



Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Attleboro, MA  
Permit No. 89



► Running in  
Memory of  
Maggie: A  
Cousin's Tribute



PAGE 6

► Brotherly Love,  
A Success Story



PAGE 6

► Employee of  
The Quarter,  
Doreen Mallette



PAGE 3

# Community Links

VOL 2 | Spring | 2009

**Main Office**  
141 Park St.  
Attleboro, MA 02703  
Tel: 508 226-1445  
Fax: 508 226-1476

**Taunton Area Resource Center**  
437 Bay St.  
Taunton, MA 02780  
Tel: 508 884-2971  
Fax: 508 884-2964

**proAbility**  
3469 Mendon Rd.  
Cumberland, RI 02864  
Tel: 401 658-1634  
Fax: 401 685-1674

**Day Habilitation Services**  
205 West Grove Street  
Middleboro, MA 02346  
Tel: 508 946-2121  
Fax: 508 946-2195

Or Email Us at [info@arcnbc.org](mailto:info@arcnbc.org)

The Arc is going green! Please send us your email address so we can send you this newsletter electronically. Go to [www.arcnbc.org](http://www.arcnbc.org) and enter our electronic mailing list today!

**Celebrating 50  
RemARCable Years!**  
1959 - 2009



**Save the date:  
June 25, 2009**

Please plan to join us for  
an evening at the  
Lake View Pavilion  
Foxboro, MA

Plans are well underway to mark the 50th Anniversary of The Arc of Northern Bristol County. How can you get involved? You can:

- ◆ Mark your calendar and plan to join us on June 25 for a wonderful celebration of 50 RemARCable Years!
- ◆ Become a Sponsor of the June 25th event; call Sammi Robertson (508) 226-1445 extension 3333 for more information.
- ◆ Be part of our special book we will distribute on June 25 "Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present and Anticipating the Future." Space will be available for names and tributes by friends of The Arc for a small fee.
- ◆ Share your experience of The Arc to our committee compiling the history of The Arc.

## Save The Date!

Plans are underway for The Arc of Northern Bristol County's Anniversary Celebration – we hope you will join us as we celebrate 50 RemARCable Years **Thursday, June 25, 2009** at the Lake View Pavilion in Foxboro!

See Pages 4 and 5 for more information!

*Please be sure to watch for your invitation by early May...this will truly be an event you won't want to miss!!*



## We've come a long way in 50 years

Fifty years ago, it was a very different world for people with developmental disabilities or delays.

In 1959, the last halcyon days of the Eisenhower era, conformity was still at a premium, difference was discouraged and the ideal was white-picket fence suburban perfection.

Developmental disabilities - known in those days under the catchall phrase of "mental retardation" - were often viewed as a hopeless and shameful disease and those who were afflicted were isolated from society and often hidden away by their own families.

"There is no hope, no cure, no future," one author wrote in a book of the period.

There were no federal agencies devoted to the well-being of the disabled, few educational resources and little in the way of a support network. In fact, in the middle of the 20th century, attitudes toward the mentally disabled were not much different than during the 19th century.

Edward Shorter, in his 2000 book "The Kennedy Family and the Story of Mental Retardation," notes that, historically, the disabled "were seen as useless, marginalized at the rim of society and seen as nothing more than burdens."

American author Pearl S. Buck, winner of the Pulitzer and Nobel prizes whose daughter was disabled, argued in a popular 1950 book, "The Child Who Never Grew," that institutionalization was best for most such children.

A parent who had a child with, for example, Down syndrome, had few options.

Short of institutionalizing a child - something, given the state of most institutions, many parents were unwilling to do - families faced a limited future. They might withdraw from a world where other parents did not want their children playing with a little boy or girl with disabilities for fear that "it might rub off."



So it took considerable courage in 1959 for families, meeting in kitchens and living rooms around Bristol County, to form a chapter of the then new organization known as the National Association for Retarded Children, dedicated to the help and support of families living with individuals with disabilities.

Today, several name changes later, as the Arc of Northern Bristol County that group serves more than 1,200 people and their families in 14 Massachusetts communities and throughout Rhode Island. In June it will mark "50 RemARCable Years" with a dinner and dance in Foxboro.

Arc will be asking local businesses to help underwrite the event to keep it affordable for community members.

We think this is an event that deserves that support, and celebration too. For more information, visit the Arc's Web site, [arcnbc.org](http://arcnbc.org).

