



ARC Life



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ISSUE 1



CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF GROWING TOGETHER

It has been our goal since 1954 to enrich the lives of people with disabilities or other challenges and ensure that they are given the opportunity to be one with their communities. *Please turn to page 5.*



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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Ontario ARC

3071 County Complex Drive
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MESSAGE FROM ANN SCHEETZ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ann Scheetz

Get ready for a year of celebration! 2019 marks 65 years that Ontario ARC has provided quality services to individuals with disabilities or other challenges.

In this edition, you will read about why people choose Ontario ARC. You will be introduced to four people, who have grown with Ontario ARC – a middle school student who has made great strides since he has been involved with Ontario ARC, a young lady who is very career driven, a loyal donor who chooses to honor friends from his past and a staff member who has learned from the individuals she supports as she works in one of

our residential homes. All are stories that we were inspired by and are certain you will be too.

Speaking of inspiration, our College Experience program has grown by leaps and bounds over the years, and we continue to make wonderful connections that have opened doors to the community for our students. Not only have those who are enrolled in the program learned the ins and outs of college life and found careers, they have established relationships and formed many bonds with their peers along the way. Look for this story to make you smile and to show how the College Experience program is making strides in acceptance of difference on campus and off.

As always, we are always grateful for our board members who give their time, talent and expertise to guide our organization. Two new people have joined Ontario ARC's governing board—they are not strangers to us as they have served on our Community Advisory Board, and we are looking forward to working with them in this new capacity. Welcome Bob and Mandy!

We are thrilled to share with you that we were awarded monies to help Ontario ARC navigate these uncharted waters of the managed care arena. Through this grant we were able to hire Annette Yost as our new Managed Care Specialist! Welcome Annette to Ontario ARC!

Lastly, as we gear up for our 2019 signature event series, we are thrilled to introduce some exciting changes for our friends old and new. New venues and themes are on the horizon for our upcoming fundraisers. Please follow us on social media and check our agency website for details!

Thank you for choosing Ontario ARC, in whatever capacity it may be. We are grateful for your support and confidence in us. As Spring has finally sprung, we are looking forward to new beginnings, fresh ideas and wonderful opportunities. ✨

Sincerely,

Ann Scheetz, Executive Director



In March, College Experience program students from FLCC and HWS competed in a fully-integrated intercollegiate bowling tournament held in Spencerport. Roberts Wesleyan College students, athletes, and members of the Roberts community hosted the event.

COLLEGE EXPERIENCE STUDENTS CONNECTING WITH MORE COMMUNITIES

Ontario ARC's College Experience program, with locations at Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC) and Hobart and William Smith Colleges (HWS) is an innovative approach to post-secondary education for individuals with disabilities or other challenges. These college campus environments provide personal growth opportunities surrounding work, life,

and social skills with the end result being employment, just like traditional college students. Options available to enhance the experience include auditing classes and access to campus extracurricular activities, athletic facilities, and other student life activities.

The College Experience is a growing program that continues to evolve around the needs of the students through avenues such as connecting with service-learning students, and matriculated classmates. In 2019, Ontario ARC's College Experience began participating in U.N.I.T.E. (Unified National Inclusion Through Exercise) a locally-created endeavor that organizes college-level sports programs for students with special abilities. U.N.I.T.E.'s fully-integrated athletic competitions inspire families, college students, and entire

communities. In March, College Experience participants and students from FLCC, MCC, Roberts Wesleyan College, and HWS gathered in Spencerport for the program's first inter-collegiate bowling tournament. Fifty-five bowlers competed in the incredibly successful event hosted by Roberts Wesleyan. The event attracted a large assembly of spectators, including families, friends, and Roberts professors, administrators, and athletes. A post-tournament pizza party and medal ceremony cemented new friendships and paved the way for future collaborations on and off the playing fields.

The College Experience programs at FLCC and HWS continue to grow each year. Traditional college students are involving their supported peers, forming friendships, and creating an environment that is accepting of difference.



The College Experience program recently participated in Spread the Word: Inclusion Day on March 6th at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. We were thrilled to see the college community come together and make their pledge to take action for inclusion for all.

Specific to HWS, students enrolled in the Transition and Disability class are being paired up with the College Experience students, working together outside of class on readings, projects, and homework assignments. These expanding friendships have been a valuable experience for everyone involved.

