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► Arc Annual Awards Nomination Form Inside!



► Spotlight on: Adult Foster Care



► Employee of The Quarter, Carrie Sandman



PAGE 3

PAGE 6

Main Office
141 Park St.
Attleboro, MA 02703
Tel: 508 226-1445
Fax: 508 226-1476

Taunton Area Resource Center
437 Bay St.
Taunton, MA 02780
Tel: 508 884-2971
Fax: 508 884-2964

proAbility
3469 Mendon Rd.
Cumberland, RI 02864
Tel: 401 658-1634
Fax: 401 685-1674

Or Email Us at
info@arcnbc.org

Community Links

VOL 1 | Spring | 2008

Save These Dates!

June 8, 2008
Bailey's Par
See Page 7

June 11, 2008
Annual Meeting and Dinner
Holiday Inn, Mansfield
(508) 226-1445
See Page 8

June 23, 2008
Attleboro Area Chamber of
Commerce Golf Classic,
benefiting The Arc
and CVNA
See Page 7

Michael DiMarino is YMCA Volunteer of the Year



Michael DiMarino, pictured here, recently slept at a hospital overnight to sit bedside with a friend who was sick and afraid to be alone at the hospital.

Though he kept it a secret from his friends and family, February 12th was a special day for Michael DiMarino. DiMarino, a resident of The Arc's Dunham Street building, was named Program Volunteer of the Year at the Attleboro YMCA's 140th Annual Meeting. Michael was honored for youth basketball assistance and teen dance supervision.

For the past three years, DiMarino has actively integrated himself into the community as a YMCA member and volunteer. On Friday nights he is a Teen Dance chaperone and on Saturdays he helps with youth basketball. He is also known to assist with special events and helps when he can at the YMCA. According to Duane German, Executive Director of the YMCA of Attleboro, "His enthusiasm is an inspiration to all that come in contact with him. Michael is an outstanding person and worthy of recognition that this honor would bestow upon him."

DiMarino also takes the time annually to participate in the Relay for Life, as a member of the "Arc Angels Team." Rebecca Barry, residential support team supervisor says "At the Relay, Michael is a strong team member who is willing to stay up all night to walk the track to raise money for the cancer cure. Michael's character demonstrates that he is selfless."

DiMarino fits his volunteering time in with his regular work schedule as dishwasher at Lafayette House in Foxboro. He has been working there for two years and is a valued employee of the restaurant.

He lives independently with minimal supports in a three family home owned by The Arc. He's known to help out the other gentlemen in the house whenever needed, and is part of all the social activities and parties there.



This year featuring the rock band **FLAME!**

When you hear about a musical group with rave reviews from the press, a new custom tour bus, and a tour schedule so full they have to turn gigs down, Bon Jovi or Aerosmith might come to mind. However the band that's getting all this attention is FLAME, a group from upstate New York, made up of people with developmental/physical disabilities, including autism, Down's syndrome, mental retardation and blindness. For the band from Lexington Center, Fulton County Chapter, NYSARC, Inc., www.flametheband.com, fame is growing fast but their message remains the same.

FLAME wants to change the world through music. They are a phenomenon that inspires people and changes the way the general public view people with disabilities. People of all ages and backgrounds connect with this talented band. The feedback they get from parents of children with disabilities is probably the most overwhelming. Parents are often overcome with emotion watching FLAME. FLAME gives them hope that their child can achieve great things and, even more importantly, have a fun, fulfilling life.

Save the Date!
June 11, 2008

**The Arc of Northern Bristol County's
49th Annual Meeting & Dinner
Holiday Inn Mansfield**

**Call, email or stop by The Arc to make
your reservation today! Registration
form inside this newsletter!**

**Nominations for The Arc Annual
Awards due May 1.
See Nomination Form inside!**



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Bristol County
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**Community Links is
produced by:**

Patricia Kirby
**Director of Development &
Public Relations**

Trudy DelSignore
Administrative Assistant

The Arc of Northern Bristol County
141 Park Street
Attleboro, MA 02703
(508) 226-1445 Fax(508) 226-1476
www.arcnbc.org

From Our Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Let your voice be heard. Today, more than ever, we need your involvement in advocacy and governmental affairs. Our economy is impacting state revenues, and many services are in danger of being reduced or eliminated. As we have shared in previous years, state budgets have a direct connection to the economy. With the current recession conditions and the state revenue shortfalls, we are looking at several crisis situations within the State of Rhode Island and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Rhode Island citizens recently held a rally to stop a budget reduction that would have reduced supports for many individuals with disabilities and caused some providers to discontinue services. As a result of the rally, we have minimized the impact through June of this year; however, we have grave concerns for the FY09 budget.

