

# Achieve

Winter 2018



**The Arc**  
Bristol County

**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.  
LIVE UNITED** 



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## Leadership Development: Preparing for the Future

The retiring of the Baby Boomer generation will leave non-profits and other industries with gaping holes in leadership. The Arc of Bristol County is committed to investing in staff development and leadership training to help create future leaders.

Along with the myriad of professional conferences that staff attend in the course of the year, The Arc has developed a series of training opportunities for staff. In February, the first Professional Development Day was held at the Norton Country Club. Over 100 staff gathered together for a half day to hear such topics as Advocacy; The Importance of Philanthropy; Assistive Technology; and Safety. Immediately following the half day agenda, a training on NCI or Nonviolent Crisis Intervention was given with nearly 20 staff in attendance.

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Southeast Region's leadership training series is another example of leadership development that The Arc is taking advantage of; specifically, for participant Joan Badger, Director of Family Support Services. Joan applied to DDS for the current series, "Developing Leadership: A Personal Journey," and was nominated to take part in the fourteen session series.



Topics in the series include Partnering with Families, Skillful Communication, and Leading Through Conflict, incorporating all of that in our support of families. Ultimately the goal is to ensure that their sons and daughters are recognized and valued for their individual gifts and abilities so they have the same access as anyone else to the good things in life such as home, work, volunteerism, friends and family.



*Achieve with us.*

## Welcome



Dear Friends,

I sincerely hope that you have fared well during this winter season.

As highlighted throughout this newsletter, we have many updates to share with you. Throughout the past few months, we been successful in securing new grants from the Flutie Foundation, Bailey's Team, and Bank of America. These grants will assist us with expanding our current Autism, Education Advocacy and Senior services. We are very thankful to these funders and appreciate their confidence in our organization. In addition, Ann Buono has been appointed as our new Director of Development and Public Relations. Ann comes to us with extraordinary experience and has already implemented many new creative approaches to our development department. Of note, we have made some changes to our schedule of events and will be moving our Annual Celebration from June to September. We have also shifted our ProAbility Spring Auction from March to November. We hope these changes improve attendance as we noted that last year's events

were scheduled during busy periods. Remember to sign up for our upcoming Flapjack Breakfast and Arc Strong: Run, Walk & Roll.

As competence is critical to our success, we held our first agency-wide professional development day on February 19th. The event was a huge success whereby over 125 staff learned about new updates and advocacy initiatives agency-wide. This has aided staff with preparing for upcoming licensing reviews through February and March of this year.

We have also had great success in new program development. In Rhode Island, we opened a new residential home to accommodate the needs of current residents and open new doors for active referrals. We completed our 'dream kitchen' and have secured a new contract to provide employment supports. In Massachusetts, we are finalizing construction on a new residential home for individuals with Acquired Brain Injury (slated to open in early Spring) and have expanded our day services. I am delighted to announce that we are finalizing the purchase of a new building in Attleboro to expand our day services and increase space for training and administration needs.

In our advocacy arena, we continue to monitor the state budget and policy initiatives provided by our state and federal leaders. We will provide updates in this newsletter, through our website and e-communications to ensure that you are aware of important updates and ask that you continue your individual case advocacy as your voice is critical to this process and to our collective success. We are also delighted to once again announce that we have launched our Arc Strong Scholarships and are seeking nominations. Last year, we were able to provide (6) \$500 awards.

I sincerely hope that you find these updates on leadership, advocacy, philanthropy, new initiatives and critical operation updates helpful and look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events soon. Until then, hope you have a great spring season.

Sincerely,

Michael Andrade  
President and CEO

# 35th Annual State Representative Cup

*to benefit the Arc of Greater New Bedford*



**Monday, June 18, 2018**  
**Country Club of New Bedford**  
North Dartmouth, MA

*Please call Jen Sweet at 508-679-0001 for more information.*  
**Sponsorship opportunities available.**

# The Arc of Bristol County to open first ABI Home

The Arc is preparing to open its first home to service individuals with the diagnosis of Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) in a residential setting. The service allows individuals the opportunity to live in a community setting rather than a nursing facility. The newly constructed home is located in Swansea and is fully accessible providing a more comfortable living arrangement for residents.



The home has a family-like atmosphere, with all the comforts. There are a full range of community activities to enable members to reconnect with their life goals, as well as redevelop personal skills and competencies. What makes this home unique is The Arc's partnership with Comcast to offer innovative

technology solutions to promote independence for the individuals living in the home.

We are anticipating the home will be open this Spring upon completion of construction with four adults with ABI as residents. Working with our funding partner and building

on past program development experience, The Arc will be meeting this specific need in the community. The program is funded through the Department of Development Disabilities (DDS), ABI Waiver Program. Referrals will be received from DDS with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC).



