



*The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region
Advocacy, Resources, and Community Building
for People with Developmental Disabilities*

the Ambassador

For over fifty years, The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region has helped people with developmental disabilities build better lives one person at a time.

Art print by permission of Martha Perske from *Martha Perske's Best 100 Drawings*.

Governor Martin O'Malley Closes Rosewood Center

*New Lives And Possibilities Now Possible
For People With Developmental Disabilities*

"The Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council will do everything in its power to support the Governor's closure plan and to ensure its success."

Liz Weintraub, Chairperson of the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council



The Arc of Maryland, on behalf of its 7,500 members statewide including The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region, applauds Governor O'Malley's announcement to close the Rosewood Center in Baltimore County. Rosewood has been home to some of Maryland's most severe cases of individuals with developmental disabilities for more than a century. Gov. Martin O'Malley's announcement on the steps of Rosewood's administration building drew a mix of cheers and boos from advocates who stood nearby.

Those who have pushed for closing the center argued that community settings provide more freedom and independence for people with developmental disabilities, but many of Rosewood's workers say its closing will traumatically disrupt the lives of its residents, some of whom have known no other home.

Rosewood opened in 1888 and at its peak, housed nearly 3,700 people. About 150 people live there now. O'Malley said he worries how some residents will adjust to the change but decided to close Rosewood after consulting with health care experts.

"The Governor's announcement of the closure of the Rosewood Center is a good first step in at long last securing the rights of persons with developmental disabilities to receive humane treatment - free from abuse and neglect. We look forward to the new lives and possibilities people will now have as they rejoin society and our communities to fulfill their potential. The Arc looks forward to working with the Administration to ensure that those individuals with court-orders are also fairly and humanely treated, while protecting public safety, in programs that reflect contemporary standards of programmatic excellence."

- Ed Worff, President, The Arc of Maryland and parent of a daughter with developmental disabilities

"People On the Go would like to thank Governor O'Malley for doing the right thing and closing Rosewood. By closing Rosewood he has given Rosewood residents' their lives back and the opportunity all people with developmental disabilities want - to live an included life in the community. Many of our members lived at Rosewood and know firsthand how the Governor's decision will enable people with disabilities to experience lives of possibility in the community."

- Ken Capone, Public Policy Coordinator, Cross Disability Rights Coalition

"The announcement to close the Rosewood Center brings me a great deal of joy and satisfaction. I am excited for all of those who spent years advocating for this day. I am hopeful of the future for those who will leave Rosewood and their families. And I am most excited that we are one step closer to a truly inclusive society for all."

- Tim Quinn, Executive Director, The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region

"We are very proud of all of the work we did and testimony we gave in Annapolis to support the closing of Rosewood. Many of our friends here at The Arc were residents of institutions many years ago. Moving into the community changed their lives. People have jobs, live in houses and apartments, participate in activities in their neighborhoods and the community, go to church, and get a chance to follow their dreams."

- Vernon DeHaven, President of People First



Staff at Mountain Christian (L to R) pose with Joe Cardiff (center) Bob Rufenacht, Debbie Zink, Eric Olsen, Joe Leturgez, Andrea Stross, and Tim Kick.

Staff At Mountain Christian Church Spread Holiday Cheer

Mountain Christian visited The Arc and spread holiday cheer providing refreshments for staff and individuals receiving services. Thank you Mountain Christian!

Major Gift from Kelly McElwain Sawyer Helps to Make Dreams Come True for The Arc

The New Year represents the opportunity for each of us to move forward with our hopes, dreams and goals. Thanks to our longtime friend and supporter, Kelly McElwain Sawyer, The Arc has received a major jump start on making dreams come true for Joe, James and Louie, three gentlemen supported by The Arc who reside in the community of Riverside in Belcamp. They are about to receive a “total home makeover” as a part of The Arc Project, an initiative to provide enhanced accessibility for the people we support who reside in homes owned by The Arc. Their “like new” home will include wider doorways, an open and spacious floor plan, as well as an updated kitchen and enhanced bathroom accommodations.

