

# Achieve

Summer 2019



**The Arc**  
Bristol County

**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.  
LIVE UNITED** 



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## Registration Now Open!

Join us on Sunday, July 14th, at the Holiday Inn of Taunton in the Miles Standish Industrial Park for our Annual Arc Strong: Achieving Dreams 5k Run Walk & Roll. To register, visit [www.arcnbc.org](http://www.arcnbc.org) and once again celebrate the hope and dreams of thousands of individuals and families we serve.

A special thank you to our sponsors Bristol County Savings Bank and Bristol Wealth Advisors. More information is available on The Arc's website [www.arcnbc.org](http://www.arcnbc.org).



## Achieve with us.

## Welcome



Greetings,

As we transition from Spring to Summer, we have much to celebrate as we move forward towards the warmer weather with a flurry of activities. Since our last update, Project Sunshine and our Family Support Department held an amazing Flapjack Breakfast. Our Middleboro Day Habilitation team held an incredible Spring Auction Dance. Our New Bedford Golf Tournament brought both sunshine and an amazing day of fun towards supporting advocacy. My sincere thanks to all of the staff and volunteers who worked above and beyond towards making these events fun and enjoyable- today, more than ever we count on philanthropy to fund critical needs. We are now gearing up for our Arc Strong- Achieving Dreams 5k Walk, Run, & Roll on July 14th. Our website registration has been launched and I hope that you will join some of our team captains in making this year's event a huge success.

In March, we had our Council on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) review. As part of accreditation, CARF sends surveyors out every three years and they conduct a comprehensive review of our services. The CARF accreditation process starts with

a provider's commitment to continuous improvement and culminates with external review and recognition that the provider's business and service practices meet international standards of quality -- with all the steps in between focused on optimal outcomes for the persons the provider serves and sustained organizational success. I am delighted to share that we achieved a full three year renewal! These are a few of their comments that they shared:

*"The Arc is an organization that not only says person centered, you can see and feel it in all that you do"*

*"This is an amazing team- one of the best that I have seen work together"*

*"People supported appreciate being respected and having a high level of commitment from staff"*

*"The Arc has an amazing team of professionals that have an agility and acceptance toward change"*

As we continue to work on infrastructure, our operations team have been working to providing building updates at many locations. Over the past month, our Park Street renovations have included a relocation of family support to the lower level and they are finalizing the upper level to expand our day program expansion needs. They are also finalizing renovations at our Taunton, Middleboro, and Smithfield

locations towards improving our services. We are also looking to make improvements in training, technology, innovation and communication.

As this is budget season, I am pleased to announce that we have made significant progress in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island as we have worked diligently with our partners to increase awareness for the workforce campaigns to raise the direct support salaries across the agency. We have received positive news from our respective state leadership that they will be releasing critical investments in the coming year. We are very thankful for their support and recognition of this much needed change!

Lastly, it's hard to believe that this coming fall, we will be celebrating our 60th Anniversary! We have included our awards nomination in hopes to honor outstanding citizens and partners for their tireless contributions. Please take a moment and nominate someone today!

I sincerely hope to see you at our upcoming Walk/Run and thank you for all of your ongoing support.

Best,

Michael

## New Hope Award

It is with great honor to announce that the Arc of Bristol County was chosen for the 2019 Community Partner Award by New Hope, Inc., a local non-profit that strives towards creating communities free from violence and exploitation.

The Arc was given the award on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at New Hope's annual "Highlights of Hope Celebration" due to our commitment and dedication in helping New Hope, Inc. create safe, violence-free communities.

This is a great endeavor for our organization!



## Employment First

James receives services at our proAbility location. He was recently hired at Walco, in Providence RI, a diversified high-technology company that specializes in the optimization of rotating electro-mechanical apparatus and automated process equipment. It is the largest transit motor rebuilding facility in New England.

James works in the transportation/ locomotive group that specialize in rebuilding, rewinding and remanufacturing of AC and DC traction motors, generators, and auxiliary equipment. He works 20 hours a week, and takes the bus to and from work. His job responsibilities include generator part preparation such as sandblasting, coil assembly, polishing, and painting. He relies on his natural supports at work.