Reprinted with permission of The Sun Chronicle

**The Arc of Northern  
Bristol County  
Board of Directors**

**Board Chair**  
Valerie Zagami

**Vice Chair**  
Paul Camille

**Secretary**  
Richard Harwood

**Treasurer**  
Paul Oliveira

**Past Chair**  
Scott Scales

**Directors at Large**  
Dr. Nona Baldwin  
David Broden  
Anthony Calcia  
James Ragazzo  
Dr. Jeffrey Tannenbaum  
Jackie Theis

**Director Emeritus**  
Kevin Poirier

**President/CEO**  
Michael M. Andrade

**Community Links is  
produced by:**

Patricia Kirby  
**Director of Development &  
Public Relations**

**The Arc of Northern Bristol County**  
141 Park Street  
Attleboro, MA 02703  
(508) 226-1445 Fax(508) 226-1476  
www.arcnbc.org

*From Our President /CEO*

Dear Friends of The Arc,

I hope you are well during these difficult economic times. Bill Taylor from Advocates recently wrote a letter calling for support. I endorse this letter and hope that you will help us in our advocacy.



*In what was certainly an agonizing decision for Gov. Patrick morally and fiscally, he has proposed for the new state budget beginning July 1 the elimination of all supports to those families, who are caring at home for their loved one with developmentally disabilities or autism. While the \$45 million currently spent on these services are most likely unknown budget items to the majority of Massachusetts taxpayers, they are exactly what helps keep over 13,000 families together throughout the Commonwealth.*

*These flexible dollars provide families with a variety of supportive services, including a respite from their own intensive 24/7 care, support from trained and knowledgeable professionals, adaptive equipment, assistive technologies, help with home modifications, or reliable assistance from others. These creative interventions often make the difference that helps families stay together, and not require expensive, alternative out of home placements, such as group homes or residential schools.*

*Fortunately there may be an opportunity to revisit this budget cut, when billions of dollars from the stimulus package reach Massachusetts. Congress designed the stimulus package to address many different needs from "shovel ready" projects to tax cuts. Among the many ways that Congress sought to spend to stimulate the economy was to designate some dollars to protect our most vulnerable citizens. Continuing support to those families needing such support is consistent with congressional intent, and both a wise way to spend stimulus dollars, and to simultaneously save future dollars that might otherwise be required for away-from-family placements.*

*The final stimulus package passed by Congress contains more money for Massachusetts than was planned by the governor, when he recently proposed a conservative budget for the FY10 fiscal year. When President Obama's stimulus dollars arrive, the governor and the Legislature should revisit these proposed budget reductions, and keep funding these important services that keep families together.*

Thanks to all of your advocacy, the Governor has agreed to restore half of his initial cuts to the Community Programs Account. Though helpful, the remaining reduction is targeted at families. Specifically, 9,000 families will be losing critical services such as planned respite, stipends and flexible funding effective July 1, 2009. This will place families in crisis and erode our safety net. We need you to take action today, call your legislative representatives and urge them to prevent this devastating change.

Sincerely,

Michael Andrade  
President & CEO, The Arc of Northern Bristol County

**You Too Can Help  
The Arc Of Northern Bristol County**

Did you know that 89 cents of every dollar you contribute to The Arc goes directly to the services we provide? We keep our administrative costs very low at 11% as we fulfill our mission. When you consider your charitable giving, please remember to support The Arc of Northern Bristol County. Every gift, big or small, is greatly appreciated and goes to support our mission. If you have any questions about a gift, please contact Pat Kirby, Director of Development at [pkirby@arcnbc.org](mailto:pkirby@arcnbc.org) or call (508) 226-1445 X3111.

*The Arc of Northern Bristol County's mission is to strive for the right of all people with developmental disabilities to be valued as individuals, to experience choice, and to be fully included in all aspects of community life.*

**Shaw's Supermarkets  
Neighborhood Rewards**

Shaw's Supermarkets have made changes to their Receipt Rewards program. What's now going to be called "Neighborhood Rewards" may make it easier to have The Arc benefit from your grocery shopping, and the best part: No more saving paper receipts! But there are a few things to do:

- ➔ If you have a Shaw's Rewards Card, go to [www.shaws.com/neighborhoodrewards](http://www.shaws.com/neighborhoodrewards) to register your number. The Arc of Northern Bristol County's Neighborhood Rewards ID # 49001018985 You will need this number to have The Arc benefit.
- ➔ If you shop at Shaw's but don't have a Rewards Card, you need to sign up for one to participate in this program.
- ➔ Only purchases made on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday will be counted toward this program.

If you have any questions, or need help registering online, please contact Pat Kirby at The Arc and I'll be happy to help you. Please pass word of this change to anyone you know who may be involved in Shaw's Rewards either for The Arc or with any other organization. I do want to thank you for helping with this and all our fundraising for The Arc. It does make a difference!