Ms. Sawyer recently donated \$55,000 to The Arc from her share of the equity resulting from the sale of her daughter Nicole Wesley’s home. Nicole has been receiving services from The Arc for over 10 years and happens to be friends with the three gentlemen who will benefit from this very generous gift. Ms. Sawyer was thrilled to know that this would be making such a vital difference in the lives of others at The Arc.

What a wonderful way to ring in the new year!

Planned Giving Corner

As we embark upon this new year, we are so thankful for our many friends and supporters here at The Arc. With your involvement, we are able to help the people we support to live rich and vibrant lives, however, the cost of providing supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and their families is quickly outpacing current funding streams allocated by local and state government sources. We are becoming increasingly dependent upon fundraised dollars in the form of major gifts and planned giving to ensure that we can continue our mission!

Here are four types of giving that you might want to consider over the upcoming year:

Legacy Giving-A Bequest

A bequest...a gift made through your will or other estate documents...is one of the simplest and most straightforward ways to make a gift to The Arc. Your legacy gift may be designated to a specific project or undesignated to be applied towards a need identified by The Arc. Your attorney can prepare a simple codicil to your will to include The Arc. We will be happy to work with you and your attorney to ensure that your wishes are clearly stated.

Tax Smart Giving-Appreciated Stock

Another smart way to give is the gift of appreciated stock or mutual funds. You may happen to own stock for more than one year and it has substantially increased in value to a point where the capital gains tax makes you wary of selling. When you donate appreciated stock, your gift is not subject to capital gains tax. You will receive an income tax charitable deduction for the full market value of the stock when you give it!

Giving and Receiving-Charitable Remainder Trust

A charitable trust is a giving vehicle you can use if you still need to derive income from your appreciated assets, such as stock or real estate, and would like to make a deferred gift. A charitable trust allows you to contribute assets to a separate trust, and then the trust will pay an income for your life or a period of years based on the trust agreement. When you establish the trust, you receive a charitable income tax deduction in the year the gift is made...for the gift that will be made to The Arc in the future. You will avoid capital gains taxes and a trust can also be used to avoid estate taxes.

Giving Property-Real Estate Gifts

Often people don't realize that they can give gifts of real estate to the Arc. A gift of real estate may be a good decision if you hold a piece of property that has appreciated significantly in value. Giving the property to The Arc may allow you to avoid capital gains taxes payable on the sale of the property, and you will receive an income tax charitable deduction based on the current value of the property. Real estate is a flexible way of giving that can be an outright gift or used to fund a Donor Advised Fund, or Charitable Remainder Trust.

You Can Leave A Legacy

If you wish to learn more about how your planned gift can make a difference at The Arc, please contact Torri Dietrich, Director of Development at 410-836-7177, extension 347.

Thompson Toyota-Scion Sponsors The Arc Family Services Holiday Party

*Thompson Toyota-Scion Donates \$1,000
to Family Support Services at The Arc*



L to R: Al Greenberg, Anne Cerruto, Luke Cerruto, Paul Green, Fred Anderson.

Thompson Toyota-Scion in Edgewood, Maryland, sponsored The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region's Family Services Holiday Party at the Arena Club. Over 200 individuals and families receiving services from The Arc was on hand to enjoy the festivities in addition to employees from The Arc and Thompson Toyota-Scion. Guests chose to swim, play bingo for prizes, or do a holiday craft. The biggest highlight of the evening was having a picture taken with Santa.

Tim Quinn, Executive Director, adds, "We appreciate the generous donation by Paul Green and Fred Anderson of Thompson Toyota-Scion as well as their volunteer efforts, to support this event." In addition, this event's success was also due to the wonderful and attentive staff of The Arena Club. The holiday party was one of a few holiday events coordinated by The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region. Thank you Thompson Toyota-Scion!

Visit Our Website www.arcncr.org

The Arc website has a few new and exciting features. Families can access information about events and other information pertaining to their sons & daughters.

