



ARC Life



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AGENCY LAUNCHES PROJECT SEARCH™ AT EASTVIEW MALL

In September, Ontario ARC proudly launched a new site for our Project SEARCH™ program at Eastview Mall in Victor, NY. To celebrate the milestone, interns created a collaborative art piece in the first weeks of program orientation. Together, they got acquainted and painted a single
Please turn to page 3.



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 foster life-long fulfillment through active citizenship and enriched community living.

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On the Cover: An individual with Ontario ARC's Project SEARCH program puts the final touches on a collaborative art piece created by program participants in celebration of the agency's new partnership with Eastview Mall.

MESSAGE FROM ANN SCHEETZ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ann Scheetz

As the holiday season comes to a close, we reflect on yet another year of tremendous strength and perseverance that has allowed for Ontario ARC's continued growth and expansion. We have many exciting new developments to share with you, including an unprecedented wage increase at Ontario ARC, a planned rebranding of our agency name and logo, and a new partnership with Eastview Mall serving as a host site for Ontario ARC's Project SEARCH program.

We also take the time to celebrate the incredible milestones of both our staff members and the talented individuals we support. October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, a time to recognize the immeasurable contributions people with intellectual and developmental disabilities or other challenges bring to the workplace. As you read through this edition of ARC Life, you will learn about some of the amazing stories happening at Ontario ARC each and every day.

We offer our sincerest congratulations to Katy Sullivan for her recognition as the 2021 Jerry Archibald Award recipient. This prestigious award is presented annually to an Ontario ARC staff member who embodies our agency values that Jerry, a longtime friend and supporter of the agency, is personally known for: integrity, commitment, and respect. Katy, Ontario ARC's Nursing Services Manager, was nominated by her peers for her unwavering commitment and tireless efforts throughout the pandemic to always ensure the health and safety of both our staff and the people we support.

In September, we celebrated our direct support professionals who have truly risen to the occasion during this pandemic to ensure our critical needs were being met. We offer congratulations to Dawn Sciarabba, a direct support professional with the agency, for her nomination for the 2021 Thomas A. Maul Direct Support Professional Excellence Award. Dawn was recognized for consistently demonstrating excellence, creativity and commitment to the people we support, and we are fortunate to have her on our team.

The agency welcomes Chelsea Henderson, a Canandaigua native and co-founder of the Indie Queens, to its Community Advisory Board, a panel of community and business leaders that provide community-based input for the agency's programs and services. We are thrilled to have her join us, and we look forward to the expertise and guidance she brings to Ontario ARC.

Looking back on 2021, we are extremely thankful for your support of our hallmark fundraisers, including our first in-person event in over two years, the 12th Annual Canandaigua Turkey Trot. Your generosity is much appreciated and truly inspiring. As we look ahead to the future, we are confident that our first-rate staff, infectious team spirit and unwavering commitment to those we support will foster another year of continued success in helping individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities or other challenges become one with their communities.

Wishing you a happy and healthy new year,

Ann Scheetz, Executive Director

Agency Launches Project SEARCH™ at Eastview Mall, continued from cover

large canvas in an outdoor courtyard area of the mall not open to the public.

Project SEARCH at Eastview Mall will now provide classroom space and serve as a liaison for internship and future employment opportunities that will

enhance the employment skills of the people we support in order to prepare them for their careers.

The nationally-renowned program, Project SEARCH is designed to support young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities or other challenges as they seek to expand upon their

employment skills. This unique employment preparation program takes place entirely at the workplace and includes classroom instruction, career exploration, and hands-on training through worksite rotations. The year-end goal is that each person in the program will have gained transferrable skills to become gainfully employed as they successfully transition to adult life.

“Ontario ARC is thrilled to begin this new chapter with Eastview Mall that will provide even more opportunities for the people we support,” said Ann Scheetz, Executive Director. “A special thanks to Mike Kauffman, General Manager of Eastview Mall for partnering with Ontario ARC to operate as our new host site,” she continued. ✨

If you are interested in learning more about Project SEARCH, please contact JoEllen Schaffer, Family Support/Intake Coordinator at (585) 394-7500, extension 2118 or jschaefer@ontarioarc.org



Project SEARCH participants created a beautiful piece of art in a courtyard area of the mall to celebrate the official launching of Project SEARCH at Eastview Mall.

