The Arc
Allegany-Steuben
New York

Fall 2026

WE LOVE OUR DSPs

The week of September 13th, The Arc Allegany-Steuben celebrated National Direct Support Professionals Week.

This special week is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the dedication, compassion, and incredible impact of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs).

DSPs play an essential role in supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, helping empower independence, encourage inclusion, and build meaningful connections within our communities.

Let's take a moment to say THANK YOU to the amazing DSPs who make a difference every single day, at The Arc Allegany-Steuben and across the nation.

Your compassion, commitment, and care truly matter

The Arc Allegany-Steuben would like to thank all of its DSPs; the value of this important work cannot be underestimated and it provides a benefit to not only the people we serve, but our entire community as a whole. THANK YOU!

Achieve with us.®

The Arc
Allegany-Steuben
New York

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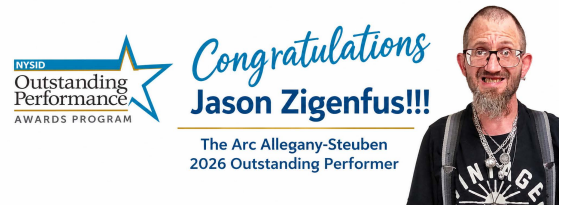
The Arc Allegany-Steuben Announced NYSID Outstanding Performer



The Arc Allegany-Steuben proudly recognizes Jason Zigenfus as its 2026 NYSID Outstanding Performer with a special luncheon being held on Monday, October 26, in Bath, NY.

Now in its 23rd year, the New York State Industries for the Disabled (NYSID) Outstanding Performance Awards Program celebrates people with disabilities who overcome personal challenges and achieve meaningful success through employment. Since its inception in 2004, the program has honored more than 1,200 people working at NYSID member agencies across New York State.

The 2026 NYSID Outstanding Performer Award recognizes people employed on NYSID contracts who demonstrate exceptional work ethic, personal growth, and positive impact in their communities.

Jason's recognition is a wonderful example of the value of meaningful employment and the contributions people with disabilities make every day. We are proud to celebrate Jason and this well-deserved accomplishment as part of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Congratulations, Jason!

The Arc Allegany-Steuben's 2026 NYSID Outstanding Performer
Date: Monday, October 26, 2026 at 11:30 a.m.
Location: The Arc Allegany-Steuben, One Arc Way, Bath, New York

Please RSVP by October 19 to (585) 593-5700 ext. 533 or paula.bernstein@thearcas.org

And the Winners of the 3rd Annual Feathered Friends Duck Derby are...

LUCKY DUCKS:

#724 - Mike Tominez
#419 - Alan & Friends (Al Bernstein)
#294 - Christopher Abeel
#306 - Pamela Guinnip
#254 - Mary Kuhlmann
#195 - Roxanne Cole
#581 - David & Michelle DeGraff
#045 - Paula Bernstein
#612 - Jennifer Lanphier
#691 - Jeffrey Corbett

WE HAD A QUACK OF A TIME!
Can't wait till next year.

What a successful Duck Derby!

Our 3rd Annual Duck Derby was our most successful yet, and we couldn't have done it without the generous support of our sponsors and community.

A special thank-you to Shane & Firkel, PC, Attorneys at Law, our Lucky Duck Sponsor; Fox Financial, our Feathered Friend Sponsor; and Argentieri Brothers Inc., our Duckling Supporter Sponsor.

Thank you for helping make the 2026 Duck Derby our best one yet and for supporting

The Arc Allegany-Steuben!

RECOVERY MONTH

Every Person. Every Family. Every Community.

Recovery Through Employment

National Recovery Month (Recovery Month) is a national observance held every September to educate Americans that substance use treatment and mental health services can enable those with a mental and/or substance use disorder to live a healthy and rewarding life. Recovery Month celebrates the gains made by those in recovery and reinforces the positive message that behavioral health is essential to overall health, prevention works, treatment is effective, people can and do recover, and gainful employment is obtainable.

The Arc Allegany-Steuben's ACHIEVE Career Consultants offer an Assisted Competitive Employment (ACE) program for people in Allegany and Steuben counties that is designed to assist people diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illnesses with choosing, finding, and maintaining satisfying jobs in the competitive employment market.

