

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*.

The Arc Launches Planned Giving Program

Bea Kolchin Donates Major Gift to The Arc In Honor of Her Late Husband, Richard and Daughter Cindy

It was a day in early summer, and in fact a day that was unfolding as a rather low key, non-descript kind of day, when unexpectedly the phone rang and a highly engaging and energetic voice on the other end asked to meet to discuss the idea of making a major gift to The Arc. That voice belonged to Bea Kolchin, a long time friend and supporter of The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region and a parent of a woman who receives support from our organization.



Bea and the late Richard Kolchin

Ms. Kolchin decided that it was time to share the bounty of her good fortune with an organization near and dear to her heart in honor of her daughter Cindy, and late husband Richard. In fact, she has decided to make a major gift through appreciated stock funds to assist with operations at The Arc, and has also made a bequest of real estate to The Arc to help launch our Planned Giving Program. This is the single largest gift from an individual to date in the history of The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region!

The Kolchin Family has been woven into the fabric of The Arc since the 1970's when Bea and Richard sought support from The Arc for their daughter Cindy. She shared that there were many challenges over the years and that it was difficult early on to adapt to life with a daughter who had developmental disabilities. Cindy was enrolled in a variety of educational settings over the years, and exhibited many challenging behaviors in each of those settings.

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Frequently Asked Questions About Planned Giving

How will my planned gift benefit children and adults with developmental disabilities?

The Arc labors to meet the growing needs of aging participants, the changing needs of children, and the special needs of adults living and working in the community as well as balancing the needs of future generations. At the same time, The Arc is being asked to expand services to more individuals with disabilities throughout three counties. Your Planned Gift will make a difference.

What are some types of planned gifts?

Bequests, Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts, Life Insurance Beneficiary Designation, Named endowment to support a program at The Arc or staff position, Designated beneficiary of an Individual Retirement Account or other pension plan.

How will the Arc use my planned gift?

Unless otherwise designated by the donor, bequests received by The Arc may be used to fund immediate needs or placed in a perpetual fund. The principal from this fund is invested to ensure modest growth, as well as to produce annual income. The Foundation Board of The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region oversees all investments and expenditures.

How do I amend my will to include a gift for 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 help ensure that your wishes are clearly stated.

Is there a minimum gift?

No. All gifts are welcome and will benefit individuals with developmental disabilities and their families now and in the future.



Dreams Come to Life

The Arc Dream Fund Sends Cody To Camp

The Arc Dream Fund really does make dreams come true! Just ask Cody Ritter. Proceeds from The Arc Dream Fund enabled Cody to attend a two week overnight summer camp. Cody developed friendships and enhanced relationships with his siblings who attended with him. Vaughn and Angela Miller add, "My husband and I got a much needed break and time to devote to each other. This is very important for a marriage when there is a child with a disability." Cody really enjoyed his newfound independence as well as the scenery. For more information about The Arc Dream Fund contact Torri Dietrich at 410-879-6785 or email tdietrich@arcncr.org.

The Arc Launches Planned Giving Program

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She shares that she and her husband have been very grateful to The Arc. When Cindy first came to the organization they never dreamed that one day she would have her own condominium, be gainfully employed, and have an active social life! That dream has become a reality for Cindy! In fact, Cindy bought a condominium in Bel Air, and with support from long time staff member Yolanda Dockerty, is living a rich and vibrant life. Cindy works at the Rite Aid Distribution Center in Perryman twenty hours a week, and enjoys participating in many social and recreational activities. She is an avid baseball fan and enjoys tracking the Aberdeen Ironbirds and of course the Baltimore Orioles!



Bea Kolchin, Registered Nurse

Bea has her Masters Degree in Public Health Administration and retired from the Perry Point Veterans Administration Hospital. The late Richard Kolchin retired from the Aberdeen Proving Ground where he worked as an Electrical Engineer for over 37 years. He served as the President of our Board of Directors in 1991 and 1992. The Kolchin's also made a major contribution to our Capital Campaign and our Health Services Suite bears their name. The Arc is most thankful for these very generous gifts.

You Too Can Leave a Legacy.