- Become a member.
- Donate to The Arc.
- Register for workshops & events.
- Read current and past newsletters, press releases, & annual reports.
- Find links to important websites.
- STAY INFORMED!



Patricia McBride and Dominick Christello.

Rite Aid Employee Dominick Christello, A Model Citizen

On Thursday, October 11th 2007, The Rite Aid Arc work crew recognized Rite Aid employee, Dominick Christello for his outstanding support. Dominick is a kind and generous man who does not look at disabilities but each individual's capabilities. Dominick tracks products that the people supported by The Arc tags and also serves as a liaison between The Arc staff and crew(s) and Rite Aid personnel.

To show their appreciation for Dominick's commitment and high standard of excellence, the crew decided to honor him with a delicious cake, a Certificate of Appreciation and a certificate for The Outback Steakhouse. Patricia McBride said it best when she stated "Dom is a great guy!"

Joanne Vance, Job Coach adds, "What makes Dominick so very special is his personality. Like everyone, Dominick must have trying days but he never shows it. He treats everyone he comes in contact with kindness and respect. That alone makes him special and worthy of the highest praise." Thank you Dominick and Rite Aid!



L to R: Joanne Witherspoon and volunteer, Sabine McKnight.

Joanne's Story

My name is Joanne Witherspoon. I would like to tell you my story. I was born in New York City. I have three children. Their names are Calvin who is twenty four, Michael who is twenty, and Yolanda who is twenty-one. I moved to Bel Air in my twenties. Somebody in my family heard about The Arc and suggested I join. I thought it was a good idea. The Arc found me a job. I worked at Sephora and Rite Aid. The Arc is a wonderful place. I have many hobbies. I like to crochet and do embroidery. I like any kind of arts and crafts. I have made many friends at The Arc. I started my own flip-flop business with the help of Sabina. Someday I would like to be in the medical field so I can help people the way The Arc helped me.

Holiday Fund Raises Over \$8,000

The Arc Holiday Campaign raised over \$8,000 for their holiday fund that helped brighten the holidays for people with developmental disabilities. All proceeds went directly to people in financial need or who have no immediate family.

The Arc would like to thank the following for their support: Vincent and Theresa Augustine, Bel Air Auto Auction, Bel Air Moms Club, BP Fabric of America Fund, Bethel Presbyterian Church, Stephanie Bray, Broken Spoke Family Association, Col. and Mrs. Kone Brugh, Calvary Baptist Church, Terence Carmody, Kathy Cooper, Larry Dawson, Mr. and Mrs. George Dickerson, Mr. Tim Dickerson, Mr. and Mrs. Justin Everhart, Fallston United Methodist Church, Mr. and Mrs. Billy W. Gross, Dawn Haag, Marylee Haberman, Mary Hanlon, The Harford Mutual Insurance Company, JoAnn Hensler, Jarrettsville Lions Club, Amanda L. Kahl, Mark and Donna Kamyszek, Klein's Supermarkets of Maryland, Isabelle Knox, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Knox, Ms. Beatrice Kolchin, Liberty Mutual (Charles Bittman and James Stamper), Lions Club of Bel Air, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Linda Martin, Maryland Dept of Disabilities, Mary Massarelli, Nancy N. McKee, Kathleen Moore and Kyle Vaughan, Mountain Christian Church, Mr. and Mrs. John J. Myers, John O'Neill, Dotty Ostendarp, June Poole, Promologic, LLC, Mr. and Mrs. Tim Quinn, Sue Rattman, Victor and Irene Richard, David Robinson, St. Margaret's Parish, St. Ursula's Church, Salvation Army (Little Angels Program), Martha Satti, Michelle Sexton, Charles and Julia Sheets, Slavia Federal Savings Bank, John and Jan Stewart, Nancy S. Stubbs, Thompson's Automotive Toyota, Mark Turner and Harford County Government IT Department, Veterans of Foreign Wars Joppa Memorial Post, Vision Associates, Corabel G. Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Wingo, and Sophie Wittelsberger.

