



# ArcLife



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## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PROJECT SEARCH™ GRADUATES

Congratulations to our 2022 Project SEARCH™ graduates on their successful completion of our Project SEARCH at Eastview Mall and Project SEARCH at Finger Lakes Health programs!

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The Arc Ontario 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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#### The Arc Ontario

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On the Cover: Kyle, Hannah and Alex from our Project SEARCH™ at Finger Lakes Health program showcased their new diplomas alongside Project SEARCH Instructor, Nicole Abraham (right) at a graduation ceremony held on August 19, 2022.

## MESSAGE FROM ANN SCHEETZ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ann Scheetz

As we welcome fall's arrival, we look back on a wonderful summer full of excitement and incredible accomplishments. We are grateful to be part of such a generous community that supports our mission of fostering lifelong fulfillment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities or other challenges. In this edition of Arc Life, you will learn about some of the community connections that allow The Arc Ontario to help people of all abilities achieve the ordinary and extraordinary accomplishments of life.

We offer congratulations to our recent College Experience graduates from Finger Lakes Community College, Mason and Cooper, along with the entire 2022 class. Mason and Cooper each showed a tremendous commitment to achieve this milestone, and we are incredibly proud of the work they have done. Please join me in congratulating them on a fantastic job.

We also offer congratulations to our Project SEARCH™ graduates, who each completed programs at Eastview Mall in Victor and Finger Lakes Health in Geneva. The internships and valuable first-hand experience gained through Project SEARCH will serve them wonderfully as they apply for jobs in the coming months and begin the next chapter of their lives. We are extremely excited to see what the future holds for them.

The agency was thrilled to host our 30th Annual Cruisin' for a Cause in-person for the first time in over two years at Sonnenberg Gardens on August 11. Thanks to the support of our community, we raised over \$42,000 that will enhance our growing menu of innovative programs and services for the people we support.

We celebrated the 101st birthday of Anne, a participant at our Silver Connections Adult Social Day program. The special celebration at our Eberhardt Center was farm themed, per Anne's request, and the day was full of laughs, music and plenty of birthday goodies. Our sincerest best wishes to Anne.

Our social enterprises have continued to experience magnificent growth. Through the generosity of the Golisano Foundation, NYSID (New York Industries for the Disabled), and the JM McDonald Foundation, we have received a tremendous investment in our bottling operation, FLX Premier Bottling, with over \$65,000 in grant funds awarded to the agency for upgrades and renovations to its facilities and staffing needs. Additionally, North Star Coffee will be moving to a prime new location on Main Street in Downtown Canandaigua. North Star Café, as it will be known, will feature an expanded menu and serve as a great addition to our community. Stay tuned for more information on our grand opening.

A special thank you to Betsy and Ray Hagen and the Rushville Library for donating over \$600 to support autism services at The Arc Ontario. Thanks to the generous support of our community partners, people are achieving incredible milestones every day at The Arc Ontario.

As the seasons change, we look forward to all that fall has to offer. We hope to see you at our upcoming events, Harvest Fest on October 15, the Canandaigua Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning, and our Gift Wrap Booth at Eastview Mall in December. Stay tuned for more information about our upcoming events, and be on the lookout for more incredible stories happening throughout the year at The Arc Ontario.

Warm Regards,

Ann Scheetz, Executive Director

*Congratulations to our  
Project SEARCH™ Graduates  
continued from cover*

During their time with Project SEARCH™, the interns completed internships at businesses in and around Eastview Mall and Finger Lakes Health, along with daily classroom instruction.

Maggie, Jack and Dean graduated from our Project SEARCH at Eastview Mall program on June 14, 2022. They also each successfully obtained their driver's permits in preparation for competitive employment. Maggie and Jack will be applying for jobs in the coming months, and Dean has secured employment at LL Bean at Eastview Mall.

Additionally, Kyle, Hannah and Alex graduated from our Project SEARCH at Finger Lakes Health program on August 19, 2022. They will also be applying to jobs in the coming months with the assistance of staff members from The Arc Ontario's Employment Services.

