



The Arc™

Northern Chesapeake Region
Serving Harford, Cecil & Kent Counties

Achieve with us.

For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

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Contact: Elaine Orbino
410-879-6785
eorbino@arcncr.org

The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region Celebrates Disabilities Awareness Month



Kent County— March 1 marks the beginning of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region will be joining with individuals and chapters across the country to raise awareness about issues facing people with disabilities.

To celebrate this month, The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region will be promoting the news and sharing stories at various activities in the community with the goal to promote and protect the rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities...stories like Scott, a twenty-two year old who lives in Kent County and receives services from The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region.

Scott was diagnosed with Autism and his life plan has been to improve his quality of life through academics, the arts, physical fitness, and community involvement. Scott has never read a chapter book before and possessed very limited reading skills. Only nine months after pursuing this hobby, Scott reads anywhere from thirty to forty pages a day including "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "James and the Giant Peach." He has memorized twenty six of the U.S. State capitals and intends to memorize the remaining twenty-four capitals within a year, as well as the abbreviation for each state. Staff at The Arc has helped Scott with sign language and learning to speak and read Italian.

Along with his academic accomplishments, Scott is a rather accomplished musician. In the past year Scott has been studying the Baritone Horn, and has begun to study Trombone. This past year Scott joined the Kent County Community Marching Band. In regards to recreational pursuits, Scott gets at minimum of forty-five minutes of exercise per day and works out with free weights. Thanks to The Arc and Scott's support system, he is realizing his goals and dreams.

Over the last 60 years, The Arc of the United States and its network of more than 700 chapters across the country have made tremendous progress in promoting and protecting the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). It is due greatly to the advocacy efforts of The Arc that President Ronald Reagan officially declared March to be Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in 1987. In 2008, only 46% of people with I/DD who were eligible to vote actually did so. Together chapters of The Arc nationwide are working to educate candidates about the issues that matter most to the I/DD community. The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region is working to engage voters and candidates throughout Harford, Cecil, and Kent counties during the crucial months leading up to Election Day. Individuals with disabilities have the right to vote, and the goal of the campaign is to encourage them not only to vote but to speak out about the topics that are important to them.

By supporting The Arc's "We've Got The Power!" campaign, The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region is working to engage voters and candidates throughout Harford, Cecil, and Kent counties during the crucial months leading up to Election Day.

Shawn Kros, Executive Director, adds, "*Many individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities live and work in Harford, Cecil, and Kent county communities and are valued members of these communities. In this pivotal election year, The Arc is joining national efforts to raise awareness about disability related policy on the campaign trail.*"

About The Arc:

The Arc offers a wide variety of services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, both children and adults, in Harford, Cecil, and Kent counties, to make informed choices with their lifestyles, vocations, education and recreational pursuits, and to assure stable and nurturing lives among their families and friends.