In the Commonwealth, we need your support with legislative issues including funding to strengthen existing community services, and increase access to services for children, adults and families, and the passage of SB65. Currently DMR is faced with budget reductions and if not restored, these will have a direct impact on services provided by The Arc and many other providers. For more information on ways you can help, please visit The Arc of Massachusetts legislation action center at www.arcmass.org.

On a positive note, on January 30, 2008, I had the honor of attending The Arc of Massachusetts Distinguished Citizen Ceremony at the State House. It's an amazing testament to the wonderful citizens of the Commonwealth that give of themselves to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Twelve in all: self Advocates, business owners, family members, and professionals were honored for their service to others. Every year this ceremony makes me appreciate our wonderful community and the remarkable people who give of their time and talents to those less fortunate. Jack Lank, President of the Attleboro Area Chamber of Commerce, joined the ranks of past local awardees including Gene Joubert and Richard Harwood. We applaud the efforts of these special people!

Thank you in advance for helping us during these difficult economic times. Each person's action strengthens our collective voice! Please take a moment today, let your voice be heard and advocate to ensure those we care about continue to have what they require and deserve.

Sincerely,

**Log on to
arcmass.org today
to let your voice
be heard!**

Ways You Can Help The Arc Of Northern Bristol County

Here are some ways you too can support The Arc of Northern Bristol County. Every gift, big or small, is greatly appreciated and goes to support our mission. If you have any questions about a gift, please contact Pat Kirby, Director of Development at pkirby@arcnbc.org or call (508) 226-1445 X3111.



We are now participating in the Shaw's Receipt Rewards Program. For every \$5000 in receipts that we present to Shaw's, we will receive \$50. Please help by saving your **ORIGINAL RECEIPTS** from Shaw's or Star Supermarkets then mail or drop them off at The Arc, TARC or proAbility.

Golfers!

The Arc of Northern Bristol County is honored to be the beneficiaries of two golf tournaments this spring:



**Bailey's Par Charity Golf
Tournament**
Sunday, June 8, 2008
Blackstone National Golf Club
Sutton, MA

**Attleboro Chamber of Commerce
10th Annual Golf Classic**
Monday, June 23, 2008
Wentworth Hills Golf Club
Plainville, MA

To participate or sponsor either of these golf events, please contact Patricia Kirby at (508) 226-1445 extension 3111 or email pkirby@arcnbc.org.

Gifts to The Arc

⇒ **A gift of money:**

You may make a gift using the envelope enclosed in this newsletter, or online at www.arcnbc.org. Gifts received before December 31, 2007 is tax deductible for this year. Please contact Pat Kirby if you need a receipt of your gift for your 2007 tax returns.

⇒ **Leaving a legacy:**

Supporters of The Arc who include us in their estate planning are leaving a wonderful legacy for the future, ensuring the services we provide go on for generations. Please talk to your financial planner about including The Arc in your estate planning.

⇒ **Donate that old car:**

We can turn that old clunker into a meaningful donation to The Arc. Please call us for more information.

⇒ **Matching gifts:**

Many companies will match the charitable giving of their employees. Once you have made a gift, contact your HR representative for a form to send to The Arc to have your gift matched. This essentially doubles your gift!



What if The Arc earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can! GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause.

Just go to goodsearch.com and be sure to enter **The Arc of Northern Bristol County** as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!

Award thanks chamber president



Attleboro Area Chamber of Commerce President Jack Lank was honored at the Statehouse in Boston as an Arc Distinguished Citizen. Pictured, from left are state Sen. Scott Brown, Joe Shortleeve of WBZ-News, Rich Harwood, Jack Lank, state Sen. James Timilty, Michael Andrade, state Rep. John Lepper and state Rep. Betty Poirier.

Attleboro Area Chamber of Commerce President Jack Lank was among 12 people and groups honored by the Arc of Massachusetts at the 2008 Distinguished Citizen Awards Ceremony at the Statehouse.

The recipients were recognized for their contributions in advancing opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Lank was recognized for his leadership in fundraising to improve the lives of children and adults with disabilities. Lank was nominated by The Arc of Northern Bristol County Executive Director Michael Andrade.

Lank has a long history of community involvement and service to others. At the local business level in the Attleboro community, Lank is the catalyst for many city programs that serve to meet the day-to-day needs of others. A member of numerous civic boards and organizations, Lank is known as the "go-to-guy" when something needs to get done.

Lank became involved in the Arc movement three years ago at The Arc of Northern Bristol County. According to Andrade, "his guidance and insight during a critical capital campaign has been one of the key reasons for the on-time completion of the campaign's Phase I.

Lank single-handedly turned the capital campaign around by recommending that The Arc become one of three beneficiaries of the annual Chamber of Commerce Golf tournament last year."

