

The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties
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Celebrating 50 Years of Service to the
 Lehigh Valley Community!

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Our Mission
 The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties advocates, educates and provides services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

2017 Upcoming Events/Announcements

February 20—Presidents Day—Offices Closed—NO SPARC

March 24—Staff In-Service Training - NO SPARC

April 14—Good Friday—Offices Closed—NO SPARC

May 16—One Step Forward Celebration

May 29—Memorial Day—Offices Closed—NO SPARC

June 23—Staff In-Service Training - NO SPARC

July 4th—Independence Day—Offices closed—No SPARC

The Arc Board of Directors

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Mike Bruckner	Vice President
Carlos Almeida	Treasurer
Stephanie Betz	Secretary
Bob De Silver	Immed. Past President
Tim Paukovits	Member At Large

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Joe Carcione	Maureen O'Meara
Paula Henry	Sharon Michael
Kimberly Wann	Matthew McConnell
Ron Eichenberg	Sweetie Jain, M.D.
Joe Mastriani	Murtaza Jaffer

Karen Shoemaker, Executive Director



Advocate

2016 End of Year
 Review

Celebrate Friendship

Keep Calm and Golf On!

Despite the chilling rain that fell the day of the 32nd Annual Allen D. Deibler Golf Classic, there was no shortage of excitement and good spirits! The Arc staff and more than 100 of our closest golfing friends came together for a fun-filled day to celebrate local people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The 2016 Allen D. Deibler Golf Classic took place on Friday, September 30 at Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, and raised over \$23,000 for The Arc, to support the Advocacy Services Program.



L to R -Travis Cohle, Bob Bacon, Jim Knight, Ryan Tyrell

“The Golf tournament is something I look forward to every year,” said Executive Director Karen Shoemaker. “Rain or shine, I really enjoy coming out and seeing all of our friends while spending an incredibly fun day celebrating the wonderful work that we do at The Arc!”



L to R -Greg Rarick, Lita Kishbaugh, Tom Kishbaugh



Bill Johnson, Frisha Johnson, Fred Hayes, Sandy Hayes

Mike Ross, President of A-1 Towing and Ross Body & Frameworks, was again our top sponsor and additionally brought an impressive group of golfers to participate as well.



L to R -Jeff Zamgulis, Nido Collina, Richard Chambers, Doug Collina

Under the outstanding volunteer leadership of the tournament co-chairs Mary Jo McNulty and Mike Bruckner, the 2016 event was, once again, a tremendous success!



Dennis Kline and Barbara Edwards

The generosity of event donors allowed for an incredible array of raffle and live auction prizes that included a signed Jersey from the Portland Trailblazers, an autographed football from Eli Apple of the New York Giants and a beautiful collection of Lehigh University apparel and accessories.



L-R—Joe Mancini, Kathy Garcsar, Mike Leshko

Other major sponsors included St. Clair CPA Solutions, McDermott Investment Advisors, Easton Coach, Fitzpatrick, Lentz & Bubba, Fulton Financial Advisors/Lafayette Ambassador Bank, Horwith Trucks, Inc., Lehigh Valley International Airport, Lindsay Insurance Group/BMC Benefit Services, Peoples Security, Hale Trailer Brake and Wheel and Stratix Systems.

From The Desk Of Karen Shoemaker, Executive Director



As we begin the New Year, we take this opportunity to reflect on the activities of 2016 and the 12 months that celebrated the lives touched and outstanding achievements on behalf of families and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Our organization was founded by families, strengthened by friends and is thriving due to the commitment and dedication of The Arc staff and Board and our Lehigh Valley community. Relationships that are built with the families we serve inspire us to reach beyond the standard and strive for the exceptional.