Jarrettsville Lions Club Donates To The Arc Holiday Fund

William Gross and the Jarrettsville Lions Club presents a \$1,000 check for The Arc's Holiday Campaign to Torri Dietrich, Director of Development and Elaine Orbino, Marketing Coordinator.



Membership Renewal Reminder

Members of The Arc are reminded that you will receive your renewal reminder notices for your membership from "The Arc of The United States" and payment can be made directly to The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region and mailed in the accompanying envelope to The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region at 4513 Philadelphia Road, Aberdeen, MD 21001. If you have any questions, please contact Rosie Wolff at 410-879-6785, extension 338.

Communication Supports Will Help People Achieve and Succeed

Welcome Lisa McGann as Coordinator of Communication Supports

Lisa McGann has joined The Arc on a part-time basis as Communication Supports Specialist. Lisa earned her Bachelor of Science in Special Education at the University of Delaware and embarked on a teaching career in Newark, Delaware. She was involved in a pilot program where all support staff, including teachers, physical and occupational therapists and communication specialists shared their knowledge in a team effort of support. This trans-disciplinary teaming model allowed Lisa the opportunity to learn a great deal of applied knowledge from each area of expertise. It was through this experience that she realized her passion for communication.

Her role at The Arc is to provide research, supports and development for a wide variety of communication needs using a team approach to problem solving. After building a background through direct interaction, interviewing and observation, she works with individuals, their support staff, and families to identify the person's strengths, interests, and communication experiences. From this rich vantage point she feels she can best assist a person in brainstorming the best possible communication supports. Lisa works to support the individual in exploring a variety of strategies then provides training on the chosen model. In addition to individual supports, Lisa is available for family and staff training/development, and workshops in all realms of communication including various software applications.

For more information about Communication Supports or to share your time and talents, contact Lisa at The Arc or email lmcgann@arcncr.org.

Sports Challenge Kicks Off in 2008

On Wednesday, January 30th The Arc Sports Challenge 2008 was held at Churchville Elementary. The joint fundraiser benefited the continuing development of the school's playground and funding for inclusive recreational opportunities for Arc consumers.

The event promoted the importance of disability awareness, having fun and being physically active. The students learned about the challenges faced by people with disabilities by participating in a variety of stations including; basketball, football, softball and soccer. The stations simulated what it is like to be a person with a disability and showed there are multiple ways to play traditional sports with a few modified rules and adaptive equipment.

All students received a certificate of participation and free putt-putt golf certificate. There were prize incentives awarded to students who met fundraising levels between \$25 - \$1,000. The class raising the most money won a class pizza party.

The event was sponsored by Friendly's of Bel Air, Fortunato Brothers of Abingdon and Putt Putt Fun Center Abingdon.

Interested in The Arc Sports Challenge coming to your school? Contact Kim Burton at 410-879-6785, extension 337.



L to R: Natalie Weeks (Harford County Cultural Arts Board Coordinator), Donald Baca (Local Artist), Lisa Maxwell (Local Artist).

Expanding Horizons With Art

Recreation Support Services in conjunction with the Harford County Cultural Arts Board has just concluded a very successful art exhibit that included several local artists and artists supported by The Arc. The exhibit, which was located in the Harford County Office Building at 212 S. Bond St. in Bel Air, featured 21 artists and approximately 30 paintings including abstracts, portraits, and scenery of Harford County painted in watercolors and oils. It offered a great opportunity for the artists to showcase and sell their work. Most of the paintings featured were produced during the Open Air Studio, an outdoor painting activity that took place twice a week during the summer and fall months last year.

A few of the artists expanded their horizons by exploring The Visionary Arts Museum in Baltimore this past November. The trip to The Visionary Arts Museum offered plenty of amazing sites to behold. The museum visit left all involved with a deeper appreciation of art. Interested in supporting the arts or participating in an Open Air Studio session? Contact Mark Larichiuta at 410-836-7177, extension 329 or mlarichiuta@arcncr.org.

