A LETTER TO YOU FROM OUR CEO, JOHN LINK.

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1. Be Thankful
2. Summer and fall have come and gone, and the long dreary winter season begins. For the next four months, people will deal with rain, snow, sleet, and daylight hours that disappear quicker and quicker every day. We could also include the stress of the impending shopping season.

With all these stressful events, this is also a time to be thankful and reflect on the good things in our lives. Thankful for the time that we will spend with family and friends. Thankful for the good things and blessings that have happened over the past year. For those of us that celebrate the holidays, this is an opportunity to visit with family and friends that we do not see on a normal basis. The holidays also provide access to varieties of good foods that we only get once or twice a year.

On a professional note, as Executive Director, there are many things to be thankful for at our agency:

- The opportunity to serve over 250 individuals in our programs.
- The dedicated Staff that care for our individuals.
- The Family Living Providers that take our individuals in to live with them.
- The Families that give us the opportunity to care for their individual.
- The Volunteers that donate so many hours of their time.
- The Managers that work more than their normal week to care for our folks.

When the stress starts to build, and you start to feel down, just try to remember the good things that you have to be thankful for. We are thankful to all of you.

Be Thankful
A LETTER TO YOU FROM OUR CEO, JOHN LINK.

Thanksgiving dinner... early!! What a treat. This is one day a year that everyone at PARC Productions looks foward too! Dinner was catered by Tanglewood - turkey, beans, stuffing and potatoes! YUM! Each year, the collection of money from the Coffee Fund goes towards providing this lunch!

HELP US ACHIEVE OUR MISSION

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.
Disaster strikes when you least expect it and you find yourself ill equipped and unprepared. The Residential Program has decided to be proactive in the face of untimely events and has assembled Disaster Preparedness Kits that will provide basic necessities and comfort until help arrives.

Each residential kit contains non-perishable food items, water, tools, basic supplies, clean clothes, and comfort items, individualized for each home so that care can still be provided even when resources are limited due to inclement weather or other traumatic events.

Additionally, each vehicle will be equipped with a disaster kit in the event of an accident or prolonged travel delay. The procedure outlines the desired response of the Direct Support Professional so that a concise and consistent approach is taken to secure the safety of everyone involved. The Arc’s goal is to ensure that there is no delay in service delivery and to reduce any barriers that might prevent the best of care for the individual’s served.

The kits will be maintained by the Direct Support Professional staff and monitored for quality and quantity by the Safety Committee who are dedicated to maintaining a safe and secure environment for staff and individuals alike.

These kits are just part of the safety initiative that The Arc has committed to in the past year along with 2 generators that were recently installed at the Alameda and William’s residences because the Arc believes that the comfort of home is the most desirable option when disaster occurs.

**IN THE KITS**

**RESIDENCE SUPPLY KIT**
- Water - 3 gallons per individual that lives in home
- Food - 3-day supply of non-perishable food
- Tools & Supplies - Took kit, battery operated radio, flashlight, batteries, can opener, paper products, medicine cups, soap/wipes, gloves
- Clothing & Linens
- Special Items- games, books, small comfort items

**VEHICLE SUPPLY KIT**
- Paper Towels, Gloves, Wipes
- Windshield Washer Fluid
- Small Snow Shovel
- Flashlight & Batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Fire Extinguisher
At the suggestion of one of the Arc’s board members, Judy Campbell, The Arc and the music therapy program at Slippery Rock University were able to meet to consider possibilities for music therapy services at the Arc.

Currently, two music therapy students Gabby Spence and Emma Flaherty, under the supervision of their professor Vern Miller, provide weekly 1-hour music therapy sessions for the ATF program. The music therapy students are working to develop the social, verbal, and physical interactions of the individuals in the ATF Program.

