



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...

It's hard to believe that another year is almost over. This one is even more bittersweet as I am announcing my retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer of Allegany Arc effective in February of 2010.

For more than 20 years, Allegany Arc has been my home away from home. How do I measure my time here? I could write about statistics and how much our agency has grown, but those things were never at the heart of my position here. People were – people are.

I am proud that we have created homes for people with special needs where they feel part of a family and community. I am proud that our PWI programs provide job opportunities to people with special needs and that they enjoy the independence that comes with earning a paycheck. I am proud that we have changed with the times and our Children's Services Department now has over 100 children receiving varying services that were desperately needed in this area. I am most proud to be a part of history where people with special needs are no longer scorned but recognized for their abilities. And while my time at Allegany Arc will soon be ended, the journey is far from over.

We continue to need your support to move forward with offering the best possible care we can. Allegany Arc is dedicated to providing the highest quality opportunities for people with special needs and their families. Our Mission is that simple and that profound.

I am proud that Allegany Arc has been such an integral part of Allegany County and truly is making a difference in the lives of people. We are 400-employees strong and even in these volatile economic times; we continue to strive for excellence in all that we do. It has been an honor to serve as a leader for this agency and my time here will be something I'll always treasure.

Richard S. Witkowski
President and Chief Executive Officer

HOLIDAY ARC ANGELS

Friends of Allegany will once again offer the Arc Angel Tree at both Community Bank on the Bolivar Road in Wellsville and Steuben Trust in Belmont this holiday season. Celebrate the memory of a deceased loved one or honor someone still in your life while helping make wishes come true for individuals with disabilities in Allegany County.

For every \$5 donation you make to Friends of Allegany Arc, a lovely ceramic angel with your loved one's name hand inscribed on a beautiful ribbon will be placed on the Arc Angel Trees. To make a donation, please call Rebecca at (585) 593-5700 Ext. 581.

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NYSARC, INC. CELEBRATES TURNING 60

Allegany Arc joined other agencies to celebrate NYSARC's 60th Anniversary Celebration recently. Each NYSARC Chapter was asked to participate or sponsor a walk in their area to be culminated with a combined final march in Albany that was held on September 17th. Allegany Arc along with Livingston-Wyoming Arc joined Wellsville's Balloon Rally Parade in July to count for their local walk. Everyone who participated in the parade had a great time.

NYSARC, Inc. was formed in 1949 by parents who were determined to change forever, society's traditional disregard for the needs of their children with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Today the Association continues its leading role as an outspoken advocate and a multi-faceted, caring service provider.

Jason Kneepel and Judy Alger were chosen to be Allegany Arc's representatives at the march in Albany. They were accompanied by Allegany Arc employees, Ed Schultz and Rebecca Iraheta.

On September 17th, 1700 people with developmental disabilities and their families, friends, and advocates arrived at Albany's Riverfront Park for a walk to the Capital steps. There they were greeted by several key leaders and took part in a ceremony recognizing NYSARC's 60th Anniversary.

Following the ceremony, participants returned to Riverfront Park for a picnic and music from Flame. It was a collaborative effort from NYSARC agencies across New York State. Judy and Jason enjoyed taking part in NYSARC's Anniversary Celebration and enjoyed touring Albany as well.

For more information on Allegany Arc, please visit our website at www.AlleganyArc.org.

ALLEGANY ARC ANNOUNCES CHRISTMAS CARD CONTEST WINNERS

Allegany Arc held their Second Annual Christmas Card Contest for people served by the agency. The two winning pictures will be made into Christmas cards that will be sent out from various Arc Departments. Last year's cards were such a success that it was decided to follow the same format.

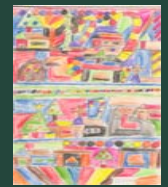
Artists could submit under two different categories: Christmas Memories or Colors of Christmas. There is a large talent pool of artists at Allegany Arc and this contest gives them a chance to be recognized for their superb ability.

Winners were able to choose their prize from a selection of Arc or PWI related apparel and also receive a dozen of the cards that their creations helped make. Their names are also prominently displayed on the more than 400 holiday cards that will be sent out this year.

The winning submissions are seen here to the right. Congratulations to Wade Stempert on his artwork "Candy Cane Tunnel" and David Smith on his artwork "Colors of Christmas" and for being named this year's winners!



Judy Alger and Jason Kneepel stand in front of the Capital Building. They were in Albany to celebrate NYSARC's 60th Anniversary.



Candy Cane Tunnel



Colors of Christmas

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One of the prize winners at Allegany Arc's Costume Contest and Parade held during our Annual Children's Health & Safety Fair.

HALLOWEEN HEALTH & SAFETY FAIR HELD

Allegany Arc recently held our 10th Annual Health & Safety Fair for area children and their families. This year's event was held on Saturday, October 17th at the Wellsville Elementary School. For the third year in a row, Allegany Arc partnered with the Allegany/Western Steuben Rural Health Network to bring an even larger event to community members that everyone could enjoy.

Bob Mangels with WJQZ was on hand doing a live remote courtesy of the Allegany Bar Association, Atlantic Ritchfield-BP, Cuba Memorial Hospital, and Jones Memorial Hospital. Over 30 door prizes were given away during the event including helmets, fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, and more!

