



Northern Chesapeake Region
Serving Harford, Cecil & Kent Counties

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For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

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STUDENTS CHALLENGED TO INNOVATE

*McDonogh School Reaches Out to Employment Services at
The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region*



[Aberdeen] -Jennifer Singer, Upper School Science and Engineering Teacher at McDonogh in Owings Mills, wanted her engineering students to be involved with a project that involved the community...an experience where her students would be challenged to engineer a simple solution to a barrier in the work place. She reached out once again to The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region (The Arc NCR) after partnering with them last year on a similar project with Target in Bel Air.

This year's project employer was the Rite Aid Distribution Center, a major

employer of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities at their distribution center in Aberdeen. McDonogh's engineering class presented The Arc NCR's Rite Aid crew with the assistive vocational device they have been working on all year, a rewarding community project for a few high school seniors.

The adaptive equipment helps with the staging of the boxes in the labeling area of the Rite Aid facility and was designed for employees that had manual challenges moving/picking up boxes. The team designed a collapsible/foldable shelf that can be opened at bench height when needed to stage the boxes and a scissor lift that can be used to lift boxes from floor level to bench/table height...all adaptive equipment that would allow the flexibility that the crew needs to negotiate their workspace.

Jennifer adds, "This has been a wonderful experience for the students. The Arc NCR and Rite Aid have been very enthusiastic supporters of the student's efforts and have given a lot of their time to help the kids have access to the facility and to the workers. Overall, I believe that this experience will be something they will remember for a long time and take with them into their college and professional years."

The Arc NCR Employment Services currently offers long-term community based employment supports to more than 140 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Rite Aid Distribution Center is one of 94 Harford County businesses that offer integrated settings including individual placements with industrial, clerical and janitorial enclaves. Individuals are supported in seeking and maintaining employment through job development, job coaching with follow-along supports, case management and transportation.

Caption: (From L-R): Anson J.; Gray F.; Nick D.; Ben P.; Rachel O.; Taylor R.; Brady E.; James Younce (Rite Aid Distribution Center)

Not Pictured: John M.

The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region 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.