



THE MESSENGER

Achieve with us.

Spring Issue, Quarterly Newsletter

June 2017

Serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

“All Aboard The Arc!” 2017

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The newsletter is also available online at www.brocktonarearc.org
Check us out on Facebook (www.facebook.com/Brocktonarc) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/Brocktonarc).

Dear Members and Friends:

Again, this year, our “All Aboard The Arc!” \$10,000 Drawing Event was held locally, at Raynham Park, on May 5, 2017. Over 390 people joined us for the festivities! It was an amazing evening!

After some brief welcoming remarks, **Tracey Glynn** was introduced. Along with other drumming enthusiasts, a “**Drums Alive**” demonstration took place. Thanks to **Vater Percussion**, we had 300 pairs of drumsticks to share with the crowd. With Tracey’s direction, the evening was off to a spirited, enthusiastic, and inclusive start.

Jim Plunkett, our entertainer for the evening, kept the enthusiasm going by playing great music for dancing. He also led a music trivia contest and the “Heads or Tails” game which had a huge pot. The winner, **Robin Goodrich**, donated \$250.00 of her winnings back to us. The dance floor was packed all night.

All 400 chances to win \$10,000.00 were sold! Our collaboration with our friends from **Heartbeats for Down Syndrome** worked extremely well. Special thanks to **Brandi Kunselman, Jessica Melville, Dawn Nichols, and Helen Zade**.

Combining their hard work with the big efforts of BAARC staff, **Gail Delgado and Nancy Isabelle**, resulted in a very successful event! We thank the many BAARC staff who helped with this event,

without which we couldn’t have accomplished so much. We also thank **Linda May, from Roof Drain Marker Company**, and **Miss South Coast, Lindsey Littlefield**, for volunteering to help us at the event. We are most grateful to them and **ALL** of the generous supporters of this event.

A total of **\$52,947.00** was raised! After expenses, the proceeds will be shared with our Heartbeats friends.

We thank **Raynham Park** for their generous hospitality in hosting our event. We thank **Richard Connolly Insurance, Rockland Trust, Eastern Bank, and the Goddard Health Foundation** for their generous support. Further thanks to **Victory Human Services** for sponsoring the photo booth supplied by Rob Peters Entertainment.

It was an evening full of great FUN, great food, and raffles, raffles, raffles!

And, we gave away \$10,000.00! The winning ticket number was 247. We were able to congratulate **Fotis Colococcus** on his good fortune. Fotis generously donated a portion of his winnings to us. Many thanks, Robin and Fotis.

Thanks, again to everybody who made this event a wonderful success.

Jay Lynch
Executive Director

RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY

Phase two, of three, is now complete. The section of the building which will house our Family Support Center has been renovated. The Family Support Center staff have moved into their new offices!

They have plenty of company. To allow Phase three to proceed, all Employment and CBDS participants and staff have temporarily located into the Family Support Center. Our administrative offices have also moved in.

The next step will be the demolition of the old offices and meeting rooms. When that is completed, the phase three renovations will be done. This will allow for improved programming space for Employment and CBDS and new office space for staff. We are making progress. We can see our long time planning becoming reality.

Everybody is doing their best to cooperate and be flexible, every day. Thank you and well done!

As always, if anyone has questions or concerns, please call Jay Lynch at 508-583-8030 x212.

Participants Needed! Study: Future Planning For Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Boston University is doing a research study to develop a new program to increase siblings' involvement in future planning for their brother/sister with autism spectrum disorder. They will be asked to share your ideas about whether families (i.e., adults with autism and siblings) would be interested in participating in a program about future planning, what should be included in this program, and the best format in which to deliver the program.

- Who? Adult siblings, adults with autism, and service providers
- What? An interview or focus group
- How long? 1-2 hours
- When? At a time convenient for you
- Where? At a community location
- Cost? There is no cost if you participate. You will be compensated for your participation in the study.