ACE Employment Specialists prepare people for employment, assist in placing them in competitive jobs and provide extensive follow-up support to ensure a smooth transition into the work environment. The services also provide qualified individuals with job-related skills training as well as supervision and support services, both on and off a job-site.

If you would like additional information on ACE services, please contact Amber Parker, Director for Vocational Services, at amber.parker@thearcas.org or 585-808-2856.

Summer Scramble Results

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the 22nd annual Summer Scramble at the Wellsville Country Club. Congratulations to the winning teams!

- 1st Place Men's - Team Top Gun (James Brown, Jerry Robertson, Bob Beardsley, Scott Galvin)
- 1st Place Women's - Team Mary Rich with Anita Schmidt, Wendy Smith, and Sue Martin
- 1st Place Mixed - Team Sandy Jackson (Sandy Jackson, Craig Jackson, Lynn Driskel, Chet Green)
- Long Drive Men - Scott Galvin
- Long Drive Women - Cindy Haas
- CTP Men - James Brown (21' 6")
- CTP Women - Tonja Baldwin (57'

5th Annual Fishing Derby

A giant thank you to the Whitesville Rod & Gun Club for hosting another awesome Special Needs Fishing Derby! More than 120 people came out to enjoy a wonderful day of fishing, fellowship, and fun.

We are grateful to everyone who helped make this annual event such a memorable day for the people we support and their families. There's nothing quite like spending a beautiful day outdoors, sharing some laughs, and hopefully catching a few fish along the way!

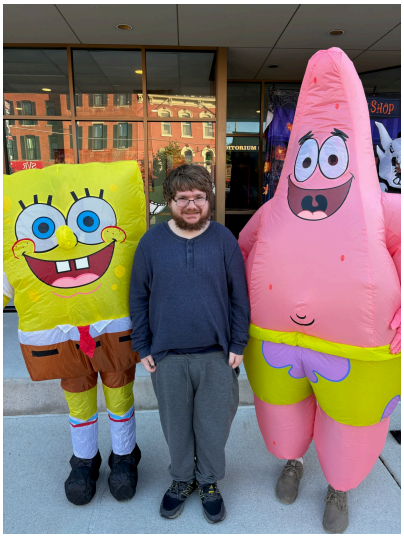
Congratulations to the Green Machine softball team who participated in the Special Olympics Western Region Softball Competition in Williamsville in August and brought home bronze.

The Arc Allegany-Steuben Went to the Movies

To say the second annual sensory-friendly movie at Spotlight Theater in Hornell was a success would be an understatement!

We had several of our associates getting into the spirit and joining the fun in disguise, and nearly 100 people we support came out to enjoy the movie. The smiles, laughter, and pure joy in these photos say it all, it was a fantastic evening filled with fun, connection, and plenty of happy memories!

A huge thank-you to Spotlight Theater for helping us create such a welcoming experience. We're already looking forward to next year!



Need custom apparel for your business, organization or sports team backed by a 100% satisfaction guarantee? Stitched INK provides screen printing, embroidery, and vinyl services as well as fundraising stores, company and team stores, and package per person.

Located in Bath, New York, Stitched INK is committed to providing high-quality, customized apparel solutions to a diverse clientele, including individuals, businesses, government, and community organizations. No matter your branded apparel challenge, Stitched INK will work with you to find a solution that exceeds your expectations; offering anything you can imagine when it comes to apparel - tee shirts, polos, hoodies, pull-overs, jerseys, hats - if you can wear it, Stitched INK can screen-print or embroider on it!

Contact Stitched INK today at customer.service@stitchedink.org or 607-776-4147 .

Visit their new website (www.stitchedink.org) and like their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/StitchedINK) to keep up with all the behind-the-scenes pictures and videos and see all the cool new designs they are creating.

You can shop the 2026 Fall Collection at: https://siofall2026.itemorder.com/

Congratulations to our Special Olympics Athletes

Our wonderful Green Machine athletes joined approximately 175 athletes from across Western New York for the 8th annual Super Regional Bocce Tournament at Houghton University!