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 to meet our mission of helping people to live rich and vibrant lives!

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.

You Can Brighten The Holidays For an Individual with Disabilities

Help Us Reach Our Goal of \$8,500

The Arc Holiday Campaign has officially kicked off! Please visit our website for campaign information. Over 300 churches, individuals, and community organizations have received a campaign mailing requesting cash or gift certificate donations that will help brighten the holidays for those who receive services at The Arc who are in financial need or who have no immediate family. If you have any contacts at local churches or civic organizations, please forward them to Elaine Orbino in Development at 410-879-6785, extension 350. Your personal contacts can make all the difference to the success of our campaign!

Spotlight on Kim and Rusty Shuler

Treatment Foster Parents Are Passionate about Children

Kim and Rusty Shuler are passionate about children. They are treatment foster care parents for The Arc and have been fostering for a total of ten years. The last five years they have been working with The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region. Kim and Rusty have created a caring home for six beautiful children, including three adopted children and two who are in foster care.



Kim explains the decision to become foster parents: "One of the reasons we decided to become foster parents was that Ryan, our firstborn child, had lost oxygen at birth and had global delays that impacted his learning and development. We were pregnant with our second child when we were informed that Ryan was cognitively disabled (Ryan is now 19 years old.) Early on we were exposed to an entirely new world and never realized that so many children out there didn't have supportive families or their families were unable to care for them. So many children with disabilities were placed in residential treatment facilities. They didn't have a home, parents, or anyone that was there for them."

Jackie Hollenbaugh is an Arc social worker who works closely with the Shuler family. "They are strong advocates for their children and have raised the awareness and response of the local school districts for all children with disabilities. They have advocated for medical services, camp services, community events and personal services for their family."

In organizations such as the Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education, the Developmental Disability Council, the Board of Directors for The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region, the Parent's Place of Maryland and her local school board, Kim has tackled many issues for children with special needs who are now more fully included in educational and community programs because of her efforts.

Most recently, Kim recorded a public service announcement to recruit treatment foster parents for The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region. She also recorded a radio interview about being a foster parent. Both of these are being played on WAMD Radio 970 am.

The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region Presents ...Managing Personal Stress During the Holidays and Beyond

Presented by: Shawn Kros, LCSW-C

WHEN: Wednesday, December 5, 2007 from 6pm to 9:15pm

WHERE: The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region
- Stephens Conference Room

Light dinner and refreshments will be available.

To RSVP, Contact Anne Cerruto at The Arc, 410-836-7177, ext. 383.



*Live DEEPER. Love WIDER.
Leave BIGGER.*

Become a Foster Parent.

Contact:

Kathy Pitrat, Recruiter
The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region
Treatment Foster Care Program
410-836-7177, ext. 345
Email: kpitrat@arcncr.org

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!



Volunteers from Left to Right: Ron Wolff, Rosaria Wolff, Ronnie Wolff, Kevin McReynolds. Richard Curtis in the front.

Mountain Christian Church Men's Group Enjoys Community Service

Landscaping Project A Group Effort At The Arc

Volunteers from Mountain Christian Church's Saturday Morning Men's Group volunteered and beautified landscaping duties at the administrative offices at The Arc. A total of twelve volunteers mulched and spruced up flower gardens around the building at The Arc. Volunteers took the lead on these crucial landscaping projects for The Arc.

For volunteer opportunities at The Arc, contact Mara Walter at 410-879-6785, extension 381 or email mwalter@arcncr.org or visit our website at www.arcncr.org.



Michael Raila was honored as Employee of the Year. He works at Maryland Golf and Country Clubs.

The Harford County Commission on Disabilities Employment Awards

Arc Service Recipients Are Honored For Employment Achievements

The Harford County Commission on Disabilities Employment Awards (formerly the Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities) hosted its Annual Awards Luncheon on Thursday, Oct. 18, 2007 at Maryland Golf and Country Clubs. The following people receiving services from The Arc were honored: Michael Raila, Ernie Kitner, Jessica Geleta, Kasia Oledska, and Joanne Street. Joe Button and William Miller also received employee awards. Employers honored were Mars, My Three Sons, T.J. Maxx, and APG-CHIPM. Kelly Jara of Harford Cable received the Media Award. Student workers Dan Grau and Tanika Morant were recognized. Joyce Baur and C-Mart were honored for community service.

