



## CHANGE IS HERE

A LETTER TO YOU FROM OUR CEO, JOHN LINK.

As the adage goes, “Times are changing!” Some of these changes are happening right now at our PARC Productions facility. These changes include a major overhaul of the activities that occur daily. The effect will hardly be noticed by individuals who attend PARC Productions, their daily activities will only change slightly. The new activities will be separated into three groups of offerings:

- Individuals that desire to work will continue to work and attend in their normal capacity daily. These individuals will see no change in their daily routines.
- Individuals may choose to participate in the new Adult Training Facility (ATF) activities. These individuals will still attend PARC Productions, but participate in other activities that center around art, music, light exercise, and crafts.
- Finally, individuals can choose a hybrid model of the two offerings. Individuals can perform work for a portion of their time and then choose to participate in another activity offered under the Adult Training Facility (ATF) options.

Under all three options individuals attending PARC Productions will have the opportunity to participate in Community Participation (CPS) outings at least 25% of their attendance time. Community Participation (CPS) is a new piece of the day program that enables individuals to volunteer in the community, attend activities and build relationship with the community. For individuals and families that do not want to participate in CPS activities, they can decline the service through their Supports Coordinator.

These new services create exciting opportunities for the individuals to further explore interests and hobbies and make connections within the community.

## 2019 Community Champion Award

In spring of 2019 The Arc of Butler County was notified that they were selected by The Butler County Chamber of Commerce as the 2019 Community Champion. The award will be given out to The Arc on July 17, 2019 in Diamond Square.

THE ARC OF BUTLER COUNTY IS VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE AWARD.

THANK YOU!



## Career Readiness Day

APRIL 5, 2019

Over 200 students attended The Arc of Butler County’s 23rd Annual Career Readiness Day! We had students from Butler Area School District, the Midwestern Intermediate Unit 4, Lincoln High School (Ellwood City Area School District), Knoch High School (South Butler School District), Slippery Rock Area School District, St. Stephen’s Academy and The Glade Run Transition Program.

Career Readiness Day is hosted by The Arc’s Supportive Employment Program, COD. This was the agency’s 23rd year of hosting this event! Mary Kay Dugan, Vocational Director, has overseen the planning of this event for many, many years!

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# CAREER READINESS DAY

CONTINUED

Career Day was previously held at Butler High School -- however, since the event has grown, we have relocated to the Tanglewood Center. This year we had seven learning stations set up for the students and throughout the day students rotated from station to station.

## Learning Stations

**CULINARY** A kitchen was set up for students to prepare, pack and store their lunches. Staff worked with students to ensure sanitization (washing hands, wearing hair nets, and gloves).

**MOCK INTERVIEWS** Students were prepared with their job applications and resumes! Mock interviews gave students a chance to practice their interview skills -- Students were evaluated on several aspects and received feedback from the mock interviewers.

**PROFESSIONAL DRESS** Dress for Success had a station set up for students to learn about professional attire - and we also had a booth for student to learn how to tie a tie!

**MANICURES** A manicure station was set up for students by the Butler Vo-Tech Class.

**CUSTODIAL** The Arc's Vocational Staff had a station set up for students to practice cleaning with a floor buffer and scrubber, and an industrial vacuum.

**RETAIL** A grocery station was set for students to practice operating a cash register, stocking shelves and bagging groceries.

**LAUNDRY** Students enjoyed a relay activity that involved sorting laundry!

**Thank you** to all the businesses who donated! We received a \$50.00 donation from Walmart and Dr. Kuhn donated toothbrushes, toothpaste, and floss.

**Thank you** to Liz Mums and Liz Rodriguez (Dress for Success) for coming and discussing the services you provide to help women with interview and work clothes! Also, thank you Linda Thoma from the Community Health Clinic for coming to review dental hygiene and the other services you offer!

*Dr. Ralph J. Kuhn, DMD*  
*Dentistry*



JEAN B. PURVIS  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER



# INDIVIDUAL SPOTLIGHT SPOTLIGHT

## MEET TERRY & JOAN

"When trying to think of a word that may give an overview of Terry, the word *success* comes to mind." That is what Debi, Supportive Housing Manager, said.