For more information please contact Kristin Long, PhD at (617) 358-4296 or KALong@bu.edu

FOND FAREWELLS

On March 6, one day after her 70th birthday, we said good-bye to our longtime friend, **Nancy O'Donnell**. Nancy was part of BAArc services for 38 years. Nancy always received the best of care from her family. After her diagnosis and the ensuing treatments, her siblings extended themselves even further to ensure that Nancy was well cared for. Nancy is missed by her many friends at the Brockton Area Arc. We offer our condolences to her family.



After her new college graduate son, John, began working for the Brockton Area Arc, his mother, **Kathleen Snelgrove** befriended us and our organization. Kathleen continued her support of BAArc long after her son moved on to his career with the Brockton Public Schools. It is hard to say goodbye to "old" friends. You, your son, and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

UPCOMING RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Our Recreation Coordinator has been busy developing Summer activities for all ages. There is something for everyone. So sign up and enjoy some summer activities with us.

For more information check out the [Calendar](#) on our website.

- By highlighting the event in the Calendar, you will see more information.
- By clicking on the event, you will see all the information including appropriate age group and cost, if any.
- Under Services, Recreation Programs, you will be able to view the flyer for each age group.

Please contact **Christina Grande** at recreation@brocktonarc.net to register for these events.

EMPLOYMENT FIRST NEWS

- Elvis Soares and Nicole Divens completed an eight week internship at Walgreens on Pleasant St in Brockton. Elvis went on to accept a position with Walgreens where he is doing fabulously.
- This year seven people have been hired for summer employment by the Brockton Rox. Al Milne and Jomo Johnson will be Ticket Takers. Dacia Hood, Dennis Dacruz, Carl Anderson, Latheira Gilmore, and Elvis Soares will be cleaning crew members.
- Kiabely Galarza graduated from the CVS ten Week Training Program. Graduation was held at Regis College with graduates from the other state wide Job Collaboratives.
- CVS Phase 3 will start in June 2017. Christian Crooker has been selected for this 10 week Program.

SHOE *City*

Redemption Center

508 **583-3878**

Monday - Friday	8am-4pm
Saturday	8:30am-12:30pm

1250 West Chestnut Street, Brockton

An "Employment First" business, owned and operated by the Brockton Area Arc. Still offering 5 cents / item on all valid redeemables.

CBDS Activities

Zumba is a favorite activity at the Brockton Area Arc. Tracey Glynn comes on Tuesday afternoons to lead our Zumba class. In addition, some of our Zumba enthusiasts are going in pairs to attend regular Zumba classes at the Easton and Stoughton YMCA. The Easton Y has been very welcoming. It's fun and good exercise.

Gerry McG. and Scott B. are really enjoying Joy of Golf, a 16-week golf program held at the Leo J. Martin Memorial Golf Course in Weston. This series of golf clinics is hosted by Golf For All and supported by the NLM Family Foundation.

Regal Cinema is again have weekly summer movies at 10 a.m. for only a \$1.00 per person. There will be multiple groups attending fun movies each week.

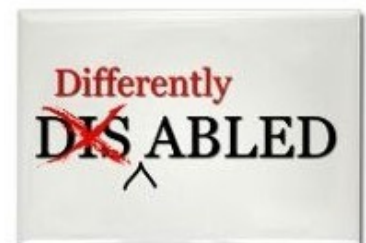
Come one, come all to Free Fun Fridays sponsored by the Highland Street Foundation. For 10 Friday's, there are numerous museums and cultural events to attend for free. We check the list and go on an adventure each Friday. It's a great opportunity to visit museums we wouldn't normally go to.

We are always searching for any event that will entertain and/or educate at a low cost. Let us know if you have any suggestions for us to pursue.

Our website rewritten
www.brocktonareaarc.org

After much work, our new website has been finally launched. It has a lot of new information. You will especially like the **Calendar** feature which includes all the recreation activities for all ages and workshops being offered by our Family Support Center.

Let us know what you think. Are we missing something you would like us to include?