New this year, The Best Buddies program and the College Experience Outreach (CEO) Club has enhanced the on-campus engagement and resulted

in building excitement and community among all the young people who are learning, and growing, together. Students of all abilities are supporting one another and making friendships and memories that can last a lifetime. ✨

To learn more about the College Experience program at Ontario ARC, contact Wendy Nelson at wnelson@ontarioarc.org or (585) 919-2163.

UPCOMING EVENTS!



Are you a dedicated supporter of Ontario ARC's parties with a purpose? Then you're going to want to stay in-the-know about what's new in our signature event series this year. Check our website for event news and updates happening in 2019 and subscribe to our email newsletter:

ontarioarc.org/arc-life.

Be sure click the box to receive "General Agency News" so you don't miss out on any of the fun! ✨

GRANT UPDATE

Finger Lakes Performing Provider System (FLPPS):

In late December, Ontario ARC was notified that the agency has been awarded the full amount of our grant proposal of \$212,476, which commenced in the first quarter of 2019. We requested monies for the recruitment and hiring of a Managed Care Specialist who will review healthcare needs specific to our region, data collection, training of existing employees, and for IT equipment for the data collection and analysis of managed care plans.

The FLPPS writes: *We look forward to supporting this innovative program as we continue to transform our regional healthcare delivery system and prepare partners for Value-Based Payment.* ✨

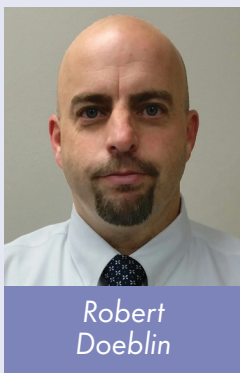
GOVERNING BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Ontario ARC's Governing Board welcomes new members Robert Doebelin and Mandy Friend Gigliotti. The Ontario ARC Board of Directors works to support and guide the non-profit organization in providing services to children, teens, and adults with disabilities or other challenges. ✨

Robert Doebelin, of Geneva,

was previously a member of Ontario ARC's Community Advisory Board and is Director of Housing Operations for the Geneva Housing Authority.

Mandy Friend Gigliotti, of Pittsford, was previously a member of Ontario ARC's Community Advisory Board and is a Realtor, The Friend Team, Keller Williams Realty Greater Rochester.



Robert
Doebelin



Mandy Friend
Gigliotti

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS *continued from cover*

NATHAN RUPPEL



Nathan chooses Ontario ARC to make friends and try new things.* Nathan enjoys afternoons reading with Tales for Tails, getting homework help, and engaging in fun project-based learning activities with his peers at the Active Academy after school program hosted by Ontario ARC at Canandaigua Middle School. This year Nathan's confidence and independence have soared! This outgoing kid stays busy choosing all the activities available to him, including trying everything in Children's Rec.

MARY JANE (MJ) COOPER



MJ chooses Ontario ARC to reach career goals.* MJ excelled in her Pathways community experience internship, which got the attention of Nolan's on Canandaigua Lake. While waiting for this exciting opportunity, MJ put her skills to work at North Star Coffee as a Cafe Attendant, where she continued to build her employment skills. At the newly built Nolan's, MJ's plan is back on track—you'll find her in their bustling kitchen prepping food for the lunch rush alongside chef Alex Bacon (pictured here).

JIM COLIZZI



Jim chooses Ontario ARC to honor childhood friends.* Jim, a member of the agency's Community Advisory Board, President of Ashley Homestore of the Finger Lakes, and a previous Governing Board member, has also been a loyal supporter of our fundraising events, including being a five-time chair of Cruisin' for a Cause. The agency's mission matches his own: including everyone in all aspects of life, just as he recalls neighborhood playmates including him in games before they went off to work in the Abbey Employment Services program (now known as Jet Connections).

JOAN BARKLEY



Joan chooses Ontario ARC to support people who feel like family.* As a Skills Instructor at the Parrish Street Residence, Joan is grateful for the close bonds between the staff and residents, and shares in the excitement when residents master new skills. Joan loves this "second family"; she learns so much while supporting them that she feels herself growing alongside the ladies who reside at Parrish Street.

✦ Why do you choose Ontario ARC?
We want to know! Send us an email at contact@ontarioarc.org. We can't wait to hear from you!
DONATE \$65 IN HONOR OF ONTARIO ARC'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY. \$65 FOR 65 YEARS!

Ontario ARC

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Celebrating Disability Awareness Month

March was National Disability Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness and promote inclusion and acceptance for people with disabilities. Join us on Facebook or Instagram to keep up on the success stories happening every day at Ontario ARC! ✨