**Family Support Update**

Dear Families:

I have greatly enjoyed working at The Arc especially with Families through the Family Support Program. I am taking this opportunity to say I will be leaving my position as of March 27, 2009. It has been a pleasure working with you.

Sincerely,  
Ida Lindquist



*We at The Arc thank Ida for her years of compassionate service to families. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors. Families can contact Donna Brown at ext. 3105*

**The Arc is pleased to announce we have received the following grants:**

- ◆ Attleboro Cultural Council- \$500 for Wall of Gratitude
- ◆ Bristol County Saving Charitable Foundation- \$5,000 for TARC Teaching Kitchen
- ◆ CVS Caremark Charitable Trust- \$7,000 for Project Kids Connect
- ◆ Foxborough Cultural Council- \$450 for FLAME performance June 25, 2009
- ◆ Hasbro Children's Fund- \$5,000 for Awakening Rhode Island Autistic Children program
- ◆ Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care Quality Improvement Grant- \$15,000 for Active Children Together
- ◆ Massachusetts Workforce Training Fund- \$23,100 for Employee Leadership Training
- ◆ North Attleboro Cultural Council- \$500 for FLAME performance June 25, 2009
- ◆ Norton Cultural Council- \$500 for FLAME performance June 25, 2009
- ◆ Rhode Island Foundation- \$1,000 for Arc 50<sup>th</sup> year video and book
- ◆ Taunton Cultural Council- \$500 for Adaptive Photography Club
- ◆ The Bubel/Aiken Foundation- \$10,000 for Project Kids Connect
- ◆ Yawkey Foundation II- \$25,000 for Capital Expenses

# Spotlight On: 50 RemARCable Years!

## Fashion And Style Committee

The Fashion and Style Committee was formed by staff members who wanted to help the people we serve dress and look extra special for this extra special celebration. In this effort, clothes have been donated, and people have volunteered to help people prepare to attend the dinner on June 25th. This is not a formal event but rather an event for people to dress in something that makes them feel special. The people we have volunteering are comprised of both professionals in the styling industry as well as non professionals volunteering their time to help someone else to feel pampered and special.

Thank you to all of those people who have offered to volunteer their time and/or for their contributions! We know that with your help, the evening will be a huge success!!



Mistress of Ceremonies Gail Huff

This event will celebrate the past, the present and our hope for the future. We will honor our founding families who started this organization fifty years ago by meeting in living rooms and kitchens to discuss how to support families living with individuals with developmental disabilities. We are also celebrating the vibrant and growing organization we are today, serving over 1,200 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in 14 Massachusetts communities and throughout Rhode Island.

The festivities will begin with a cocktail reception at 6:00 p.m. and will also include a sit down dinner and short program which will begin at 7:00.

WCVB-TV Channel 5 News Reporter, Gail Huff, has agreed to be the Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening. In addition to her extensive career on television as a well-known news reporter, Mrs. Huff donates considerable time to non-profit organizations in the community; and has been recognized with numerous awards for her work with area charities.

Dr. Stephen Shore will be our special guest speaker. Dr. Shore is an internationally known speaker from the special needs community and is an adult on the autism spectrum. He is an accomplished author and professor and travels the world telling his story providing invaluable information to educators and parents of children with special needs.

There will also be music and dancing beginning at 8:30 p.m. For those of you who attended last year's annual meeting, you may remember the band, **FLAME**, a group from



FLAME's Shakettes

upstate New York, made up of people with developmental and or physical disabilities. They are truly a phenomenon that inspires people, and they have changed the way the general public views people with disabilities. People of all ages and backgrounds connect with this talented band; and the feedback they get from parents of children with disabilities is probably the most overwhelming. Parents are often overcome with emotion watching FLAME as FLAME gives them hope that their child can achieve great things and, even more importantly, have a fun, fulfilling life.

In addition to our entertainment and awards presentation, there will be a very special video tribute to the wonderful people that we serve. It will reflect on the many year's of service provided to our friends and families and will also share special moments spanning 50 years.

Finally, there are several ways that you may participate in this important celebration! There will be a program booklet in which individuals (or businesses) may offer their support to one of our honorees or a note of thanks to a special member of our staff who may have made a difference in their life. It is a thoughtful way to simply make mention of someone special. Each Program Booklet Tribute consists of a three-line message and the cost is \$50.00 with proceeds directed to help the Arc underwrite the cost of this event.

You may also participate as a sponsor or guest. Tickets to attend this event are \$50.00 for Arc Members and \$75.00 for non-members; and if you would like more information on how to become a sponsor, please call 508.226.1445, ext. 3333.