Deb has worked with Terry since she started working in the Supported Housing program in 2003 and she has been able to witness the many strides and accomplishments of Terry through The Arc's programs.

Terry moved to The Arc of Butler County's residential program upon his discharge from Ebensburg State Hospital at 18 years old. While in the group home, he met a woman, Shirley who became his wife for over 25 years. Shirley passed shortly after their 25th Wedding Anniversary. Although struggling with grief, Terry continued to move through life being productive, and a hard worker.

Terry graduated from Butler Highschool in the Special Education Program in 1976 and then went to work at the Sheltered Workshop. Terry progressed very well in his job at the workshop and was able to move into competitive employment after completing a Food Service Program.

His first job was at the Holiday Inn in Butler as a dishwasher; he then worked at Natili's Restaurant for many, many years. He suffered an injury and was unable to work in the restaurant for some time... during this time he returned to the Sheltered Workshop. While continuing his quest for competitive employment, he landed a job at King's Restaurant, where he worked for over 20 years. Terry currently works at McDonalds and has been working there for close to two years.

Terry has been living independently in his own apartment for quite some time now. A few years back, he became very interested in building politics and was voted to serve as vice president of his apartment building.

After taking time to heal from his wife's passing, Terry had met a good friend, Joan. Joan and Terry spend most of their time together and have become very close friends. They live in the same apartment building and can usually be found doing something fun together. They enjoy volunteering at The Tanglewood Center, as well as attending social events together. Joan has also been involved with The Arc of Butler County for quite some time.

"I would say it has been quite a journey from Ebensburg State hospital," says Debi; "to over 30 years working, independence in the home and complete integration into the community. If that is not the meaning of success, I don't know what is."

Joan and Terry were both so happy to be able to share a piece of their story.



JOAN (LEFT) TERRY'S FRIEND AND TERRY.

# PAABLE

A PAABLE account gives individuals with qualified disabilities, and their families and friends, a tax-free way to save for disability-related expenses, while maintaining government benefits.

Use Your Account To Pay "Qualified Disability Expenses."

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY HEALTH HOUSING  
TRANSPORTATION LEGAL FEES EDUCATION  
EMPLOYMENT TRAINING

An "Eligible Individual" Qualified To Have An ABLE Account Must Meet Two Requirements:

- 1 You must have a qualifying disability. Demonstrated by one of the following:
  - Entitlement to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits based on blindness or disability; or
  - Entitlement to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits based on blindness or disability; or
  - Self-certification of a similarly severe disability, if not entitled to SSI or SSDI.
- 2 The qualifying disability must have started prior to age 26.

The Pennsylvania Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act follows federal legislation that authorizes states to create ABLE programs.

For more information on how to enroll please contact The Arc of Butler County at 724-282-1500 or visit: [www.PAABLE.gov](http://www.PAABLE.gov)

# THE ULTIMATE SPRING CLEANING CHECKLIST

## WHOLE HOUSE

- Clean Baseboards
- Wash Pillow Covers and Throws
- Wash Windows
- Dust Blinds
- Dust Ceiling Fans
- Spot Clean Walls
- Wipe Door Knobs

## LIVING ROOM

- Vacuum Furniture
- Dust Frames and Shelves
- Vacuum
- Dust TV/Electronics

## BATHROOM

- Wash Shower
- Wash Bath Mats
- Clean Vents
- Organize Cabinets
- Wash Toothbrush Holder
- Clean Trash Can
- Wash Towels

## BEDROOM/CLOSET

- Rotate/Flip Mattress
- Sort /Donate Clothes
- Wash Sheets and Bedding
- Vacuum Floors
- Fresh/Dehumidify Air

## KITCHEN

- Clean All Appliances
- Clean Behind Appliances
- Organize Pantry
- Clean Out Refridgerator
- Do the Dishes
- Mop The Floors

## OFFICE

- Organize Mail
- Toss NonImportant Papers
- Dust Bookshelves
- Dust Computer



## MEET RACHAEL BOWSER RESIDENTIAL DIRECTOR

Rachael recently assumed the position of the Residential Services Director for The Arc of Butler County in January 2019. Working in the Human Service field for the past thirteen years, Rachael is excited to integrate her previous experience into her work here at The Arc! Rachael said The Arc of Butler County has a fantastic reputation for providing quality of services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, which is something she wants to be a part of! She is also intrigued by the progressive initiative and commitment to the community that the organization has sustained throughout the years.

