



ARC Life



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SILVER CONNECTIONS: A PLACE FOR LAUGHTER

“I had such a good day.” This is what Colleen Smith says her mother Lucie says to her at the end of each day she attends Silver Connections, a Social Adult Day Program...

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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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MESSAGE FROM ANN SCHEETZ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ann Scheetz

As 2019 comes to a close, it is important to reflect on some of the incredible achievements made by both our staff and the amazing people we support throughout this past year.

In this edition of ARC Life we celebrate the vast accomplishments of individuals we support in our employment program. October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, a time to recognize the immeasurable contributions people with disabilities or other challenges make to the workplace. As you read on you will

learn about John Bifarella, a 40-year employee of Spot On Cleaning Company, a division of Ontario ARC, who was nominated for the 2019 William B. Joslin Award. You will also learn more about Maco Bag, another employment partner of Ontario ARC and winner of a 2019 Rochester Area Employment Award.

We offer congratulations to Kaylee Salone on her recent recognition as the 2019 Jerry Archibald Award winner. This 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. Kaylee, a Day Habilitation Specialist at the Eberhardt Center, was nominated by her peers for her tireless efforts to enrich the lives of people we support and enhance their quality of life.

Bad Dog Boutique celebrated its one year anniversary with a Friends and Family Day at our downtown Canandaigua storefront. It has been an exciting year in a new space for Ontario ARC, and we have built a loyal following of supporters throughout the community that continues to inspire us. We look forward to building on that success and offering new innovations in the years to come.

Looking back on 2019, we are thankful for your attendance and support for our hallmark fundraising events. The annual Canandaigua Turkey Trot and Harvest Fest fundraisers were a tremendous success thanks to your generosity. Our Holiday Gift Wrapping Booths at Eastview Mall, staffed by hundreds of community volunteers, are off to a wonderful start because of your continued support. Stay tuned for some exciting new developments coming to Ontario ARC in 2020! ✨

Wishing you the best this holiday season,

Ann Scheetz, *Executive Director*

Continued from front cover ... offered by Ontario ARC at the Eberhardt Center.

Lucie, who is 80 years old and lives with short term memory loss due to vascular dementia, started attending Silver Connections this past summer. Colleen, Lucie's primary caregiver, works during the day and finds comfort knowing Lucie is being cared for in a safe and stimulating environment. Enriching social programs like Silver Connections are a growing need for families, says Michelle Jungermann, director of meaningful activities at Ontario ARC. Colleen calls the program a godsend for families with aging relatives who need support during the day.

Spending four hours daily Monday through Friday in the Silver Connections program gives Lucie companionship, a sense of security, enriching activities, and the types of connections with people that keep her laughing. The program's location in the Eberhardt Center provides access

"I know they care about my mother and I'm always happy knowing she's going to be happy when I drop her off for the day."

to the therapy pool, art and music rooms, greenhouse, kitchen, sensory garden, and sensory relaxation room.

Lucie's days are a mixture of self-directed activities and engaging with staff members. She paints, something Colleen says her mother has always enjoyed, and loves socializing with "the girls." Colleen praises the staff for how quickly they learned about her mother preferences, including music and favorite colors. Lucie's favorite activities are Tuesday car rides and just enjoying the views from the large windows at Eberhardt Center.

"I know they care about my mother and I'm always happy knowing she's going to be happy when I drop her off for the day," says



Colleen Smith (right) is happy knowing her mother Lucie enjoys enriching days at Silver Connections.

Colleen. Silver Connections can be funded by private pay, long term care policies, or with assistance from the Office of the Aging. *For more information on how to enroll your aging family member in Silver Connections, contact JoEllen Schaefer, Family Support & Intake Coordinator, at jschaefer@ontarioarc.org or 585.919.2118* ✨



(L to R) Brenda Estey, Senior Associate Executive Director; Jerry Archibald; Kaylee Salone; and Lynne Erdle, Board President

2019 JERRY ARCHIBALD AWARD WINNER: KAYLEE SALONE

Kaylee Salone is the 2019 recipient of Ontario ARC's Jerry Archibald Award. The award is presented annually to an Ontario ARC staff member who demonstrates the agency values of commitment, integrity, and respect. Kaylee has worked at Ontario ARC for nine years and is a Day Hab Specialist.