The great thing about this story is not only James getting employment, but how the power of networking

made this happen! A staff member here at proAbility had an inside connection at Walco that knew they were looking for help. We scheduled a meet and greet, and we took three people who receive services from us on a Walco tour. It was not a good fit for two of them, but it was for James. He was offered the position the same day, and started working the following week.

James has been there for two months now, and he is doing a great job. His supervisor wishes he could have five more employees like him. Please reach out to [acarlo@arcnbc.org](mailto:acarlo@arcnbc.org) if you know of any business that could benefit from the dedicated, hardworking people that we support.



## Drums Alive

On June 12th The Arc of Bristol County was invited to hold Drums Alive® sessions with the Grade 5 students of the Foxborough Regional Charter School. Our Drums Alive® certified instructors had such fun sharing just one of the many activities The Arc of Bristol County provides our community. We are so thankful for the wonderful opportunity the Foxborough Regional Charter School gave The Arc of Bristol County to work with your exceptional staff and students.



## Scholarship Winners

Five Area High School Class of 2019 graduates and one community member with disabilities, have been selected to each receive a \$500 Arc Empowerment and William Jackson Dream Fund Scholarships towards assistance with their education and to help community members realize their independent living dreams.

Each recipient of the Arc Strong Empowerment Scholarship demonstrated an exceptional commitment to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout their High School careers. The four recipients are Jornell Adabia (Attleboro High School), Dyllon McDonald (Attleboro High School Thomas Silvia (Dartmouth High School), and Erin Tetrault (Dartmouth High School).

Candy Vermeulen, Woonsocket, RI, and Dallas Silva-Dunn

(Taunton High School), were the recipients of the 2019 William Jackson Dream Funds. These two Individuals will be able to use the money towards a more independent and fulfilling life, as well as going to college. William "Bill" Jackson left the fund with the caveat the recipients would be able to purchase something they would never be able to own or go somewhere they may have never been able to visit.

At a small ceremony hosted by the Board of Directors and Senior staff, Richard Harwood, Chairman of the Board, remarked "Every year, the Board of Directors is incredibly



impressed with the nominations The Arc receives for Empowerment Awards. And this year is certainly no exception. These six winners worked exceptionally hard to make a difference for the I/DD community. We are happy to support them in this small, yet beneficial way." Michael Andrade, President and CEO, concluded the event by thanking each recipient and stated "we are excited to be part of your journey as new leaders and we encourage you towards promoting individual advocacy and inclusion for persons of all abilities throughout our local communities."

## Caregiver Spotlight!

### Ginny Bijjani

Ginny Bijjani has been a caregiver for The Arc of Bristol for a very long time. She is currently a caregiver to a woman named Rachel through The Arc's Adult Family Care program. Ginny treats Rachel as if she were a family member. Ginny has provided many positive changes in Rachel's life. Under Ginny's care Rachel has overcome physical and emotional challenges and due to Ginny's consistent love and support Rachel is now flourishing. Of course things aren't always easy and there are challenges that remain but Ginny faces these challenges with a commitment to Rachel's best interest in mind. Ginny is committed, kind and patient and most people who know Ginny and Rachel would say there is no person that Rachel feels more comfortable around than

Ginny. When it comes to being a caregiver, Ginny is attentive to Rachel's needs and always seeks information to improve supports and services Rachel receives. She works collaboratively and diligently with all team members involved in Rachel's life including Rachel's sister, the medical professionals, the day program, The Arc's AFC Team and the Department of Developmental Services. Ginny works diligently to ensure that she regularly and repeatedly connects with all team members to ensure the best quality of life for Rachel. For example, it was recently suggested by a team member that Rachel begin to use a wheelchair to prevent falls but Ginny knows that using a wheelchair could make Rachel more dependent on using one full time. Ginny doesn't



want Rachel to regress or inhibit her independence so she suggested that Rachel's team ensure stand by assistance when Rachel ambulates to prevent falls. Ginny's focus is always on Rachel's best interest and it is clear Ginny wants Rachel to thrive!

