that individuals with disabilities are involved, contributing members of our community and deserve the same treatment, access and opportunities as everyone else.

With all the successes of the ADA in the last 16 years, we are not yet ready to be able to fulfill the dream of a just and equal society. "The ADA has helped to open doors for people with developmental disabilities," remarks Stanford Perry, Executive Director of Arc of Onondaga. "While the gains are noteworthy since the enactment of the ADA, there is still much that must be done to ensure that people with disabilities have opportunities for employment, inclusion and independence in our society."

People with disabilities are often undervalued and unemployed or underemployed. Nearly one out of five Americans reports having some level of a disability and people with disabilities represent our nation's major underutilized workforce.

It will take the collaboration of all of us to achieve the reforms that the Americans with Disabilities Act initiated and to embrace the message of integration, equality and acceptance of all people in our society.

All Around the Arc

Arc Hosts "Right to Belong" Class Series

A practical course on including students with disabilities into the classroom is being hosted by Arc of Onondaga this October. Julie Causton-Theoharis, Assistant Professor in the Inclusive and Special Education Program at Syracuse University will be instructing three sessions.



Julie Causton-Theoharis

Termed "The Right to Belong," the class is a must for any teacher, paraprofessional, or school administrator who is currently working in inclusive settings or hoping to be supporting students in inclusive settings. Parents are also invited to learn more about how to support their own student in this type of educational environment.

Causton-Theoharis (*pictured above*), who has published works on the subject matter, will cover practical and useful strategies on supporting students who have challenges in the inclusive setting. The course is designed to give participants new, interesting and creative strategies for educating all children together.

The three sessions will be held October 5th, 12th and 19th from 3pm to 6pm at Arc of Onondaga's main offices at 600 South Wilbur Avenue in Syracuse. The registration fee is \$50 and groups are welcome.

Please contact Peggie Keib at 476-7441, extension 128, or by email to pkeib@arcon.org for more information or to register for this course.

Arc Delves into Community Arts

A new opportunity for persons with developmental disabilities has been created by Arc of Onondaga. Arc recently announced the creation of a Community Performing and Visual Arts Program which allows individuals

with developmental disabilities to engage in a full-time day habilitation program focusing on vocal and instrumental instruction, and drama appreciation.

The program participants will study performance skills in order to produce a public theater performance. The visual art aspect of the program will involve the participants in drawing, painting, sculpture and ceramics, as well as art appreciation. Peggy Keib, Director of Program Development at Arc, indicated that there will be a dance

component encompassing the development of rhythm, balance, flexibility and coordination. Arc is expecting to begin the program in January 2007.

Congressman Walsh Breaks Ground

Congressman Jim Walsh and other dignitaries participated in an official groundbreaking ceremony at Arc of Onondaga's 600 South Wilbur Avenue location in Syracuse on the morning of Tuesday, August 1st.

"Arc of Onondaga's special mission makes this project so important," said Congressman Jim Walsh. "This funding will enable the agency to improve its accessibility and boost its presence on the city's west side."

Congressman Walsh supported the efforts of Arc of Onondaga to increase accessibility of their main location by helping to obtain a \$250,000 federal Housing and Urban Development grant.

During the past 32 years, the Wilbur Avenue site has transformed from a preschool and school program to a multi-faceted facility serving the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities across Onondaga county. The building houses the administrative offices of Arc of Onondaga, which serves as the hub of activity for over 500 employees, 2,000 people with developmental disabilities, their families, and the general public.

The improvements address safety, accessibility and space concerns. The renovation project will produce a safe and completely accessible parking lot. Arc consumers, staff, families and visitors will be able to park in sufficiently sized parking spots, have complete access to all areas of the building, have appropriate fire evacuation protection and safe lighting for evening activities.

Work on the project is underway and expected to be completed in September 2006.

Photo below (from left to right): Paul Anderson, President of Arc of Onondaga; Jay Gellormini, a consumer working at the Wilbur Avenue offices; Dean Hinderliter from Lan-Co, the project contractor; Congressman Jim Walsh; and Stanford Perry, Executive Director of Arc of Onondaga join together to officially break the ground with golden shovels.