UNPRECEDENTED TIMES LEAD TO UNPRECEDENTED WAGE INCREASES

Ontario ARC's Executive Committee of the Board of Directors met on September 8, 2021 and made the bold decision to increase starting pay rates for agency wide positions, beginning with an increase to \$15.50/hour for Direct Support Professionals. The unprecedented move came as the disability services sector and direct support workforce continue to face a statewide staffing shortage.

“This was a very courageous move for our board to take, and I am proud to be a part of the decision which translates into the largest wage increase in the history of our organization,” said Ann Scheetz, Executive Director at Ontario ARC.

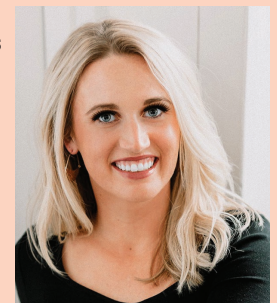
As one of Ontario County's prominent employers, Ontario ARC remains committed to offering competitive pay-rates and compensation packages in order to attract the highest quality of candidates to join our agency and help fulfil our mission of helping individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities or other challenges become one with their communities.

“We asked so much of our staff throughout the last year and a half,” said Scheetz. “I cannot think of a better way to honor them and the critical work they do every day to ensure the health and safety of those we support.” ✨

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBER

Ontario ARC is pleased to welcome Chelsea Henderson to our Community Advisory Board. Chelsea, a Canandaigua resident and co-founder of The Indie Queens, joins our panel of community and business leaders that provide community-based input for the agency's programs and services.

Ontario ARC's Community Advisory Board's valuable connections and insight help people with disabilities to become engaging community members who are welcomed, respected, and valued in our society. ✨



Chelsea Henderson



Staff members and residents at Ontario ARC's White Springs Road residential home.

12TH ANNUAL CANANDAIGUA TURKEY TROT RAISES NEARLY \$12,000

A special thanks to all of our runners, walkers, race sponsors and volunteers who participated in the 12th Annual Canandaigua Turkey Trot 5K Fun Run & Walk. Our gratitude extends to everyone who joined us on Thanksgiving morning to kick off the holiday season.

With over 400 participants, we raised nearly \$12,000 for the Friends of Ontario ARC Foundation and its growing menu

of innovative programs and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities or other challenges. This was our first in-person event in nearly two years, and we were thrilled to see our friends, old and new again! We are grateful for the continued support from our community partners and we look forward to seeing you again next year. ✨



Over 400 runners participated in the 12th Annual Canandaigua Turkey Trot, Ontario ARC's first in-person fundraiser in two years.



New York State Senator Pamela Helming (center) showed her support for Ontario ARC by joining us Thanksgiving morning for our 12th Annual Turkey Trot. Ontario ARC's Executive Director, Ann Scheetz (left) and Director of Development, Michele Wistner (right) joined her at the finish line for a photo.

AGENCY RECEIVES GRANTS FOR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Ontario ARC received over \$2,000 in grants for PPE to be purchased and distributed throughout Ontario ARC offices, residential homes and program sites. The agency received \$1,000 from the Cobblestone Creek Charity Guild, and \$1,100 from the Mary Clark Thompson Grant of the F.F. Thompson Foundation. We are incredibly grateful for the community support, which will allow us to continue on our plight to ensure the health and safety of the individuals we support. ✨

2021 JERRY ARCHIBALD AWARD WINNER

We offer our sincerest congratulations to Katy Sullivan, Ontario ARC's Nursing Services Manager, for being named recipient of the 2021 Jerry Archibald Award.

The annual award, named in honor of Jerry Archibald, a longtime friend and supporter of Ontario ARC, is presented each year to an Ontario ARC staff member who exemplifies the agency's values of Commitment, Integrity and Respect while working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities or other challenges.

"Katy truly demonstrates our agency values each and every day. We are thrilled

to present her with this honor," said Ann Scheetz, Executive Director. "Her guidance throughout the pandemic has proven to be an invaluable asset to the agency, and we thank her for her unwavering commitment to the people we support." ✨

Congratulations, Katy!



