



Accessible Walking Trail To Be Completed in 2020

By: Sue Pietrzak, Administration & Development Executive

Final steps are being made to complete the first accessible walking trail in Steuben County! The trail is located behind the Arc of Steuben Bath complex. The project was started in 2018 with a committee of Board of Directors, staff, and community members. The first phase of the project was the removal of trees and brush, and ground covering was applied. The Arc of Steuben received grants from Golisano Foundation and the Meade Foundation, along with private donations to complete the second phase of the project. This phase consisted of paving a section of the walking trail to be ADA compliant, construction of two cement pads, and the purchase and installation of two ADA compliant Life Trail fitness stations.

The final phase of the project includes expansion of the ADA compliant walkway, two additional cement pads, two additional ADA compliant fitness stations, benches, trash containers, memorial garden and pavilion.

The walking path will be available to the community, staff and people supported by The Arc of Steuben.

If you would like to help, you can make a donation on our website at www.arcofsteuben.org.



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*A Chapter of
The Arc New York*

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Message from the Executive Director



Bernie Burns

The Boards of Directors of the Allegany and Steuben Chapters of The Arc New York recently voted to jointly study the possibility of merging the two chapters into one.

The primary purpose of undertaking the study is to create an organization that will provide world class services and supports for the people of Allegany and Steuben counties who have intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Since funding for services has been uncertain over the last five years, combining chapters will create a stronger financial entity.

Both agencies are strong financially, so to combine them will be beneficial for the future of the people we

support. Additionally, both agencies are recognized for the high quality of their services. Both are accredited by The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL), an international company focused on quality in organizations serving people with IDD. And both have received excellent reviews from the NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

There will be no job eliminations if a unification occurs and the process is going to be a long one. We will give continual updates throughout the upcoming year. Feel free to ask questions, but understand that there may not be concrete answers you are looking for. It is something new to all of us.

~Bernie Burns

Message from the Board President



Stephanie Craig

Happy New Year 2020. I hope that you had a wonderful holiday season.

A great deal has been happening at the Arc of Steuben since the last newsletter. In November 2019, the Art for the Arc event held at the Curtiss Museum was a very big success. It was a lovely evening with the silent auction and some amazing items, music, food, and beverages, with over \$6600 being raised.

As times change and we keep moving forward and examining the best path to take for the future. The Board of Directors were approached to look at a possible merger with Allegany Arc. There has been a movement across the state for chapters to merge. Benefits to mergers can be financial savings, sharing of staff time and abilities, and strengthening existing programs. Both of the organizations, Allegany and Steuben, are sound financially, have strong staff and administrative teams, and can provide mutually beneficial services. The Board of Directors voted in favor of exploring the idea of a merger. An initial Strategic Assessment Team included Denece Gossie, Pennyann Patton, and Art Stillwell. They met 4-5 times and then myself, Linda Carl, Bill Dinehart, Vicki Fuerst, and Mischelle Shattuck joined later. This group met once with Allegany Arc. Each agency has a

Leadership Team. Small groups of these teams meet monthly to go over operating practices for the existing organizations. Recently, members of both Boards met to get acquainted. This event was successful. It was evident that all members are focused on providing excellent services the people we support.

We are also excited about the opening of our new Walking Trail. It is the first one of its kind in Steuben County. The stations along the trail make it very unique to our area. The project will be completed and we will have a grand opening in summer 2020.

The annual Golf Tournament is coming up on June 5, 2020; this year will be our 25th anniversary. I'm certain that much more information will be forthcoming as the planning progresses.

It promises to be a busy 2020. May you all have your health, find joy in your lives, and feel a sense of purpose.

~Stephanie Craig

Dreams Do Come True

By Sue Pietrzak, Administration and Development Executive

Kyle had a dream, a big dream, a dream that would take him to a far away place. His dream was to take a vacation to the city that never sleeps, Las Vegas, NV. Everyone that works with Kyle knew of his dream and with their help it became a reality.

Arc of Steuben associates started working with him thru education and budgeting skills. His savings started growing and this encouraged Kyle to do more. He applied for a job at McDonalds on his own, only telling associates after he got a call for an interview. Associates supported him thru the interview at which time Kyle was hired on the spot.