Leadership Greater Syracuse Meets at Arc Human Services and Boardsmanship Day 2006 for Leadership Greater Syracuse was hosted

by Arc of Onondaga at its Wilbur Avenue location.

Since 1991, Leadership Greater Syracuse has assembled diverse groups of citizens who share the desire to develop their leadership skills and improve their communi-



ties. LGS classes represent a cross-section of business, industry, education, non-profit and government organizations. The leadership program not only teaches class members about the assets and problems of our community, but also about group behavior, transforming communities and empowerment. Class members forge strong bonds with each other and learn to approach challenges by creatively using their talents and experience.

Parkside Childrens Center Brightened Up

Crews from Arc of Onondaga's Facilities and Operations department worked extra hours over a recent school break to spruce up the classrooms at Parkside Childrens Center with fresh coats of paint. Vibrant primary colors brighten up the classrooms at the Valley Drive building in Syracuse.

Parkside recently began offering wrap-around day care for its pre-school program making pick-up and drop-off times more versatile for parents of Parkside students.

City Schools Presented Award by Arc

Arc of Onondaga Executive Director, Stanford Perry, presented the Syracuse City School District an award recognizing their partnership in transition services. The NYSRA School/Community Partnership Recognition Award for Best Practices was presented at the city school's Board of Directors meeting on July 12, 2006. Pat Dowse, Vice President of Operations for NYSRA in Albany, attended and explained the significance of the award to the school board. The award clearly indicates the school district's commitment to the provision of timely transition services through its partnership with Arc of Onondaga.

Arc provided a Career-Related Life Skills program to students with disabilities. NYSRA indicated that it was clear that Syracuse has a culture of acceptance of school to work goals and transition services being provided to students with disabilities and that there was a true community involvement.

Openings for Parkside's New Day Care

Recently certified, there are still openings for children ages three to five in Parkside's Day Care program. Parents can drop-off and pick-up their children around their work schedule, as early as 7:30am and as late as 5:30pm. New York State Certified Teachers instruct Parkside's Pre-School program and a registered nurse is on-site.

Parents interested in more information on day care options, cost, and enrollment should call Roxanne Euson, Director of Parkside, at 315.468.1632, extension 104, or email to reuson@arcon.org.

Arc Developing Autism Recreation Facility

Arc is in the process of developing a therapeutic inclusive recreation facility to provide services to persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders and their families. Arc wishes to be certain that the services that we develop for this facility will meet the specific needs of the individuals with ASD and their families. We have developed a survey that is available on Arc's website at www.arcon.org. If you have a family member with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, or if you are a professional who works with individuals with this disorder, we would very much appreciate your taking the time to share your insights with us by completing this survey.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Looking for a simple way to get involved? Interested in supporting Arc's missions? There are a variety of ways that everyone can join the efforts of the Arc of Onondaga team. Below are some of the volunteer opportunities for those who have some spare time or skills that they would like to contribute:

Race Volunteers

Did you know it takes over 250 volunteers to make Arc Race run smoothly? Volunteers are needed to help set-up on race day, register participants, staff water stations, assist at the finish line, tear down and more. Arc Race 2006 is being held on September 9th at Long Branch Park in Liverpool. We hope you'll join our team!

Data Entry

The Development Office needs assistance in removing duplicates in its mailing database and assistance with data input. The volunteer could work flexible hours, at their convenience, anytime Monday through Friday, from 8am to 5pm, or work from home. Contact us for more details.

Media Specialist Internship

Arc is offering the opportunity for a local student to undertake an internship in the Public Relations & Development office working on a wide variety of projects. Background in print media, marketing, public relations, or communications would be a plus. The internship is unpaid, but could be structured with a school to provide credit. For a full description, contact the Office of Development.

To Volunteer or ask questions about volunteering at Arc of Onondaga, please contact the Arc Office of Development at 315.476.7441, extension 147, or by email to info@arcon.org. Employment opportunities are posted on the web at www.arcon.org.

Contributions

The 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 March 1, 2006 and June 30, 2006. Contributions made after June 30th will appear in the next issue of *Patterns*. If we have made an error or omission, please forgive us and contact our offices to correct the mistake. We appreciate your generosity.