2007 Senior Unified Bocce Tournament

Bocce players came from many different communities to participate in the 2007 Special Olympics Baltimore City Fall Bocce Invitational held in Brooklyn at The Meyers Pavilion on November 8, 2007. This was a unified tournament, where each bocce team consisted of an equal number of players with and without developmental disabilities. The Harford Rollers, representing the McFaul Senior Center in Bel Air, came filled with enthusiasm, excitement, and were ready to play. The Rollers performed magnificently against both opponents, Oak Crest and Charlestown Retirement Communities. Led by John Shelton's play, the Harford Rollers played two exciting games in the process of winning the Silver Medal. Each player was announced to come forward and receive his or her well-deserved medal. Receiving an award is a nice tangible achievement, but the friendships and memories created are what mean the most for the Harford Rollers. Congratulations on a great season, and we look forward to kicking the season off again in the spring of 2008!



The team (L to R) consists of: (Back row) John Shelton, Don Shelton, Coach Chass Seymour, Regina Jasovsky; (Second row) Richard Curtis, Eleanor Lenane, Donald Sparr, Jack Hurley, Francis Nuttle, Herman Gray; (Bottom row) Coach Mark Larichiuta.

Smyth Jewelers Sponsors “One Enchanted Evening” Raffle

Support The Arc and you could win a pair of diamond earrings. Smyth Jewelers is proud to sponsor the “One Enchanted Evening” raffle. Every ticket you purchase contributes to The Arc and is your entry to win the following package: A pair of \$3,500 diamond earrings, dinner for two at Ruth's Chris Steak House, and an overnight stay at the Hyatt including limo service. The winning ticket will be drawn on Saturday, March 29, 2008 at the After dArc event at Maryland Golf & Country Clubs in Bel Air, Maryland. Raffle tickets are 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$20. You need not be present to win. Raffle tickets can be purchased at the following local salons: Bell Amici Salon, Classic Image, Creative Design, Debbie's Mane Concern, Hair Design Inc., Jordan Thomas Salon & Day Spa, La Chic Salon, Merle Norman, Planet Kids, Robert Ashtin Salon, and Visage Salon & Day Spa. Purchase a raffle or event ticket on-line at www.arcncr.org. For more information contact Paul Levine at 410-879-6785.

Volunteering At The Arc . . . An Enriching Experience

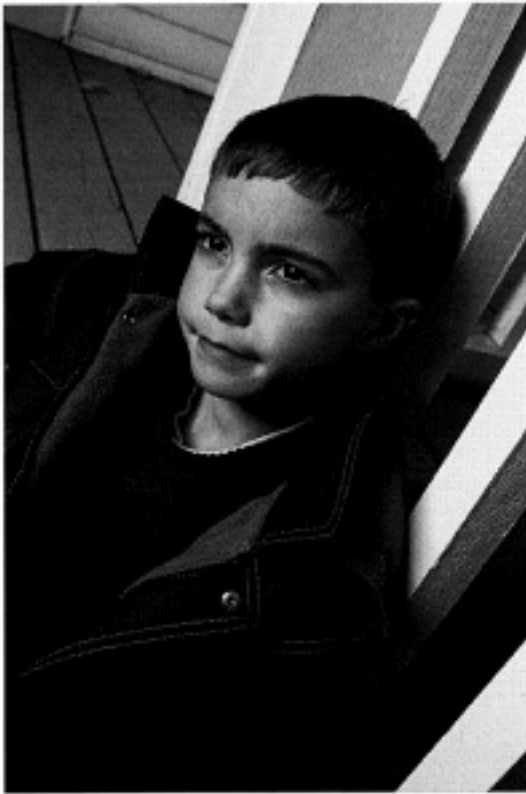


Top to bottom: Eleanor Lenane, Lise Lanahan, Melita Maxwell and Carolyn Cropsey work on their sewing projects in their General Crafts class at the McFaul Senior Center in Bel Air. Volunteer classmates working alongside individuals with disabilities help to build friendships and enhance the learning experience for all students. Please contact Volunteer Program coordinator Mara Walter at mwalter@arcncr.org or 410-879-6785, extension 381 to learn more about volunteering at The Arc. The life you enrich can be your own!

