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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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On the Cover: Jamie Jensen is a North Star Coffee Café Attendant who has been working at the coffee shop since opening day in June.

# MESSAGE FROM ANN SCHEETZ **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



Ann Scheetz

We are now accepting referrals.

At Ontario ARC, our values provide a framework that makes our organization stand out as an incredible place which supports people with disabilities or other challenges. Integrity, respect, teamwork, quality, commitment, and innovation are not just words, but words we live by as staff members, teammates, and advocates. As you read this edition of ARC Life, I hope you are inspired by two of these words in particular: innovation and commitment.

Our innovative spirit is evident as our agency continues to grow and evolve to better meet the needs of the people we support. In this edition, we have highlighted North Star Coffee, our newest social enterprise that is brewing up a great business all while building community connections and employment opportunities for people with disabilities. We have also highlighted Silver Connections, our brand new social adult day program which welcomes people with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias and provides caregivers with the respite they deserve. Spread the word!

This innovative spirit would not be possible without the sponsors, donors, and volunteers who have supported our fundraising events throughout the years. As you will see from the photos, our 25th anniversary of Cruisin' for a Cause was an incredible evening complete with flares, mobile bidding, and lots of dancing! We are so thankful for our community's continued commitment to Ontario ARC. Your support makes dreams come true every day! We hope to see you at our next event - the Canandaigua Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning!

This issue also showcases many examples of commitment shown by our incredible staff. Read on to learn how our Project SEARCH team has been honored for their success in preparing students for employment post-graduation. You will also read about our Special Events/Volunteer Coordinator who was recognized by the United Way for her dedication to inspiring donors and raising funds for the organization. Finally, you will read an inspiring story of the teamwork shown by our staff members when a person we support needed them most. We are so proud that these are the stories happening every day at Ontario ARC! \*

Sincerely,

In Schen

Ann Scheetz, Executive Director

### North Star Coffee from Cover

North Star Coffee, Ontario ARC's newest social enterprise which shares retail space with Flowers By Stella, has fast become a visible part of the Canandaigua community by offering a unique sensory atmosphere in a cozy, convenient gathering space. Specialty hot and cold beverages are accompanied by a fresh daily selection of muffins, scones, and sugar cookies provided by Sully's Catering.

Ten employees, including people supported by Ontario ARC, operate the shop to provide a warm, welcoming customer service experience that has already attracted social groups and local business leaders. A Loyalty Program, available by smartphone or as a punch card, rewards repeat customers with a 10th free cup of coffee. A surprise hit this summer has been pre-ordering for curb-side pick-up. The service is available via Grubhub. com; beverage and snack orders are ready in 15 minutes and delivered to your car (reserved parking available).



North Star Coffee is an asset the whole community is proud of, thanks to the hardworking staff that has jumped into the fast-paced coffee shop experience. Part of this recipe for success are the innovative

prompts and adaptive supports developed by our job coaches.

"I love it...It's a great community, it's fun to work around the baristas and the flowers," says Jamie Jensen, a Café Attendant who has been working at the coffee shop since opening day.

Sales of North Star Coffee branded t-shirts, travel mugs, ceramic mugs, and whole-bean coffee by Finger Lakes Roasters available for at-home brewing, have been brisk. BAD DOG™ retail products are also available for your 4-legged friends. \*

North Star Coffee, 1880 Rochester Road, Canandaigua, is open Monday through Friday, 7AM to 6PM, and Saturday 8AM to 2PM (closed Sunday).

Visit www.northstarcoffee.org for more information.

Click "Curbside Pickup" to pre-order through Grubhub.com.

Find North Star Coffee on Facebook and Instagram.

# **PROJECT SEARCH** RECOGNIZED FOR **EMPLOYMENT ACHIEVEMENT**

Project SEARCH has awarded Ontario ARC with a 2015-2016 Employment Outcome Award for achieving an 83% employment rate for placement within one year of graduation for 2015-2016, exceeding the national average by 13%.

Ontario ARC has partnered with Finger Lakes Health over the past five years. The program is facilitated by Aimee Gilbert, Project SEARCH Instructor, and Sarah Mason, Employment Specialist. "We are really proud of the hard work our Project SEARCH interns do, and we thank Finger Lakes Health for all their support," says Wendy Nelson, Manager of



the workforce."

Pre-Employment Programs. "The hospital staff works hard to get to know our individuals, and they frequently ask for more interns. Many of our graduates have been hired by the hospital."

Project SEARCH is a nationally and internationally recognized program for its success rates in employment outcomes. "We are proud to offer such a well-recognized program at Ontario ARC," says Aimee Gilbert. "Immersing the people we support into the workplace over a year-long period

prepares them for successful integration into

Project SEARCH offers educational components, mentorship and on the job training for individuals seeking employment and independence. Interns in Ontario ARC's Project SEARCH program can choose from several different internship sites, including 10 departments throughout the hospital, as well as various opportunities at Uncle Joe's, a local pizzeria. \*

# HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Robert Hornbeck lived in the small community of Manchester/Shortsville for many years, most recently in an efficiency apartment at his grand-nephew's home. Robert enjoyed evening walks, local garage sales, and festivals. You could often find him browsing the aisles at the local grocery store and assisting with the shopping carts. Early this summer, Robert's life changed dramatically when he suddenly lost his home and provider after his grand-nephew unexpectedly passed away. The crisis situation meant that Robert had time to collect only a few personal items before leaving everything behind.

