



ArcLife



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RESIDENTIAL BALL HELD AT CLIFTON SPRINGS COUNTRY CLUB

The Arc Ontario and Clifton Springs Country Club teamed up on Friday, June 16 to host a Residential Ball for individuals in our Residential Program. The fun-filled evening featured music and

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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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MESSAGE FROM ANN SCHEETZ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ann Scheetz

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits.

As another summer comes to a close, I am delighted to share with you some remarkable accomplishments and achievements happening at The Arc Ontario. Our commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities or other challenges continues to drive us forward, and we are honored to witness the positive impact of our efforts in the lives of those we support.

We are thrilled to announce that several interns from our Project SEARCH at Eastview Mall program have successfully graduated.

The program has been instrumental in providing valuable training and work experience, empowering these individuals to become self-sufficient and confident members of the workforce. We are excited to see what the future holds for each of them.

It brings us joy to share that a formal Residential Ball was held at Clifton Springs Country Club for the individuals we support living in our residential program. The event not only allowed them to celebrate their individuality and have some fun, it also fostered a sense of community and belonging among our residents.

We would like to offer congratulations to our agency's CFO/Senior Associate Executive Director, John Astles, for graduating from The Arc New York's Leadership Institute. His dedication to enhancing our agency's operations and financial management has been exceptional, and we are proud to have him as a valuable member of our senior leadership team.

One of the agency's valued employment partners was recognized and awarded at The Arc New York's Employee Recognition Awards in July for providing invaluable work opportunities for people with disabilities. This recognition underscores the impact of meaningful employment in fostering inclusivity and diversity in the workplace.

We would also like to offer congratulations to several of our staff members for elevating their skillsets and achieving varying levels of accreditation through the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals' (NADSP) E-Badge Academy. We are incredibly proud of all that they have accomplished. Their dedication and commitment continues to elevate our agency as a whole to better support the individuals to whom we provide critical services and supports.

As we celebrate these wonderful accomplishments, we remain committed to empowering individuals with disabilities to lead meaningful and fulfilling lives. None of these achievements would have been possible without the support and trust of our community partners. We are incredibly grateful for your unwavering support, and we thank you for being an integral part of our journey in making a positive impact on the lives of those we support. Together, we are building a society that embraces diversity and enables individuals of all abilities to achieve their dreams and be one with their communities.

With Warm Regards,

Ann Scheetz, Executive Director

On the Cover: Staff members and individuals from our Residential Program enjoyed a special evening together at the agency's Residential Ball at Clifton Springs Country Club on June 16.

Residential Ball Held at Clifton Springs Country Club, continued from cover

dancing, great food, great friends and memories that will last a lifetime.

“It was a very special night and I am grateful to have been there to capture the moment,” said Eden Thomas, Special Events Coordinator at The Arc Ontario. “Everyone was dressed to the nines, including staff members, and some individuals even rented limousines and party buses,” she continued. “It was incredibly heartwarming to see individuals from different houses and programs come together to celebrate their individuality and make wonderful memories together.”

Molly S., a resident at our Risser Road residential home in Canandaigua, attended the ball and wanted to share her experience.

“I’m happy it was held and I really enjoyed it,” said Molly. “I loved all the music and I had a great time with my friends,” she continued.

A special thanks to Clifton Springs Country Club for hosting and catering the event, and to our Residential Department for putting together such a wonderful evening. The individuals we support had a blast and we are all looking forward to the next celebration! ✨



EMPLOYEES EARN E-BADGE ACCREDITATIONS FOR DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

Please join us in congratulating several of our staff members for earning accreditations in the National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals’ (NADSP) E-Badge Academy.

Sarah Crosby, Program Supervisor, Day Services, along with Direct Support Professionals, **Carrie Scales**, **Amanda Jones** and **Lyric Wilson**, each earned their Level 1 E-Badge Accreditation. **Jessica Cooper**, Program Supervisor, JET Connections, and **Sarah Bellows**, Program Supervisor, Day Services, received their Level 2 Accreditations, and **Mackenzie Legg**, Residential Supervisor, received her Front Line Supervisory Accreditation.

The mission of NADSP and the E-Badge Academy is to elevate the status of direct support professionals by

improving practice standards, promoting system reform, and advancing their knowledge, skills and values.

“In my current position as a program supervisor, I have been taking trainings that will help me gain more knowledge and improve my supervisory skills,” said Sarah Crosby. “The E-badge, with this being my first time around, was a wonderful opportunity and great learning experience for all involved,” she continued.

Jessica Cooper has been with the agency since 2014 and continues to hone her skills as she grows into her new position. When asked about her experience participating in E-Badge Academy, she stated:

“I think having different positions throughout the agency gave me a unique perspective and many different angles to

look at the prompts of the questions, and being able to relate the trainings to real-life experiences I have had,” said Jessica. “Being able to relate new information that I have learned to my day-to-day responsibilities has been a big help,” she continued.

“This program is such a great opportunity for new and veteran staff members to expand their knowledge of the field. With regulations and standards always changing, this program gives us the tools to stay ahead of the curve and be able to support individuals to the best of our ability.”