This past year was filled with many successful and inspiring events. April brought the Sprout Film Festival to the Lehigh Valley for the fourth year, allowing us to educate and inform the community of the exceptional gifts brought to the screen by individuals with IDD and remove barriers and misinformation about disabilities. Our 2nd annual Wings for Autism event in May brought The Arc and local families together again to offer the opportunity to have a real-time, test run of an airport experience with their families. There is no greater feeling than to see a family transform before your eyes as they realize that the dreams of travelling with their children can now be a reality. Our One Step Forward Celebration in May was an evening to remember, honoring achievements by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as those who have dedicated their services to them. Our 32nd Annual Allen D. Deibler Golf Classic took place in September and even the chilly rain could not dampen the spirit of a community that champions people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc Board welcomed three new members this year, as it continues to grow and support our mission through their volunteer efforts.

We have had the opportunity to reminisce about our past as we prepare to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our chapter in 2017. Fifty years of advocacy and service to the Lehigh Valley Community brings forth many emotions and an incredible sense of pride to see how much we have grown and the lives we have touched over the last 50 years. We have a renewed excitement to see all the possibilities available to our families in the next 50 years. Many faces of The Arc family have come through our doors and we have bid heartfelt farewells to those we lost. As we look over the photos and articles and speak with those who have been a part of The Arc family over the years, we are humbled and grateful to have been a trusted partner in the lives of so many people.

Families who have completed our annual satisfaction surveys continue to be highly satisfied with the services received by their loved ones. We continually see new faces and continue to increase attendance at our special events, and the support for our Advocacy department through our donors continues to thrive.

We are grateful for a dedicated Board, a compassionate and knowledgeable staff and the many volunteers and donors who come through our doors and partner with us in support of our mission, helping us to share it with the community. We value the faith and confidence that our families place in us and are fortunate to have the support of members of The Arc for without whom, we could not achieve our goals. Your confidence in us will never be taken for granted and continues to drive us to excel and be the best that we can be.

Thank you for being part of The Arc family.

Karen A. Shoemaker

Welcome New Board Members!



The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties welcomed three new Board members this year!

From left to right is Murtazza Jaffer, Owner of EBC Printing in Bethlehem, Dr. Sweety Jain of Lehigh Valley Health Network, current Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties Board President Erich Schock and Joseph Mastriani of Buckno, Lisicky and Company. We are grateful for the support, volunteerism and insight that they and our current Board members offer to our organization and our consumers. Welcome!

IN LOVING MEMORY

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of our donor lists. If there is a mistake or omission, please call Susan Cully in the Development office at 610-849-8076, ext. 346 so we can update our records.

**Thank You
For Contributions Big and Small**

The Arc gratefully acknowledges the following supporters for gifts received between June 16–January 23, 2017

DONORS	DONORS	IN KIND
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In Focus—The Arc Advocacy Department



The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties has been a pioneer in advocating for individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or developmental delays since 1967. As the Lehigh Valley's only provider of Advocacy services provided free of charge, our Advocates are here to not only offer families expert advice, but also help them navigate any issue that may impinge upon the rights the individual is lawfully entitled to. Our advocacy services span from education settings and transitional services to adult community living arrangements and day program services. While our primary goal will always

remain resolving whatever issue the individual is experiencing, The Arc also works diligently to educate individuals and their families on their rights, as well as transfer the skills necessary for that individual or family to reach the ultimate goal of self-advocacy.

The Advocacy Department consists of:

Patrick Kreshock, Director of Advocacy: Patrick joined The Arc's Advocacy Services Program as Director of Advocacy in 2016. Patrick has an extensive background in Advocacy and Program Development and holds a Bachelors in Psychology from Johns Hopkins University. He has been working in the Human Services field since 1997 and has extensive experience working with individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Susan Kluge, Advocate: Susan graduated from Barton College in North Carolina with a B.S. in social work. Susan has worked with children and adults with developmental disabilities for over 30 years and has been with the Arc for 10 years.

Suzanne Mulhern, Advocate: Joined The Arc in July of 2014. Previously was awarded The Arc's Allen D. Deibler Advocacy Award. Suzanne is currently pursuing a Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership and Administration. She has educational background in Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Early Intervention, Special Education and Psychology.