Pictured are Dianne Thurber, Valerie Zagami and Jamie Lyle

*"I am proud to say that The Arc of Northern Bristol County is an organization with heart. For five decades, our stakeholders have taught us fundamental lessons surrounding respect, dignity and choice for those who are considered different. This year, we celebrate that difference and acknowledge that people with disabilities are true citizens and are a vital part of the diverse fabric of our communities. All are invited to join us in celebrating this epic accomplishment to honor the past, celebrate the present and anticipate the future."*

-Valerie Zagami  
Chair of The Arc of Northern Bristol County's Board of Directors

## Celebrating Arc Arts!

The Arts Committee is very excited about the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration. The Arc is very lucky to have so many talented artists who will be sharing their gifts with us on June 25, 2009.

The Photography Club at TARC has been meeting for 3 years and have taken some eye catching shots and will continue to take more in the next few months prior to the gala.

Both Andrew Randall and Jessica Vohs will be displaying their unique art work. They each bring different techniques to the canvas, but ultimately they both make it come alive. The colors are vibrant and tell a story.

Sherri Parker was an individual that the Arc supported prior to her moving to Florida. Prior to her move she began a jewelry making class. She engaged many of our individuals in the class and taught them how to make necklaces, bracelets, key chains, anything with beads.

Butterfly by Jessica Vohs



Sherri has agreed to make some of her beautiful beaded jewelry and send it to us for this special occasion. Her only regret is that she will not be here to wear the jewelry herself.

TARC started an arts and crafts class about 4 years ago and has made some incredible projects. They create their projects based on upcoming holidays, the seasons, or an idea that someone has thought up. No project is impossible for the class to create. The projects are done at a minimal cost to the individuals involved and the smiles that each individual walks out of the class with are from ear to ear.

Please join The Arts Committee on June 25 and view all of the wonderful artist's work.

If anyone would like to contribute their artwork or knows of an artist that would like to display their artwork at the event, please contact Lesley Azzinaro at 508-226-1445.

Invitations will arrive in your mailbox by early May.

Tickets are: \$50 for Arc Members, \$75 for Non-Members.

Sponsorship Opportunities are still available.

Please call (508) 226-1445 extension 3333 for more information.



## Help us complete the History of The Arc

As part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration, we are capturing stories, profiles and pictures from all 50 years of The Arc. Have you got some old pictures, stories, anecdotes from the past 50 years of The Arc that you would be willing to share? Call Donna Brown 508-226-1445 X3105 or Doreen Mallette 508-884-2971.

## Friendship – A True Celebration

It is a year of celebration for The Arc of Northern Bristol County being that 2009 represents 50 years of providing supports and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and for their families. Linda Mosher and Judy Kelley are celebrating 25 years of friendship this year.

Linda and Judy met through a program called Citizen Advocacy, an Arc program during the 1980's. The purpose of the program was to match individuals with disabilities with a volunteer who had similar interests and time to commit to a new relationship. People made connections in their communities. Social and communication skills increased. Volunteers became strong advocates for services and supports for the individual with whom they were matched. However, the most rewarding aspect of this service was the relationships that formed resulting in nice acquaintances and in some instances lasting friendships. Linda's and Judy's relationship is a true testament to just that - a lasting friendship.

*Donna Brown  
Director of Family Support*

## United Way Thanks Arc Employees

I wanted to write to thank you and your staff for the incredible support given to United Way during this year's campaign. Special thanks go to Pat as she was instrumental in coordinating the many logistics that go into a well organized campaign. Clearly the efforts paid off. Despite unprecedented poor economic conditions, over \$3000 was raised for the community fund this year; an increase over last year. What a remarkable and admirable achievement! As we face difficult funding decisions, please know what a difference each gift makes. I hope you will share your success with your generous staff who so clearly understand the concept of working together for a common good. It was my pleasure to work with The Arc and will look forward to building on the success of this fundraiser next year.

Sincerely,  
*Diane Franciosa, United Way of Greater Attleboro/Taunton*

## Brotherly Love: A Success Story



Thomas DeStefano had the opportunity to visit with his brother, Mario, in Peabody on March 12. The two brothers had not seen each other in over 10 years due to medical reasons preventing attempted visits. Thomas was accompanied by his house mate and Arc staff up to Peabody. He had the opportunity to see the community where his brother lives and then enjoyed a lunch at a local restaurant. Thomas said "I felt a little strange at first because it's been a long time since I had seen him. But we definitely look alike so I know he's my brother. I missed him a lot and after we got talking, it was a very nice visit. I hope I can do it again soon."

