



ARC Life



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CELEBRATING EMPLOYMENT SUCCESSSES

October was National Disability Employment Awareness Month, but we recognize the value of employing people with disabilities all year long. Join us in celebrating these stories about the talents and contributions that people supported by Ontario ARC bring to the local workforce.

See stories on pages 3 and 4.



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 promote independence, recognize individual uniqueness and value quality of life.

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MESSAGE FROM ANN SCHEETZ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ann Scheetz

As another year comes to a close, we reflect on some of the incredible accomplishments made by both our staff and the people we support throughout 2016.

This edition focuses on recent successes in our employment program. Read on to hear how one student's Project SEARCH internship at Geneva General Hospital/Finger Lakes Health helped him land a full-time job! You will also learn about the important role Ontario ARC's employment program has played at Ultrafab over our organizations' 20 year partnership. Plus, we are thrilled to share that three staff members in our employment program have recently become Certified Employment Support Professionals.

In October, we recognized Danielle Hinman with the Jerry Archibald Award for demonstrating the agency values of integrity, commitment and respect to both the individuals she supports and to her coworkers. Congratulations, Danielle!

This holiday season would not be complete without our Canandaigua Turkey Trot and the Holiday Gift Wrapping Booth at Eastview Mall. We are so grateful to all of the community members and local businesses that continue to support our Signature Fundraising Events throughout the year. We are also thankful to have a dedicated group of volunteers who share their time and talent with us, not just during the holiday season, but all year long.

Finally, we are asking you to continue the giving spirit of the season by taking action to support the Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who make up the back bone of our agency. Their work is vital if we are to continue creating opportunities for people to live to their full potential. However, it has been 8 years since our DSPs have seen a significant adjustment in wages. We need your help to let New York State know our DSPs deserve a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

This Fall, Ontario ARC participated in the #bFair2DirectCare Coalition's "300 Days to Better Pay" Campaign – a statewide effort to be fair to Direct Support Professionals. Together, our staff and board members sent postcards and letters calling on Governor Cuomo to address this critical funding issue in the next state budget.

Here are a few simple ways you can lend your voice and support our DSPs:

- 'Like' the bFair2DirectCare Facebook Page and 'Follow' @bFair2DirectCare on Twitter. Also use #bFair2DirectCare on social media and interact with bFair2DirectCare social media accounts by liking, sharing, and commenting on posts and tweets.
- Write to Governor Cuomo, your state legislators, or local newspapers today. Tell them that you support the "300 Days to Better Pay" Campaign and believe Direct Support Professionals deserve a living wage.
- Spread the word to friends, family, and co-workers.

Thank you for taking part in this call to action!

This holiday season, we continue to be thankful for you – the community members, businesses, and families that support our agency all year round. We look forward to all we will accomplish together in 2017. ✨

Sincerely,

Ann Scheetz, *Executive Director*



JACK RATH EXCELS BEYOND PROJECT SEARCH INTERNSHIP

When Jack Rath joined Ontario ARC's Project SEARCH internship program at Geneva General Hospital/Finger Lakes Health in January 2016, he never imagined that just seven months later he would be a full-time benefit-eligible employee. While Jack originally hoped to land a food preparation job in the hospital kitchen, his experience as a Project SEARCH intern led him to expand his career goals.

Jack built a rapport not only with the residents but also with the staff members on his floor during his ten-week internship in the hospital's recreation program. His work ethic stood out to Nurse Manager Sue Rolich and, once his internship ended, Rolich worked with Ontario ARC staff to have Jack apply for an open position.

This July, thanks to his hard work and the support he received through Project SEARCH, Jack was hired by Finger Lakes Health as Unit Helper. According to Ms. Rolich, Jack's new position is one of the most important jobs on the unit.

"Jack takes pride in the work that he completes on a daily basis. He is a true team player and is always willing to lend a hand. We think he is fabulous and enjoy having him here," says Ms. Rolich.