It was a day filled with fun, excitement, reconnection, and, of course, plenty of bocce! Organized by Houghton University's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) in partnership with Special Olympics New York, the tournament is a wonderful celebration of sportsmanship, teamwork, inclusion, and community.

We are once again so grateful to the incredible staff and students at Houghton University who work so hard to make this event possible. This year, 16 bocce courts were set up across Burke Field, with student volunteers on every court working alongside our athletes to help ensure the day ran smoothly and everyone had a fantastic time.

A special thank-you also goes to the Friends of Allegany Arc Foundation, who provided the snack passes enjoyed by everyone throughout the day!

We are so proud of our Green Machine athletes and the skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship they demonstrated throughout the tournament.

GREEN MACHINE

The Arc of Allegany-Steuben Awarded $48,732 in Grants from NYSARC Trust Services- to support guardianship and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities in Allegany and Steuben Counties

The Arc Allegany-Steuben has been awarded $48,732 in grants from the Trustee Management Board of NYSARC Trust Services to support Allegany-Steuben's guardianship and recreation programs. NYSARC Trust Services administers supplemental needs trusts (SNT) and pooled trusts that can make dramatic improvements to the lives of people with disabilities by enabling people to maintain financial eligibility for Medicaid and other means-tested government benefit programs.

For 2026, NYSARC Trust Services is proud to fulfill its commitment to enhancing the lives of people with disabilities by awarding funds to The Arc New York Chapters statewide. This year, The Arc Allegany-Steuben received $30,000 to provide guardianship services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who would not otherwise have a legal guardian or advocate.

Supported by Chapter associates and community volunteers, The Arc Allegany-Steuben's Guardianship Program currently provides guardianship support and services to seven people.

NYSARC Trust Services also awarded The Arc Allegany-Steuben $18,732 to support new recreational opportunities and to enrich the lives of more than 150 athletes served through its Green Machine athletic programs. The Arc Allegany-Steuben utilizes these recreational grant funds to continue and expand its sports and athletic offerings, including bocce, bowling, softball, track and field, basketball, and dance.

NYSARC TRUST SERVICES

The Arc
Allegany-Steuben
New York

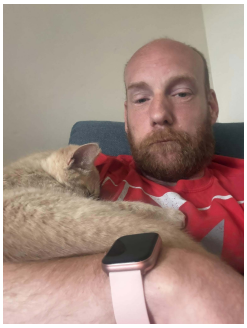
Congratulations to the Arc Angels!

Earlier this summer, the Arc Angels competed in the United States Tournament of Dance National Dance Competition in Binghamton, New York, and delivered an outstanding performance. The team earned a High Point Gold Medal with an impressive score of 292.0 out of 300!

This remarkable achievement reflects the dancers' hard work, dedication, teamwork, and passion for dance. We are incredibly proud of each member of the Arc Angels for representing our community with such talent and enthusiasm.

Please join us in congratulating the Arc Angels on this well-deserved accomplishment!

Newsletter with Ridge



My name is Ridge Erskine, and I'm a self-advocate.

I advocate myself by going to the YMCA for personal training service and going to the stores to help people out if they cannot reach the top shelves. It helps me pick out a cat and meet new friends and helps others with events like Thursday in the Park, Fishing Derby, and Duck Derby, and our annual picnic.

I'm living on my own and it is also teaching me how to pay bills and go on trips like going to Seabreeze, Buffalo Zoo, concerts, and help friends out if they need help. I learn how to volunteer at the library and help people if they need help.

Self-Advocacy Group

Shop with Purpose. Support with Pride.

Show your support with official Green Machine and Incredible Voice apparel! Shop our online stores for comfortable t-shirts, cozy hoodies, hats, bags, and more—there's something for everyone.

Every purchase makes a real impact. A portion of every sale directly supports the athletes and self-advocates in each program, helping provide opportunities, experiences, and resources that make a difference.

Wear your pride and help support these amazing programs with every purchase!

SHOP Green Machine:

https://so-greenmachine.itemorder.com/shop/home/

SHOP Incredible Voice:

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