Along with Allegany Arc's Health & Safety Fair, there was an Aging in Place Expo that was sponsored by the Allegany County Community Partnership on Aging. The SPCA was also there holding their 15th Annual Allegany County Theme Basket Auction. All proceeds benefited the SPCA of Allegany County.

There once again was the crowd favorite Costume Contest and Parade where children were encouraged to dress up in their Halloween Costumes. It was a great day that over 300 people enjoyed participating in. For more information on how you can be a part of next year's Health & Safety Fair, please call Rebecca Decker at (585) 593-5700 Ext. 581.

ROSE KISH IS WILLIAM B. JOSLIN OUTSTANDING PERFORMER

Allegany Arc recently held a reception in honor of Rose Kish being named one of 2009's William B. Joslin Outstanding Performers. The William B. Joslin awards are handed out annually by the New York State Industries for the Disabled, Inc. (NYSID). The Joslin Awards Program is entering its sixth year and recognizes outstanding performance and personal success of people with disabilities. Rose Kish exemplifies the objective of the William B. Joslin Award with her determination to make a better life for herself.

Rose first came to PWI in November of 2007. At that time, she was very shy and didn't have much self-confidence. Within a year, Rose had received two promotions at work and has become so self-motivated and independent that this past summer she moved into her own apartment.

Allegany Arc's President and CEO Richard S. Witkowski was unable to attend but sent this note to be read in his absence, "I am sorry I can't be here in person today to congratulate Rose on this illustrious achievement. Allegany Arc is delighted to have NYSID continue to recognize outstanding performance and personal success of people with disabilities. Rose's hard work and dedication make her the ideal candidate for this prestigious award and I applaud her on a job well done. Congratulations Rose on being the 2009 William B. Joslin Outstanding Performer."

PWI Facilitator Lisa Smith said this of Rose, "Rose was extremely proud to earn her paycheck. While she worked on the maternity kits, she was proud to be helping new mothers. She's made new friends and tried new things." Chris Koehler, Senior Vice-President of Sales and Marketing agreed adding, "Rose has become self-sufficient, and has soared to new heights."

Rose's nomination as a William B. Joslin Outstanding Performer award gives hope to people with special needs everywhere. Allegany Arc wants to congratulate Rose on this distinguished honor.



Rose Kish was recently honored at a reception for being Allegany Arc's 2009 William B. Joslin Outstanding Performer. Congratulations Rose!

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ALLEGANY ARC RECEIVES RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT FOR NEW DELIVERY TRUCK

A \$20,000 Rural Development Grant from USDA Rural Development helped PWI to purchase a 36-foot delivery truck with a 26,000 pound carrying capacity. Arc will use the delivery vehicle to support its piece-work industry (PWI) program. Arc's PWI program employs nearly 100 individuals with identified disabilities.

The new truck will make 190 miles round trip daily to Whirley DrinkWorks, in Warren, Pennsylvania. Whirley is one of PWI's largest contracts and employs many people through PWI.

PWI is an integral part of the Wellsville community. Established in 1974, PWI's goal is to maximize the ability in people with disabilities by offering a path toward independence, an opportunity to enter the workforce, and the chance to enjoy the rewards of employment.

PWI is an outsourcing resource that delivers high quality industrial subcontracting at competitive pricing. For more information on what PWI can do for you or your business, please contact Chris Koehler, Senior Vice-President of Sales and Marketing at (585) 593-6645 Ext. 323.

Below are pictures of the new PWI truck including center photograph with Thomas Becker, USDA Rural Development Area Specialist shaking hands with Chris Koehler.



ARC ART EXHIBIT

Allegany Arc once again was the premier Artist of the Wellsville Creative Arts Center in October. An opening reception was held to honor all artists participating on Friday, October 2nd.

"We were excited to again partner with the Wellsville Creative Arts Center to promote disability awareness and to encourage individuals with disabilities to explore new activities and discover their inner artist," said Carrie Redman, Allegany Arc's Development Director. "Arc Art honors individuals with disabilities throughout Allegany County and celebrates their accomplishments by spotlighting the talents of artists with a wide arrange of physical, cognitive, and mental health disabilities."

Over 20 artists displayed their work in the Arc Art Exhibit. The works on display demonstrated a plethora of style and images. The exhibit was as varied in method and expression as the life experiences of the individual artists.

Arc Art is an Allegany Arc sponsored outlet for artists with disabilities to express themselves through art and to raise community awareness of the diversity and value of artistic impression. For additional information about Arc Art, please contact Carrie Redman at (585) 593-5700 Ext. 514.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 26th
Thanksgiving Holiday
Program Closed

December 2nd
Arc Board Meeting

December 3rd
Full Staff Meeting

December 10th
Christmas Bazaar
36 Madison Street
5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Call (585) 593-3005
x 227 for more info.

December 14th
Parent Support
Network Meeting

December 25th
Christmas Holiday
Program Closed

January 1st
New Year Holiday



Jake Buckley's artwork titled "Visions of Hope" was on this year's invitations and posters for the Arc Art Exhibit.