Corporate In-Kind Donations

A & E Transport Services, Inc.
A Touch Above Massage Therapy
AC Delco
All Star Sport Cards, LLC
Ambrosia
Andrey's Beauty & Barber Hair Salon
Arnou Jewelers
Autasa Designs
Axxess Television Production / WCNY
Beat Street Music
Berry Good Dental Care
Blue Water Grill
Boeheim Enterprises, Inc.
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China Café
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Corinthian Club
Craftsman Inn
Daystar Financial Group, LLC
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Dick's Sporting Goods
Eastern Copy Products
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ENV Insurance
Fitness Forum Health & Wellness Ctr
Four Seasons Golf & Ski Center
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Galaxy Communication
George Eastman House
Hellos Made Special
Jack Haverty's Auto Parts (NAPA)
Julie's Place
Kennedy Space Center
Lawrence World Class Karate
Lean Shapiro Motor Sales, Inc.
Limestone Liquors
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Long Point Winery
Manlius Liquors
Mars Jewelry
Mass Mutual Financial Group
Mathews Salon & Spa
Minuteman Press CNY
Monarch Enterprises
Movie Gallery
Natural Creations by Nancy
Nextel Partners
No Name Diner
Outback Steakhouse
Pascale Wine Bar & Restaurant
Plumley Engineering, P.C.
Print Solutions
Redmill Inn
Sackets Trading Harbor
Saratoga Steaks & Seafood
Spaghetti Warehouse
Sterling Renaissance Festival
Syracuse Opera
Syracuse SkyChiefs
Syracuse Stage
Sysco Food Services of Syracuse, LLC
T.J. Maxx
The Maids Home Service
The Marx Hotel & Conference Center
The Talent Company
Ultimate Fitness
Union Square Café
Village Office Supply
VN Nails
Walt Disney World Co.
WellSport Therapeutic
Western Lights Liquors

Individual In-Kind Donations

Sarah Blaney
Jim & Juli Boeheim
Sean & Theresa Broderick
Thomas Carlson
The Cerminaro Family

Norma Chrysler
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Heather Schisler

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Ms. Carol Philippi
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Ms. Margaret Wills
United Way Contributions

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Mr. Kenneth Sniper

\$250 to \$999

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Ms. Georgie Bennett-Hafner
Facer & Stamoulas, P.C.
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Dr. Paul Phillips
Mr. Robert Walsh

\$2,500 and Above

Anonymous

12th Annual Arc Achievement Awards Dinner Sponsorships

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Photos, in column order: *Top Left:* (From left to right) Sean Broderick, Vice President of A&E Transport Services, Arc Foundation Board Member and recipient of the 2006 Founders Award is joined by New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and Jay Saternow, President of A&E Transport Services.

Bottom left: Jim and Juli Boeheim share a laugh with the crowd during the dinner program.

Center: Paul Anderson, President of Arc of Onondaga (left) chats with Al Cappuccilli during the cocktail hour.

Top right: Tex Simone, seated at far right, is joined by his family after he was presented the 2006 Arc Achievement Award.

Bottom right: Guests at the dinner browse and bid on items from the Butterfly Raffle in the OnCenter lobby.

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Honors and Memorials

In Memory of Evelyn Benson

Mr. & Mrs. John Curtin
Mr. & Mrs. John Fontana

In Memory of Dr. Lawrence Carmen

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Brown, Jr.
Mrs. Joyce Carmen
Eagle Comtronics, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Eyer
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Glazier
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Hoffman
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Mr. & Mrs. Harold Novick
Dr. Paul Phillips & Ms. Sharon Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. John Ridgeway
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Rothman
Ms. Elaine Rubenstein
Mr. Gay Ushkow
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Wentlandt
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wilson

In Honor of Kevin Cobb

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Hartman

In Memory of Sharon Lee DeVecchio

Ms. Fannie Ascoti
Ms. Carol Bourg
Ms. Matt Case & Family
Ms. Marcia Cole
Ms. Claire DeVecchio
Mr. John DeVecchio
Mr. Patrick DiFlorio
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Dobe
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In Honor of
Judy & Gordon Eyer
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

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Mr. & Mrs. Jordan Fiske
Ms. Rosalind Sagar
Mrs. Shirley Small

In Memory of
Mrs. Ted Kleinhands
Mr. & Mrs. John Davis

In Memory of
Marion Diamond Moran
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Centore



Contributing to Arc

Contributions to the Arc of Onondaga and the Arc of Onondaga Foundation are always welcome in any amount. A number of giving options allow great flexibility in the type of donation made.