NEWS FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

For more information about items listed below, *unless otherwise specified*,

508-583-8030, ext. 224 (Kathy) or 219 (Danielle)

508-583-8030, ext. 223 (Cape Verdean) ext 311 (Haitian)

508-583-8030, ext. 209 (recreation)

TRANSITION FORUM AT BAARC

On June 13, young people and their parents heard a panel of speakers explain the transition process from school to adult services.

- Beth Moran Liuzzo, DDS Brockton Area Director, and Mary Beth Finneran, the DDS Brockton Area Transition Service Coordinator, provided information about the Chapter 688 referral to adult services, DDS eligibility and prioritization for adult services, and the range of services offered to eligible adults.
- Vanessa Sullivan, Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor for the Brockton Area office of the Mass. Rehabilitation Commission, spoke about MRC eligibility and services for adults.
- Rob Biela, Employment and Community-Based Day Services Director at BAARC, explained how the state's Employment First Initiative has resulted in more opportunities for competitive employment for adults with disabilities.

As an example, participants learned how BAARC is providing job training and job development services for individuals referred by DDS.

Additional forums exploring transition-related topics will take place at BAARC throughout the coming year. If you would like more information, please contact Kathy Kerwin at the Family Support Center.

Haitian Mothers' Day Celebration

On Sunday, May 21st, thirty-two members of the Haitian Family Support Group gathered to celebrate Mothers' Day. Some Haitian delicacies were prepared and shared. Our colleague, Eleonor Jean-Pierre made sure that all the mothers received flowers on this special day.



Exceptional Lives

Exceptional Lives recently launched its free, user-friendly Disability Resource Directory, a searchable online database of disability programs and providers in Massachusetts. It contains more than 1,200 resources in 54 service categories in areas such as:

- Therapy (including speech, PT, OT, and ABA providers)
- Education
- Employment (including transition & vocational programs)
- Medical & clinical
- Adult programs (including housing & transportation services)
- Parent & caregiver support
- Legal help
- Social & recreational (including after-school programs & summer camps)
- Sibling support, family grants, and more.

The Resource Directory is designed for parents, caregivers, and professionals. Users can search for services by zip code, age group, disability type, if it is covered by MassHealth, and whether a facility is wheelchair-accessible. Each search produces a printable resource list and a visual resource map displaying options in a person's local area.

The Directory is an updated and redesigned version of a resource database previously managed by the nonprofit Autism Consortium, whose resource specialists used it to connect families to relevant resources. The resource specialists served families in Massachusetts hospitals including Boston Children's Hospital, Mass General Hospital's Lurie Center, Tufts Floating Hospital for Children, Boston Medical Center, and UMass Memorial in Worcester.

For more info, visit www.exceptionallives.org or contact Jay O'Brien at info@exceptionallives.org or 884-354-1212.

ABLE Accounts: In Massachusetts, the ABLE Savings Plan is now offered by MEFA and managed by Fidelity. It is called "AttainABLE." ABLE accounts are tax-advantaged saving accounts for individuals with disabilities. ABLE accounts are a financial planning tool that allows individuals with disabilities to establish savings accounts that will not affect their eligibility for SSI, MassHealth and other public benefits.

The ABLE Act limits eligibility to individuals with significant disabilities with an age of onset of disability before turning 26 years of age. You do not need to establish the ABLE account before age 26, but the disability onset must be before the 26th birthday. An individual can only have one ABLE account, although many people, such as parents and grandparents, can contribute to the account. The total annual contributions by all contributors in a single tax year is \$14,000. For SSI recipients, the ABLE Act exempts the first \$100,000 from the SSI \$2000 individual resource limit. However, if the account exceeds \$100,000, the beneficiary's SSI cash benefit would be suspended until the account falls back below \$100,000. There is no similar limitation on Medicaid benefits. However, depending on the state in which the beneficiary resides, there may be a "Medicaid Pay-Back" provision that would go into effect when the beneficiary dies.

Expenses allowed by ABLE accounts are described as a "qualified disability expense." This is any expense related to the designated beneficiary as a result of living a life with disabilities. This may include education, housing, transportation, employment training and support, assistive technology, personal support services, health care expenses, financial management and administrative services and other expenses, which help improve health, independence, and/or quality of life.