"Kaylee consistently demonstrates our agency values on a daily basis. She is incredibly deserving of this award and we are thrilled to have her on our team," says Ann Scheetz, Executive Director. ✨

THE FRIENDS OF ONTARIO ARC FOUNDATION BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The Friends of Ontario ARC Foundation Board is the fundraising arm of Ontario ARC and oversees the agency's signature fundraising events, annual giving, major gifts, planned giving, honorariums, and memorial donations. The board is pleased to welcome:

Ed Boudreau, of Waterloo, is a partner at Finger Lakes Partners Insurance.

Robert Doebelin, of Geneva, is the Director of Housing Operations for the Geneva Housing Authority.

Chad Tuttle, of Victor, is a retired former CEO of HAWE Hydraulics; Vice President of Rodney Hunt; and Director of Business Development at ITT Goulds Pumps. ✨



Ed Boudreau



Robert Doebelin



Chad Tuttle

BAD DOG™ BOUTIQUE CELEBRATES ITS ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

All the dogs are wagging their tails on Main Street in Canandaigua. Bad Dog™ Boutique, a social enterprise of Ontario ARC, opened their storefront in November 2018 and since then has built a loyal following of customers for grooming and pet products, including gifts, supplies, and Bad Dog™-branded treats, toys, and pet care.

All members of the boutique's staff have been working together to expand the product selection, including items for feline friends added by popular request, and Bad Dog's own line of signature t-shirts for the people in dogs' lives. The boutique has also become the area's go-to for self-service dog washing.

Summer foot traffic, hosting 500+ visitors with partner Tabora Farm & Winery during the Canandaigua Wine Walk, and the boutique's seasonally-decorated window display on Main Street have driven sales. But it is the personal touch of the staff that has made Bad Dog Boutique a part of the Canandaigua community. Four part-time retail and grooming assistants keep the customers (both furry and human) well-attended and the store stocked and tidy. The Bad Dog™ retail line of goods is now made in the store's production area by individuals in Job Exploration and Training (JET), who also lend a hand in assisting customers as needed.

Now just one month after celebrating the shop's one-year anniversary with a Friends and Family Day, Bad Dog Boutique is ready for the holiday season. The shelves are stocked with holiday-themed toys, apparel for animals and people, and treats. *Find out about special promotions and "loyalty bones" by stopping in at Bad Dog Boutique, 84 South Main Street, Canandaigua.* ✨



The wonderful customer service and wide variety of pet merchandise has made the store a true part of the community on Main Street in Canandaigua.



LET OUR ELVES DO YOUR HOLIDAY WRAPPING!

Ontario ARC's annual Holiday Gift Wrapping Booth returned to Eastview Mall on Black Friday! Our elves can help you check wrapping off your list and tie it all up in a bow! Find our booths in Victor at Eastview Mall's Main Court, near Entrance 4, November 29th through Christmas Eve, and outside of Macy's December 12th through Christmas Eve. Last minute shoppers - let us relieve some of your holiday stress by visiting our gift wrapping booths and supporting the agency's growing menu of innovative programs and services that change lives every day throughout our community. ✨



HARVEST FEST WELCOMES FALL

It was a beautiful day at Lincoln Hill Farms in Canandaigua for welcoming friends and families old and new. Fall fun included live music and activities for everyone. A pumpkin patch, bounce houses, a farm animal petting area, lawn games, face painting, and spin art tee shirts were among the day's festivities. Our sincerest thanks to Lincoln Hill Farms and to those who gave their time, talent, and tasty donations. Looking forward to next year! ✨

All proceeds support the Friends of Ontario ARC Foundation and Ontario ARC's growing menu of innovative programs and services for children and adults with disabilities or other challenges.

