



# ARC Life



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## ARTS EXPERIENCE FESTIVAL PLANTS SEEDS OF CREATIVITY

In early April, Ontario ARC's Creative Expressions program participated in the ARTS Experience Festival at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, a week-long event that celebrates *please turn to Page 3*



Ontario ARC is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to assisting individuals with disabilities or other challenges and their families. We offer personalized services and supports that foster life-long fulfillment through active citizenship and enriched community living.

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## MESSAGE FROM ANN SCHEETZ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ann Scheetz

Collaboration is a key component of what makes Ontario ARC great. In this edition, you will read about the collaborative efforts that make it possible for the people we support to achieve their dreams: collaborations with local businesses and organizations; collaborations between staff and the people we support; and collaborations between the people we support with our community and beyond.

Read on to learn how the talented individuals in our Creative Expressions programs took part in an exciting event where they had the chance to share their talents with the college

community and the public. Our Self-Advocacy group is also continuing to build new connections both locally and around the world. Be on the lookout for their new Statement of Rights video and see them this 4th of July in the Canandaigua parade!

We are also thrilled to announce the launch of our new social enterprise, North Star Coffee in Canandaigua. Together, with Flowers by Stella we are “building connections one cup at a time” while creating wonderful career opportunities for the people we support. Stop by and try a cup for yourself!

Our community connections continue to grow as we welcome Stacey Casella, Mandy Friend Gigliotti, Tamra O'Donnell, and Sarah Genecco, the newest members of our community advisory board. Their insight will be invaluable as we look to the future.

One of the people we support has even become a published writer! Through our Self-Directed services she is working with her staff and pursuing her talents to find new classes in the community that will bring her one step closer to post-college goals.

Finally, we want to introduce our Development and Public Relations Team. They host numerous fundraising events throughout the year like Cruisin' for a Cause (coming up on August 17th!) and promote the agency through publications such as the one you are reading now. Their work helps us raise the needed funds to support our growing menu of services. Recently, the team has expanded to include our wonderful staff at the front desk—they are the first point of contact for anyone coming to the agency, so this was a great fit!

We hope to see you on August 17th as we celebrate our 25th annual Cruisin' for a Cause! ✨

Sincerely,

Ann Scheetz, *Executive Director*

## ONTARIO ARC: FOR OUR COMMUNITY

We are thrilled to share our new agency video with you!

At Ontario ARC, we envision a world where all individuals with disabilities or other challenges are one with their communities. ✨

View the full video on our website at  
<http://ontarioarc.org/ontario-arc-community>



On the Cover: A member of Ontario ARC's music program plays the glockenspiel during the group's modern adaptation of Jack and the Beanstalk at the ARTS Experience Festival.



Joanne Aumick sings along with the Hobart and William Smith a capella group during the ARTS Experience Festival.

### *ARTS Experience Festival from Cover*

artistic authenticity and validates ability across all creative fields. The theme of this year's ARTS Experience was "Planting Seeds"; members of Ontario ARC's art, horticulture, and music program took part in cultivating creative relationships at several community events.

An original, humorous, modern adaptation of Jack and the Beanstalk was debuted by members of the music program. They call their theatrical styling a "sound choir," in which sound effects, acting, musical instruments, and body-language performance accompany a beat-driven narration and encourages audience participation. The hugely successful showing signals a likely encore performance, says Nathan Merrill, Music Specialist.

Members of the Horticulture program created an interactive, hands-on workshop

experience, where soil, clay, and seeds were mixed together to make "seed bombs." The activity inspired gardeners, gift-givers, flower-lovers, and ecology enthusiasts to share their excitement about beautifying their communities.

Ontario ARC artists submitted their work for exhibition in the Gala Art Show and also created the Ontario ARC annual ARTS Festival banner, which was prominently displayed behind the live band at the Gala.

The entire Ontario ARC Creative Expressions team was part of the Gala's production, with help from College Experience students.

"The participation of Ontario ARC has been pivotal to the success of the ARTS Experience year after year," says Mary Kelly, Associate Professor of Education at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. "By having

shared experiences and expressing ourselves creatively, we learn more about ourselves and each other."