Here are some trustworthy sites for much more information about ABLE accounts on the Internet.

Fidelity Investments: <https://www.fidelity.com/able/attainable/>

Special Needs Planning: www.Specialneedsplanning.com

ABLE National Resource Center: <http://www.ablenrc.org/>

Brockton Area Arc To Pilot a Program Designed to Increase Siblings' Involvement in Future Planning:

BAArc is recruiting 6 adults who have brothers or sisters with autism spectrum disorder to participate in an individualized support and planning process in the fall. A trained facilitator, under the guidance of researchers/clinicians from Boston University, will assist adult siblings to understand the service delivery system, help their brother or sister to develop a vision for the future, and to advocate for that sibling.

If you would like to participate in this pilot program, or you would like more information, please contact Kathy Kerwin at the Family Support Center.

Parent Consultant Training Institute: The Federation for Children with Special Needs offers this specialized training at various locations in Massachusetts. In the Spring of 2018, the training will be offered in Brockton.

The PCTI is an intensive training program designed to provide parents and professionals with a solid foundation in special education laws, procedures, and related subjects. The training consists of 40-54 hours of classroom instruction including, among others, the following topics:

- Basic Rights in Special Education
- IDEA and MGLc 71B legislative history
- Special Education advocacy and implementation of the law
- Writing Measurable IEP Goals
- Effective Progress and Hot Topics
- Neuropsychological Evaluations
- Academic Evaluations
- Discipline and Suspension
- Introduction to the Transition Planning Process
- Transition Assessments
- Section 504
- Families and Culture
- Effective Communication
- Problem Resolution Service (PRS) Complaints
- Mediation
- BSEA Appeals

Presenters include Federation staff, attorneys, and experts in the field of special education, representatives from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Bureau of Special Education Appeals (BSEA), among others. Upon completion of the classroom component, students participate in an optional internship program. For more information, visit the website: <http://fcsn.org/ptic/parent-consultant-training>.

From the Federation for Children with Special Needs website: TIPS: Transition Information for Parents and their Students with IEPs: A series of brochures produced by The LINK Center – a project of the Federation for Children with Special Needs, and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE).

The transition brochures provide important information that can be found in the Transition Technical Assistance Advisories developed by ESE. The brochures will hopefully provide easy and accessible information that can be readily shared to help explain [the secondary transition process \(PDF\)](#), [transition assessment \(PDF\)](#) and [self-determination \(PDF\)](#). For more information visit www.fcsn.org/linkcenter/getting-started/transition-brochures

MEMBER RECOGNITION

THANK YOU FOR RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Joanne Bergeron	Pamela Booth	Abigail Deleon	Marjoryann Duncan
Nsa Henshaw	Melanie MacKenzie	M. Teresa Mascarenhas	Dawn Nichols
Kara O'Halloran	JoAnn Rienzie	Michael Turner	
New Member:	MaryAnne Burrell		

SAVE THE DATE!

The Arc of Massachusetts Transition Conference November 4 at the College of the Holy Cross

The keynote speaker is Michael Wehmeyer, Director and Senior Scientist at the Beach Center on Disability, University of Kansas. He has researched and written extensively on issues pertaining to self-determination, positive psychology and disability, transition to adulthood, the education and inclusion of students with severe disabilities, and technology use by people with cognitive disabilities.

There will be more than 25 breakout sessions on a variety of transition-related topics, such as employment, public benefits, self-determination, the IEP and transition, relationships and sexuality, complex medical needs, assistive technology, and many more. 350 people are expected to register for this amazing conference.

Registration information will be available in August.

Monday, July 17, 2017

The 24th annual OE+ Charity Golf Tournament to benefit the Brockton Area Arc will be held at the Fall River Country Club. To receive a tournament brochure, contact Steve Petluck at 508-583-8030 x215 or by email at spetluck@brocktonarc.net.

