Community Living and Working into the Future-Breakfast October 21 with Congressman Kennedy

On October 21, several chapters of The Arc of Massachusetts will join together for a discussion on disability issues focused on “Community Living and Working into the Future” at the Holiday Inn Mansfield, 31 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA starting at 8:00am. Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III from the Fourth Congressional District will be the special guest speaker, along with Leo Sarkissian, Executive Director of The Arc of Massachusetts and Elin Howe, Commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services. Guests will have a chance to meet the congressman and be part of the discussion with our guest presenter who will speak to disability issues now and into the future on the National, State and Local levels.

“It’s important that self-advocates and families have a chance to discuss with their legislators how their policy and budgetary decisions impact their lives. I hope anyone in this district who have concerns about individuals with disabilities, will join us,” remarked Michael Andrade, President and CEO of The Arc of Bristol County.

Registration and breakfast is at 8am, and the program will begin at 8:30am. The breakfast is complimentary, but reservations are required. Please call The Arc of Bristol County at (508) 226-1445 to reserve your place today.
Welcome

Dear Friends of The Arc,
Looking back over the last quarter, I’m reminded how much The Arc of Bristol County is part of our community. For example:
The Arc marched in Attleboro’s 100th Anniversary Parade
Project Sunshine, The Arc’s Family Advisory Council fundraising committee, helped raise funds at Mass Cruiser Night at Patriot Place in Foxboro, becoming part of the cruiser’s community
Over 50 employees attended The Arc’s Employee Appreciation event, a fun evening to thank our hard working and committed staff
Troy Hixon took the Ice Bucket Challenge to our Project Rec-Connect Arc Angels softball team, raising $100 for The Arc
proAbility Recreation took numerous trips and participated in dozens of activities throughout the year, with the help of community volunteers who funded and organized these events for youth and adults with challenges
Another sell-out Clamcakes and Chowder Dinner was held in Fall River, where our Southeastern Bristol County families show their support for all The Arc has done in that part of the County
Taunton families are preparing for the 12th Annual Pancake Breakfast on October 25th, showing a deep and longstanding commitment to The Arc its services for the greater Taunton community
There are many more examples of The Arc’s work, presence and contributions to the many communities we serve. Assisting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to take active roles in their community is what The Arc is about, along with advocating for the rights to be treated with equity and fairness.
Sincerely,
Michael Andrade
President and CEO

SE Massachusetts Family Leadership Series 23

The 23rd Family Leadership Series is about to begin! The Series focuses on supporting families and individuals to live in their communities as naturally and typically as desired. Applications from families with children or adult family members of any age who are Department of Developmental Services eligible are encouraged to apply.
The Family Leadership Series has a twofold purpose. The first is to offer information about “best practices” for people with disabilities. The second is to assist families in creating a vision for their family member and a process to achieve the vision through leadership and advocacy.
The dates of the SE Family Leadership Series 23 are: November 7-8, 2014, January 23-24, March 6-7, and April 17-18, 2015. Each session is two days in length. Participants are required to attend all four sessions.
Food and overnight lodging for each family at the Holiday Inn in Mansfield is paid for by the Department of Developmental Services. Respite/child care/nursing for family members is also funded.
Families who have completed the Series have had a tremendous impact on systems change for families and individuals with disabilities in Massachusetts. Family members have been active in policy and decision making locally, regionally and statewide and some have decided to do legislative advocacy work. Some families have been involved in community organizing and advocacy on a local level. Others have used their talents and skills to create change for their child with a disability and/or their families.
For an application: please feel free to call Emily Murgo Nisenbaum at The Nemasket Group, 508-999-4436, or email: emilynisenbaum@nemasketgroup.org or mfofc@mfofc.org
Ice Bucket Challenge for The Arc

Thanks to Project Rec Connect Coordinator Troy Hixon, The Arc benefited from this summer’s fundraising craze. Troy offered the Arc Angels Softball Team the chance to give him an ice bucket shower, for a donation to The Arc. $100 was raised. Thanks Troy for taking one for the team!