OCTOBER: NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

JOHN BIFARELLA NOMINATED FOR THE WILLIAM B. JOSLIN AWARD

John Bifarella was among 51 statewide 2019 Joslin Outstanding Performers recognized through New York State Industries for the Disabled, Inc's (NYSID) 16th annual people-centered awards program. John celebrated this well-deserved honor for the William B. Joslin Award at a surprise gathering of coworkers, supervisors, job coaches, and many other Ontario ARC staff members who have come to know him in his over 40 years at the agency. John's supervisor, Greg Alexander, lauded him for his work ethic as an employee with Spot On Cleaning Company as he was honored for his nomination with the presentation of a certificate and check for \$500. Congratulations, John!

MACO BAG A REGIONAL LEADER IN INCLUSIVE HIRING & TRAINING

One year ago, Maco Bag, a longtime partner with Ontario ARC's Employment Services program, celebrated 30 years in partnership with Ontario ARC. Since then, the company has piloted a successful model of hiring people for flexible part-time shifts with a critical piece: transportation with the pre-employment group. Doug Kirchhoff, Director of Operations at Maco Bag Corporation and a member of the Ontario ARC Community Advisory Board, calls the success of the program a win-win for the

company and the employees who helped pilot this successful model.

So successful that not only does Maco Bag plan to add three more individuals in part-time positions, other local businesses are taking notice and showing interest in duplicating the program to add direct-hire placements in partnership with Ontario ARC.

"The work of the individuals we've hired in partnership with Ontario ARC's Employment Services program allows our company the operational flexibility to pursue growth opportunities," says Mr. Kirchhoff. "It has been a great fit that highlights the best aspect of the Ontario ARC-Maco Bag relationship: connecting with people."

We also congratulate Maco Bag on their nomination for the Rochester Area Employment Network for their exemplary hiring and training practices for individuals with disabilities. ✨



Doug Kirchhoff, Director of Operations at Maco Bag.

10TH ANNUAL CANANDAIGUA TURKEY TROT 5K FUN RUN & WALK

THANKSGIVING TRADITION BENEFITS FRIENDS OF ONTARIO ARC FOUNDATION

We are full of gratitude for all who made possible the 10th Annual Canandaigua Turkey Trot 5K Fun Run & Walk! We thank our sponsors, volunteers, and all race participants who joined us in F.A. Baker Memorial Park on Thanksgiving morning to feel the burn before the bird.

This year we are especially thankful for Aimee Gilbert, Autism Manager, who together with her cousin started the fall tradition in 2010 to bring a turkey trot to the community and to give back. When the event that started with 100 family and friends became so successful, Aimee knew it was time to turn it over to Ontario ARC. Since then, the annual event has raised nearly \$100,000. ✨



INTRODUCING: BRIAN GILBAR, NEW DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES



Ontario ARC is pleased to introduce Brian Gilbar, who joined the agency this summer as director of human resources. Brian

brings 30 years of non-profit experience to his role.

"Being understood and supported is universal," says Brian, whose diverse experience includes work as a direct support professional, in clinical roles, as well as in operations and human resources. These experiences he says provide him with a unique understanding of what people do and what they need as they work and grow at Ontario ARC.

In addition to managing policies, Brian is focused on supporting employees and growing the staff across the agency. One way is by supporting the HR team's efforts to reach more people who are suited to the type of rewarding work offered by Ontario ARC. Bonuses for referrals is one recruitment initiative that the team has developed.

Brian encourages employees who want to know more about how to earn bonuses while connecting candidates with Ontario ARC to stop in and find out about referral cards. Similarly, North Star Coffee offers customer referral cards; customers who successfully refer three candidates for jobs agency-wide receive a free cup of coffee.

Referral cards, available from the HR team, create ambassador-recruiters out of the people who Brian says know us best—current employees and others who are part of our community of supporters.

Welcome, Brian! ✨

Ontario ARC

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HONOR AND REMEMBER SOMEONE SPECIAL WITH A GIFT TO ONTARIO ARC

A donation to Ontario ARC is a thoughtful way to remember a loved one who has passed away, or to honor someone special in your life. Every donation brings us closer to our vision that all individuals with disabilities or other challenges are one with their communities. ✨

To make a tax-deductible donation, contact Michele Wistner at 585.919.2156 or mwistner@ontarioarc.org or visit ontarioarc.org/online-donation.