Katy Sullivan

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Each October, we recognize the immeasurable contributions that Americans with disabilities bring to our workforce. National Disability Employment Awareness month is a time to educate the community about disability employment issues and celebrate the contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

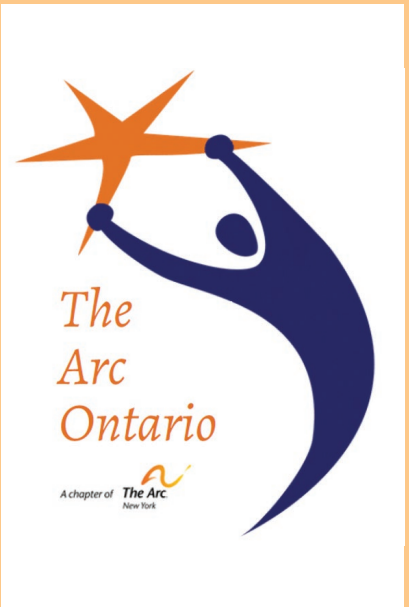
Ontario ARC currently provides employment opportunities to more than 150 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities or other challenges across more than 50 sites throughout Ontario County and the surrounding region. These talented individuals bring unique experiences that foster innovation and contribute to a culture of inclusion.

Eric B. came to Ontario ARC through our ACCES-VR program and began working part-time at Spot On Cleaning Company. Shortly after, a local employer, Hunter Machine reached out to Ontario ARC stating they were having difficulty getting new employees and wanted to know if we had anyone who might be a good fit.

That's when Bonny Ross, Placement Specialist, and Andy Watson, Supported Employment Manager went to visit the site in Victor, NY. They learned that the job required someone to do very detailed quality control work, and Eric's job coach, Meg Knittle thought it would be a great fit for Eric.

"Hunter Machine was very open, allowing for tours and part time work with varying schedules," said Watson. "Eric took the tour and decided he wanted to start working there part time. After a few weeks, he loved it so much he transitioned to full time employment," he continued. "It has been a great match for an employer looking for a specific skill set that suited Eric's talents."

There are many stories like Eric's that are happening every day at Ontario ARC. A special thanks to Hunter Machine and all of our community employment partners for enabling the individuals we support to realize their dreams of becoming one with their communities. ✨



ONTARIO ARC TO UNDERGO REBRANDING

Ontario ARC has made the decision to rebrand our agency name and logo in order to present a more unified front and a collective voice in our advocacy efforts on behalf of the individuals we support as well as our staff. "The Arc Ontario" will be our new agency name, and a new yet familiar logo will represent us along this new journey.

The move will also allow us to eliminate the "R" word and its outdated connotations from our agency name. We are strongly committed to the legacy of our name and remaining connected to our logo and heritage. The new logo will allow us to keep our icon that everyone is familiar with and has represented us over the years, while implementing a new identity that will represent unity in our field. ✨

ONTARIO ARC EMPLOYEE NOMINATED FOR THOMAS A. MAUL AWARD

Ontario ARC is pleased to announce that Dawn Sciarabba, a Direct Support Professional with the agency, was nominated for the 2021 Thomas A. Maul Direct Support Professional Excellence Award.

Dawn was recognized for consistently demonstrating excellence, creativity, commitment and high-quality care in providing support to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities or other challenges. Dawn is incredibly

deserving of this nomination and we are thankful to have her on our team. ✨

Congratulations, Dawn!



Dawn Sciarabba (center) was recognized and celebrated by staff members for being nominated for the Thomas A. Maul Direct Support Professional Excellence Award.

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LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY THROUGH PLANNED GIVING

As we navigate these difficult times in our field, we are making a concerted effort to solicit Planned Gifts from our friends and community partners. Planned Giving offers donors a broad range of options for supporting the Friends of Ontario ARC Foundation, plus the potential for significant financial benefits and tax advantages. It is a great way to help secure Ontario ARC's future while protecting your assets at the same time.

We have had to make some extremely difficult decisions in order to keep the individuals we support and our staff safe. By doing so, we have experienced a significant decrease in revenue, and we need your support now more than ever. Please consider leaving a lasting legacy through Planned Giving at Ontario ARC. For more information, please contact Michele Wistner at (585) 919-2156 or mwistner@ontarioarc.org. ✨