

Achieve

Summer 2022



The Arc
Bristol County

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED. 



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The 39th Annual State Reps Cup Golf Tournament Another Success

The 39th Annual State Reps Cup Golf Tournament continues to be a special day of golf to support Education Advocacy across the South Coast. With the steady support of the State Representatives, the annual golf tournament held at New Bedford Country Club on June 13th was a huge success! 19 teams of golfers hit the course and every sponsorship level had a corporate partner. The resulting support reached a net profit of \$39,000.

We truly could not have the event without the extraordinary efforts of MA State Reps Antonio Cabral, Paul Schmid, Chris



Markey, Christopher Hendricks and William Straus. We also want to thank all of our Sponsors for such an exceptional day, especially BayCoast Bank, Bristol County Savings Bank, First Bristol Corporation & Southcoast Hospital Group for being premier level sponsors! We look forward to the 40th Event!



Congratulations to the amazing and dedicated staff at The Arc of Bristol County for their Community Integration & Host Family / Shared Living Services 3 year Accreditation!!!!



Achieve with us.

Welcome



Dear Friends,
I hope this letter finds you happy and healthy and that you have been enjoying and finding relief

from New England's warm summer months. I want to share many of our recent updates and upcoming events with you. This past spring we went through an extensive CARF International review. CARF is an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative qualification process and continuous improvement services that center on enhancing the lives of the persons served. Once again, The Arc of Bristol County has been accredited for a period of three years for its Community Integration programs (Middleboro and Attleboro Day Habilitation Centers), and Host Family (Adult Family Care)/ Shared Living Services. This decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be given to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to

the CARF standards. The Arc has demonstrated to a team of surveyors a commitment to offering programs and services that are measurable, accountable, and of the highest quality.

Early June, we held our 39th Annual Arc Charity State Representatives Cup golf tournament at the beautiful Country Club of New Bedford. It was a wonderful turnout, a beautiful day and always a great time.

In other news, we participated in a training offered to Bristol County Police officers on best practices when dealing with domestic and sexual abuse survivors, elder abuse, when interacting with individuals with Autism, as well as individuals from the deaf or hard of hearing community. These trainings were held on 4 separate days in June and it was great collaborating with other organizations and the officers so that the people we serve are adequately protected, given the proper help and understood.

Late in the month of July, we opened our third home dedicated to individuals living with Acquired Brain Injuries (ABI) and in October we will be opening our fourth such home. These beautiful homes allow individuals to thrive and live more independently in a family style

setting rather than in a nursing facility.

We are also working on the next Arc Strong Run, Walk & Roll event scheduled for September 24th. This year the event will be at the Attleboro Corporate Center Park, Sensata has graciously allowed us to use their parking lot and grounds for the start and finish to the race. We plan to have a DJ, a Drums Alive presentation and simply an event to share friendship and laughter with the people we love and care for. Registration is now open. Visit our website www.arcnbc.org or www.raceentry.com to join us!

For your review, a copy of our annual report is included.

My final report is on the unfortunate passing of a valued and beloved Board Member, Ms. Valerie Zagami. Val will always be remembered for her smile, her wisdom and her passion for the needs and rights of the individuals that The Arc serves. She will be sorely missed by everyone who was fortunate to know her.

Warm Regards,

Michael Andrade
President & CEO

The Arc Partnerships educate Police Officers in Autism Awareness throughout Bristol County

This past Spring, The Arc of Bristol County was asked to be a partner with other human service organizations in Bristol County, Massachusetts to conduct training sessions for the police officers in the county on best practices when dealing with individuals with various challenges, from domestic violence, dealing with the elderly to interactions with individuals with disabilities.

For our segment, The Arc of Bristol County reached out to Lifeworks as they offer the officers in Bristol County a unique opportunity. Lifeworks offers ALEC (Autism Law Enforcement Education Coalition) Training. This training is for law enforcement officers by a law enforcement officers. Former Lieutenant Marty Baker from the Norwood Police Dept., member of the Lifeworks team and father to Drew gave a firsthand account of things to look for that may help the officers to know that they might be interacting with a person with Autism.

Lt. Baker was very engaging and offered the officers a lot of information on best practices to follow, from identifying some known mannerisms of a person with Autism to de-escalating techniques when things don't go quite as planned. He gave great insight as to where to look if an individual with Autism goes missing (they tend to seek out water), if they are displaying echolalia, (repeating what the officer asks them) or admitting to a crime they did not commit.

He suggested that the departments consider keeping a record when individuals in their communities



with a disability interact with them so if or when another officer has a future interaction they might have a better idea on how to proceed, for example keeping the lights and sirens off when approaching a residence. Another option he suggested is to ask parents/guardians/individuals in their communities to participate in a voluntary identification form/ registry collection program. This would provide the police with information on the individual with a disability, such as whether or not they can verbally communicate with the officer, contact information for family members or caregivers and the best ways to calm a situation. Having this information beforehand, will allow the officers to be better equipped to approach a situation in a way that is safe for all involved.

At the end of the presentation, the officers were given updated phone contacts on who to call with questions based on the situation at hand. This was truly a great opportunity for the officers, for us and for the people we serve.

A Tribute to a Dear Friend and Mentor



March 30th was a sad day for many of us at The Arc of Bristol County when we learned that Valerie Zagami had passed away. Valerie was a member of our Board of Directors and held many positions over the years. She was a true supporter in our mission and would often attend events to cheer on the good work that was being done, visit with families and individuals we support, stop by a program to say hello or volunteer her talents and time, etc. Valerie was loved by anyone who met her. Her love for life and her family was always evident. Valerie was a very positive and upbeat person and always looked at the best in those she met along life's way, always conveying respect. She had both the desire and ability to truly listen to what someone was saying to her.