Magic at proAbility

This summer, proAbility got a treat when the “Magic Man” (better known to his peers and day program staff as Bryan) wowed a capacity crowd with his amazing illusions and comedic style. The Magic Man had a volunteer pick a card from a deck of standard playing cards, show it to the audience, placed it back into the deck, made the card disappear and then re-appear in front of every one’s eyes. He then linked solid steel rings together to form a chain to the amazement of every one. These were just two of the amazing illusions this high school student performed in his twenty-minute magic thrill ride show. Bryan shared with the crowd that he has had an interest in magic and illusions for a long time and that learning to be a proficient magician is hard work and requires practice to perfect the craft. Both staff and day program participants enjoyed the show and gave Bryan a big round of applause for his efforts.
The Special Education Empowerment Program
(Formerly Education Advocacy)

What we do:

Navigating the Special Education Process can be challenging. Our Special Education Empowerment Program is designed to assist families in better understanding the processes and procedures, and to educate and empower families to advocate for the services and supports necessary to ensure their child’s educational success.

How we do it:

The Arc offices in New Bedford and Fall River currently offer 1-1 Educational Consulting. Trained professionals, who are knowledgeable about the Special Education process, State and Federal Special Education Laws and Collaborative Relationship Building are available to:

- Explain the Special Education Process, including Eligibility
- Review the Parents Rights and Procedural Safe Guards
- Explain and Decipher Relevant Federal and State Special Education Laws
- Interpret Evaluations and Reports from Specialists and School Personnel
- Develop Strategies for Organizing and Retaining Important Information
- Assist in creating a Parent Vision for the Individualized Education Program
- Create documents and correspondence to be shared with the school team
- Explore options for dispute resolution
- Attend meetings as a support for the family*

*The Arc team may not be able to attend all school meetings. Meeting attendance is based on client need and staff availability.

To learn more, please visit our website at: [www.arcnbc.org](http://www.arcnbc.org) or call our offices at:

The Arc of Greater New Bedford: (508) 996-8551
The Arc of Greater Fall River (508) 679-0001

The Educational Empowerment Program is funded by the Generosity of the United Way of New Bedford and the United Way of Fall River
Cruisers Night

The Family Advisory Committee’s Project Sunshine helped with a fundraiser at the Mass Cruisers night at Patriot Place on August 14th. This is the second year Mass Cruisers has invited The Arc to benefit from their fundraising activities. Thanks to all the volunteers and Mass Cruisers who helped us raise funds for Child and Family Services.

The Arc Marches in the Attleboro 100th Anniversary Parade

The Arc of Bristol County was invited by Attleboro Mayor Kevin Dumas to take part in the city’s 100th Anniversary Parade in September. Individuals, Board Members and Employees all took part in representing The Arc’s role in Attleboro’s history. Thanks to all who marched, and all who cheered us on in the parade.

Save the Date

South Attleboro Knights of Columbus Annual Dinner

Celebrate the Holidays!
Sunday, Dec. 7th • Noon
So. Attleboro Knights of Columbus
304 Highland Ave
Attleboro, MA 02703

Thanks to the Knights, Sensata and Chemawa Golf Course for creating this annual event for those served by The Arc.
**Want to Learn More About Social Security Benefits?**

*Have you ever asked yourself any of the following questions?*

- What is my son or daughter entitled to?
- What’s the difference between SSI & SSDI?
- Have there been any recent changes?

If you have, then join guest speaker Kim Thacker, as she explores and explains the ins & outs of Social Security Benefits as they pertain to people with developmental or intellectual disabilities. Kim Thacker is a Disability Specialist at Mass Rehab Commission (MRC).

**Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2014**
**6:00pm**
**The Arc of Bristol County**
**141 Park Street**
**Attleboro, MA 02703**

If you are interested in attending, please contact your Family Support or AFC Coordinator by November 1st 888-343-3301 or 508-226-1445. If childcare or transportation is a barrier for your attendance to this training, please let us know.