## 2019 State Representatives Cup Golf Tournament Winners



Team Cryan Landscaping: Kevin Cryan, Pete Martinez, Todd Rodriguez, & Doug DeLeo

## Special Thanks to our Golf Sponsors

ABC Disposal  
BayCoast Bank  
Bristol County Savings  
Distilled Spirits/Century House  
First Bristol Corporation  
Kia of Dartmouth  
Southcoast Health  
Vineyard Wind  
Winn Development Co.



# Recognize someone who's provided extraordinary dedication to those served by The Arc...

If you know a person, family, or organization that has made a difference in support of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families; please consider nominating them for any one of The Arc of Bristol County's 2019 Annual Awards listed below:

- ◆ **Self Determination Award:** honors an individual with a disability who has demonstrated exemplary self advocacy skills for themselves or on behalf of others.
- ◆ **Family Leadership Choice Award:** pays tribute to the commitment of our organization's founders. The award honors an individual and/or family member who has provided exemplary support, guidance, and advocacy to and on behalf of families.
- ◆ **Community Excellence Award:** recognizes outstanding accomplishments by community members who embody practices that promote inclusion and integration. This award is presented to an individual or community organization that has shown an outstanding commitment to the principles of The Arc.
- ◆ **Arc Spirit Award:** recognizes a volunteer and/or employee who has advanced the mission of the organization. An individual's contribution must have a large impact for those supported by the organization.

Awards will be presented at The Arc of Bristol County's upcoming Annual Celebration to be held on **Wednesday, October 17, 2019** at The Holiday Inn, Taunton. *We ask that all award recipients be available to attend this event.*

Nominations must be received by **August 1, 2019** (please complete form on the reverse side or complete the online form at [www.arcnbc.org](http://www.arcnbc.org)). If you have any questions, please contact Janice Rorke at (508) 226-1445 ext. 3108 or [info@arcnbc.org](mailto:info@arcnbc.org)

The Arc of Bristol County  
141 Park Street  
Attleboro, MA 02703

Tel (508) 226-1445  
Fax (508)226-1476  
Website: [www.arcnbc.org](http://www.arcnbc.org)



## 2019 AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

### The Arc of Bristol County Annual Awards

To be presented on October 17, 2019

*Please print or type clearly:*

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Award Category: *(please check one)*

- Self Determination Award
- Family Leadership Choice Award
- Community Excellence Award
- Arc Spirit Award

#### Instructions:

Please complete this form and submit with a letter of nomination by August 1, 2019. Letters of nomination must include specific examples of how and why the candidate qualifies for this award. Please limit all letters of nomination to one (1) page. Candidates will be evaluated on the basis of how they consistently demonstrate excellence, creativity and commitment in the award category.

This form can be reproduced or recreated, but please send the information requested.

Mail, fax, deliver or email nomination by **August 1, 2019** to:

The Arc of Bristol County  
141 Park Street, Attleboro, MA 02703  
Fax: (508) 226-1476  
info@arcnbc.org

## A Memorial Day to Remember

*This afternoon I took some time to visit the Veteran's Memorial in Middleboro Center. Upon visiting I befriended Army Veteran Sean Michael of Worcester, Massachusetts. We talked for a while as we admired the memorial. He told me stories about his time in the service and even let me push him around the memorial with the help of a kind VA worker named Amanda. I could have said nothing to him. I could have just ignored the fact that he was there, but instead I decided to thank this stranger and it turned out to be the best thing I did all weekend. I really do think there are times in life when you are supposed to be somewhere to talk with someone and thank them. I encourage all of those who read this to thank those who have served in the armed forces. You really cannot begin to understand how much of an impact it can make on their day. To all of those who have served and to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, thank you from the bottom of my heart.*

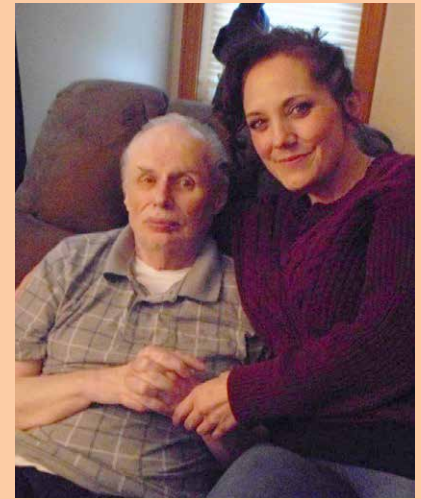


Sean and Amanda in front of the monument.