The annual free ARTS Experience Festival is presented in partnership with the Collaborative of the Finger Lakes, and provides an opportunity for all participants, including people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities, the college community, and the general public, to explore various means of expression through the arts. ✨

To get involved with the 2018 ARTS Experience Festival, contact Jamie Buttaccio, Steering Committee Member, at [jbuttaccio@ontarioarc.org](mailto:jbuttaccio@ontarioarc.org) or 585.919.2064.

## ONTARIO ARC LAUNCHES NORTH STAR COFFEE IN CANANDAIGUA

Ontario ARC's newest social enterprise opened in June at 1880 Rochester Road in Canandaigua. North Star Coffee is a full-service coffee bar located within the brand new Flowers By Stella location, which is also home to Keller Williams Realty, and Scoops II Ice Cream.

North Star Coffee serves superbly crafted beverages made with coffee from Finger Lakes Roasters, a regional favorite, and treats baked fresh daily by Sully's Catering. Coffee is available brewed or as beans to go. ✨

**North Star Coffee, 1880 Rochester Road, Canandaigua, is open Monday through Friday, 7AM to 6PM, and Saturday 8AM to 2PM (closed Sunday). Learn more at [northstarcoffee.org](http://northstarcoffee.org).**



**NORTH STAR**  
COFFEE  
A DIVISION OF ONTARIO ARC

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS



Stacey Casella



Mandy Friend Gigliotti

Ontario ARC's Community Advisory Board welcomes four new members: Stacey Casella, Mandy Friend Gigliotti, Tamra O'Donnell, and Sarah Genecco. The Advisory Board is a non-governing body of local professionals and leaders who provide the agency with community-based input. ✨

**Stacey Casella, of Canandaigua,** is a Program Manager, IPSA, at Space and Intelligence Systems/Harris Corporation.

**Mandy Friend Gigliotti, of Pittsford,** is with The Friend Team at Keller Williams Realty Greater Rochester.

**Tamra O'Donnell, of Canandaigua,** is Senior Vice President – Director Corporate Marketing at Canandaigua National Bank & Trust.

**Sarah Genecco, of Canandaigua,** is the owner of Flowers by Stella.



Tamra O'Donnell



Sarah Genecco



First Picture, from left:  
Nancy Straub,  
Cheyenne Daugherty

Second Picture, from left:  
Canandaigua Wine Mixer  
honorary chairs, Scott and  
Mandy Gerstner and Stephanie  
and Greg Constantino

## CANANDAIGUA WINE MIXER A GREAT SUCCESS!

Ontario ARC's annual spring fundraising event at the New York Wine and Culinary Center was an evening of fine food, live music, great friends, and, of course, wine! This party with a purpose raised over \$54,000 to support our growing menu of services for people with disabilities or other challenges, helping them to enjoy independent lives and reach their full potential. ✨

**SPECIAL THANKS TO HONORARY EVENT CHAIRS GREG AND STEPHANIE CONSTANTINO, AND SCOTT AND MANDY GERSTNER! WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS.**

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## MEET THE DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM



### Michele Wistner

**Director, Development**  
Michele oversees our fundraising activities and leads our community relations efforts promoting the agency and raising

money for the Friends of Ontario ARC Foundation that supports our growing menu of programs and services. She is inspired by Ontario ARC's spirit of innovation. *This year, Michele celebrates 25 years with Ontario ARC!*



### Jenna Chapman

**Communications  
Coordinator**  
Jenna guides Ontario ARC's publications, public relations, website, social media accounts,

and provides support for the agency's fundraising events. She spends every day learning about all of the wonderful success stories at Ontario ARC—and then shares these stories with the community.



### Sierra Seybolt

**Special Events/  
Volunteer Coordinator**  
Sierra plans and organizes the Friends of Ontario ARC Foundation signature fundraising

events and maintains the agency's growing volunteer program. She is inspired by the accomplishments and progress that she sees in the people we support.



### Tina Brooks

**Administrative Coordinator**  
Tina's love of people makes her passionate about supporting the Development and Public Relations team

and their events. She oversees the reception desk and provides clerical and organizational support for the department.



