



# ARC Life



OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8

ISSUE 4



## PET CONNECTIONS UNLEASHES MORE OPPORTUNITIES

Pet Connections, a division of Ontario ARC, is thrilled to announce the expansion of its community volunteer opportunities to include Animal Assisted Intervention (AAI) volunteer certification and membership.

*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.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barbara Risser EdD, President  
Elizabeth Palmatier, Vice President  
Gretchen Daugherty, Secretary  
Charles McCausland, Treasurer  
Kathryn Wegman, Assistant Treasurer

#### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Deborah Wilbur  
Marie O'Horo, Alternate

#### DIRECTORS

Patrick Boyle  
Lynne Erdle  
Edward (Russ) Kenyon  
Robert McFadden  
Kyle Meath  
Mary Kate Morrell  
Michelle Raeman  
Deborah Rought

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ann Scheetz

#### PUBLISHING TEAM

Writing, design and layout  
In House Graphic Design, Inc.  
Photography  
Jan Regan Photography

**Share your e-mail address with us and receive agency news and information. Visit [ontarioarc.org](http://ontarioarc.org) to sign up today!**

If you prefer not to receive agency news and information call 585.394.7500 or email [jturetsky@ontarioarc.org](mailto:jturetsky@ontarioarc.org).



Find us on Facebook!  
[facebook.com/ontarioarc](https://facebook.com/ontarioarc)



Participate in our blog at  
[ontarioarc.org/blog](http://ontarioarc.org/blog)



Join us on Twitter at  
[twitter.com/ontarioarc](https://twitter.com/ontarioarc)



Follow us on Instagram at  
[instagram.com/ontario\\_arc](https://instagram.com/ontario_arc)

#### Ontario ARC

3071 County Complex Drive  
Canandaigua, NY 14424  
585.394.7500 [www.ontarioarc.org](http://www.ontarioarc.org)



## MESSAGE FROM ANN SCHEETZ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ann Scheetz

2017 has certainly been a year of innovation for Ontario ARC! As we bid farewell to one of the most exciting years in the history of the agency, we look forward to all 2018 has to offer.

In this edition, we feature the exciting new expansion of our Pet Connections program. Pet Connections is now offering certification and membership to our volunteers, meaning community members will have access to more resources and volunteer opportunities than ever before! To learn

more, visit their brand new website, [mypetconnections.org](http://mypetconnections.org).

In October, we celebrated National Disability Employment Awareness Month with the grand opening of North Star Coffee. This week of celebration kicked off with a ribbon cutting ceremony led by the Canandaigua Chamber of Commerce, and throughout the week, coffee lovers enjoyed great deals and delicious drink specials. Thank you to everyone who came out to show your support.

It is only fitting that during this month of recognition, we spotlight Erin who recently celebrated 3 years of working for Goodwill in Victor. Her friendly personality and work ethic have not gone unnoticed by store managers as she is taking on more and more responsibilities!

We also congratulate Christin Lersch on her recent recognition as the Jerry Archibald Award Winner. This award is presented annually to an Ontario ARC staff member who embodies our agency values that Jerry, a longtime friend of the agency, is known for: integrity, commitment, and respect. Christin, art specialist in the Creative Expressions program, encourages and inspires our creative artists every day! There was no doubt that she demonstrates these values. Congratulations, Christin!

As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful for the support of the community members, volunteers, and local businesses that have supported our Signature Fundraising Events all year long. Our Canandaigua Turkey Trot and Holiday Gift Wrapping Booths at Eastview Mall could not have been so successful without your support! Stay tuned for details on a brand new event coming in the Fall of 2018!

Wishing you and yours all the best in the New Year! ✨

Sincerely,

Ann Scheetz, Executive Director



*Pet Connections volunteer team Pat Einhouse and Betsy visit with a resident of Ontario Center. AAI certification helps Pet Connections to educate more people on the benefits of engaging with therapy dogs.*

### ***Pet Connections Unleashes More Opportunities from Cover.***

The expansion will allow Pet Connections to bring the joys of working with therapy dogs to more people in the community than ever before. Now, volunteers will have access to therapy dog certification and liability coverage, giving certified dog and handler teams even more opportunities to volunteer in our community. Volunteers will also benefit from new educational and training opportunities provided by Pet Connections.

“Through our expansion, Pet Connections will be able to grow its reach into the community to provide quality Animal Assisted Interventions,” said Gail Furst, Animal Assisted Activity and Therapy Trainer at Ontario ARC.

Pet Connections teams currently participate in comfort visits at group homes, regional hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, schools, businesses, and civic organizations, as well as being an important part of reading programs at our Active Academy sites. Some of the 17 human/ canine teams are also trained to be co-therapists during occupational therapy sessions.