Lank followed that up by teaming with The Arc and its staff members and reviving the Wednesday Night Market, an annual summer event for 11 years which had been suspended.

"The city sorely missed the camaraderie of the event and Jack came up with the idea of having a one-day event in the city on a Saturday and inviting all the vendors to participate," said Andrade. He included an amateur talent event, similar to "American Idol" and showcased local talent," he said, referring to the Hottest Act in Town, which was sponsored by The Sun Chronicle and was a staple of the Wednesday Night Market.

"His exhaustive efforts were rewarded with an incredible event that rejuvenated the community spirit of Attleboro. By seamlessly merging The Arc into the event; he made the event inclusive for all members in the community. He topped it all off by donating proceeds raised in the event to The Arc of Northern Bristol County," Andrade said.



Participants pictured here at a special reception hosted by Mayor Kevin Dumas on March 12 at Attleboro City Hall. Photo used with permission of The Sun Chronicle.

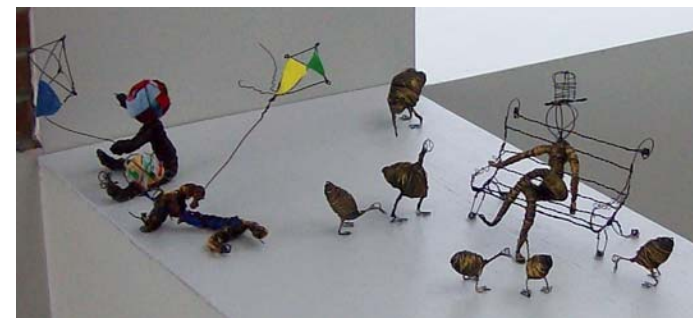
The Art of Collaboration

Attleboro teen artists from the Attleboro YMCA and The Arc of Northern Bristol County have "wired" the window ledges of Attleboro City Hall's once barren stairway with fascinating three-dimensional forms, figures and fabrications that will inspire you to head downtown just for the high altitude adventure.

The project was stimulated by Mayor Kevin Dumas' vision for enlivening Attleboro City Hall's Park Street stairway using sculptural forms. Attleboro Arts Museum program coordinator, Abby Rovaldi, and artist-in-residence, Robin Galligan, have worked weekly with approximately twelve teen "wizards of wire" since September 2007 to create the dynamic miniature figures and tableaus that provide a welcome pause on City Hall's second floor.

According to The Arc's Family Support Coordinator, Beth Bogus, the parents of Arc students were especially enthused that their children had the rare opportunity to participate in a mainstream community activity and to be an integral part of a museum art program. "It was a wonderful, positive experience for us," Beth observes. "The students are still talking about it. It will be exciting for them to see their artwork displayed. We're also thankful that the museum gave us the opportunity to help the kids discover their talents and their niche within an integrated classroom experience."

"Wire Wonderland: The Art of Collaboration: A Community of Artists Enliven Our Landscape" was funded by a Community Impact Grant from the United Way of Greater Attleboro/Taunton

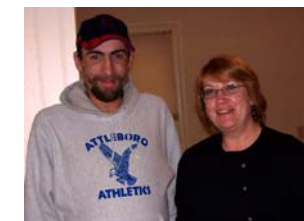


Just one of the pieces: artist's rendition of Mayor Dumas (in the top hat) at Capron Park. The entire display is at Attleboro City Hall.

Open House at Dunham Street



The gentlemen at the Dunham Street residence held an open house on February 8th to thank everyone who helped them make their house a home. Carl, Jamie, Phil, Michael, Bob, and Ken appreciate all their great friends who stopped by.



And Now Comes The Fun Part...

Construction, or for the most part destruction, has begun in anticipation of installing the elevator at The Arc on Park Street in Attleboro. Walls, ceilings and floors are being renovated or removed to make way for renovations which will allow the building to be accessible to everyone. We hope by summer to have it all complete. Thanks to all who contributed to the Capital Campaign to make this possible!



A crane was used to lift steel beams into the building.

Employee Forums

Employees of The Arc are invited to participate in quarterly forums.

For 2008, please mark your calendars to attend:

June 17, 5pm, TARC
437 Bay Street,
Taunton

September 18, 10am
141 Park Street
Attleboro

November 18, 4pm
proAbility
3469 Mendon Road
Cumberland, RI

Our Employee of the Quarter is Carrie Sandman

Carrie Sandman, (pictured here with Andrew Randall,) Respite/Support Worker for the Family Support Program, has been with The Arc of Northern Bristol County since December 2006 and was nominated by her supervisor Donna Brown. Carrie brings creativity to her work supporting a young man with autism and has taken her chosen profession of art therapy and encouraged this young man to continue to develop his talent, and even had his art work exhibited at a local gallery. The young man's mother sums up Carrie's qualifications for receiving this award by stating "Carrie has done an amazing job. She has complete and total dedication to her work in that she never calls out sick and even reports to work during difficult snow driven days. She is very respectful towards my son." Again, congratulations Carrie on winning the Employee of the Quarter.