Liberty Mutual Supports The Arc Holiday Fund

James Stamper and Charles Bittman of Liberty Mutual presented a generous contribution to Torri Dietrich, Director of Development for The Arc's Holiday Campaign.





Receive the Ambassador Newsletter in your email box!

Help the Arc to save postage by providing us with your email address. All email recipients will receive the Ambassador newsletter and regular legislative and Arc updates. Please forward your complete name and email address to Rosie Wolff at rwolff@arcncr.org

Facts on Foster Care in Maryland

*Who are Maryland's children waiting in the foster care system?**

- 11,111 children are in foster care in Maryland
- 23% of foster children are between ages of 0 and 5
- 29% of foster children are between ages of 6 and 12
- 49% of foster children are between ages of 13 and 21
- Average number of birthdays a child spends in foster care: 4 birthdays (47 months)
 - *Nationally: 2.5 birthdays (30 months)*
- 33% of children experience three or more foster care placements
 - *Nationally: 42%*
- 19% (2,072) of children live in group care or institutional settings
 - *Nationally: 19% (96,593)*

* Information provided by "Kids Are Waiting", a project of The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Help us change these numbers!

The Arc needs families who are willing to open their homes and their hearts to children with developmental disabilities and other special needs. Singles and married couples are eligible. A stipend is available to assist in the cost of caring for a child.

Foster parent classes begin in March!

*Live DEEPER. Love WIDER.
Leave BIGGER.*

Become a Foster Parent.

Contact:

The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region
Treatment Foster Care Program

Kathy Pitrat, Recruiter

410-836-7177, ext. 345

kpitrat@arcncr.org

Foster Parent Training Classes

The next foster parent training sessions are scheduled for the following dates and times:

MARCH 2008 SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	DAY	DATE	TIME
MON	3/3	6 PM – 9 PM	SAT	3/8	9 AM – 4 PM
TUE	3/4	6 PM – 9 PM	MON	3/10	6 PM – 9 PM
WED	3/5	6 PM – 9 PM	TUE	3/11	6 PM – 9 PM
THU	3/6	6 PM – 9 PM	WED	3/12	6 PM – 9 PM

Call 410-836-7177, ext. 345 to reserve your space in the training, or email Kathy Pitrat at kpitrat@arcncr.org.

Unfortunately, we cannot allow children to come to the class. Please make arrangements for childcare.

A light meal is served each evening.

**TRAINING TAKES PLACE AT THE ARC OFFICES
4513 PHILADELPHIA ROAD, ABERDEEN, MD 21001**

The Arc Now Accepting Dream Fund Requests

We all have special dreams and desires! In fact...dreams are what fuel us to grow and expand our horizons so that we can live rich and vibrant lives! The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region is accepting Dream Fund requests once again this year. These funds are made possible from proceeds of holiday card sales featuring designs of artists who receive support from The Arc. These funds will be matched by the Arc Foundation. We will be awarding one or more grants to "dreamers" who submit the attached application by March 1, 2008. The winner(s) will be notified in April 2008.

Examples from last year include the following: tuition for summer camp, a trip to Cooperstown to Cal Ripken's induction into the Hall of Fame, a hearing aid device, and funds to support a wheelchair basketball tournament with The Maryland Ravens. Contact Torri Dietrich in Development for more information.

Raven's Fans Score Touchdown With The Arc

Ravens Nest #1 Donates To Community Services



This Harford County based "Nest" of Ravens fans has mastered the art of having fun while doing good for the community! Torri Dietrich from The Arc receives a check for \$2,000 from Gary Tine from Ravens Nest Number One.

2007-2008

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