*This training is sponsored by The Arc’s Family Support Center*

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**The Arc holds Employee Appreciation Event**

On September 17th Employees and Board members gathered at the Home Plate Bay Street Grill in Taunton to show appreciation for the hard work and dedication of our staff. Guests enjoyed dressing in their favorite sports team attire. Thanks to the Workforce Development Committee for organizing this annual event.

**Employees Honored with 2014 Years of Service Awards:**

- Aimee Caminiti - 5 years
- Carla Turner - 5 years
- Heather McPherson - 5 years
- David Arena - 5 years
- Beth Perrault - 5 years
- Tanya Viveiros - 5 years
- Theresa Braun - 10 years
- Jane Sears - 10 years
- John Enloe - 20 years

Pictured: Donna Brown, Amanda Masi and volunteer Therese LaPorte enjoy the Employee Appreciation event.
Caregivers Needed

Do you have an extra bedroom in your home? Have you ever thought about sharing your home and your life with someone who can benefit from your friendship and care? Would you like to be paid for doing something that you love to do?

If you answered yes to these questions, please contact The Arc of Bristol County and learn about the Adult Family Care (AFC) program.

The Arc is looking for individuals and/or families to open their hearts and homes to people who need support with their activities of daily living. These individuals might need assistance due to a developmental or intellectual disability or might be someone who is aging or has some other type of health need.

In return for providing a home and support to an AFC member, the caregiver will contract with our agency and receive training, support, a tax-free stipend, and so much more!

Caregivers must pass extensive background checks, a home safety assessment and be able to provide appropriate care.

Interested candidates should contact the Outreach Coordinator Rebecca Barry at (508) 226-1445 or toll free at 888-343-3301 ext. 3121

Location: Throughout and Surrounding Bristol County

Chowder and Clamcakes Supper

Chowder and Clamcakes Supper held on September 26th at The Liberal Club in Fall River was a great evening. Guests enjoyed wonderful food and a wide variety of prizes. Thanks to everyone who attended or contributed to the success of this annual event. Pictured is one of the lucky raffle winners!

Buy a Bravelet - Help The Arc

The Arc of Bristol County is now an official charity of Bravelets. Their motto “Be Brave” is found on every item they sell. Please check out our Cause page at https://bravelets.com/bravepage/the-arc-of-bristol-county or go to Bravelets.com and enter “The Arc” in the search field to find our cause page. There are lots of styles of jewelry available.

$10 of every purchase comes to The Arc of Bristol County to support our work. Pass on the word about this wonderful way to support our cause.

What is transition?

Transition is about planning for life!

The transition your son or daughter will make from school to adult life in the community is a long journey. This journey can be difficult for anyone, but for a child with a disability, determining where to go, the best way to get there, and then completing the journey can be especially challenging. This is why it is so important for you to think, as early as possible, about the important steps your child will need to make and to develop a plan for his/her future.

There are federal and state laws that guide the delivery of transitional educational services to children with disabilities. It is important for parents to understand these laws.

For more information please contact Family Support or go to www.arc.mass.org.
Family Support Center Groups

Moms’ Night Out
Where: Café @ the Attleboro YMCA
When: 2nd Wednesday of each month from 6:00-8:00pm.
Light food & drinks are provided.

Dads’ Night Out
Dads’ returns this Fall!
Where: The Arc at 141 Park St. Attleboro
When: 3rd Monday of the month from 6pm until 7:30pm
Pizza & drinks are provided.

Brothers’ & Sisters’ Sibshop
Sibshops will be back in the Fall! The next 6-week session starts on October 16 at The Arc at 141 Park St. Attleboro!

Transition Age Parents’ Group
This group is for parents of children ages 16-22, who are making the transition from school to DDS Adult services.
Where: This group meets at The Arc at 141 Park St. Attleboro
When: 2nd Tuesday of the month from 10am until 11:30am.

For more information about any of these groups, please call Amanda Masi at 508-226-1445 or 1-888-343-3301 ext. 3130, or by email at amasi@arcnbc.org.