Other nominees for Employee of the Quarter were: Deb Gauthier and Michael Cabezas.

Employee of the Quarter: We at The Arc of Northern Bristol County contribute our successes to the extraordinary effort put forth by our patrons, volunteers, and employees. Knowing this, we have decided each quarter to recognize an employee who has gone above and beyond what is required of them.

Nomination Deadlines :
June 1 August 1 November 1

Employee Benefit Highlight

HMO Blue New England Premier Value: In addition to offering competitive outpatient, inpatient, rehabilitative/skilled nursing care, prescription drug benefits, and mental health/substance abuse treatment, the plan also offers the Healthy Blue Program. The Healthy Blue Program includes a group of discounts, savings, and resources that allow you to get the most from your health care plan. A sampling of these programs include: Living Healthy Babies, Fitness/Health Club and Weight Loss Program benefits reimbursement up to \$150 per year, and Living Healthy Vision discounts on frames, lenses, and laser vision correction surgery. These benefits are extended to full-time employees covered by HMO Blue New England Premier Value. Contact John in Human Resources for information.

The Arc of Northern Bristol County wishes to thank **Theresa Varnet** for her wonderful workshop: **Legal and Future Care Planning For Your Relative with a Developmental Disability** on March 15.

Thanks also to **Richard Harwood** who presented financial insights at the session.

For information, please contact Patricia Kirby, Director of Development and Public Relations, (508) 226-1445 extension 3111 or pkirby@arcnbc.org.

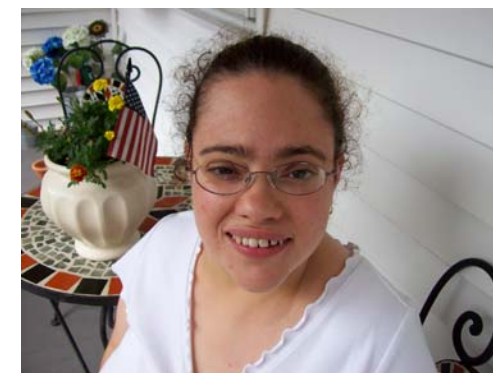


Spotlight On: Adult Foster Care

Catherine has been a member of The Arc's Adult Foster Care Program since August 10, 2007. She is fun to be with, and enjoys the company of others. She participates in the many activities offered at the Bethany House Day Habilitation program. Bingo is one of her favorite games there.

Catherine is very energetic, and spends quality time with her family and friends. She especially likes to visit her sister and brother-in-law, who have a new baby girl. Catherine takes therapeutic walks with her mom and dad when the weather is agreeable.

Recently, Catherine was introduced to The Arc's Taunton Area Resource Center. She has made new friends there. She can now add newly acquired computer skills to her weekly routines.



What is the Adult Foster Care program?

The AFC program is designed to help individuals with disabilities. The individual may be elderly or as young as 16 years of age.

The Adult Foster Care program was started nearly 27 years ago at Mass General Hospital for an elderly population who needed home care after being discharged from the hospital. Though it was created to provide services for the elderly, the program has undergone some significant changes. Since November 2006, family members may also receive a stipend for being caregivers.

- If an individual is receiving PCA or nursing services, those services may be terminated

Who are the individuals who qualify for the program?

Anyone meeting the age requirement, may apply for AFC membership. The applicant must need help with some or all of their activities of daily living. These activities include, but are not limited to, mobility issues, dressing, eating, personal hygiene, bathing, etc. MassHealth provides a daily stipend for care, depending upon the level of assistance a potential member requires.

Important information when considering AFC:

- a legal guardian or a spouse cannot be eligible as a caregiver
- if a family is presently receiving a Family Support allocation, that allocation will be lost to receive the stipend through AFC
- The case manager and nurse are required to make monthly visits to the home
- The caregiver and the home where the individual will be residing must meet all Department of Public Health requirements
- The individual must meet the requirements to be eligible for the program when it comes to Activities of Daily Living (ADL's) and Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL's)
- The funding for the program is through MassHealth, and therefore it is a medically based program.



Bobbie Patrick is the Adult Foster Care Coordinator.



Marguerite Mariconti is the Registered Nurse for Adult Foster Care.

For more information, please call Bobbie Patrick, (508) 226-1445, ext. 3135.