Perhaps the best way to describe her, is a woman with HEART ❤️. I am truly grateful for her presence in my life, and was blessed for our time together.

Donna Brown

What a Beautiful Day!

Members from our proAbility team and participants enjoyed a day of sun, sand and socializing at Iggy's at Oakland Beach in Warwick, RI. This was one event in our Community Mapping initiative.

Service Coordinator Alisha Tillinghast explains: "Community Mapping is a process in which it allows individuals to gather and access their individualized communities to build meaningful relationships. Community mapping creates a picture of what it is like to navigate their local community by attending events and getting familiar with people in their local community. The exercise is a valuable and effective method of community engagement."



Exploring the Talent of Artists with Disabilities

An Invitational Exhibition Inspired by Rebekah Taussig's Memoir *Sitting Pretty*

Exhibition:

September 10th – 24th, 2022

Gallery hours:

Tuesday – Saturday, 10am - 5pm

NEA Big Read 2022 Kickoff and Opening Reception:

Saturday, September 10th
2pm - 4pm

Attleboro Arts Museum
86 Park Street, Attleboro, MA 02703



Blooming by Moriah Faith, Jessica Vohs and over 20 New England Village Artists; acrylic on canvas. Supported by the Brookline Arts Center.

Attleboro's 2022 NEA Big Read book is *Sitting Pretty: The View from My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body* by Rebekah Taussig. The book is a memoir that shares personal stories from the author's childhood to the present day. Taussig reflects on living both independently and dependently, the complex issues around charity and acts of kindness, the presentation of disability in the media, and how disability affects us all.

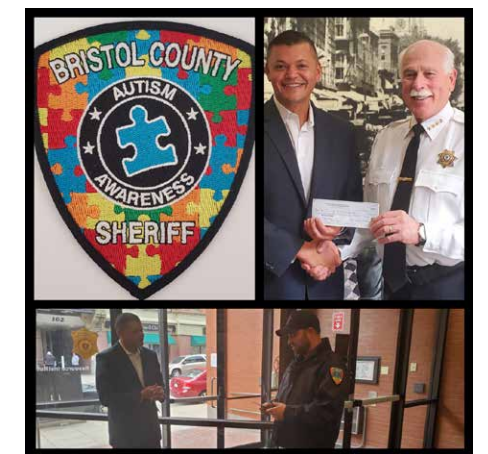
ABI Home a Needed Addition

We are pleased to announce that we were finally able to welcome individuals into their new home in Swansea. The ABI team has done a wonderful job acclimating them to their new home. The team has worked tirelessly over the past year to

ensure that a comprehensive service model was in place for the home. I am so thankful to the team for creating such a therapeutic and beautiful home for these individuals to thrive in.



Special Thanks



So thankful to the Bristol County Sheriff's Office Department for generously donating the proceeds of their Autism Awareness patch sale in honor of Autism Awareness Month to The Arc of Bristol County! The Arc of Bristol County President & CEO Michael Andrade accepted the check from Bristol County Sheriff Thomas M. Hodgson and heard more about the program from Officer Christopher Vaz.

The presentation took place at our new office at 99 So. Main Street, Fall River that houses our Trust, Guardianship & Representative Payee support services.

Chief of Staff Elizabeth Doyle and Director of Public Programs Tina Marie LePage from the Bristol County Sheriff's Department attended as well.

Grateful for The Support

A special thank you to Bailey's Team for Autism Grant that continues to support Education Advocacy. Assisting, educating and empowering families to advocate for services and supports for educational success!

We are grateful for your support.



Administration Office & Family Supports

16 Hillside Ave
Attleboro, MA 02703
Tel: (508) 226-1445 • Fax: (508) 226-1476
Toll Free: (888) 343-3301
Web: www.arcnbc.org

Day & Family Supports

141 Park Street
Attleboro, MA 02703
Tel: (508) 226-1445 • Fax: (508) 226-1476

proAbility

25 Thurber Blvd.
Smithfield, RI 02917
Tel: (401) 233-1634 • Fax: (401) 233-1674

Taunton Area Resource Center

437 Bay Street
Taunton, MA 02780
Tel: (508) 884-2971 • Fax: (508) 884-2964

The Arc of Greater Fall River

99 South Main Street, Ste 310
Fall River, MA 02721
Tel: (508) 679-0001 • Fax: (508) 679-9375

The Arc of Greater New Bedford

412 B County Street
New Bedford, MA 02740
Tel: (508) 996-8551 • Fax: (508) 996-8553

Day Habilitation Services

5 Mill Street
Middleboro, MA 02346
Tel: (508) 946-2121 • Fax: (508) 946-2195



Achieve with us.

Arc Strong:
Achieving Dreams
RUN, WALK & ROLL

Registration Now Open!
Saturday, September 24th

533 Pleasant Street in Attleboro at the Sensata Technologies parking lot S.

To register, visit www.arcnbc.org and once again celebrate the hope and dreams of thousands of individuals and families we serve. More information is available on The Arc's website www.arcnbc.org.

The background of the poster is a warm, golden-hour photograph of a person's legs and feet running on a path. The person is wearing dark shorts and light-colored sneakers. The background is slightly blurred, showing a path and some foliage.