Pet Connections volunteer Pat Einhouse and her therapy dog Betsy

started volunteering three years ago after Pat completed cancer treatments. “Pet Connections gives me a chance to give back to others,” says Pat, “and in return I have received smiles and acts of kindness that mean the world to me.”

The new AAI certification program will help Pet Connections educate more people on the different types of animal assisted intervention and the benefits of engaging with therapy dogs.

“When someone squeezes my hand and thanks me for visiting—because we made them smile or reminded them of a dog that they once had—I know my visit was meaningful,” says Pat.

All breeds of dogs with the right personality, that meet eligibility requirements, and graduate from the program, can become Pet Connections Certified. Canine volunteers currently range in size from a Shih Tzu to a mastiff mix and everything in between. ✨

**To learn more about Pet Connections certified therapy dog registration, please visit [www.mypetconnections.org](http://www.mypetconnections.org). Or, contact Gail Furst at 585-919-2146 or [gfirst@ontarioarc.org](mailto:gfirst@ontarioarc.org) or Brenda Burton at 585-919-2126 or [bburton@ontarioarc.org](mailto:bburton@ontarioarc.org).**

## FRIENDS OF ONTARIO ARC FOUNDATION BOARD & COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ontario ARC is pleased to announce recent additions to two boards that provide critical support and guidance for Ontario ARC.

*The Friends of Ontario ARC Foundation Board oversees the agency’s signature fundraising events, the 1954 Society, annual fund campaign, major gifts, planned giving, honorariums, and memorial donations.*

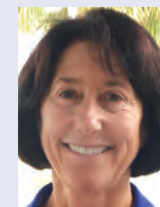


**Deborah Rought, of Canandaigua,** is Vice President/Community Office Manager at Canandaigua National Bank & Trust. She is also a member of Ontario ARC’s Governing Board.



**Stephen Rossi, of Victor,** is Vice President – Investment & Financial Planning Officer at Canandaigua National Bank & Trust.

*The Advisory Board is a non-governing body of local professionals and leaders who provide the agency with community-based input.*



**Dr. Karen Davison Blazey, of Canandaigua,** is the former Executive Officer of Quantum Performance Group, Inc.



## NORTH STAR COFFEE CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING

North Star Coffee, located at 1880 Rochester Road in Canandaigua, celebrated its open house at the end of October, with the Canandaigua Chamber of Commerce leading the ribbon cutting ceremony to kick off festivities. The weeklong celebration included coffee specials and drawings for prizes. ✨

Place online coffee orders for curbside pickup at [www.northstarcoffee.org](http://www.northstarcoffee.org) or on Facebook.



## OCTOBER: NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

National Disability Employment Awareness Month, celebrated every October, is a time to spotlight the talents and contributions that people with disabilities bring to their workplaces.

This month of recognition was the perfect time to celebrate the grand opening of North Star Coffee. A social enterprise of Ontario ARC, North Star Coffee serves steaming hot and iced cold beverages, all while providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

We thank all the local businesses that employ the people we support:

Artisan Meats	Finger Lakes Gaming and Race Track	McDonalds, Canandaigua
AVI Foods at Finger Lakes Community College	Ganondagan	Messenger Post
BCI, Koch Division	Geneva City Schools	North Star Coffee
Big Lots, Geneva	Geneva General Hospital	NYSEG
Bloomfield Central School District	Geneva Presbyterian Church	Ontario ARC
Bubble Tea Café	Goodwill	Our Children's Place
Canandaigua VA Medical Center	GW Lisk	Phelps Community Center
Clark Meadows	Happiness House	Quail Summit
Clifton Springs Hospital	HMSHost	Ryan's Wine & Spirits
Constellation Brands	John A. Schuppenhauer, Attorney at Law	Seneca Travel Plaza Victor
Cornell University Co-Op	Junius Ponds Thruway Travel Plaza	Sodexo at Hobart and William Smith Colleges
CountryMax	Lane Bryant	Tom Wahl's
del Lago Resort & Casino	Lowes, Canandaigua	Tops, Canandaigua & Geneva
Durham Transport	Lowes, Geneva	Trolley Station Apartments
Farmington Gardens	Maco Bag	Ultrafab
Fetch Gear	Mark's Pizzeria, Canandaigua	Victor Library
FF Thompson Hospital		Victor Town Parks & Recreation