Ramona Neidig, Resource Librarian/Northampton County Resource Coordinator: Ramona graduated from Kutztown University with a degree in Secondary Education and a concentration in English. Ramona previously taught ESL, GED, & SAT prep classes. Ramona has been with The Arc for 15 years.

Valerie Morton, Advocate: Valerie holds a B.S. in Biochemistry from Cedar Crest College. In May of 2016, she received her MSW from Kutztown University where she was inducted into the Graduate Student Honor Society and the Social Work Honor Society. Valerie spent 5 years as a Child Mentor and another 5 years as a TSS before obtaining her LSW, becoming a Behavior Specialist in the fall of 2016.

The Advocacy Services Program offers many free disability-related workshops throughout the year, with repeat perennial favorites, as well as new topics. Since the start of the fiscal year, Workshop topics have included Medicare 101, future planning, neuropsych evaluations for adults, guardianship, The ABLE Act, the ABCs of IEPs, Functional Behavior Assessments, and The World of School Evaluations. Check out the events tab on The Arc's website for upcoming events in 2017!

Infusion of Inclusion

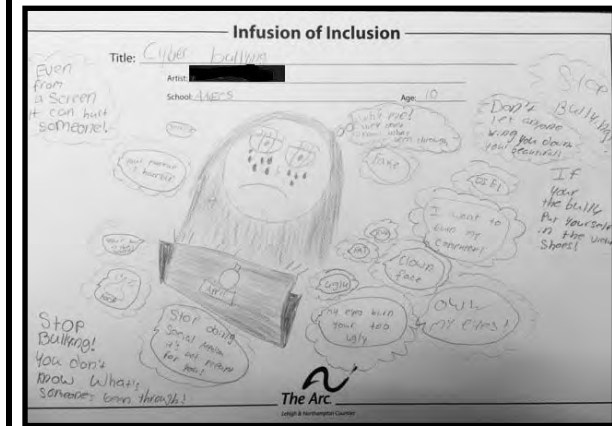


The Arc's *Infusion of Inclusion* is a program that is offered to local schools and the greater Lehigh Valley community at no cost. A great deal of our work and energy is directly and indirectly related to changing attitudes and perceptions about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, in our schools and across the Lehigh Valley community. The Arc has created a unique and highly successful school and community-based project that addresses difficult issues of inclusion, human diversity and bullying on several different levels.

First, we partner with local preschools, elementary schools, middle schools and high schools by presenting an age-appropriate, interactive assembly program(s) in the school, scheduled at the convenience of each participating school throughout the entire year, that allows students to share their feelings about human differences and similarities, their attitudes about how they interact with each other and with the world around them, and to engage them in finding solutions to social challenges in a way they can relate to.

The assembly program includes age-appropriate short films from the internationally acclaimed Sprout Film Festival - a world-class collection of movies and videos of varying lengths and themes that were all created by, for, or about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities - that enable the audience to see the true potential of people.

Recently, Director of Development Bruce Seidel hosted 2 *Infusion of Inclusion* programs at Bethlehem Catholic High school for 750 students as well as Arts Academy Charter School for 250 students. In total, the *Infusion of Inclusion* program has reached almost 8000 students in the Lehigh Valley!



At the end of the presentations, the schools are presented with a template to give to the students in which they are asked to draw "What Bullying Means to Me". "One of the most exciting parts of the *Infusion of Inclusion* program for me is to see the incredible artwork and interpretations that come back to us," said Susan Cully, Development Coordinator and fellow program presenter. The artwork collected is proudly put on display for the public to see at the Sprout Film Festival that we hold in April each year.

For more information about the *Infusion of Inclusion* Program, please contact Susan Cully at The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties at 610-849-8076 ext. 346 or at scully@arcoflehighborough.org.

Thank You For Contributions Big and Small

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