

4th Annual Wings for All Delivers

The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties hosted its 4th annual Wings for All® event (formerly Wings for Autism®), on Saturday, May 5th, providing a unique airport “rehearsal” designed for individuals with autism spectrum disorders, people with other sensory processing sensitivities, their families and aviation professionals. Participants had an opportunity to practice entering the airport, obtaining boarding passes, going through security and boarding a plane.



We had the pleasure of partnering again with event host, Lehigh Valley International Airport, and Allegiant Air who provided a plane where participants experienced boarding, seating and exiting an aircraft.



“The Airport Authority is extremely proud of this event’s contributions to the many success stories of its participants,” said Lehigh-Northampton Airport Authority Executive Director, Thomas Stoudt. “We are also continually inspired by the dedication demonstrated each year by LNAA staff & volunteers, The Arc, and the unwavering support from Allegiant.”

“For families who thought they would never be able to travel by air, this event provides hope. The rehearsal takes place right in their own community and makes air travel a true possibility for them,” said Karen Shoemaker, Executive Director of The Arc. The experience is equally useful for families that have a member with other intellectual or developmental disabilities that are concerned about the ability of their family member to travel. For more information about Wings for All®, contact The Arc’s development department at 610-849-8076, ext. 346.

Sensory Room

The Arc and Lehigh Valley International Airport Unveil Third Airport Sensory Room in the World



This spring, The Arc teamed-up with Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE) to construct a Sensory Room - **only the third in the world** outside of Atlanta, Georgia and Shannon, Ireland - for air travelers with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. A sensory room is a specially designed room which combines a range of stimuli to help individuals develop and engage their senses. These can include lights, colors, sounds and sensory soft play objects, all within a safe environment that allows the person using it to explore and interact without risk.

“The sensory room will help reduce stress and anxiety for travelers with sensory sensitivities,” said Karen Shoemaker, The Arc’s Executive Director. “This unique space will positively impact many families who travel through the Lehigh Valley each year.”

The room, located in the Wilfred M. “Wiley” Post Departure Concourse, includes: mondo flooring, low frequency lighting, mounted projector and other sensory equipment.

When the Brown family arrived at Lehigh Valley International Airport for a flight to Florida this past June, and their two sons with sensory sensitivity issues, Dimitri and Liam, did not appear ready for a [\(continued at top of page four\)](#)



From The Desk Of Karen Shoemaker, Executive Director



These are exciting times at The Arc, and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Now more than ever, the focus is on the needs and choices of the individual. There is lots going on, many new opportunities taking shape, and much work to be done to make it all come together.

With our 50th anniversary behind us, we look to the future and the many new and exciting opportunities that are ahead for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve and to take the next steps in experiencing inclusion in our community, on their terms. For decades, our SPARC program has offered adults a variety of activities to choose from that have included music, communication and socialization activities, or challenging community volunteerism at a variety of committed partners such as Godfrey Daniels, Allentown Rescue Mission,

Phoebe Home, Burnside Plantation, Meals on Wheels and Wildlands Conservancy, to name a few.

As we move forward, our challenge in SPARC will begin with the personal needs and desires of the individual at the forefront, expanding the choice of options, and identifying the partnerships and resources for them to be successful in their journey toward greater fulfillment and inclusion.

The Arc continues to lead by articulating a positive vision for the future for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our local community and beyond. In June, our chapter joined forces with hundreds of Arc members from The Arc of PA and other local chapters, self-advocates, families, direct support professionals, legislators, and representatives from other disability groups at a “standing room only” rally in the Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg to advocate for fair funding for Pennsylvanians with disabilities.

Our Advocacy Services department, with a commitment to continuous improvement, has implemented a formal intake process, providing for greater efficiency in service response and delivery. Recognized for their expertise, two of our skilled advocates - Susan Kluge and Suzanne Mulhern - served as guest presenters at the Children’s Interagency Conference at Penn State University this past spring. I am so very proud of our amazing advocacy team - the difficult work they do daily makes a deep and profound difference in the lives of hundreds of local individuals and families in real and measurable ways.