## THANKSGIVING TRADITION BENEFITS ONTARIO ARC 8TH ANNUAL CANANDAIGUA TURKEY TROT 5K FUN RUN & WALK

We would like to give special thanks to the race sponsors who made the 8th Annual Canandaigua Turkey Trot 5K Fun Run & Walk possible. We would also like to thank all the participants who came out on Thanksgiving morning, November 23rd, to feel the burn before the bird! Over \$13,000 was raised for the Friends of Ontario ARC Foundation. ✨

### HOLIDAY WRAP UP!

Over 600 volunteers spread holiday cheer at our two Eastview Mall holiday gift wrapping booths and wrapped over 4,000 gifts throughout the 2017 holiday season. Many thanks to our generous sponsors who helped make the Holiday Gift Wrapping Booths possible! ✨

#### GOLD (\$2000)

BCI, Koch Division  
Constellation Brands, Inc.

#### SILVER (\$1000)

Geneva Club Beverage  
IDI Billing Solutions  
Jachles Imperial Flooring, Ltd.  
Relph Benefit Advisors

#### RED (\$500)

Brian, Kelly, & Kyle Meath  
Canandaigua National Bank & Trust  
Canandaigua Financial Group  
Frank J. Marianacci, Inc.  
Finger Lakes Technologies Group, Inc.  
G.W. Lisk  
M/E Engineering  
Shepard Brothers Ford  
USA Payroll

#### GREEN (\$250)

Alesco Advisors  
Canandaigua Marine Repair  
Donna D. Durst, CPA, PC  
Farmington Veterinary Hospital  
Finger Lakes Partners, LLC  
Halco Heating & Plumbing  
Leonard's Express

## ERIN WHITBECK THRIVES AT VICTOR GOODWILL



Erin Whitbeck is a trusted member of the team at Victor Goodwill. She sorts hundreds of books each day and assists customers at the register.

A few years ago, Erin Whitbeck was committed to her standing weekly appointment with her Placement Specialist. She made finding a job her job, and they worked together considering many options to find the job that would be the best fit. A visit to the Victor Goodwill felt right, and Erin decided to apply. During the second interview, the store manager told Erin, “It’s my job to put you in a position to be successful.”

In November, Erin celebrated three years of thriving at Goodwill. Erin’s specialty is sorting and pricing books, up to 400 volumes a day. “Erin likes to read and enjoys coming across interesting books,” says Brendan Ehmann, her Job Coach. “And, because she has a nice personality for working with people, she has also been cross-trained to work on the register—which is a hard job that she is good at. The managers at Goodwill trust Erin and her work.” ✨

## SENSITIVE SANTA VISITS ONTARIO ARC



Kids and adults of all ages came to visit with Santa at this annual event hosted by The Autism Center. (Melody Burri/Messenger Post Media)

On December 13th, The Autism Center at Ontario ARC hosted its 3rd annual Sensitive Santa Evening. The festive event was geared toward kids and adults with autism looking to visit with Santa in a calm, sensory-friendly setting.

Over 30 kids and adults of all ages from across our community came to see Santa, some even shared their Christmas lists with him.

“Children and families were able to take their time visiting and interacting with Santa and his two elves. We had soft music playing in a large area where children were able to move and play,” said Diane Van Derwater, Autism and Wellness Manager at Ontario ARC. This sensory-friendly setting lessened the anxiety children often feel when going to see Santa in a larger group or mall setting where the stress from waiting in line sometimes forces families to leave without seeing Santa at all.

Everyone who visited left with a smile and a small gift from St. Nick himself. ✨



(L. to R.) Barbara Risser, Jerry Archibald, Christin Lersch, Ann Scheetz.

## 2017 JERRY ARCHIBALD AWARD WINNER

Christin Lersch is the 2017 recipient of Ontario ARC’s Jerry Archibald Award. The award is presented annually to an Ontario ARC staff member who demonstrates the agency values of commitment, integrity, and respect. Lersch has worked at Ontario ARC for 12 years and is an Art Specialist in the Creative Expression program.

“Christin shows her dedication to our agency values every day. We are proud to present her with this honor.” says Ann Scheetz, Executive Director. ✨

Ontario ARC

3071 County Complex Drive  
Canandaigua, NY 14424



Prsrt Std  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 780  
Rochester, NY



# *Honor Our Past... Secure Our Future*

A donation to Ontario ARC is a thoughtful way to a loved one who has passed away or recognize someone special in your life. Every donation brings us closer to our vision that all individuals with disabilities or other challenges are one with their communities. ✨

To make a donation, contact Michele Wistner at 585.919.2156 or [mwistner@ontarioarc.org](mailto:mwistner@ontarioarc.org) or visit [ontarioarc.org/online-donation](http://ontarioarc.org/online-donation).