



## Joseph Damiano Memorial Direct Support Professional of the Year Award

*This award is presented in memory of Joseph Damiano, whose Direct Support Professionals enriched both his life, as well as his family's, by demonstrating an exemplary level of performance over the course of their relationship and consistently demonstrating commitment to improving the quality of Joseph's life.*

### *About the Award*

The Arc Allegany-Steuben Foundation proudly presents the **Joseph Damiano Memorial Direct Support Professional of the Year Award**. This award recognizes an exceptional Direct Support Professional who provides services in Allegany or Steuben County, New York, and consistently demonstrates excellence, creativity, and dedication in supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

### *Application Information*

**Eligibility Criteria:** (1) Awarded to an individual who provides direct support, supervision and assistance to a person with an intellectual or developmental disability living in Allegany or Steuben County, New York, and served by The Arc Allegany-Steuben. (2) Applicant must be a current Member of The Arc Allegany-Steuben. (3) Nominee must have been employed by The Arc Allegany-Steuben for a minimum of **five years** at the time of nomination. (4) Nominations previously submitted for individuals who have not received the award, may be updated and resubmitted for consideration.

**Amount:** One award will be presented annually. The award is in the amount of \$1,000.00.

**Nomination Process:** The requirements for consideration for the Joseph Damiano Award are as follows:

- Completed Nomination Form signed by The Arc Allegany-Steuben's Development Director;
- Two (2) Letters of Support from supervisors, coworkers, community members, family members of person(s) nominee supports, etc.;
- An individual who has been previously nominated but not recognized may be re-nominated.

**Application Information/Deadline:** The name of one individual must be submitted on the appropriate Nomination Form along with the additional information requested in the form. The completed nomination packet must be mailed to The Arc Allegany-Steuben's Wellsville office by the deadline listed on the Nomination Form.

**NOTE:** *Nomination Forms may be faxed to The Arc Allegany-Steuben's Wellsville office up to the deadline date. However, original Nomination Forms must be immediately mailed to The Arc Allegany-Steuben.*

**Winner Selection:** Nomination Forms and supporting documents will be reviewed by a committee of various Arc Allegany-Steuben representatives; majority vote will select the Joseph Damiano Award Recipient.

**Announcement of Recipient:** The Joseph Damiano Award Recipient will be recognized at the agency's annual meeting May 27, 2026. The award recipient is expected to be present to receive the award.





Nomination Form

**Joseph Damiano Memorial  
Direct Support Professional of the Year Award**

**Return Deadline: Monday, March 30, 2026**

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

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the Nominee a current Member of The Arc Allegany-Steuben:

\_\_\_\_\_

***Please attach a separate page answering the following questions. Give at least two specific examples per area.***

- 1.) Leadership: How does the nominee demonstrate dedication and self-motivation?
- 2.) How does the nominee act as a role model for other staff?
- 3.) How does the nominee seek education opportunities to increase knowledge and learn new skills?
- 4.) How does the nominee show respect for the dignity, independence, culture and rights of people with intellectual or other developmental disabilities and their families?

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Name and Title of Person Making Nomination

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Date

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Signature of Person Making Nomination (required)

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Signature of Development Director (required)

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Date

Please return completed Nomination Form and two (2) Letters of Support by:

**Monday, March 30, 2026**

to:

**The Arc Allegany-Steuben Foundaiton  
Joseph Damiano Memorial Award  
50 Farnum Street  
Wellsville, NY 14895  
Fax: (585) 593-5957**

*NOTE: Nomination Forms may be faxed to The Arc Allegany-Steuben's Wellsville office up to the deadline date. However, original nomination forms must be immediately mailed to The Arc Allegany-Steuben.*

**NOTE: Due to the volume of nominations received, additional information will not be reviewed by the Committee.**