**Congratulations on this tremendous achievement!** ✨



## AGENCY RECEIVES \$600 DONATION FOR AUTISM SERVICES

Betsy and Ray Hagen have generously made a \$600 donation in support of Autism Services at The Arc Ontario. The money was raised from the family's annual community garage sale. Additionally, half of the proceeds from a decorative plate fundraiser held at Rushville Library were also donated to The Arc Ontario in support of the agency's Autism Services.

Supporters of the decorative plate fundraiser donated two plates: one to a

staff member at Marcus Whitman, and one to a staff member at The Arc Ontario who works closely with individuals with autism. Bridget Maher, Applied Behavior Specialist, received the certificate on behalf of The Arc Ontario.

Thank you to Betsy and Ray Hagen and the Rushville Library for your continued support of Autism Services at The Arc Ontario! ✨

## FLX PREMIER BOTTLING RECEIVES \$65,000 IN GRANT SUPPORT TO ADVANCE EMPLOYABILITY AND INCLUSION

The Arc Ontario has received a \$25,000 matching grant from the New York State Industries for the Disabled (NYSID) and \$35,000 from the Golisano Foundation to advance employability and inclusion for people we support. The funds will be used to upgrade and streamline the agency's bottling operation, FLX Premier Bottling, which has been a preferred source for NYSID bottled products for more than 25 years. The investment will help revitalize the operation and bring it into compliance with the NYS

Office for People with Developmental Disabilities' (OPWDD) regulations for competitive integrated employment. The Arc Ontario also received a \$5,000 grant from the JM McDonald Foundation for individual wages to offset initial training and incremental staffing.

With current manufacturing labor gaps, supply chain problems, and promising regional manufacturing economic trends, The Arc Ontario expects our growing social enterprise, FLX Premier Bottling

to continue to experience expansion in the coming years. The agency has been collaborating with OPWDD on a path forward toward building the bottling operation's efficiencies, capacity and staffing needs.

We are thankful for the generous support from our community partners. With their help, we are able to create more opportunities for people to achieve their full potential and become one with their communities. ✨

## THE ARC ONTARIO'S PROJECT SEARCH™ AT FINGER LAKES HEALTH PROGRAM RECEIVES EXCELLENT OUTCOME AWARD FOR COMPETITIVE EMPLOYMENT

Congratulations to our Project SEARCH™ at Finger Lakes Health program for receiving an Excellent Outcome award for the 2019-2021 cohort! The site was one of only five Project SEARCH sites across New York State to receive the award.

The Excellent Outcome Award recognizes Project SEARCH programs that have achieved 70% to 100% competitive employment for all participants in a given year. Competitive employment is defined as year-round, permanent employment with 16+ hours a week at prevailing wage. 75% of our previous cohort hit this goal through internships they participated in while at the program. Congratulations to our Project SEARCH participants!

Project SEARCH is a nationally-renowned program designed to support young adults with intellectual and

developmental disabilities or other challenges as they seek to expand upon their employment skills and start their career. Project SEARCH engages them in the workplace, with several different internship opportunities centered in Ontario County based on individual interests. The Arc Ontario also recently launched Project SEARCH at Eastview Mall in Victor, NY. These host businesses provide classroom space and serve as a liaison for internship and future employment opportunities that will enhance employment skills and prepare participants for their careers. ✨

To learn more about The Arc Ontario's Project SEARCH program, please Contact JoEllen Schaefer, Family Support/Intake Coordinator, at (585) 394-7500 extension 2118 or [jschaefer@thearcontario.org](mailto:jschaefer@thearcontario.org).



The Arc Ontario's Project SEARCH at Finger Lakes Health was one of only five sites across New York State to receive this prestigious award.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR UPCOMING EVENTS!

**Harvest Fest** – October 15, 2022 at Richard P. Outhouse Memorial Park

**Canandaigua Turkey Trot** – November 24, 2022 at F.A. Baker Memorial Park

**Gift Wrap Booth** – December 2022 at Eastview Mall

## AGENCY PARTICIPATES IN CMAC'S CHAIRS FOR CHARITY

A special thank you to CMAC for selecting The Arc Ontario to participate in the Chairs for Charity initiative and receive the proceeds at the Hall and Oates concert on September 1, 2022.

