The Arc of Butler County's new year began on July 1, 2018 and with the new year has come many changes. Many of these changes reflect new regulations that the Office of Developmental Programs implemented at the beginning of the new year.

The biggest change was moving individuals from facility-based services to a community-based system. This new service was mandated by the Office of Developmental Programs, the new rule also defines how often individuals are to be in the community versus a facility setting. In year one, it is expected by ODP, that individuals will be in the community 25% of their time. The new service is very exciting and gives our individuals the opportunity to integrate further into the Butler community.

On another note, the AERO Program, a program started in 2016 for students in grade from 9-12, has really taken off. The AERO program provides instruction to transition-aged students to secure employment and build independent living skills for life after graduation. The program to date has only included students from the Butler High School.

In September of 2018 the AERO Program received a grant from the United Way of Butler County to expand the program into the South Butler and Mars School Districts. Plans are currently under way to start the program January 1, 2019.

The holiday season has officially begun... you know what that means-- parties, baking, traveling, and buying gifts. Sometimes it's easy to overlook the importance of giving gifts to those in need (not just the ones you know personally). Be sure to make your charitable contributions while you can still claim the income tax deduction for 2018. Don’t pull out your wallet just yet! Here are a few guidelines to look at when it comes to charitable gift giving.
The ultimate motivation of any charitable gift should always be that you support the mission and vision of that particular charity. As great as it is to get a deduction on your income taxes, it is just that, a deduction to your taxable income, NOT a tax credit.

No later than December 31st, but it isn’t that easy. If you mail a check, it must be postmarked on December 31st or earlier. If you drop it in the mailbox late in the day and it isn’t postmarked until the next business day, January 2nd, then you won’t get to deduct your gift until filing your 2019 taxes.

If you pay by credit card the transaction must be processed by 12/31, so give yourself about 3 extra days to allow that to occur. With more complex methods such as stock gifts, you should initiate the transaction by no later than December 19th to err on the side of caution.

This is really the most important question of all of them. Who are the charitable institutions that have a mission closely allied with your own beliefs and values? Are they a 501(c)3 charity? (meaning that your gift is tax deductible up to 50% of your adjusted gross income) Are they responsible with the money that they receive? Where do I want my money to be used?

There are a number of ways to give to a charity! Writing a check is still the most common way to make a one time or annual gift. If your donation is less than $250 then your cancelled check can serve as your tax receipt, otherwise you will need a receipt from the charity. Text messaging a cash donation is also becoming quite popular, and your cellphone bill provides the paper trail. If you give cash, you must make sure that you get a receipt for your contribution or you won’t be able to write it off. If you are giving on-line then you can utilize your debit card, credit card or a service such as PayPal. Just remember the processing time involved if you are making your gift close to year end. However, it is more secure to utilize a credit card or PayPal for online transactions.
COMMUNICATION IS KEY

As mentioned in the last edition of The Arc of Butler County’s newsletter, many changes came into play for the agency’s Residential Program. The development of the new hearing-impaired site was a result of new regulations surrounding the Harry M. Communication Announcement made by ODP this past year.

This state law was placed to be sure service providers are providing communication access to deaf and hard of hearing individuals who are on a state waiver program. Some of the program requirements include staff being trained in American Sign Language (ASL) and installing assistive technology devices to help improve communication and overall quality of life for individuals who are hearing impaired.

At the beginning of the 2018, we worked with a company to bring in an ASL instructor, Sarah Parent. Sarah is a communication mentor with Stellar Support Services and now working part time as residential staff in the hearing-impaired group home.

Sarah has been teaching several staff, as well as individuals living in the home, sign language. The teaching consists of practicing signs in everyday conversation, working with picture books, and playing games. With the new regulations, Sarah sees doors opening for more clients who may need signing access. She feels we need to be ready for the new generation of special needs individuals and be able to best provide for them.

MORE ABOUT SARAH

Sarah, a Butler county native, has lived her whole life without being able to hear and has been an advocate for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

She began her career as working in direct care for an all-deaf group home agency. She became a house manager for deaf clients and staff. She has also had experience working as a behavioral support consultant for individuals who are deaf.

Prior to working with The Arc of Butler County, Sarah was working with Stellar Supports as a Communication Mentor.

She says this position ‘fell in her lap,’ however she couldn’t ask for a better opportunity to fall into place for her. She has always known she wanted to help others. Sarah said, “If I can do my job and help them (clients) communicate their wants and needs to staff and others to make their lives easier and happier, then I have done my job.”
FLU Wants YOU!

3 Ways to Fight the Flu.

COUGH AND SNEEZE into your SLEEVE
Hands spread disease.

WASH HANDS OFTEN
For 20 seconds with soap and warm water.

REST is BEST
Stay at home if you have the flu symptoms:
• Fever, 100°F/38 °C and above
• Coughing and sneezing
• Body aches
• Extreme fatigue

Stop the flu before it gets you.

Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department

Shared with you by our Residential Clinical Director:
Deborah Barclay, RN
MATT WARHEIT

Matt Warheit has been involved with The Arc of Butler County for nearly 40 years. His interest began through his father and he assisted with the organization’s early recreation program in late 1970’s. His participation with organization continued until the early 1990’s. Matt came back to The Board in the early 2000’s and has continued to be a huge asset to The Arc of Butler County ever since.

More About Matt Warheit:
Matt has lived in Butler for most of his life. With a Bachelors Degree from University of Pittsburgh, Matt has invested himself in the manufacturing sector of Butler County. He has a long history of working for Pullman Standard, as well as working in materials management for two other businesses. In recent years, he has been a self-employed machinist.

With Matt’s expertise and professional background, it is fitting that he sits on the Vocational Committee for The Board and oversees the programs of our Sheltered Workshop.

By being involved for so long, Matt has seen the many changes the organization has gone through since it was founded. His passion for helping individuals hasn’t changed. Matt continues to see and believe in the expansion of the organization to help better serve individuals who need our programs.

FALL CRAFT SHOW 2018 IS IN THE BOOKS!

Our 6th Annual Fall Craft Show was held on September 22, 2018. It was a remarkable success! We would like to take this time to say thank you to all our wonderful vendors who participated. Overall, the day consisted of more than 25 vendors, a huge silent auction, delicious baked goods, and of course fun entertainment throughout the day. Thank you to all our guests, volunteers, and wonderful staff who all helped to make the day a success! We are already looking forward to next year’s event.

Congratulations to our two Grand Prize Raffle Ticket Winners!! Tickets were pulled on November 16.

Audrey was the was the winner of the $500.00 Shopping Spree. Audrey works at our Parc Productions Workshop and she received a handful of gift cards to stores such as Walmart, Target, and Old Navy!

Mary Krewduk, Fundraising Specialist for The Arc of Butler County, was the winner of two Pittsburgh Steelers tickets and $200.00!
INSIDE SCOOP ON FAMILY LIVING
THE MANLEY’S, CARING FOR NICK AND JIMMIE

Twenty-eight years ago, Myrleen and her husband bought a three-story, nine-bedroom historic stone home with intent of opening a personal care home. Around the same time, she found an ad in the newspaper looking for families to support individuals with special needs.

The Arc of Butler County’s Family Living Program began in 1988. Offering a supportive family atmosphere for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The purpose of this program is to offer a healthy, nurturing, family environment to individuals by including them into the lifestyle of a private family home. Today, the Family Living Program continues to provide this valuable service to individuals throughout Butler County.

Long story short, Myrleen and her husband were licensed, and Nick and Jimmie came to live with their family. That was exactly 24 years ago! They are still with them and as she says, “very much part of our family.”

“Having Nick and Jim in our family has been a blessing. They remind us of what’s really important.”

Both Nick and Jimmie have progressed since living with The Manley’s. Myrleen said “they remind us what’s really important.” Nick especially reminds them to be happy all the time. Myrleen said, he’s a great example that way. Jimmie reminds them to slow down and try to communicate. Both men have been included in every aspect of the family’s life, since the beginning.

Nick and Jim have been to Disney at least four times and they also went on a road trip out west which included trips to the Badlands, Devil’s Tower, Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon, Petrified Forest, and Painted Desert—they also went out of the way to visit Las Vegas.

Over the years they have been to countless activities. They’ve gone to shows at the Benedum, high school musicals, church on a regular basis, hundreds (maybe thousands) restaurants and most every good movie that has come out. They especially love going to the zoo (particularly Living Treasures) and water parks. The Manley’s have provided these men with so many great experiences, and most of all a family environment where they are continuously provided for and loved.
The Arc of Butler County is committed to reducing the incidence and limiting the consequence of intellectual and developmental disabilities through:

- Advocacy
- Education
- Support
- Service Provision

The Arc of Butler County is committed to securing for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to choose and realize their goals of where and how they learn, live, work, and play. The Arc of Butler County will work toward securing, consistent with the individual’s need, maximum personal independence, choices, inclusion, equal rights, and adequate supports, which are all necessary to guarantee a real quality of life to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Arc of Butler County will provide leadership in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities and develop the necessary human and financial resources to attain its goal.
This quarterly newsletter is produced by The Arc of Butler County. It highlights the many ways our dedicated staff, volunteers, and generous donors come together to support and empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live, work, and participate in their communities.

FRUIT BASKET AND CANDLE
Holiday Sale
December 19, 20, 21 2018

FRUIT TOTES AND BASKETS
Totes are priced at $5.00 and $10.00
Baskets are priced at $15.00 and $25.00
Special baskets may be made to order

HOLIDAY CANDLES $10.00
22 ounce cadsles in a decorative, resusable tin
Availabe in a variety of Holiday fragrances

Pick up & Delivery options available
All orders to be pick up at:
PARC PRODUCTIONS
100 North Washington Street
Butler PA 16001

***ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY DECEMBER 7, 2018***
TO PLACE YOUR ORDER CALL 724-283-3300 ext. 101