Everyone on Robert's team immediately stepped in to help him transition within a 24 hour time frame, obtaining services and supports, including State approval for emergency respite at our Highland residence. Both the staff and the residents at Highland welcomed Robert with open arms. Tammy Erick, Director of Residential and Community Hab Services, and Erin O'Brien, Robert's service coordinator, worked together with his team to bring Robert to Highland and to set up plans for him to see a clinician



Robert Hornbeck with Tiffany Kobielski at the Highland residence. Robert chose to make his home here permanently after his team helped him to move here within a 24 hour time frame following a family crisis

for counseling, get prescriptions at CVS, and pick up clothes at his former home, while Elaine Hanagan, RN, ensured that Robert's medical needs were attended to. Robert's team also went out to purchase bedding items, and other living essentials so that he would feel at home and ready to start fresh.

They even made sure that baloney and cheese puffs, Robert's favorites, were waiting for him at Highland. It was important to everyone that Robert felt welcome and secure.

Though emergency placement at our Highland residence was, as Robert called it,

"temporary," within a few weeks he met with his service coordinator and decided to call Highland his permanent home.

"Everyone cried the day Robert chose to stay," says Tiffany Kobielski, Residential Manager at Highland and Jay Street and formerly Robert's Habilitation Specialist at Ontario ARC's seniors program. "We were so excited that he chose to stay at Highland, and so happy he is starting over in a new home, living and socializing with his peers. Robert is an amazing man and we are lucky to have him at Highland."

# SILVER CONNECTIONS WELCOMES SENIORS, SUPPORTS CAREGIVERS

Ontario ARC opened its newest social adult day program in August. Silver Connections provides a welcoming environment for aging adults, allowing individuals to maintain independence with access to support and social activities during the weekday daytime hours.

Created in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association and contracted through the Office for the Aging, Silver Connections fulfills a need in Ontario County for a program with experienced staff providing quality care and support for people with Alzheimer's disease, other dementias and/or adults who may need assistance with daily living activities. The program also fulfills the important need of providing respite for caregivers.

"Silver Connections aligns with our mission to support people with and without disabilities or other challenges," says Lora Winghart, Associate Executive Director, Program Services. "Our agency is already experienced and proactive in supporting individuals as they age, and our staff and therapists have completed specialized training for Silver Connections. We're happy to be such a great fit for the community."

Silver Connections benefits from all of the amenities at the Eberhardt Center, located at 2975 County Road 48 in Canandaigua. The program is open Monday through Friday 8AM – 4PM.

Highlights include:

- Animal Assisted Activities
- Access to an on-site therapeutic pool
- Community and social events
- Music, art, and gardening
- Fitness and wellness initiatives
- Full or half day attendance
- Transportation options
- · Assistance with daily living activities

- On-site meals
- Experienced staff providing quality care and support
- Fall prevention programs
- Medication reminders
- Personal care assistance
- Specialized assistance for people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias

Silver Connections is now accepting referrals. To learn more about participating, please contact JoEllen Schaefer, Family Support/ Intake Coordinator at (585) 919-2118



or at jschaefer@ontarioarc.org.

# 2017 CRUISIN' FOR A CAUSE

**ARCLife** 

Ontario ARC's Cruisin' for a Cause fundraiser, our annual summer party-witha-purpose at the Canandaigua Country Club, returned August 17th to celebrate 25 years. The evening featured a new twist in the silent auction—electronic bidding by mobile device, and a beautiful flare display in honor of the event's anniversary. We would like to thank old friends and new who joined us for the exciting evening benefitting The Friends of Ontario ARC Foundation and our growing menu of innovative programs and services.  $\neq$ 



## A very special thank you to our generous sponsors for making this event possible:

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We have made every attempt to include all of our very generous donors. If we have inadvertently omitted your business, please accept our sincere apologies.

# SIERRA SEYBOLT HONORED WITH UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN AWARD

Sierra Seybolt, Ontario ARC Special Events/Volunteer Coordinator and our United Way Campaign Coordinator, was honored in June with the United Way Light the Way Award. Sierra inspired 40% staff participation by creating a compelling presentation portraying how the United Way supports neighbors, co-workers, and people right here in our agency. Ontario ARC staff members donated \$18,826.48 this year, raising over \$3,800 more than in 2016 and reaching the agency's campaign goal for the first time since 2011. Congratulations, Sierra! \*



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are available. Groups are welcome as well! Gather a group of family and friends and be a part of this

To sign up, contact Sierra Seybolt at (585) 919-2106 or sseybolt@ontarioarc.org.

great holiday activity to support Ontario ARC. \*