The students use music therapy techniques such as:
• songwriting
• recreating songs
• improvising music
• movement to music
• lyric analysis

Every person in the group has such a unique personality that is so full of life. There is not a single day that they didn’t make me laugh. Everyone in the group was always willing to participate and try new experiences no matter what it was. Each person supported and encouraged each other to be involved in the activities. - Emma Flaherty

There is another class at SRU that has played a role in these groups at the Arc as well. The Computer Technology in Music class has worked to create adaptive music instruments and games for these clients. The students in this class have created adaptive instruments through using things such as computers, conductive paint, buttons, and various micro-controllers.

The clients have enjoyed such activities as Name that Tune and a musical version of Hot Potato with a bean bag that makes music when tossed in the air.

“This group is made up of wonderful people who have made this semester so memorable”

- Emma Flaherty
Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends event is a special day filled with fun and fundraising to benefit area non-profit organizations. The Arc of Butler County sold $5 shopping passes to the event that’s allowed for 25% off purchases during Friends Helping Friends Day! 100% of the ticket donation went directly back to The Arc! What a fun way to raise money and partner with a community business!

Clinton Anthony, Lead Supportive Employment Specialist, and Dylan (individual working through Supportive Employment) volunteered to sell passes on event day! Thank you!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RAFFLE WINNERS!**

**Connie Donovan**, Training Coordinator for The Arc, is the winner of the Two-Night Stay Package at Seven Springs Mountain Resort! (include 2 ski passes and $250.00 Cash Prize!

**Mary Jo Nebel** is the winner of the $1,000 Shopping Spree (Gift cards including: Amazon, Walmart, Kohls, Home Depot, Old Navy, etc.)

THANK YOU ALL WHO PARTICPATED IN THE RAFFLE!
MEET MR. RON SARVER

No stranger to The Arc of Butler County, Ron Sarver has been involved with the Board of Directors for the past 25 years.

Ron had a brother who was involved in Arc programs. When his parents got older, it became a challenge for them to care for Randy and The Arc was able to provide a secure home and job for him, which he was happy to have! Ron’s mother was involved with helping The Arc and encourage him to get involved too!

Retired Engineer, of 30 years, from IBM Corporation, Ron is dedicated to providing support to four committees including: Residential, Vocational, Finance, and Fundraising. For the past 25 years, Ron has been an asset to The Arc of Butler County.

His favorite part about being involved is seeing how you can make life better for individuals who cannot help themselves. He said, “it is hard to say what these people would be doing without the services of The Arc.”

“I wanted to make sure this organization survived so it could provide the same service to many other individuals.”

Thank you for your Support.

The Arc of Butler County and its Board of Directors would like to thank the following organizations for their support over the past year. Without you, we would not be able to provide the opportunities that we do to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Thank you.

Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust
AK Steel Foundation
United Way of Butler County
Neil Martin Christensen Foundation
Tanglewood Center
Boscov’s
Texas Roadhouse
Ponderosa
Minuteman Press
Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Connoquenessing

Colonie Luxembourgeoise
(French & Belgian Club)
Italian Society
Rich-Mar Rotary
Oddfellows Group
Armstrong Cable Company
Rachel’s Roadhouse
The Lions Club
Applebee’s
Chili’s
Menchie’s
Friends of The Bantam Jeep Association
**7th Annual Fall Craft Show**

The Craft Show is an event that everyone looks forward to each year. The Arc’s 7th Annual Fall Craft Show was held on **September 28, 2019** and as always, was a remarkable success! Thank you to all the vendors who participated. Along with the vendors, the day included a huge silent auction, delicious baked goods, food and of course fun entertainment throughout the day. We are already looking forward to next year’s event!!!

Thank you to all our guests, volunteers, and staff who all helped to make the day a success!

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**Halloween Party** October 17th

A BIG thanks to our Residential Department for hosting a Spooktacular Halloween Party! What a fun night of dressing up and dancing... complete with a costume contest! We had some of the most orginal and scariest costumes around. Also, a big thanks to the Intermediate League of Butler for sponsoring the food and the Junior Women’s Club of Butler and Open Systems Healthcare for volunteering! We had fun!