Honor and Memorial donations are always accepted and can be made to recognize or remember any individual, company or event. Donors can receive complimentary placecards for weddings and other events, in place of favors, indicating that a donation has been made in their name to the Arc of Onondaga Foundation.

The 12th Annual Arc Race is an excellent opportunity to both support Arc and enjoy a fun-filled day at Long Branch Park. Individuals are welcome to participate in the walk or a running event, or to start a team of friends, family, or co-workers. Companies are encouraged to support the event by advertising in the race program, distributed to over 800 runners, or become a sponsor of Arc Race.

Membership is a simple gesture of support that goes a long way. For only \$10 per person or \$25 for a family, you can strengthen support for individuals with developmental disabilities. Increases in membership increase Arc of Onondaga's voice within our state organization, NYSARC, as well as with the New York State legislature. Contact our Development Office to purchase a membership for your family, or to give the gift of membership to others.

Planned giving options are available for those who wish to leave a lasting legacy of support for those with developmental disabilities. Call Dan O'Hara, Director of Development, at 315.476.7441, extension 103, or email dohara@arcon.org to discuss these giving opportunities.

12th Annual Arc Dinner in Review



Arc Celebrates Success of 2006 Dinner

The largest crowd in Arc of Onondaga history joined together June 6th at the Convention Center at OnCenter in Syracuse to celebrate turning disability into ability.

Photos (clockwise from top left): Kevin Cobb with his mother, Susan, shortly after he received his Consumer Achievement Award. *Top right:* Jim and Juli Boenheim auction off signed Syracuse basketball items and special game tickets, among other great prizes, to an energetic and excited crowd. *Middle right:* From left to right, Stanford Perry, Executive Director; Eliot Spitzer, New York State Attorney General; Margaret Dalton, Dinner Chairperson; Dan O'Hara, Director of Development; Peter Carmen, President of the Arc of Onondaga Foundation; and Paul Anderson, President of Arc of Onondaga. *Bottom right:* Lori Kennedy speaks to the audience upon receiving her President's Award. Doug Logan (*left*), the evening's Master of Ceremonies, holds her microphone. *Bottom Left:* Guests were greeted by these volunteers from West Genesee High School, who assisted with the popular Butterfly Raffle.



Photographs: Kevin Baker

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 2,000 individuals and their families, providing them with opportunities to live a successful and productive life. Our mission is to assist individuals with developmental disabilities to achieve their fullest potential. Arc of Onondaga is the largest provider of services for those with developmental disabilities in the county, maintaining 35 different locations and facilities.

Clinical Services	476-7441	Parkside Children's Center	468-1632
Horizons Clinic	Ext. 167	Day Care	
Community Outreach	423-0100	Early Intervention - Home & Site Based	
Parent Advocacy		Evaluation Services	
Youth & Family Services		Family & Parent Support	
Outreach		Nursery School	
Day Services		Pre-School	
Day Habilitation	478-0877	School-Age Transition	
Enhanced Day Habilitation	432-0351	Residential Services	476-7441
Senior Retirement	432-0351	Residence Living	
Individual and Family Support Services	473-5020	Supportive Apartment Living	
Community Recreation Services		Administrative Offices	476-7441
Corporate Guardianship		Office of the Executive Director	Ext. 122
Respite Reimbursement		Development & Public Relations	Ext. 144
Service Coordination		Facilities & Operations	Ext. 162
Monarch Enterprises	476-7441	Finance	Ext. 115
Community-Based Employment	432-5560	Human Resources	Ext. 173
Supported Employment	437-2025	Information Technology	Ext. 108
Transition to Career	437-2025	Safety / Transportation	Ext. 155
Work Centers	424-6000	Quality Assurance	Ext. 127
		Fax	476-7446



Arc of Onondaga
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