In addition, The Arc held an awards ceremony at Churchville Recreation Center acknowledging the employment accomplishments of individuals receiving services. Over fifty people were in attendance including award recipients, family members, and staff. Awards included: **Longevity Awards-20 years Continuous Employment in the same job:** Louis Barnard and Vickie Lilley; **15th year Continuous Employment in the same job:** Colleen Callahan, Shawn Jackson, David Weaver, Matt Quinn; **10th Continuous Employment in the same job:** Dwight Pardew, John Jackson, Michael Lashno, Jim Vencill, Melvin Webster; **5th year Continuous Employment in the same job:** Shirley Brooks, Mandy Eby, Lisa Blevins; **1 year Continuous Employment in the same job:** Debbie Adam, Brian Blevins, Charles Boyer, Blake Chell, Kim Clark, Shawn Coppenger, Sorela Mulgeta, Beth Halsey, Eugene Harris, Cindy Kolchin, Carol Lootens, Erin Magee, Courtney Mefford, William Miller, Glenn Moutlon, William Norman, James Plourde, Kenny Spicer, Gary Wallace, JoAnne Witherspoon, Amanda Zittle, Michael Leszl, Ray Popik, Patricia McBride, Joanne Street, Jahi Diggs, Mark Hall, Michael Raidt, Darrina Swan, Jessica Markle, Gina Hepner, Ernie Kitner, Sean Ward; **Superior Performance:** Ernie Kitner, The Sephora Crew, Joanne Street, Mandy Eby; **Community Ambassador:** Ray Popik.



Sean Jackson and his mother Lorraine Bergkvist. Sean celebrated 15 years continuous employment this year.



Mandy Eby being recognized by Earle Scoggins, Arc Employment Specialist, for Superior Performance and 5 years continuous employment.

One of Harford's Most Beautiful

The Rest of The Story



Melita Maxwell and Donnie Sparr celebrate Melita's recognition as one of "Harford's Most Beautiful People".

When Melita Maxwell offered her time and talents to The Arc last November, her first volunteer opportunity was to join three people taking a crafts class at Michael's in Bel Air. The first classmate Melita encountered was her former long-time Bel Air neighbor, Donnie Sparr, whom she had not seen for more than 20 years. Melita and Donnie had known each other as neighbors when Melita was teaching art in Baltimore County. When Donnie moved to a house shared with friends, Melita lost contact with Donnie. According to Melita, "Donnie was the first person I knew who communicated in non-typical ways in addition to never ending challenges. When I was offered a position focused on teaching art to kids with special needs, my friendship with Donnie was my inspiration. I can thank Donnie for more than 20 happy years of teaching art to kids with real challenges."

Have time or talent to spare? Contact Mara Walter, The Arc Volunteer Program Coordinator at 410-836-7177 extension 381 or email mwalter@arcncr.org and make a difference in your community.

Governor's Tour of Harford County Includes The Arc

Renovated Arc Homes Featured On The Tour

As part of the Governor's tour of Harford County and reception at MGCC on Thursday,

September 13, John Comers, Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene and Cathy Raggio, the Secretary of the Department of Disabilities visited The Arc for a focus group with our staff, and then proceeded out to several of our houses that have been recently renovated.

We picked both of these houses for several reasons. The house on Tollgate has individuals with some medical complexities, so it was worthwhile for them to see the level of care provided in community homes. The other house on Royal Oak has three gentlemen who have a much more independent living arrangement. Additionally, these are both houses that have gone through a major renovation or rebuild made possible by a concerted community effort.



Front Row (left to right): Michele Stutzer, Sharon Neary, Gloria Quinn. Back Row: Nahshon Smith, Kim Luddeman, Secretary John Comer, John Rosser, Roy Peters, Tim Quinn, and Pat Neary.