Our annual satisfaction surveys for each program are one tool we use to enable the people we serve to tell us how the services they receive from us are making a difference in their lives. We are humbled by the positive feedback and very high marks that we continue to receive from the people we serve across all our programs and services, particularly the feedback regarding our staff’s dedication and high quality of service. By putting individuals and families first and focusing on their needs and desires, we strive to get even better in helping them achieve more.

Our Board of Directors, donors, volunteers, and our staff make it possible for us to achieve our goals and advance our mission to advocate, educate, and provide services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. It’s a privilege to work with the amazing individuals and families we serve to find solutions to a more inclusive world filled with more choice and options. Thank you for achieving with us.



Karen A. Shoemaker

Annual One Step Forward Celebration Making Strides, One Step at a Time

The Arc honored the accomplishments of outstanding individuals, groups and organizations in our community at the 2018 One Step Forward Celebration, sponsored by Air Products and hosted at DeSales University on May 22nd. Laurie G. Hackett, Manager, Philanthropy and Community Relations at Air Products, served as Master of Ceremonies. In addition to the awards presentation, attendees enjoyed a delicious meal and an exciting silent auction, with items ranging from spa experiences to helicopter tours. Under the leadership of committee co-chairs Elsbeth Haymon and Kim Wann, the **2018 One Step Forward Celebration raised more than \$19,000** to support The Arc's advocacy efforts for individuals with Intellectual and developmental disabilities in our community.



2018 awardees included: **Pete Rile**, who received the *Allen D. Deibler Advocacy Award* for demonstrating exceptional efforts in improving the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Lehigh Valley by advocating for the rights, welfare and quality of life, with emphasis on efforts to affect system changes; **Kelsey Anthony**, recipient of the *One Step Forward Award* who is working towards independence and self-determination, leading a life of productivity and achievement within the community; **The Tarboro Family**, who received the *Dedicated Family Award* for their assistance to other families as well as service to The Arc, setting an example to families of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Valley; **Cathy Johns**, recipient of the *Distinguished Service Award* for outstanding contributions in services in the community as well as to The Arc that further the welfare of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and **Allegiant Air**, presented with the *Business Recognition Award* for devoting their time, talents and resources to benefit and support The Arc and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc also honored the following staff members for their years of service: **Joanne Cartwright**, SPARC Direct Support Professional, 30 years; **Julie Love**, SPARC Program Director and Dean Velazquez, SPARC Direct Support Professional, 20 years; **Hilda Imbisi**, Payroll Clerk and **Yenica Muniz**, Agency with Choice Coordinator, 5 years.

Congratulations to Our 2018 Honorees



Pete Rile
*Allen D. Deibler
Advocacy Award*



Kelsey Anthony
*One Step Forward
Award*



The Tarboro Family
*Dedicated Family
Award*

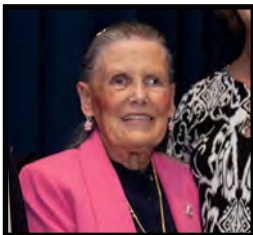


Cathy Johns
*Distinguished
Service Award*

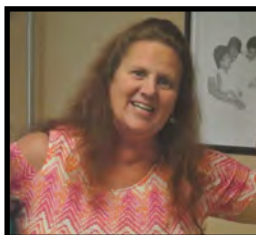


Allegiant Air
Business Recogni-

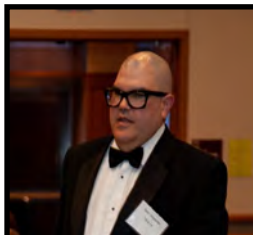
Congratulations and Thank You to Our Staff



Joanne Cartwright
30 Years of Service



Julie Love
20 Years of Service



Dean Velazquez
20 Years of Service



Hilda Imbisi
5 Years of Service



Yenica Muniz
5 Years of Service

Sensory Room (continued from page one)



