



ARC Life



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2019 COLLEGE EXPERIENCE GRADS JOIN THE WORKFORCE

Ontario ARC's 2019 class of College Experience graduates have traded their caps and gowns for workplace attire!

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.

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3071 County Complex Drive
Canandaigua, NY 14424
585.394.7500 www.ontarioarc.org



MESSAGE FROM ANN SCHEETZ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ann Scheetz

As we reflect on an exciting Summer, we feel fortunate to be part of a vibrant, welcoming community that supports our vision of creating a world where people of all abilities are one with their communities. In this edition of ARC Life, you will read about the community connections that make Ontario ARC a truly special place – from a commitment to volunteerism, to graduating from College and getting a job, there is so much to celebrate!

First, we are proud to congratulate our recent College Experience grads from Finger Lakes Community College and Hobart and William Smith Colleges. As if graduating from college isn't exciting enough, we are thrilled to share all three of our hard working grads were offered jobs as the result of successful internships! Ben, Anne, and Markezah have all taken the next step toward starting their careers and living independently – please join me in congratulating them on a job well done!

Each year, the people we support spend countless hours giving back to their communities. Read on, and you'll see the impact this commitment to volunteerism has had on so many lives! Whether it's volunteering at ReStore, delivering Meals on Wheels, collecting donations for local animal shelters, or organizing a canned food drive, there are so many examples of how sharing your time and passion with the community can truly make a difference.

We want to take a moment to welcome some new faces to the agency and recognize a few internal promotions as well. John Astles has been hired as Associate Executive Director, CFO. We are also pleased to share that Carol Guest has been promoted to Director, Innovative Supports, and Lauren Steenburn, has been promoted to Director, Quality Assurance. These promotions are an important step in succession planning for the agency and its future. Annette Yost has joined the agency as Managed Care Specialist. Each brings a wealth of experience to their positions that will help Ontario ARC continue to grow and prosper.

As Fall approaches, we are looking forward to all the season has to offer. Be on the lookout for details about our Harvest Fest! This family fun event returns to Lincoln Hill Farms in October and promises plenty of fun for the whole family. Hope to see you there! ✨

Sincerely,

Ann Scheetz, Executive Director

On the Cover: Anne Gleason, a graduate of the College Experience program at Finger Lakes Community College, at work at North Star Coffee in Canandaigua.

RESIDENTIAL CARING CHALLENGE CONNECTS COMMUNITIES

Ontario ARC's residences throughout Ontario County spent the month of May competing for bragging rights while giving back to their communities. The Residential Challenge is an event that pits the

households against each other in light-hearted competitions that promote group activity and building relationships with their communities and support staff.

The springtime competition was a way for the residences to emulate the United Way Day of Caring by spending a day or week on community outreach projects. Projects included: collecting and dropping off supplies for local animal shelters and rescue organizations, sorting and organizing clothing by size and season for local nonprofits, organizing a neighborhood-wide canned food and clothing drive, an ice cream social to

collect winter accessories for people in need, and donating cleaning supplies and home-baked goods to a local comfort care home.

The benefitting organizations' deep appreciation was only exceeded by the happiness it brought to each household.

The competing residences made posters to illustrate their caring activity. The winners were Jay Street, Geneva, and High Street, Victor, pictured below with their winning plaques.

Upcoming Residential Challenge themes are Wellness and Fitness, Halloween decorating, and Holiday decorating. ✨



Jay Street, Geneva, for a neighborhood litter collection. After learning about pollution and the problems it causes our planet, they chose to pick up around their community, filling four huge trash bags. Even young members of the community joined in to help!



High Street, Victor, for collecting donations for local animal shelters and rescue organizations. Together they encouraged community members to bring in blankets, pillowcases, towels, and sheets, making new friends in the community and raising awareness for animals in need in the process.

INTRODUCING NEW LEADERSHIP MEMBERS AT ONTARIO ARC

Ontario ARC is pleased to welcome three new directors to its leadership team:

JOHN ASTLES

has joined Ontario ARC as Associate Executive Director, CFO. Previously, John was Director of Fiscal Services at Arc of Seneca Cayuga.



John Astles

CAROL GUEST,

formerly innovative supports manager and service coordination manager, is now Director, Innovative Supports. Carol has been with Ontario ARC for 17 years.



Carol Guest

LAUREN STEENBURN,

formerly Day Services Program Manager, is now Director, Quality Assurance. Lauren has been with Ontario ARC for 11 years.



Lauren Steenburn

ANNETTE YOST, GUIDING ONTARIO ARC INTO MANAGED CARE



Annette Yost

Ontario ARC is pleased to introduce Annette Yost, Managed Care Specialist. Annette joined the agency in March 2019. She brings her insights from a

23-year career in Rochester-based Health Maintenance Organizations to the current evolution of managed care, which now encompasses Medicaid. Prior to her work in HMOs, Annette worked for seven years as an RN at Clifton Springs Hospital.

For Ontario ARC, managed care means new opportunities for collaboration among health providers and better outcomes for the health of individuals. This holistic care model is a statewide initiative to redesign Medicaid and is under development by the Office for People with Developmental Disabilities and the Department of Health. The goal is to ensure that individuals served by managed care plans will prosper and be healthy in their communities.

