



OUR CHANGING TIMES

Allegany Arc
Winter 2009 / Spring 2010

MISSION STATEMENT

Allegany Arc is dedicated to providing the highest quality opportunities for people with special needs and their families.

VISION STATEMENT

Allegany Arc, with a commitment to excellence, will pursue a shared vision for each person that will inspire growth and success.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE...

Since assuming the position of CEO on March 1, it has been my pleasure to meet many of the terrific people that receive services from the Arc. Equally enjoyable has been the opportunity to meet the many people that devote their efforts each day to creating quality opportunities for people with disabilities in Allegany County. I look forward to working hard with all of you as we experience Our Changing Times together.

Our current times are challenging. We at Allegany Arc will work hard to educate ourselves, our friends, our neighbors, our colleagues, and our constituents and their families about issues that impact our programs and the people we serve. This is the only way we will be able to strengthen and preserve vital programs for people with disabilities.

In the coming months we will work to inform the public about Health Care Reform and its impact on individuals with disabilities and the Allegany Arc's workforce. We will work to improve employment for people with disabilities. We will develop and communicate strategies for assuring that Direct Support Professionals are recognized as valued members of the human services community. We will help the public understand the importance of modernization of disability terminology. We will work to improve the housing opportunities for people with disabilities. We will work to assure that people with Autism Spectrum Disorder are identified and treated early and that people with Autism Spectrum Disorder who want to live, work, and play in the community will have the supports they need to be able to do so.

This is a very challenging agenda. The people of Allegany County always find a way to reach out when one of our own is in need. We see this anytime one of us gets sick, loses a loved one, or loses property due to a fire or other tragedy. The weekends in Allegany County are often filled with benefit activities where our citizens come together to offer a friend a hand up. For this reason, I am confident that Allegany Arc and the people we serve will be up to the challenge, together.

Best Wishes,
Michael Damiano
Chief Executive Officer

CASH BONANZA TICKETS ON SALE SOON!

Friends of Allegany Arc will again be holding "Cash Bonanza" this year.

There are over 90 chances to win with a final one-time drawing for \$1,000.

Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased by calling (585) 593-5700 Ext. 581. Proceeds support your local community through Friends of Allegany Arc. Watch for more details at www.AlleganyArc.org.

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5TH ANNUAL WINE AND HORS D'OEUVRE EXTRAVAGANZA

Friends of Allegany Arc is partnering with the Wellsville Exchange Club again this year to host the Fifth Annual Wine and Hors d'oeuvre Extravaganza. This year's extraordinary event is scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2010 and will be held at the Wellsville Creative Arts Center on Main Street from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Carrie Redman, Arc Development Director, said of the venue, "Having last year's Extravaganza at the Wellsville Creative Arts Center was such a success we knew immediately that we would hold it there again. Andy and Tina Glanzman are generous and gracious hosts and our guests really enjoy the Creative Arts Center and the ambiance it offers."

This year due to the size of the location, tickets being sold is more limited than in years past. The two groups are hoping to host 200 people for this magnificent affair. Over 10 area wineries have signed up to participate including Bully Hill Vineyards, Dr. Franks Vinifera Wine Cellars, Goose Watch, Heron Hill, Hunt Country, Johnson Estate Winery, Lamoreaux Landing Wine Cellars, Merritt Estate Winery, Montezuma Winery, Standing Stone Vineyards, Swedish Hill Winery, and Thirsty Owl Wine Company. Delicious treats will be provided by Barb Ramsey, Cakes and Curios, Friends of Allegany Arc, Little Gem Restaurant, Park Plaza Liquors, Tops Friendly Markets and the Wellsville Exchange Club.

Event sponsors for this year's Extravaganza include: LaForge Disposal Service, Inc., Otis Eastern Service, Inc., Cook's Tire and Automotive, First Citizens National Bank, Giant Food Mart, Kleiser Ford, Lynch Paving, Middaugh Real Estate, Minges Flooring, Richardson and Stout Insurance, Steuben Trust Company, The LC Whitford Co., Inc., Van Pelt Collision, Inc., and the Wellsville Creative Arts Center.

Tickets can be purchased at Park Plaza Liquors, The Trophy Showcase, Wellsville Creative Arts Center, and at the door. For more information on this year's Wine and Hors d'oeuvre Extravaganza, please contact Carrie Redman at (585) 593-5700 Ext. 514.

RECOGNIZING STAFF FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Allegany Arc recently held their Staff Recognition Dinner in honor of staff celebrating years of service with the agency. Over 35 people celebrated special anniversary years in 2009 including one who was awarded for 30 years of service!

Almost 100 staff were on hand to recognize those being honored and enjoyed a delicious dinner catered by the American Legion Auxiliary. Due to a power outage, the award ceremony was held by candlelight. Managers had the opportunity to say a few words about their recognized staff and personally hand out awards. It was also a night to bid farewell to Richard S. Witkowski, President and CEO, who retired from the agency in February 2010. Reita Sobeck-Lynch, VP of Community and Governmental Relations, said of the evening, "It's a great night that finds a room filled with so many dedicated staff whose vast loyalty to Allegany Arc is infinite in the difference they make in the lives of people with special needs."

Allegany Arc is proud to have so many employees make careers here. Their commitment to this agency ensures that we continue to provide the highest quality opportunities for people with special needs and their families.