Congratulations to you all for achieving this milestone and displaying tremendous dedication to your craft and the individuals we support. ✨

PROJECT SEARCH™ AT EASTVIEW MALL CELEBRATES GRADUATION

We would like to offer congratulations to our 2023 Project SEARCH at Eastview Mall graduates on their successful completion of the program. A special graduation ceremony was held on June 15, 2023 at our main facility's pavilion area to celebrate the occasion.

This year's cohorts, who have also recently obtained their driver's permits or are in the process of doing so, will take their new skillsets and the knowledge they've gained through our Project SEARCH program into the next chapter of their lives as they seek gainful employment and establish their careers.

Project SEARCH at Eastview Mall is a ten-month community pre-vocational

program offered by The Arc Ontario. During their time with Project SEARCH, the interns completed internships at businesses in and around the mall with daily classroom instruction.

Congratulations to our 2023 graduates from everyone here at The Arc Ontario. We are proud of all that you have accomplished and we can't wait to see what the future holds for you! ✨

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.



Congratulations to our 2023 Project Search at Eastview Mall graduates for successfully completing the program!

AGENCY PARTICIPATES IN UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING

On May 11, The Arc Ontario celebrated the United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes' Day of Caring across the agency. A special thanks to the generous group of volunteers who helped us with yardwork and spring cleaning at our Risser Road residential home in Canandaigua and our High Street residential home in Victor. We appreciate all of their hard work to help get our homes ready for the individuals we support to enjoy a beautiful summer.

We are honored to be part of such a giving and compassionate community. Special thanks to FLACRA and FedEx for volunteering their time to show their support for The Arc Ontario. ✨



A special thank you to the volunteer teams that took time out of their day to show their support for The Arc Ontario.

AGENCY SENIOR ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ CFO GRADUATES FROM THE ARC NEW YORK'S LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



John Astles

We would like to congratulate John Astles, our Senior Associate Executive Director/ CFO, for his graduation from the Arc New York's Leadership Institute. In June, The Arc New York Leadership Institute Class of 2023 celebrated with a special graduation ceremony at Turning Stone Resort in Verona, New York.

The Leadership Institute is a robust and rigorous 10-month executive development program that connects our most promising leaders statewide and nurtures their leadership potential through facilitated group learning and executive mentorship. Attendees engaged in constructive dialogue and discussion, gaining valuable knowledge of current issues facing the disability community, and receiving educational materials to help further develop their professional skills.

The Institute offers training and skill-building opportunities to prepare future executive leaders of The Arc New York to successfully guide the organization in a changing environment. Participant teams developed and presented capstone projects, which proposed actionable improvements for The Arc New York.

Congratulations to John and the rest of the 2023 graduating class! ✨

CRUISIN' FOR A CAUSE RAISES NEARLY \$50,000 FOR AGENCY PROGRAMS & SERVICES

The Arc Ontario celebrated its 31st Annual Cruisin' for a Cause fundraiser at Sonnenberg Gardens on Thursday, August 17. The fun-filled event featured live music, great food, and a tasting trail featuring local wineries and breweries. Over 300 guests attended and everyone had a wonderful evening celebrating our largest fundraiser of the year. All proceeds from Cruisin' for a Cause benefit our growing menu of innovative programs and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities or other challenges in Ontario County and the surrounding region. We are incredibly grateful for our loyal supporters and friends old and new who came out to support the event. A special thank you to Maggie and Jean McCrumb for being our honorary chairs. Please continue to follow us on social media for more upcoming events and ways to support The Arc Ontario! ✨



The agency's 31st annual Cruisin' for a Cause fundraiser featured a special performance by The Dapper Rats.



New this year, guests enjoyed a tasting trail featuring local breweries, wineries and distilleries.



FIVE CAMPERS WITH AUTISM ATTEND 4-H CAMP BRISTOL HILLS DAY CAMP

This year five campers with Autism or related diagnoses participated in two weeks of fun and inclusive activity at 4H Bristol Hills Day Camp.

Campers spent their days enjoying swimming, fishing, archery, rocketry, critter care and other fun activities, all based on the camper's choice and preference. They spent time socializing, learning activities with other campers and forming new friendships.

A special thanks to 4-H Camp Bristol Hills for partnering with The Arc Ontario to help create unforgettable memories for the individuals we support that will last a lifetime. ✨

EMPLOYMENT PARTNER RECEIVES EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

Employers across New York State were honored at the Board of Governors meeting on July 20 with The Arc New York's Employer Recognition Awards.

The Arc New York Employer Recognition Awards provide Chapters with an opportunity to share the inclusivity and success of an individual, corporation or business in New York State that has demonstrated outstanding support in providing services and job opportunities for people who have intellectual or other developmental disabilities. Four awards are presented annually, with one recipient selected from each region.

This year's award recipients include Mr. Tire in Geneva, who currently

employs Ian, an individual who receives supports and services from The Arc Ontario. Ian was recently featured in our 2022 Annual Report showcasing the valuable skills he's learned through his time with Mr. Tire and The Arc Ontario's Supported Employment Services.

Congratulations to Mr. Tire and all of this year's award recipients, and thank you for acknowledging the value of employing people of all abilities at your place of business. With your continued support, we are helping individuals with disabilities or other challenges become one with their communities. ✨



Mr. Tire in Geneva received an Employee Recognition Award from The Arc New York for their commitment to providing employment opportunities to people with disabilities or other challenges.

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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 or visit www.thearcontario.org/donate. ✨