We look forward to the exciting new ways that people will be able to receive their care and are grateful for Annette's expertise and guidance through this process. ✨

PET CONNECTIONS IS NOW AKC RECOGNIZED



Pet Connections, a division of Ontario ARC, is now an American Kennel Club Recognized Therapy Dog Organization. This is an exciting opportunity for our Pet Connections volunteers and a wonderful achievement of the animal-assisted interventions program! Once volunteers and their dogs meet the required number of volunteer hours and visits to qualify, they can then apply for one of five AKC therapy dog titles, with certification provided by Pet Connections. Earning AKC recognition shows our community that Ontario ARC and Pet Connections are as dedicated to our volunteers (including furry ones!) as we are to the people we support.

CONGRATULATIONS, JET CONNECTIONS!

Many of the people in Ontario ARC's JET Connections, a job exploration and training pre-employment program, were recognized by Habitat for Humanity of Ontario County for volunteering a record-breaking total of 1,240 hours within one year!

"Ontario ARC is an integral part of the team at the ReStore," said Allison Hildebrandt, Habitat for Humanity of Ontario County's Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator. "We enjoy the time spent with you all as we support our community."

SAVE THE DATE FOR HARVEST FEST 2019! COMING OCTOBER 19TH!

Harvest Fest, Ontario ARC's family-fun event, returns to Lincoln Hill Farms for its second year this fall. Expect activities for the whole family, including a pumpkin patch, bounce house, farm animal petting area, lawn games, and more. Admission for children under 12 is free! Check out ontarioarc.org/events for all the details!





Markezhah Phillip-Holbrook



Anne Gleason, left, and Ben Green

2019 College Experience from Cover

MARKEZHAH PHILLIP-HOLBROOK,

a graduate of the College Experience program at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, is now working at the Vanity Fair clothing store located at Waterloo Premium Outlets. Markezhah interned at the store during her last year with the College Experience and was hired soon after graduation—a perfect match for someone who loves fashion!

BEN GREEN, a graduate of the College Experience program at Finger Lakes Community College, became employed by AVI Foodsystems in the FLCC cafeteria prior to graduation. Another great example of how internships can result in a job offer.

ANNE GLEASON, a graduate of the College Experience program at Finger Lakes Community College, is working at North Star Coffee, a division of Ontario ARC, in Canandaigua. Her experiences helped her gain the confidence to move beyond

the familiar and begin to explore career possibilities.

Ontario ARC's College Experience is an innovative pre-employment program for post-high school adults, with locations at Finger Lakes Community College and Hobart and William Smith Colleges (HWS). Thirty five students have graduated from the program since the first class in 2007.

One highlight of the program is the range of internship opportunities, says Mary Kelly, Associate Professor of Education at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Students explore different vocations at local businesses, schools, and organizations to identify potential career paths and job opportunities. Job placement is 80 percent with many of those jobs being the result of successful internships.

Graduates of Ontario ARC's College Experience program have gone on to jobs that support their independent lives as part of their chosen communities. One of those success stories is Darrius Lauster who balances multiple jobs, including one at Bubble Tea

in Geneva. Darius has moved on from the College Experience program and is successful in the workforce. He has not forgotten his 'alma mater' and the experience he had there. The "tip" jar at Bubble Tea is designated for charitable giving and each month employees can pass the donations on to local charities. Darius has chosen to give back to the HWS College Experience program twice.

"The Ontario ARC College Experience Program at HWS provides an invaluable opportunity to gain vocational and adult living skills in a college environment," says Kelly. "Students participate in internships, audit classes, enjoy student activities and clubs, and walk across the stage at graduation."

Like Anne, Ben, and Markezhah, their walk across the stage is the first step toward the start of their careers and living independently in the community of their choice. ✨

Congratulations College Experience Class of 2019!

THE POWER OF SIMPLE ACTS

Earlier this year, Audrey Dye, Work and Life Skills Instructor, was working with members of Ontario ARC's JET Connections pre-employment program, delivering Meals On Wheels to local community members. During one routine stop, the meal delivery crew encountered a client who took longer

than usual to answer the door. The gentleman was not his usual smiling and engaging self. The crew reported their findings to the Ontario County Office for the Aging safety line.

Upon returning a few weeks later, he was back greeting them with a smile. The gentleman had suffered a stroke and was hospitalized, but made a quick recovery. He was happy to be able to thank Audrey and the meal delivery crew for their simple act that saved his life.

For the crew involved, this experience added another benefit to the JET mission of learning work readiness and social skills: feeling valued for a simple act that goes beyond the job at-hand. The impact they had by being part of saving a life taught them what any person wants from their job – the feeling of "I'm making a difference." *Thank you, Audrey, for being a wonderful role model and demonstrating Ontario ARC's value of commitment with your JET flight!*

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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 Ontario ARC.

A donation to Ontario ARC 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 at 585.919.2156 or mwistner@ontarioarc.org or visit ontarioarc.org/online-donation.