### Ann Clark

**Receptionist**  
Ann has been with the agency for 13 years. For the past 7 years, Ann has been our front desk morning receptionist where she is

one of the first people to greet our visitors, staff, and participants on the phone or in person, and is an enthusiastic ambassador of our agency's mission, vision, and values.



### Barbara Blaker

**Receptionist**  
Barbara is our front desk afternoon receptionist, and also an enthusiastic ambassador of our agency's mission, vision, and values.

She is inspired by her daily interactions with people, including our teams, leaders, and people we support.



"Speak Up & Speak Out" Self-Advocates of Ontario ARC marched in Canandaigua's 2017 Memorial Day Parade.

## SELF-ADVOCACY GROUP EXPANDS REACH

The Self-Advocacy group of Ontario ARC is expanding its reach. The open-door group includes people with disabilities or other challenges and works to raise awareness, break down stereotypes, and promote acceptance and respect.

Focusing on community outreach, the group is growing its connections with regional, state, national, and international self-advocacy forums. Their collaborative efforts focus on speaking for themselves and contributing to decisions in dialogues on their needs and rights in the community, at jobs, and in managing their support systems.

The Self-Advocacy group recently produced and starred in a Statement of Rights video due to be released this fall

at a 'Hollywood-style' premier party. This unique Statement of Rights centers on the right to design one's own life, and includes the right to work in one's own community, right to freedom from abuse, and right to privacy.

The video and an accompanying pamphlet is an exciting, innovative curriculum that will educate people on person-centered planning and the needs and goals of people with disabilities—all from the perspective of Self-Advocacy group members.

The Self-Advocacy group also plans to march in the Canandaigua July 4th parade, wearing t-shirts promoting their message "Spread the Word to End the Word: Respect is the new R Word." ✨

**The Self-Advocacy group welcomes new members. People supported by Ontario ARC may get involved by contacting James Cilano at [jcilano@ontarioarc.org](mailto:jcilano@ontarioarc.org) or 585.919.2222.**

## LEANNE STRONG, A FOREVER LEARNER

Leanne Strong, a 2015 graduate of Project SEARCH, was recently published in the March 31st issue of Autism Parenting Magazine. Leanne's article, "In My Words: Why It's Important to Teach the True Definition of Fairness," explains the value of teaching to children with autism the difference between fair and equal.

Writing for a national magazine is just one of the major endeavors that Leanne has pursued this past spring; she has also been accepted at The College of Saint Rose College Experience, a two-year residential non-credit certificate program. Leanne moves to the Albany campus this fall.

"Leanne is a 'forever learner,'" says Lisa Bugbee, who works with Leanne as a broker through Self-Direction. "Nothing is on the backburner for her and she is open to any experience where she learns a new skill or has some kind of takeaway that she uses to move her life forward." As a broker, Lisa responds to Leanne's plans and works to make sure that her budget is adjusted to represent her goals.



Pictured from left: Lisa Bugbee, Leanne Strong

When Leanne originally planned her budget with Lisa, she chose to emphasize community classes to support her interest in continuing education.

It was at her quarterly meeting with Leanne that Lisa learned about her being published and planning for college in the

fall. Leanne also expressed a post-college goal: to return home and open a daycare for children with special needs.

In the short term, Leanne is considering a writer's workshop class and is focused on identifying the classes she wants to take this fall at The College of Saint Rose. ✨

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## SAVE THE DATE: CRUISIN' FOR A CAUSE IS AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>

Join Ontario ARC for summer's most exciting casual event on the lake! Cruisin' for a Cause takes place at the Canandaigua Country Club, located along the picturesque shoreline of Canandaigua Lake, on Thursday, August 17th. The 25th annual fundraiser features live entertainment by Nik and the Nice Guys, complimentary wine and summer barbecue, and exciting live and silent auctions. See you there! ✨

*Sponsorship opportunities are available.  
Please contact Michele Wistner at  
585.919.2156 or [mwistner@ontarioarc.org](mailto:mwistner@ontarioarc.org)  
for more information.*



25  
years