As Kyle's savings was growing, associates reached out to People and Places about what trips they were offering. Everyone was pleasantly surprised that Las Vegas was on the list. Kyle submitted an application and he paid off his vacation in less than a year.

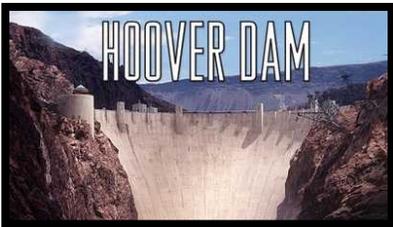
Excitement grew when People and Places called for airline reservations. This was the first time Kyle was leaving New York, flying in a plane and being away from his support system for any length of time. Kyle planned a big shopping trip to get ready for his vacation, purchasing clothes and the necessary "bling" for Las Vegas.

He had an early morning flight (4 am) out of Buffalo, arriving in Las Vegas at 10 am. Some experiences Kyle had were walking the famous Las Vegas Strip, a dinner and show at the Imperial Palace, the Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay, M & M World where he was amazed at all the different candy they had, a trip to Hoover Dam, and Red Rock Cannon. A trip to Las Vegas would not be complete without a visit to a casino. Kyle did just that and walked away a winner of \$.10. He arrived safely back to Buffalo 10 pm.

Kyle had a great time and many thanks to the associates that work with Kyle and the folks at People and Places. Many memories were made and knowing Kyle he is thinking or even planning his next vacation.

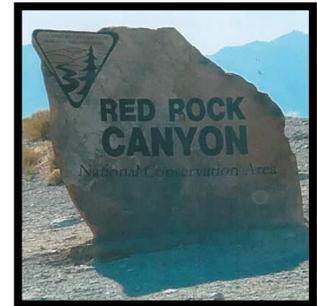
Do you want to help someone realize their dreams? Visit our website to see available job openings.

www.arcofsteuben.org



"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them".

-Walt Disney



Art for the Arc raises over \$6,800

By: Sue Pietrzak, Administration and Development Executive

The Arc of Steuben Foundation hosted the third annual Art for the Arc Auction on November 9, 2019. The event was sponsored by Chemung Canal Trust and was held at the Glenn H. Curtiss Museum in Hammond-sport, NY. The event featured over 80 donations of art and experiences from local artists and businesses. Food was provided by Corning Catering, music by Artistic License, beverage tastings from Cider Creek Hard Cider, Keuka Brewery, Krooked Tusker Distillery and Point of the Bluff winery. Food and beverage pairing was available from Experience the Finger Lakes and live sculpting demonstrations by Alan Bennett.

The Art Auction committee meets for months in advance to secure artwork and donations. They are always thinking of new ways to enhance the next event. Bringing in a live demonstration this year and the food and beverage pairing was a huge success. Both areas drew large crowds. The committee is up to the challenge of making the next event even better than the last three years.

The event wouldn't be successful without the volunteers and the community. Over 211 tickets were sold, a large increase from last year. Word is getting out that this is a great evening out. What could be better than art, music, food, beverages and friends? We hope to see you at the next event.

For more information about the Arc of Steuben Foundation and how you can get involved please visit their website at www.arcofsteubenfoundation.org.





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Art of Steuben Partners with GST BOCES, Capabilities and Arc of Chemung - Schuyler

By: Sue Pietrzak, Administration & Development Executive



The Arc of Steuben, GST BOCES, Capabilities and Arc of Chemung - Schuyler founded the Southern Tier Youth Employment Consortium. The agencies, thru the consortium, applied and were awarded a contract thru New York State Education Department and Access-VR for the Pre-ETS(Employment Training Services) program for youth in the region.

The primary goal is to address the lack of a consistent, universal approach to pre-employment training services (pre-ETS) that can address the needs of students with disabilities including those with dual diagnosis.

The five services that will be provided are:

- Job Exploration Counseling
- Workplace Readiness Training
- Work Based Learning Experience
- Counseling on Opportunities
- Instruction in Self-Advocacy

Through this program the agencies must support 250 students per year for five years.

Although this program is new, we are excited for the opportunity to help young people obtain the knowledge and experience they need to find employment within the community.

***A little progress each day
adds up to big results***


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