Dmitri Brown (left) and his girlfriend, Aliyah, pose with little brother, Liam.

successful air travel experience, the situation changed when the boys were introduced to The Arc's sensory room, were able to decompress, and to board the plane and have a successful flight:

"To ordinary families, this sensory room is a play room, just a really cool place to 'chill'." But for families like ours, we know the true meaning behind this magical room. We appreciate it that much more. Your gift helped my children in a moment they needed it most & we are forever grateful & appreciative. We can never say thank you enough to all who invested not only their time and money, but their hearts into such an extraordinary room. You guys are our heroes for you all saved the day. I hope & pray more airports band together with organizations to build sensory rooms in their airports as well. Your gift is one that will stay with us for a lifetime." - Dana Brown, Mother of Dimitri and Liam Brown

The Arc would like to thank the many organizations that helped make the sensory room possible, including lead sponsors, Mass Mutual and Pennwood Financial.

The 34th Annual Allen D. Deibler Golf Classic

Friday, October 5 | 11:30 AM

Southmoore Golf Course, Bath, PA

Grab your golf clubs and support The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties and local people with intellectual and developmental disabilities!

Tournament proceeds benefit The Arc's Advocacy Services program that provides Education Advocacy for children and youth, Adult Advocacy, specialized training sessions for families, and our Family Resource Center lending library. All these services, and more, are provided free of charge to those in need here in our community.

Hosted at beautiful Southmoore Golf Course, men and women participate in a challenging 18-hole tournament, featuring:

- 11:30 AM Registration
- 12:15 PM Shotgun Start
- Four Player Scramble
- Gourmet Dinner and Silent Auction

For more information, visit www.arcoflehighnorthampton.org or call 610-849-8076, ext. 346.

Sponsored by:



In Focus - SPARC

The SPARC Program is a state-licensed adult training facility that serves adults in Lehigh and Northampton Counties. It is staffed by a Program Director, Program Specialists, and a team of Direct Support Professionals.

The program is designed to provide opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to explore interests, develop skills, and interact with their communities in a supportive, noncompetitive environment. The needs of each participant are met through a person-centered approach, helping develop daily living, communication, socialization, habilitation and community integration skills.

Participants choose to participate in a variety of core concentration options based on their abilities and personal preference that include:

Community Volunteerism opportunities, offering participants a chance to learn and enhance work-related skills by volunteering their time and talents at **more than 16 community volunteer sites**, doing activities such as light cleaning, hospitality, delivering and serving food,



Kathy enjoys an education session offered by a Wildlands Conservancy volunteer.



Keith, Robin, Cameron and Bill stop for a photo while out at a volunteer site.

ing and serving food, landscaping, patient interaction through music, managing various thrift shops and assisting with mailings;

Community Outings, helping participants to enhance their social skills by visiting museums, shopping, bowling, horseback riding, miniature golfing, movies, and community recycling;

Daily Living Skills, to offer participants who need more assistance from staff the opportunity to learn skills such as managing their lives through personal safety, personal hygiene, communication skills, money identification and emergency procedures; and

Therapeutic Services, providing a variety of regular, stimulating therapies such as pet therapy, musical therapy, horticultural therapy, and Wildlands Conservancy sessions.

Our Knights in Shining Armor

Did you know that the Knights of Columbus have been serving the community since 1882? There are nearly 2 million members represented in more than 14,000 countries.

Each year, the Knights host their *Measure Up Campaign* to benefit The Arc's advocacy programs. Last year, they raised more than \$8,000! We are honored to count the Knights among our loyal supporters.

On April 13th, we served our local Knights a much deserved Thank You Breakfast and presented them with plaques for the amazing work they do for us each year. Thank you, Knights!



John Fitzpatrick, Ronald Paff, Arc Board President, Mike Bruckner, Arc Executive Director, Karen Shoemaker, Ken Lupole, Ed Montross and Joe DeFranco.