In closing, there have been people like Josh, the young photographer who wrote this post, that Sean has come across and inspired at every community destination they have been at. God is watching and orchestrating marvelous wonders. Hooray for Sean!

His proud sister,  
Karen

## Caregiver Spotlight!



### Melissa Brown

Melissa Brown has been a caregiver with The Arc of Bristol County in the Adult Family Care program since 2013. She is a committed caregiver to a man named Donald who although is not technically family, they have certainly become family to each other. The Arc's AFC Coordinator Patty Ramos and AFC RN Dottie Gallant described Melissa as "being extremely attentive to Donald's needs". Melissa is in tune with Donald and always realizes when something is "just not right" and she takes action to be proactive and works tirelessly to find the issue and resolve it. Melissa is conscientious, patient, kind, compassionate and always willing to go the extra mile. Melissa is a great advocate for Donald and will seek out further evaluation for Donald if she notices even a small sign of pain in Donald's facial expressions. It is evident that Melissa genuinely cares about Donald and his wellbeing and takes her role as a caregiver very seriously.

## Employee of the Quarter

### Emily Patrie



Emily Patrie is the hardest working, most consistent staff that we've had the pleasure of working

with. She brings out the good in all, and strives to be consistent in how she acts, thinks and presents herself. Her attendance is exceptional, it is clear that this job is her utmost priority. This can be displayed by how she works

hard, she puts clients first, and she models appropriate interactions for all. Emily doesn't ask for anything in turn, and in doing so, consistently reminds us why we work every day so diligently at what we do. Emily goes above and beyond by being a peer leader, mentor and staff that all of our participants rely on and turn to when we need an honest opinion. Emily has earned the recognition of employee of the quarter not for her work, but for her attitude, her consistency and her spirit of fun she was while working.

Administration Office & Hillside Adult Day  
16 Hillside Ave  
Attleboro, MA 02703  
Tel: (508) 226-1445 • Fax: (508) 226-1476  
Toll Free: (888) 343-3301  
Web: www.arcnbc.org

Day & Family Supports  
141 Park Street  
Attleboro, MA 02703  
Tel: (508) 226-1445 • Fax: (508) 226-1476

Day Habilitation Services  
5 Mill Street  
Middleboro, MA 02346  
Tel: (508) 946-2121 • Fax: (508) 946-2195

proAbility  
25 Thurber Blvd.  
Smithfield, RI 02917  
Tel: (401) 233-1634 • Fax: (401) 233-1674

Taunton Area Resource Center  
437 Bay Street  
Taunton, MA 02780  
Tel: (508) 884-2971 • Fax: (508) 884-2964

The Arc of Greater Fall River  
182 North Main Street  
Fall River, MA 02720  
Tel: (508) 679-0001 • Fax: (508) 679-9375

The Arc of Greater New Bedford  
412 B County Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
Tel: (508) 996-8551 • Fax: (508) 996-8553



*Achieve with us.*



*Join us as we celebrate  
our 60th Anniversary*

**Thursday, October 17, 2019**  
**Holiday Inn Taunton**  
700 Myles Standish Blvd., Taunton, MA 02780

- ◆ Cocktail Reception at 6:00 pm
- ◆ Dinner at 6:30 pm
- ◆ Annual Awards Celebration at 7:00 pm

*Dancing following the Awards Celebration*

RSVP by September 1 to [info@arcnbc.org](mailto:info@arcnbc.org) or call 508.226.1445 ext. 3100