To register on-line go to:

www.birdeasepro.com/OECharityGolf

RECRUITING BROCKTON AREA ARC SEEKING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

"The Brockton Area Arc Human Rights Committee's general responsibility is to assist BAArc to affirm, promote, and protect the human and civil rights of individuals served and to monitor and review the activities of BAArc with regard to the human and civil rights of those individuals..."

Some major topics of discussion and review at HRC meetings are:

- Review of incident reports, investigations and complaints
- Policy, procedure and by-law review
- Supports and health related protections
- HRC request for follow-up information from the BAArc HRC coordinator

The HRC meets once every other month on the first Wednesday of the month at 5pm starting with supper provided by BAArc. and usually ends no later than 7pm.

If you are interested in becoming a voting member of BAArc's HRC please contact: Rob Biela, BAArc HRC Coordinator; 508-583-8030 x213 or rbiela@brocktonarc.net

Family Support Is Growing! A new Opportunity.

The Family Support Center is currently recruiting another full-time coordinator. We are looking for someone who understands the issues that families face every day, and who has a working knowledge of special education. Because so many families we support have loved ones with Autism Spectrum Disorder, the ideal candidate will also be familiar with resources that can benefit these families. A job description is available upon request. Please contact Kathy Kerwin for more information.

KUDOS

- **To the Marshall family, the Kamp family, and the Robertson family.** Your very generous \$1,000.00 donation in loving memory of Mildred Marshall, mother of Joyce Marshall, is most appreciated. Thank you very much!
 - **To Judi Rounds and the family of Guy Gove.** Even in sorrow you thought of Guy's friends at the Brockton Area Arc. Your generous donation in Guy's memory will be put to good use. Many thanks!
 - **To Connie and Andrew Chagnon, Kathy Lynch, Rockland Trust, Eastern Bank, and The Goddard Foundation.** Their combined support of this year's "All Aboard the Arc!" initiative for BAArc was \$4,500.00! Your generous donations will be used to enhance our programs and services. We are most grateful!
 - **To Mark Christensen.** Your annual donation in Diane's memory for camperships through our Lyons/Warniment/Gardner/Christensen Fund is most kind. You have made a week at Camp Grotonwood for six people possible. They will have a great week due to your generosity. Many thanks.
 - **To our group of eight self-advocates and three staff** who attended the 39th Annual Legislative Reception sponsored by the MDDC and The Arc Massachusetts on March 27. The extra efforts you made to attend and the messages you delivered are appreciated and valued. The Brockton Area Arc was very well represented. Nicely done!
 - **To Linda Balzotti.** Thank you for your recent donation. You are a valued member and friend to the Brockton Area Arc. Sincere thanks!
 - **To Dr. Joseph Cohan.** You were most kind to donate your four Red Sox box seats to allow our group to attend the game played on April 13. Our group had a great time. Thank you very much!
 - **To the members of the Haitian Family Support Group.** Eleonor shared the story of your good works with us. When you learned that a member was in need at your March 19th meeting, all present rallied to help that person. We are inspired by your demonstration of love for "your neighbor".
 - **To Medgine Dufrene, Christina Grande, Tracey Glynn, Karen Earley-Rodriguez, and all the Sunday Recreation Program staff.** Thank you ALL for your good work in making the Winter/Spring 2017 run of the Sunday Recreation Program another success. You provided opportunities for great fun.
- Further thanks to the terrific young people and to their parents and family members for entrusting us with your loved one. Great kids, great staff, great activities, and great fun is a successful formula!
- **To David Perry.** Your hand drawn ship on a shell necklace was a treasured prize at our "All Aboard The Arc!" "night of" raffle on May 5th. Your artistry is exceeded only by your kindness. Thank you very much!
 - **To Adam Belmore, Ernie Ortega, and Jean Snow.** Congratulations on completing the DDS Certificate in Human Services Program at Massasoit Community College. Your commitment over the past year is noteworthy. We, at BAArc, will all benefit from what you have learned. Well done!

EMPLOYMENT FIRST