**proAbility**  
*presents*  
**7th Annual Gala and Auction Fundraiser**

**Saturday, November 3  
6:00 - 10:00 PM**

**Clarion Inn Seekonk  
Grand Rose Ballroom**

*Stay Tuned for  
More Information*

**March is  
Developmental  
Disabilities  
Awareness Month**

#ddawareness

## Caregivers Recognized

November was National Caregiver Appreciation Month! Our Adult Family Care team saw National Caregiver Appreciation Month as an opportunity to show all of our caregivers how much we appreciate what they do for the people they support each and every day.

As a way of thanking our caregivers who at times do not hear “thank you” often enough, the Adult Family Care teams throughout all program offices honored caregivers with raffle prizes, refreshments and heartfelt words of appreciation. Thank you to each of our wonderful caregivers! The Arc of Bristol County has three AFC programs in New Bedford, Fall River and Attleboro, and supports approximately 120 individuals in total through this service.

## Caregiver Spotlight

### Dan Thurber

Dan Thurber has been a caregiver for The Arc’s Adult Family Care program since 2013. In the last five years, Dan has



continually showed exemplary compassion, flexibility, skill and enthusiasm for his work. Originally, Dan joined us as an alternate caregiver for a non-family member, who was under the care of his daughter. When his daughter was no longer able to continue care, Dan, “Grampy” to our AFC participant, couldn’t imagine letting our participant leave their family, so he volunteered to become her full-time caregiver.

Under Dan’s care, this woman is thriving and continues to develop new skills and participate in new opportunities. Dan commits to taking her to horseback riding lessons, karate classes and to visit with her parents all weekly. In addition to being a fantastic primary caregiver, he is also our program’s go-to alternate caregiver. Dan has a unique ability to work with people from all walks of life and his kindness, skill and compassion are an invaluable addition to our program. And this is why both Dottie Gallant, R.N. and Meredith Carter, AFC Coordinator, nominated Dan for this Caregiver spotlight.

## Drums Alive! Ability Beats funded through the Flutie Foundation

The Arc of Bristol County is excited to announce the launch of a unique recreational and fitness opportunity for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder along with their family members/caregivers and staff.

According to the founder, Carrie Ekins, Drums Alive is a “unique sensory/motor program that is designed to give the mind and body instant feedback through continuous movement and rhythmical flow. It... utilizes ‘whole brain – whole body’ thinking by developing sensory motor reflexes and kinesthetic awareness.” Drums Alive, Ability Beats is appropriate for all ages from young children through adults.

Along with offering the 10 week sessions throughout the year, The Arc will also offer the program during its vacation clubs which occur four times per year. Donna Brown, Vice President stated, “Staff are eager to become

trained to deliver this exciting opportunity for individuals and are so grateful to the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism for providing this grant making it possible.”





## Save the Date!

On Sunday, July 15th, The Arc of Bristol County will once again celebrate the hope and dreams of thousands of individuals and families we serve. We invite you to join in to support the Annual Arc Strong: Achieving Dreams 5k Run Walk & Roll. This year's event will take place once again at the Miles Standish Industrial Park in Taunton. More information will be available on The Arc's website [www.arcnbc.org](http://www.arcnbc.org) as we get closer to the event.



## Employee of the Quarter Sallie Barton

Congratulations and happy retirement to Sallie Barton! Sallie retired at the end of December after 14 years as Activities Coordinator at Hillside Adult Day Health Services in Attleboro. She will start her new "career" as a full time grandmother, wife, and gardener. Her inimitable style, versatility, and positivity will be greatly missed—especially her terrible knock-knock jokes, her theme days, and her unique Bingo number calling method.

The Employee of the Quarter Award is given to someone who has proven themselves above and beyond the call of duty. This employee recognition plan strengthens our team and provides incentive to all employees within the organization. Anyone can nominate an employee of the quarter. Visit [www.arcnbc.org](http://www.arcnbc.org) for the nomination form or email John Neill at [jneill@arcnbc.org](mailto:jneill@arcnbc.org).

## RI General Treasurer Visits ProAbility



RI State Treasurer Seth Magaziner held a Winter Social at ProAbility in December to answer questions and promote ABLÉ accounts with families of children with disabilities. Family members, individuals supported, and staff enjoyed activities and a fun pizza party.

Mr. Magaziner was instrumental in working with a bipartisan group of legislators to design and pass the 2015 ABLÉ Act, which established

tax-efficient savings accounts allowing Rhode Islanders with disabilities and their families to save for disability related expenses without sacrificing their eligibility for federal disability assistance programs. A similar law was enacted in Massachusetts in 2014 and is called the Attainable Savings Plan.