Arc Appoints New Director of Programs

Please join us in congratulating Patrick Kreshock, on his promotion from Director of Advocacy to Director of Programs!

“Patrick has done a stellar job providing leadership for our Advocacy department,” said Karen Shoemaker, The Arc’s Executive Director. “With his rich background in non-profit management, intellectual and developmental disabilities services and advocacy, we know Patrick will continue to shine in his new role, providing operational oversight, support and continued development of all of The Arc’s programs and services departments.”

Congratulations, Patrick!



Welcome New Staff Members



Dianne Moody
Development Coordinator



Jeanette DeLeon
Administrative Assistant of H.R.

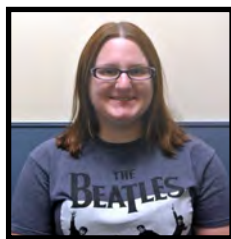


Mandi Matthews
Administrative Assistant of AWC

SPARC Direct Support Professionals



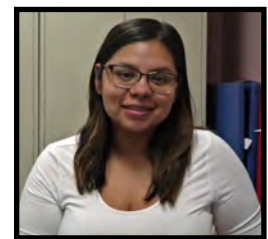
Joanne Burley



Sara Campbell



Whitley Eckhart



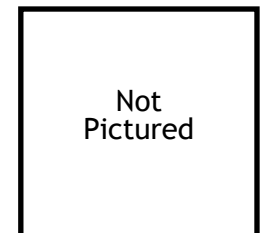
Aida Figueroa



Mary Smith



Kendillie Tate



Mary Voorhees

Thank You

For Contributions Big and Small

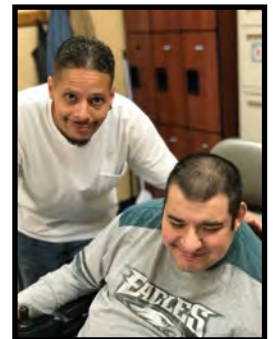
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IN LOVING MEMORY

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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 contact Dianne Moody in the Development office at 610-849-8076, ext. 346.

Have You Included The Arc in your Future Plans?



“The Arc has always been there for my daughter Suzie, my late husband Parker, and for me. The Arc is like family. I have included The Arc in my future plans because I want to make sure that it will be there for others, far into the future.”

Eleanor Lessel, Schnecksville, PA

Planned Giving. Learn About Your Options.

Learn how others have made an impact through their acts of giving to our organization and others. Explore the many benefits of charitable gift planning.

Visit The Arc’s website www.arcoflehighboroughamton.org and explore our planned giving page for options that may be right for you.

Contact Development Director, Bruce Seidel, for more information at 610-849-8076, ext. 314 or at bseidel@arcoflehighboroughamton.org.

“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.”
- Martin Luther

Volunteer Spotlight



In June, employees from Intel came to The Arc to donate their time and talents. From weeding and mulching in our garden to painting and making repairs, this group handled it all! Each volunteer wore a shirt printed with the phrase “Do Wonderful,” which was quite fitting, as they did wonderful work with a cheerful attitude! Thank you, Intel volunteers! We appreciate you!



Is your company or service group interested in volunteer opportunities? Contact our Development Department at 610-867-8049 for information.

The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties
2289 Avenue A
Bethlehem, PA 18017

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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.

2018 Upcoming Events/Announcements

| | |
|-------------|---|
| August 18 | Sprout Film Festival |
| September 3 | Labor Day – Closed |
| October 5 | 34th Annual Allen D. Deibler Golf Classic |
| October 19 | Staff In-Service Training – No SPARC |
| November 22 | Thanksgiving Day – Closed |
| November 23 | Day after Thanksgiving – Closed |
| December 21 | Staff In-Service Training – No SPARC |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Holiday – Closed |
| December 25 | Christmas Day Holiday – Closed |
| December 31 | New Year’s Eve Holiday – Closed |

The Arc Board of Directors

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| | |
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Karen Shoemaker, Executive Director