

March is National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Spurred by advocacy, President Ronald Reagan declared March to be Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in 1987. The deinstitutionalization movement of the seventies and early eighties had laid the foundation for significant social change, and the presidential proclamation called upon Americans to provide the “encouragement and opportunities” necessary for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to reach their potential.

As those citizens began living within the general community in larger numbers, programs to provide career planning, job coaching and supported employment began to emerge. The idea that people with developmental disabilities could become productive members of the workforce was new to many people, and entrenched preconceptions had to be overcome.

With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, workplace discrimination against people with disabilities became sanctionable. The expectations of young people with developmental disabilities and their parents began to shift. Productive, self-directed lives within the community increasingly became the goal, and (increasingly) an obtainable goal.

Now 34 years later, the month of March highlights the contributions and needs of the estimated four million Americans living with a developmental disability. The power of ability over disability is all around us as people with autism, cerebral palsy and other disabilities blaze new trails. Today, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are living and working in the community; pursuing higher education; developing their faith; falling in love and getting married; and making their voices heard in all aspects of life.

As people with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the nation become increasingly visible in our daily lives, the Arc Allegany-Steuben strives to build more welcoming communities through education and outreach. We hope you will join us this month as we celebrate the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Developmental disabilities awareness starts now.

Learn how the Arc Allegany-Steuben’s supports and services are advancing the concerns and interests of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout Allegany and Steuben Counties by visiting www.thearcas.org.

Alger Gives Mission Moment



Judy Alger, Ashraf IRA resident, opened the Arc New York’s February Board of Governor’s meeting by sharing her experiences with the Arc Allegany-Steuben as the meeting’s Mission Moment. Judy shared with over 120 participants via Zoom how she has lived in the same Arc Allegany-Steuben IRA since 1992 and held three jobs (Burger King, Alfred Town Hall, and the Almond Post Office) before retiring in 2019. Judy also shared that she is very close with her family and goes home to visit them every weekend. She stated, “Being a part of the Arc gives me the chance to be as independent as I can be.”

Let’s Get Social!



Did you know the Arc Allegany-Steuben is on Facebook? Follow us today at facebook.com/thearcas.org and be kept in the loop on agency events, activities, announcements, etc. The Arc Allegany-Steuben also has a new ADA compliant website: www.thearcas.org. Check us out the next time you are online.



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A Letter From CEO Mike Damiano:

It has been three months since we completed the unification to form the Arc Allegany-Steuben. Integrating two agencies is tough, and I would like to thank everyone who had a part in it for their cooperation and hard work.

As if a merger is not enough, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to produce uncertainty, stress and trauma in our communities. By now, we have all been impacted by this virus, which has been devastating for so many.

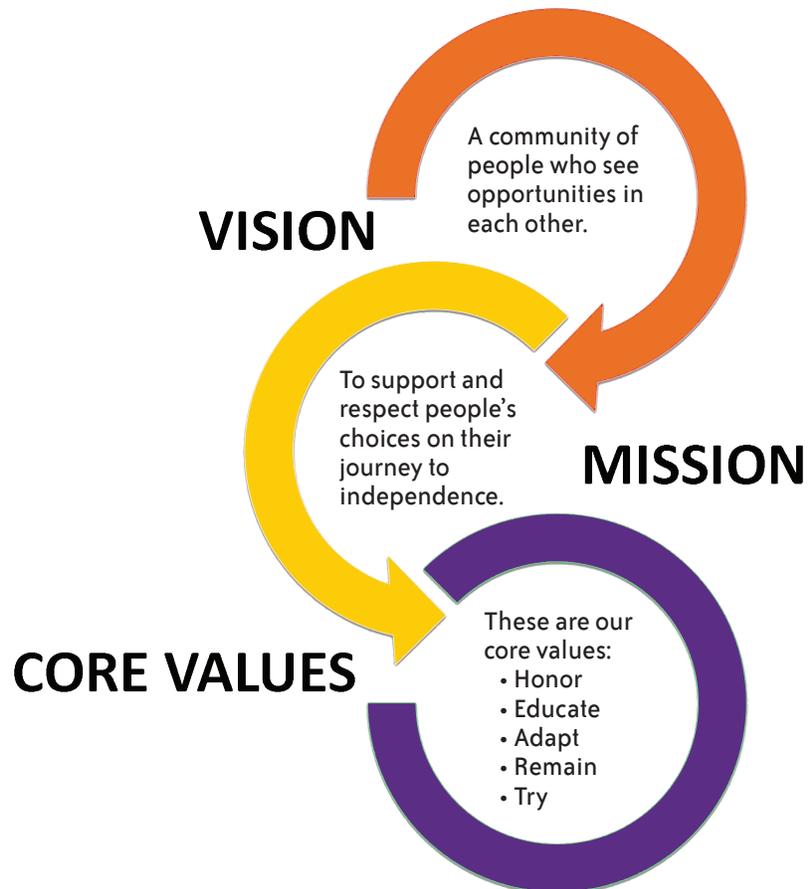
Our number one priority at the Arc Allegany-Steuben has always been to keep our associates and those we serve safe and protected. We have implemented additional rigorous cleaning and hygiene protocols

throughout our facilities and are practicing other safety precautions including social distancing, daily screening, and temperature checks.

I am incredibly proud of our associates who come to work every day and put others before themselves. They all set an extraordinary example of commitment, professionalism, and solidarity.