*Submitted by Rebecca Barry, Individual Support*

## Running for Maggie

By Andrew Gallagher

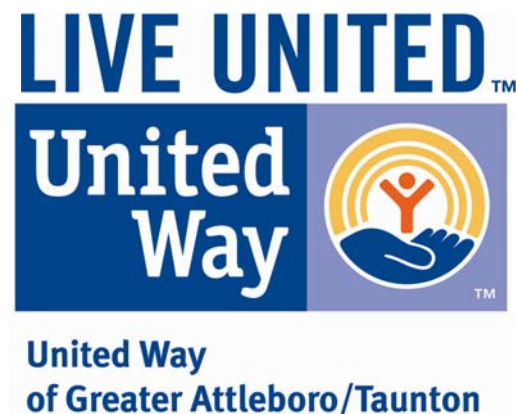


As many of you know, my cousin Maggie passed away last year. Throughout her life, she brought joy to so many people and she was an inspiration to all of us who knew her, but there were also many people who sent joy the other way and made her happy. She met many of these people through The Arc of Northern Bristol County.

Whether going to a dance with her friends or taking part in the other activities The Arc offers, Maggie's life was made happier and she was able to enjoy many new experiences through this important organization.

I will be running the Boston Marathon on April 20th and am hoping to finish in a qualifying time of 3 hours and 10 minutes. During that time I'll be thinking of Maggie, and I also hope to use this occasion to raise money for the group that brought her so much joy, so that they can continue to serve people with disabilities for many years to come. If you're interested in helping me support this cause, you can make a secure donation through [www.firstgiving.com](http://www.firstgiving.com), and you can track my progress towards the goal of \$2,000 as well. Any support of this important cause will be greatly appreciated by the many people who benefit from all that The Arc provides.

Thanks so much and hopefully I'll hear you cheering on April 20th!



## Employee of the Quarter

We at The Arc of Northern Bristol County contribute our successes to the extraordinary effort put forth by our patrons, volunteers, and employees. Knowing this, we have decided each quarter to recognize an employee who has gone above and beyond what is required of them.

**Nomination Deadlines for 2009:**  
June 1 August 1 November 1

## Our Employee of the Quarter is Doreen Mallette

Doreen has been with The Arc of Northern Bristol County since 1993. She's an amazing team player. Her work has always shown extreme compassion for those she helps, and puts in long hours to get it all done. Doreen has not only worked hard for the individuals she helps, but also volunteers for events for The Arc including the Pancake Breakfast and 50 RemARCable Years!. At TARC she helps with coverage and is always flexible. She's been a great "in" with the citizens of Taunton. She knows many people and uses her connections to promote The Arc. She even participates in the neighborhood watch in the Resource Center neighborhood to give us a voice in keeping a safe neighborhood!

## Middleboro Day Habilitation Open, Grateful for Generous Support

By Matt Vaillancourt



The Arc's Middleboro Day Habilitation Program is up and running. The doors officially opened on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Since that time, we've had the pleasure of welcoming two participants, Ronnie and Mike into the program. I speak for everyone involved when I say that we feel lucky to have them on board. Their positive attitudes, sense of humor and willingness to try new things has given each of us something to look forward to each day.

The past few weeks have flown by. It seems like just yesterday we were waiting for the tables and chairs to arrive and the phone to be hooked up. Over the past month, many people in the Middleboro area and in surrounding towns have reached out to welcome us.

We are grateful for the support and want to say thanks to...

- ◆ Marty Bray and Elliot Schneider for their hard work in providing such a nice place for people to learn and grow as well as building the accessible kitchen.
- ◆ The staff at Middleboro High School including Val Rufo, Kathy Strader, Jeanne Williams, Carol Pierce and many others who have welcomed us into town, spread the word and helped with Ronnie's transition.

- ◆ Joan Bray for her generous donations
- ◆ Doug Stone and the proAbility staff for helping with the open house.
- ◆ The staff at the Arc's Taunton Resource Center for working with us to provide new opportunities and connecting us with Terri Sweeney, a volunteer who gave us the chance to be creative through photography.
- ◆ The staff at Keypoint Partners, Cranberry Chiropractic and the Frederic Chamberlain School offices for opening their doors and giving us a chance to do some volunteering.
- ◆ Michael Andrade and the Board of Directors for the opportunity to create something new.
- ◆ The staff, Ellen Therrian RN, Garrett Walsh and Christina Berger for their hard work and dedication.

We hope to continue to expand both the size and scope of the program in the coming months. For more information on the services being provided at the Middleboro Day habilitation program, please call Matt Vaillancourt at 508-946-2121 and remember, the door is always open to visitors.