Join us at this year's Wine and Hors d'oeuvre Extravaganza on May 1, 2010 at the Wellsville Creative Arts Center in Wellsville.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 1st
Wine & Hors d'oeuvre Extravaganza

May 24th
Management Meeting

June 7th
Parent Support Network

July 1st
Full Staff Meeting

July 5th
Office Closed (4th of July observed)

July 19th
Friends Foundation Meeting

August 22nd
Friends of Allegany Arc Golf Tournament

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"How to Train Your Dragon" is a fun movie for kids of all ages!

FRIENDS OF ALLEGANY ARC SPONSORS MOVIE

Friends of Allegany Arc recently sponsored their Third Annual movie for children with Autism and their families on Saturday, April 10th. "How to Train Your Dragon" was shown at the Grand Theater in Wellsville, New York.

April is "Autism Awareness Month" and Friends of Allegany Arc was excited to be able to offer this opportunity to families affected by Autism. Going to the theater is a favorite past time for many families but even this simple act can be difficult for someone with Autism. Friends of Allegany Arc offers this movie so that families can enjoy going to the theater in a welcoming environment without fear of reproach.

Autism is a complex brain disorder that inhibits a person's ability to communicate and develop social relationships, and is often accompanied by extreme behavioral challenges. Autism spectrum disorders affects one in 166 children.

Friends of Allegany Arc was established in 1995 to ensure appropriate financial resources exist to protect and expand the opportunities available to the individuals the Arc serves. The Friends Board donates needed monies to individuals in order to promote and improve services for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

For more information on Autism or to see what Arc services might be available for your family member with Autism, please call Kila Cook, Allegany Arc's Associate Director of Children's Services at (585) 593-5700 Ext. 554.

BECOME A MEMBER OF ALLEGANY ARC TODAY!

Allegany Arc is continuing to provide the best possible care to people with developmental disabilities. But we need your help. Please join us as a member and lend your voice to ours.



Become a member of Allegany Arc today by sending \$5.00 to Allegany Arc Membership Committee, 240 O'Connor Street, Wellsville, NY 14895.

Your membership is important for so many reasons. Members provide clout! A large membership base means that a louder and stronger voice is heard by state legislators and national policy makers. A large membership also means more delegates for the NYSARC Board of Governors. Membership helps provide more individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities, and their families access to programs and services through fundraising and advocacy efforts. As more members join Allegany Arc, the organization's leadership base for the future can develop and grow. Membership also means a better informed public. Awareness is the first step to creating society-wide acceptance of children and adults with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Your membership helps support innovative programs and services and has a positive impact on the quality of life for people with intellectual or other developmental disabilities and their families.

Now more than ever, we need to be heard. We need the Government to understand that their continued proposed cuts not only hurt the work we do – they hurt the people we serve. We have to stand united and fight to continue to make a difference in the services we offer.

For only \$5.00, you can become a member of Allegany Arc and make your voice heard. Allegany Arc's membership goes directly towards voting on issues regarding people with developmental disabilities. Support Allegany Arc and our mission – become a member today! Please send your \$5 membership to Allegany Arc, 240 O'Connor Street, Wellsville, NY 14895. For more information, please contact Carrie Redman, Development Director at (585) 593-5700 Ext. 514.

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ALLEGANY ARC WINS HEALTHY WORKPLACE AWARD!

Allegany Arc was recently named a finalist for Buffalo Business First's Best Places to Work in Western New York 2010. The competition was broken down into several categories; Allegany Arc was listed in the X-Large group with the number of employees ranging from 201 to 400. There were 20 businesses in the X-large category and over 90 businesses competing overall.

New to this year's ceremony were wellness awards. Allegany Arc was the winner (in their category) of Independent Health's Healthy 2010 Workplace Award. Allegany Arc has proven their ability to develop a culture that supports health and wellness. The agency offers their employees a variety of opportunities to learn more about their health and well-being, all while fostering a sense of collaboration to reach a shared vision of not only creating a healthier workplace, but also healthier lives.

Allegany Arc employs over 300 staff that are dedicated to providing the highest quality opportunities for people with special needs and their families. Corinna McKnight, Vice-President of Human Resources, says "Allegany Arc employees do extraordinary work and we are so pleased to be recognized for the second year as a finalist for Buffalo Business First's Best Places to Work in Western New York 2010. We're also excited to win a Healthy Workplace Award. Our Wellness Committee consists of employees from various departments and continues to think creatively on new ways and ideas to bring wellness to employees' everyday lives. None of this would be possible without the strong teamwork and dedication put forth on a daily basis by our wide array of staff."

For more information on Allegany Arc or to see what current positions we have open, please visit our website at www.AlleganyArc.org. Come join us and see what makes Allegany Arc such a great place to work!

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE

Friends of Allegany Arc is excited to announce they'll be again offering a scholarship to one lucky person in the graduating class of 2010. The scholarship is open to all Allegany County High School students planning to attend college in the Fall of 2010.

Criteria includes that the applicant must be a high school senior currently attending school, a resident of Allegany County and plan on entering college full-time to pursue a degree in a field to work with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (i.e. Human Services Field, Special Education, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech Therapy).

Applications must be typed or printed legibly and be postmarked by May 1, 2010 to be considered for eligibility. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Two letters of recommendation must be included with the application in sealed envelopes with appropriate signatures from someone who knows your academic and/or community work (teachers, advisors, employers, church members, coaches, etc.). Letters from relatives will not be accepted.

One scholarship of \$1,000 will be awarded. For more information on the scholarship or to download the application, please visit our website at www.AlleganyArc.org.



Carrie Redman, Arc Development Director, proudly displays Independent Health's 2010 Healthy Workplace Award.



To download your application for the Friends of Allegany Arc scholarship, please visit our website www.AlleganyArc.org