We appreciate everyone who purchased a chair to help raise money for our growing menu of innovative programs and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities or other challenges. Thank you to our volunteers – it was a beautiful night for a concert! ✨

## NORTH STAR COFFEE IS MOVING TO A NEW LOCATION!

North Star Coffee, a division of the Arc Ontario, is excited to announce that we will soon be moving to a new location at 92 S. Main Street in Downtown Canandaigua! After closing our 1880 Rochester Road location on August 27, preparations have been underway for the grand opening of North Star Café, which will now offer an expanded menu including smoothies and acai bowls.

A special thank you to Sarah Genecco for hosting us for 5 years and helping us provide work opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities or other challenges. Stay tuned for more updates on our grand opening and check out what's brewing at North Star Café by monitoring our social media pages or visiting [www.northstarcafe.org](http://www.northstarcafe.org). ✨

## THE ARC ONTARIO'S 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CRUISIN' FOR A CAUSE RAISES OVER \$42,000

Our sincerest thanks to everyone who came out and supported The Arc Ontario's 30th Annual Cruisin' for a Cause at Sonnenberg Gardens on August 11. We raised over \$42,000 thanks to your generous support.

It was a wonderful evening and great to see our friends, old and new, whom we haven't seen in such a long time. We look forward to seeing everyone again soon!

A special thank you to our Honorary Chairs, Jack & Betsy Schuppenhauer; the emcee for the evening, Mike Rusinko; Erik Geizer, CEO of The Arc New York for joining us; and our lead sponsors: Ashley Homestore; The Bonadio Group; Canandaigua National Bank & Trust; Finger Lakes Partners; Geneva Club Beverage; Halco; HEP Sales; The Friend Team Real Estate; Lynch's Furniture & Mattress Center – Canandaigua; Lyon's National Bank; M/E Engineering; Relph Benefit Advisors; Dr. Dawn Santiago-Marullo & Thomas Marullo; The Schuppenhauer Law Firm, P.C.; Shepard Brothers Ford; Wegmans – Canandaigua. ✨



Megan A. (left) and Emily Brown (right), Project SEARCH Instructor, enjoying themselves on the dance floor at our 30th Annual Cruisin' for a Cause.



Kathryn Wegman (second from the right), Vice President of The Arc Ontario's Governing Board visits with guests and supporters of our 30th Annual Cruisin' for a Cause at Sonnenberg Gardens.



## SILVER CONNECTIONS PARTICIPANT CELEBRATES 101<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY

One of our Silver Connections participants, Anne N. celebrated her 101st birthday on July 14, 2022 at The Arc Ontario's Eberhardt Center. The special occasion was celebrated with a farm-themed party, per Anne's request, and music, friends, cupcakes, trivia, snacks and other birthday goodies.

Our sincerest best wishes to Anne, from everyone at The Arc Ontario! ✨

To learn more about our Silver Connections program, visit [www.silverconnectionsny.org](http://www.silverconnectionsny.org)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE GRADUATES

The agency would like to offer congratulations to Mason and Cooper for graduating from our College Experience program on May 22, 2022!

Mason was a dual graduate who also received a culinary program certificate from FLCC. He achieved Dean's list and will continue his education at FLCC. Cooper graduated from our Hobart William Smith College Experience program and plans to participate in Project SEARCH™ at Eastview Mall for the 2022-2023 session.

Wishing you all the best, Mason and Cooper! ✨



Mason, a graduate of our College Experience Program at Finger Lakes Community College.



Cooper, a graduate of our College Experience Program at Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

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## HONOR AND REMEMBER SOMEONE SPECIAL

With the holiday season approaching and the season of giving almost here, we hope you will consider a gift to The Arc Ontario. A donation to The Arc Ontario is a thoughtful way to remember a loved one who has passed away, or to honor 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 tax-deductible donation, contact Michele Wistner, Director, Development at 585.919.2156 or [mwistner@thearcontario.org](mailto:mwistner@thearcontario.org) or visit [www.thearcontario.org/donate](http://www.thearcontario.org/donate). ✨