Michael and Janet Leszl

A Pebble To Polish

Janet Leszl's New Book Educates as Well As Entertains

A Pebble to Polish written by Janet Leszl, educates as well as entertains readers. While autism knows no barriers or boundaries and has a wide range of distinguishing behaviors, Janet seeks to assuage a few mysteries and misconceptions about this spectrum of developmental disorders. A rewarding experience and ultimately triumphant, this novel shares a poignant tale of one young mother's heroic efforts as a single parent to a child with autism. Advocate and activist, Janet is a member of the Board of Directors for The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region serving on several subcommittees. She and her husband have two adult children and live in Abingdon, Maryland. Janet and her son will be one of the featured stories on the 2008 Arc of Maryland legislative calendar. Her book is now available on amazon.com.

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.

Before dArc Golf Tournament a Success

Over \$40,00 Raised Thanks to Committee and Sponsor Support

The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region hosted its annual golf tournament this year sponsored by **LaPonzina Orthodontics** and **McKee & Associates**. Over \$40,000 was raised to support children and adults with developmental disabilities in Harford, Cecil, and Kent counties.

The tournament was held at Maryland Golf and Country Clubs in Bel Air. Scott and JoAnna Collins of Bel Air were the Co-Chairs for the tournament whose efforts made this event such a success. The Arc would like to thank the following committee members for their tremendous efforts in coordinating this year's golf tournament: Dana Bauer,



Sponsors, Jim McKee, daughter, Amy, and Joe LaPonzina

Connie Donato, Susan Dorris, Jan Haddy, Anna Lambdin, Joe LaPonzina, Phil Logan, P.J. McGill, Jim McKee, and Tom Walls.

The Arc would like to thank its major tournament sponsors, hole sponsors, and auction sponsors for their contributions and support. Visit our website at www.arcncr.org for a full listing of sponsors.

After dArc Planning Committee Gearing Up For 2008 Event

2008 Event Expected To Be Better Than Ever

The After dArc Planning Committee held its first meeting in October in preparation for the their signature celebrity chef auction event scheduled for Saturday, March 29, 2008. Committee member volunteers play a vital role in helping The Arc to raise funds that will support children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

The Arc had tremendous community support for this event last year and we hope to exceed last year's goal and raise over \$100,000 for 2008. The Arc is excited to announce that our Co-Chairs for this event are Jim and Anna Lambdin.

If you are interested in securing a sponsorship for Harford County's premier event, please contact Paul Levine at 410-879-6785, extension 356 or email plevine@arcncr.org.

"We are honored to lead the effort for the 2008 After d'Arc gala. We are fortunate to have a dynamic group of enthusiastic volunteers on our committee. Everyone is anticipating that this year's gala will be the most successful fund raising event in The Arc's history."

- Anna and Jim Lambdin, After dArc Event Co-Chairs

Life Assistance Session A Success

Gaining Tools for Success Beyond Summer

In its third year the Summer Life Assistance Session was truly an indication of a successful summer for children, teens and families the Arc supports. Thirty families and thirty-two children and teens between the ages of six and twenty were paired up with a Life Assistance Coach for seven weeks for five hours per week. In this short amount of time the children and teens were able to accomplish great things and have a lot of fun while being involved in the community! One of the teenagers in Life Assistance was fourteen year old Andrew Hough who went to many exciting places and participated in a lot of fun activities, including: the Harford County Public Library Summer Reading Program, the Arena Club, restaurants, and touch football. The most exciting day of the summer was when Andrew and his coach, Dawn



Andrew Enjoys Go-Cart Riding.

Jackson, went Go-Kart Riding and Andrew got to take Dawn for a ride! Andrew demonstrated how he had learned to follow rules in social settings and was becoming more independent. Andrew now has the tools to be able to take what he learned this summer and the confidence he gained to continue to be successful in the future.

My Special Place

Transitioning Youth Finds Her Calling In Helping Others



Renee Farley is a 2005 Transitioning Youth that volunteers five days a week at Citizens Nursing home in Havre De Grace. Renee loves her job and calls Citizen's "my special place." She has become an integral part of the staff at Citizen's thanks to Janet McDonald the Volunteer/ Public Relations Coordinator. When Janet met Renee for the first time, she said, "You remind me of my niece," and from then on Renee knew that she had found a friend in Janet.