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**Steelers Party** November 14th

Another fun Black and Gold Party organized by Supportive Housing and Family Living Program! Thanks everyone for coming out and having a blast! A special thanks to the Butler County Junior Women’s Club for sponsoring the party and providing Pizza and thank you Open Systems Healthcare for stopping out and volunteering!!
The office will be closed on December 24th, 25th, 26th and January 1st. Please have a happy and safe Holiday!

UPCOMING NEWS AND EVENTS

2020 PARTY DATES
- January 9th
- February 13th
- March 12th
- April 9th
- May 21st
** Don’t forget to RSVP**

$1,500 Signing Bonus!

WE'RE HIRING

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

This is a direct-care position in the Residential Group Home Program involving the implementation of residential services to individuals with disabilities.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENT: High School Graduate or Equivalent

BENEFITS: Medical/Dental/Vision/Aflac, Annual wage increases, unionized workforce, 100% Paid Short-term Disability/ Life Insurance, Paid Sick/Vacation/Personal Days, 10 Paid Holidays

ADVOCACY

The Arc of Butler County is a chapter of the largest advocacy organization in the United States for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our advocacy services are free of charge to families and individuals in Butler County. Our advocacy efforts focus on helping families with children maneuver the special education process to ensure a positive, quality education. We help parents understand their child’s rights to a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment, as guaranteed by law.

Our education advocate helps guide parents through the special education process, from how to determine eligibility for special services to how to prepare for Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings to how to file a due process complaint to how to find an attorney for legal representation. Our goal is to ensure that the school adheres to a child’s IEP and makes a good effort to help the student achieve his or her defined goals. Parents are the most effective participants in developing and managing their child’s education goals. Sometimes, however, they may find issues or instances when other resources are helpful. The Arc of Butler County’s advocacy program serves as their leading resource for information and support.

WHAT OUR VOLUNTEER EDUCATION ADVOCATE CAN DO FOR YOU:

- Provide resources and information about your rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and applicable state regulations, including Early Intervention, and about how to effectively advocate for your child to resolve issues.
- Provide resources to school districts and Early Intervention providers to help design and deliver supports and services that guarantee students with disabilities the opportunity to make progress on their education goals.
- Provide resources and information about IEP meets and refer families to education law attorneys for mediation or due process hearings.

For more information about our advocacy efforts and how we can help you, contact our Volunteer Education Advocate, Philip Rosenbauer at 724-282-1500

The Arc of Butler County’s Rudolph Christmas Party!
Thursday, December 5th, 2019 from 5:00 – 8:00 PM Tanglewood Center, Coleman Hall 10 Austin Dr. Lyndora, PA 16045

We are requesting donations of your favorite cookies.
Please RSVP to Marianna by November 29th, 2019
A light dinner will be served and we want to make sure you are included.

Phone: 724-283-3300 x 117
E-mail: mariannaaugmented@arcbutler.org

Ponderosa invites you to come in and support...

Who: The Arc of Butler County
When: December, 2019
Time: Normal Operating Hours
Where: 128 Greenview Circle Butler, PA 16001
Phone#: (724) 285-4152

Ponderosa will donate 10% of your purchases* on the Benefit Night to your organization! Just give the cashier the ticket below when you pay!

PONDEROSA STEAKHOUSE
Make checks payable to The Arc of Butler County
Mail check to:
The Arc of Butler County
112 Hollywood Drive, Suite 202
Butler, PA 16001

Call 724.283.3300 ext. 101 to place your order
All orders to be picked up at: 100 North Washington Street
Butler, PA 16001 **Delivery Available upon request

FRUIT BASKET & CANDLE SALE
December 18, 19, 20, 2019
* Order deadline: Friday, December 6th *

- Candles are $10
- 22 oz candles in a decorative, reusable tin
- Available in a variety of holiday fragrances

- Totes are $5 and $10
- Baskets are $15 and $25
- Special Baskets may be made to order

The Arc of Butler County is affiliated with the United Way of Southwestern PA, The Arc of the United States, and The Arc of Pennsylvania.