Jack reports that the best part of his job is the relationships he has built with residents. When looking to the future, Jack envisions himself becoming a certified nursing assistant, but for the time being, he is happy and proud of how far he has come. ✨

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Ontario ARC's Community Advisory Board welcomes three new members, Dan Corbett, Doug Kirchhoff, and Mary Whalen. The Advisory Board is a non-governing body of local professionals and leaders who provide the agency with community-based input.



Dan Corbett,
of Farmington,
Production Manager at
Constellation Brands.



Doug Kirchhoff,
of Penfield,
Director of Operations
at MACO BAG CORP.



Mary Whalen,
of South Bristol,
President/Owner
of Whalen Consulting,
LLC.

THANK YOU, LOCAL BUSINESSES

Thank you for employing the people supported by Ontario ARC:

AVI Foods at Finger Lakes Community College	Geneva Presbyterian Church Goodwill	Sodexo at Hobart and William Smith Colleges
BCI, Koch Division	GW Lisk	Junius Ponds Thruway Travel Plaza
Big Lots, Geneva	Artisan Meats	TJ Maxx
Canandaigua National Bank	John A. Schuppenhauer, Attorney at Law	Tom Wahls
Canandaigua VA Medical Center	KFC, Canandaigua	Tops, Canandaigua & Geneva
Constellation Brands	Lakeview Landscaping	Ultrafab
Cheshire Farms Creamery	Mark's Pizzeria, Canandaigua	Victor Library
Clifton Springs Hospital	McDonald's, Canandaigua	Vintrinsic
Crossmark	Messenger Post	Walgreens, Canandaigua
Dunkin' Donuts	Ontario ARC	Walmart, Canandaigua, Geneva & Victor
Durham Transport	Pat's Taxi	Wegmans, Canandaigua, Fairport & Geneva
Farmington Gardens	Phelps Community Center	Wendy's, Victor
FF Thompson Hospital	Pinnacle Sports	Z-Axis
Finger Lakes Gaming and Race Track	Quail Summit	Zotos
Geneva City Schools	Regal Theater	
Geneva General Hospital/ Finger Lakes Health	Ryan's Wine & Spirits	
	Seneca Travel Plaza Victor	

ULTRAFAB CELEBRATES 20 YEAR PARTNERSHIP

October 2016 marked 20 years of partnership between Ontario ARC and Ultrafab, Inc. Since 1996, Ontario ARC's employment program has played an important role at the Farmington, NY-based company. Ultrafab now counts on a crew of 15 people to help reach production goals by performing a variety of jobs, including assembling the

reels that are used to wind their specialized weather stripping products.

"We always look at capabilities before disabilities," says Ian Gale of Ultrafab. "Having this relationship with Ontario ARC diversifies our workplace and offers us the opportunity to add new talent to our pool. This has been a fruitful partnership." ✨



Top Left: David Ryan at work at Ultrafab. Top Right: Matt Marion assembling one of many reels used by Ultrafab. Bottom: Matt Marion, David Ryan, Rob Druzak, and Chris Swetz are part of the 15-person team that makes up the employment partnership between Ontario ARC and Ultrafab.



THE 7TH ANNUAL CANANDAIGUA TURKEY TROT BENEFITS ONTARIO ARC

Thank you, race sponsors, for making the 7th Annual Canandaigua Turkey Trot possible. We are grateful for you and for all the community members who came out on Thanksgiving morning to feel the burn before the bird! Over \$9,000 was raised for the Friends of Ontario ARC Foundation. ✨

IT'S A WRAP!