“Living with, or raising a child with a disability can be costly,” said Rhode Island General Treasurer Seth Magazine, “Rhode Island’s ABLÉ

marks the first time that the families of young Rhode Islanders living with disabilities will be able to save for future disability related expenses in an easy, tax-advantaged program without sacrificing critical disability benefits.”

The ABLÉ and Attainable Savings accounts are advantageous because they foster and support the health, independence, and quality of life of individuals with disabilities. They offer various investment options, provide federal tax benefits, may be used without affecting other disability-related benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income benefits (up to accounts of \$100,000), and are professionally managed investments. If you have any questions on RI-ABLE or Massachusetts Attainable accounts, you can contact Jennifer Sweet, Director of Trust Services ([jsweet@arcnbc.org](mailto:jsweet@arcnbc.org)).

## Save the Date: Flapjack Breakfast Saturday, April 7th

**Applebee's**<sup>SM</sup>

**GRILL & BAR** North Attleboro

by the Family Advocacy  
Council to benefit  
Child & Family Services.

For more information and tickets, contact Joan Badger at [jbadger@arcnbc.org](mailto:jbadger@arcnbc.org)



# *New Scholarship Opportunities for High School Seniors Announced for 2018*

## **Arc Strong Empowerment Scholarship**

This scholarship opportunity is targeted to graduating seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to the human services field through their friendships, mentoring, volunteering and leadership that fosters greater inclusion and acceptance of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The scholarship is intended to empower individuals to expand their studies, thereby building their advocacy skills for the future. Scholarships are available to students in Bristol County, MA or Northern RI seeking studies in the areas of special education, psychology, social work, political science, social justice or related fields.

## **William Jackson Dream Fund**

Meaningful employment and personal satisfaction is a vital aspect of adult daily life. With that in mind, The Arc of Bristol County announces scholarships for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in expanding their learning and training beyond high school. Scholarships are available to students with intellectual or developmental disabilities in Bristol County, MA or Northern RI who wish to advance their careers and independent living dreams.

To apply, visit [www.arcnbc.org](http://www.arcnbc.org) and select scholarships. All awards will be presented at the July 15th Arc Strong: Run, Walk & Roll event.

## *Bailey's Team for Autism Supports The Arc with a Grant*

The Arc of Bristol County received a generous grant of \$7,000 from Bailey's Team for Autism. The grant will support Special Education Advocacy for families of children on the autism spectrum to assist in the planning and/or reviewing of their child's Individualized Education Program (IEP). This funding allows The Arc to offer a variety of trainings surrounding Special Education Empowerment. The Arc's Educational Support and Advocacy is designed to assist families in better understanding the processes and procedures and also to educate and empower families to advocate for the services and supports necessary to ensure their child's educational success.

*Save the Date:*  
**Annual Celebration Dinner**  
**Wednesday, September 12, 2018 6-8 PM**  
**Holiday Inn, Taunton, MA**

*A welcoming place for individuals living with memory changes & their care partners*

**Wednesday, March 14, 2018 | 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Attleboro Public Library | 74 North Main St., Attleboro**

*Come join us for an afternoon filled with music, bingo & more...*

**The Memory Café is sponsored by The Arc of Bristol County**

To register or for further information on the Memory Café, please contact Donna Brown 508-226-1445 x 3105 or [dbrown@arcnbc.org](mailto:dbrown@arcnbc.org). Next Café – April 11, 2018, *The Arc's Memory Café is supported by funding from DDS*

#### Administration Office

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

#### Day Habilitation Services

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

#### Hillside Adult Day Health Care

50 Walton Street  
Attleboro, MA 02703  
Tel: (508) 226-6150

#### 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

182 North Main Street  
Fall River, MA 02720  
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



**Achieve with us.**

## Save the Date:

***MDDC and The Arc of Massachusetts presents  
Honoring 40 Years of Success: Facing an Uncertain Future***

**Wednesday, March 7, 2018 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Massachusetts State House | Great Hall**

Online registration will stay open until March 2, 2018 and there will be walk-in registration at event.

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***AFC Providers, Caregivers & Members!***

***The Massachusetts Council for Adult Foster Care Needs Your Support!***

***Adult Foster Care Awareness Day***

**Wednesday, March 21, 2018 | 9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**Massachusetts State House | Nurses Hall**

Register by March 1st at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/AFC-AWARENESSDAYREGISTRATION](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AFC-AWARENESSDAYREGISTRATION),  
via email at [wendydagle@mcsnet.org](mailto:wendydagle@mcsnet.org) or by phone: Terry Cook at 413-733-1240 x 119

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***Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts Needs Your Support!***

***Annual Autism Awareness And Acceptance Day***

**Thursday, April 12, 2018 | 9:30 am – 11:30 am**

**Massachusetts State House**

Visit [www.afamaction.org](http://www.afamaction.org) for more information