The world may have changed, but our mission remains the same: to support and respect people's choices on their journey to independence.

Please stay safe and healthy,





Arc Art 2021 on Display at the Wellsville Creative Arts Center

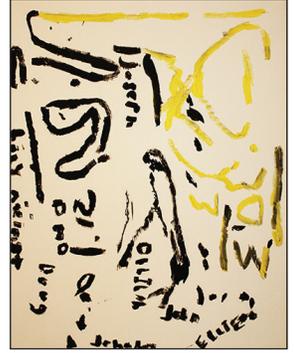
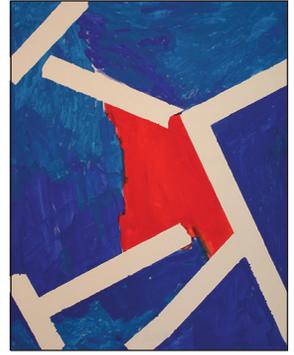
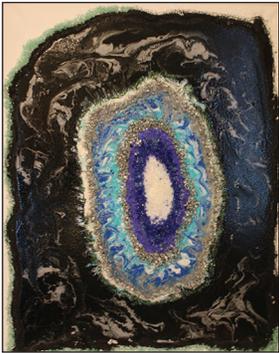
The Arc Allegany-Steuben, an agency for the rights and full participation of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, invites the public to view their 2021 Arc Art exhibit at the Wellsville Creative Arts Center, 124 North Main Street, Wellsville, NY. Arc Art will be on display March 14th through May 16th.

“We are honored to have partnered with the Wellsville Creative Arts Center for 14 years to promote disability awareness, and to encourage people with disabilities to explore new activities and discover their inner artist,” says Carrie Redman, The Arc Allegany-Steuben’s Associate Director of Marketing & Community Relations. “Arc Art is a celebration of self-expression by artists with differing abilities and this year’s Arc Art exhibit coincides with March being National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Arc Art honors people with disabilities throughout Allegany and Steuben Counties and provides a stimulating and supportive environment that promotes creative expression, independence, dignity, and community integration.”



“The goal of the Arc Art program is to encourage arts among people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by giving them a place to exhibit their artwork while increasing awareness within the general population about the creativity and talent of people with disabilities,” says Redman. “Over 25 artists are displaying their work in the Arc Art exhibit. The works on display demonstrates the extraordinary creativity of its makers through an abundance of styles and images. In some instances, the artist’s disability directly influences their art; in other cases, their disability has little or no effect on their work.”

Arc Art is a celebration of self-expression by artists with differing abilities. It is an Arc Allegany-Steuben sponsored outlet for artists with special needs to not only express themselves through art, but to raise community awareness of the diversity and value of artistic expression.



The Power of Membership

Membership in the Arc Allegany-Steuben means so much to the people with intellectual and developmental disabilities supported by our agency. Your membership means increased representation on the Arc New York’s policy-setting Board of Governors. It also lets local, state and national legislators know there are thousands of people standing with the people the Arc Allegany-Steuben supports. Most importantly, it lets the people who receive services from the Arc Allegany-Steuben know that they are not alone. It tells them members of their community stand ready to support them as they work toward achieving their dreams.

Please consider becoming a 2021 Arc Allegany-Steuben Member. A year-long Arc Allegany-Steuben Membership only costs \$5 and includes a free Arc Allegany-Steuben logo t-shirt. Visit www.thearcas.org/get-involved/become-a-member/ to join online or download a membership form.

Join your voice with ours. Together, we can create stronger, more inclusive communities.

You Are Invited to the Arc Allegany-Steuben's Annual Meeting

Allegany-Steuben Counties Chapter NYSARC, Inc. will hold its Annual Membership Meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 6:00pm.

All members are invited to attend and vote to ratify the Arc Allegany-Steuben's By-Laws. Visit www.thearcas.org and scroll to the bottom of the page to review the By-Laws prior to the meeting.

Information will also be presented on the Arc Allegany-Steuben's plans and progress since the merger.

Please join us! RSVP to (585) 593-5700 Ext. 514 or carrie.redman@thearcas.org by May 17, 2021 to receive your Zoom meeting access information.



-Save the Date- Upcoming Events

June 4-18, 2021

The Arc of Steuben Foundation
Arc Star Classic Golf Tournament
(Bath Country Club)

August 27, 2021

Friends of Allegany Arc Foundation
Summer Scramble Golf Tournament
(Wellsville Country Club)

September 18, 2021

Friends of Allegany Arc Foundation
5k Raffle Run/Walk
(Wellsville, NY)

October 23, 2021

The Arc of Steuben Foundation
Art for the Arc
(Bath, NY)

If you are interested in volunteering for any of the above events, please contact Myriah Perry at 607-622-1893 or mperry@thearcas.org.

THE ARC OF STEUBEN FOUNDATION

ARC STAR GOLF CLASSIC

JUNE 4 - 18, 2021

SCRAMBLE FORMAT

Enjoy 18 holes of golf at the Bath Country Club, along with contests and prizes, all while supporting people with disabilities in Steuben County!

Play & Win!

REGISTER NOW!

BATH COUNTRY CLUB

330 MAY ST, BATH NY 14810

\$75

PER PERSON

\$300

FOURSOME

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL US AT

607-622-1893

OR VISIT US AT ARCOFSTEUBENFOUNDATION.ORG



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