Thank you to our generous sponsors for their support of the 2016 Holiday Gift Wrapping Booths at Eastview Mall. Nearly 600 jolly volunteers wrapped close to 4,000 gifts at two booths throughout the holiday season! Over \$27,000 was raised for the Friends of Ontario ARC Foundation. ✨

GOLD (\$2000)

BCI, Koch Division
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Jachles Imperial Flooring

RED (\$500)

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

2017 PET CONNECTIONS CALENDARS AVAILABLE NOW



Get your 2017 Pet Connections calendar for just \$10 or \$15 for an autographed copy! Pet Connectors designed the calendar to share the love and inspiration they encounter every day with therapy dogs. Nearly all of the photos that appear in the calendar were taken by people in the Pet Connections program. Proceeds benefit Pet Connections creative projects.

Printing of the 2017 Pet Connections Calendar made possible by Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield. ✨

Buy the 2017 Calendar at the front desk of Ontario ARC • the Culture Shack Christmas Store, 3530 State Route 364 (East Lake Road), Canandaigua • Finger Lakes Pet Resort, 1296 Beaver Creek Road, Farmington • Simply New York on Culver Road in Rochester • the Gift Store at F.F. Thompson Hospital in Canandaigua • and on Amazon at www.amazon.com/shops/ontarioarc.

ONTARIO ARC RECEIVES NYSARC TRUST SERVICES GUARDIANSHIP GRANT

The trustees of the NYSARC Trusts authorized \$2,315,500.00 in restricted grants from the NYSARC Trusts Remainder Funds to be paid to the NYSARC Chapters for the exclusive purposes of funding Chapters' guardianship program operating expenses. Last year, Ontario ARC received a similar grant from NYSARC Trust Services to purchase items for people supported by the Guardianship program, including items for daily use and gifts for birthdays and special occasions and plans to use the funds in the same fashion this year. In addition, Remainder Fund grants in the amount of \$12,500 per Chapter were awarded to support NYSARC recreation programs statewide.

A total of \$2,795,500.00 in remainder grants were awarded in 2016 to support recreation and guardianship statewide. NYSARC Trust Services administers supplemental needs trusts that enable people with disabilities to remain in their home and community while retaining Medicaid services and other government benefits. ✨

Information is available on how NYSARC Trust Services may benefit you: our website www.nysarctrustservices.org, phone 1-518-439-8323, toll free phone 1-800-735-8924 or e-mail info@nysarctrustservices.org.

THREE STAFF BECOME CERTIFIED EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

Longtime Ontario ARC staff members Andy Watson, Supported Employment Manager; Kim Grabenstetter, Employment Specialist; and Bonny Ross, Placement Specialist, have become Certified Employment Support Professionals (CESP). The CESP™ program credential is earned by passing a comprehensive examination offered by the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE).

This certification program creates national guidelines to validate and support current training by defining the benchmarks for knowledge and competency in the field. The certifications both acknowledge and elevate Ontario ARC's employment services missions.

"Ontario ARC staff already excel in the field of employment services, but we knew that the CESP standard would further demonstrate our professionalism and distinguish our program," says Michelle Jungermann, Director of Employment and Meaningful Activities. "The plan is to have more staff become certified in the future." ✨



(L .to R.) Barbara Risser, Danielle Hinman, Jerry Archibald, Ann Scheetz.

2016 JERRY ARCHIBALD AWARD WINNER

Danielle Hinman is the 2016 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. Hinman has worked at Ontario ARC for seven years and is a Program Supervisor.

"Danielle's dedication to the agency's core values are evident in both her work with fellow staff and the people she supports. She is certainly deserving of this honor," says Ann Scheetz, executive director. ✨

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Honor Our Past... Secure Our Future

In 1954, a group of parents from Geneva founded Ontario ARC to create more opportunities for their children. In honor of our founders, Ontario ARC has established the 1954 Society, an endowment fund to secure services for future generations. A contribution of \$1,954 each year over three years will provide ongoing support for programs and services that make a positive impact on the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



For information on benefits and how to join the 1954 Society, contact Michele Wistner, director of development, at 585-919-2156 or mwistner@ontarioarc.org. Or, visit us online at ontarioarc.org. ✨