Renee starts her day by getting picked up by her driver Jean at 6:45 a.m. When she arrives at Citizen's, she gets started on her job with the Telephone Assurance Program (TAP). This service is designed for seniors that live alone. Renee calls them first thing in the morning to make sure they are doing okay. This might be the only conversation these people have all day. Renee loves talking with these people and makes their day brighter. She documents her calls so if someone doesn't answer after repeated calls she will report her concerns to Janet McDonald, who will follow up to make sure everything is okay. Janet says that Renee has found her calling with the TAP program. She said that Renee is a great conversationalist.

After Renee finishes with her TAP list she checks to see if the mail has arrived. She then delivers it to all of the Nursing Stations in the building. Everyone is very friendly and they are happy to see Renee. Renee enjoys joking with everyone, like Hugh the front desk receptionist. Renee just laughs and says to Hugh "You just like to give me a hard time." Renee will then go visit the patients in their rooms. She will talk with them or just sit there quietly and watch TV with them, depending on how they are feeling that day.

Renee will then go to the cafeteria to have her complimentary lunch. Renee has said that everyone at Citizens is so nice to her and she loves being there. She is also proud of what she is doing because she is performing a vital service. In the morning Renee greets people at The Arc and says, "I'm going to my special place!"

Harford County Republican Club Gives Back To The Arc

Republican Club Spearheads a Major Landscape Re-Design for A Home in Bel Air



Volunteers from Left to Right: James Kohl Jr., Jim Reilly, Kim Luderhmann, Teresa Reilly, Roy Peters, Bill Vanden Eynden, Sheryl Kohl, Bob Holley.

The Harford County Republican Club joined forces and volunteered to help The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region with The Arc Project Campaign. The Arc Project is designed to enhance the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities who are aging and have increasing needs for accessible housing so they can "age in place."

The group spearheaded a major landscape re-design at The Arc's newly renovated home located on Royal Oak Drive in Bel Air. The group purchased a variety of plants and shrubs, provided the manpower to create a beautifully landscaped garden in front of the house. The Arc can now boast that the exterior of the home is just as beautiful as the newly renovated interior.

Receive the Ambassador Newsletter in your email box!

We want your current address and email records to be correct. Please let us know if there is a change in your information so that we can keep YOU in touch with the latest news!

Simply call, write or email your address to Rosie Wolff and she will add you to our email distribution list. Call the Development Office at 410-879-6785 or email rwolff@arcncr.org.

The Arc Welcomes New Board Members

Sharing Talents and Energy Makes a Difference at The Arc



Mark Dardozzi

Mark Dardozzi of RainSoft has joined The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region Foundation Board. Mr. Dardozzi is the President of the Executives of Baltimore, Vice President of Maryland Resource Network and Chesapeake Business Consultants. He is a member of Business Resource Network, Harford County, Havre de Grace, and Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce, Order of Sons of Italy in America, and a graduate of the Harford Leadership Academy. He currently resides in Forest Hill with his wife and two daughters.



Laura Henninger, Esq., C.P.A.

Laura Henninger, Esq., C.P.A. of Henninger & Henninger, LLC in Bel Air has joined The Arc Northern Chesapeake Region Foundation Board. Ms. Henninger received her law degree with honors from the University of Maryland School of Law, where she was an Articles Editor for the Maryland Law Review and a member of the Order of the Coif. Laura received her undergraduate degree summa cum laude from the University of Dayton. Her practice is concentrated in the areas of estate planning, estate and trust administration, elder law and disability planning,

real estate law, and general business representation. She practices with her husband, Frank, who concentrates in the areas of criminal and traffic defense, domestic law, personal injury, and general civil litigation. Ms. Henninger is a founding member and former President of the Chesapeake Professional Women's Network, Inc., a member of the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants, a member of the Maryland State and Harford County Bar Associations and also serves on several boards for local non-profit organizations.

Both are excited about sharing her talents and energy to make a difference in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities in our community.

2007-2008

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