Her responsibility as the Residential Director is to oversee the dedicated teams responsible for the successful Residential, Family Life Sharing, Semi-Independent and Supportive Housing Programs. She aims to continue having these programs remain an integral part of the local community and economy of Butler County. Rachel says the challenges of this job vary from day to day, but the overlying concern is always if we have provided the best supports and services that we are able to on a consistent basis.

**“I love to see people overcome adversity and make their lives everything they could have dreamed of, despite facing barriers and challenges.”**

Rachael earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the Pennsylvania State University with a minor in Human Development and Family Studies. Her entire career has consisted of working with individuals with disabilities and she cannot imagine doing anything else. She said, “people with disabilities often supersede other's expectations of them and I admire and respect that quality.”

### FUN FACT:

“I love to kayak! My mom and I try to pick a new adventure every couple of years and we have done several local sojourns, local rivers and lakes as well!” Some of Rachael's adventures include: an alligator refuge in Georgia, Lake Superior, Assateague and Chincoteague Islands, and Ayer's Creek. She is excited about testing out her skills in Maine this summer!

## THANK YOU EDITH L. TREES CHARITABLE TRUST

The Arc of Butler County owes many thanks to the Edith L Trees Charitable Trust. Over the past few decades, this trust has given grants to our organization in support of many different projects. In December 2018, The Arc of Butler County received a grant towards the purchase of two vehicles; one being a wheelchair accessible van. Additionally, a portion of the grant will be used to support the implementation of computers in our residential homes.

We are grateful for the trustees of the Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust and their focus for giving. Transportation continues to be a huge need for this specific population. The purchase of vehicles through this grant will make it possible for The Arc to continue to facilitate community-based activities for the individuals we serve through the Community Participation Support Program and the Supportive Housing Program.

We are currently in the process of installing computer equipment in our residential homes. The goal for this project is to improve communication between the residential staff and managers, alleviate manual paperwork, and to provide better training opportunities for staff.

The installment of computers will be completed by the end of Spring. We are excited about this project and again, express our gratitude for this grant funding.



# ALL THINGS SPRING

PARC Productions is gearing up for it's spring and summer product! Be sure to keep a look out for our fire starters, firewood, tree shelters, wooden stakes, and more!

**Sale Locations:** Butler Ace Hardware, Boltz Unimart, Giant Eagle (Butler, Cranberry, Gibsonia, Bridgeville) Agway (Butler, Grove City, Saxonburg), T-bones Marketplace, and more!

## PARTNERSHIP WITH BUTLER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Also, The Arc of Butler County is partnering with the Butler County Conservation District this year to offer tree shelter kits. Tree shelter kits are made locally at PARC Productions. Tree shelter kits consist of a tree tube, a mesh top, zip ties, and a wooden stake. These shelters are designed to give your trees the best start possible by protecting trees from wildlife and harsh environmental conditions. These will be sold in bundles of 5 kits. Tree shelters are only recommended for deciduous tree and not for evergreens, shrubs, or berry bushes.



### INTERESTED?

Do you have questions about our product and how to purchase it? Contact Allen Alston.

[aalston@arcbutler.org](mailto:aalston@arcbutler.org)



TREE SHELTER



BUNDLED FIREWOOD



FIRE STARTERS



PAUL, TERRIE, AND PEGGY ENJOYING EACH OTHERS CONVERSATION AND COMPANY OUTSIDE OF PARC PRODUCTIONS

## THANK YOU ODDFELLOWS GROUP!

In 2018, The Oddfellows Group of Connoquenessing donated \$12,000 to The Arc of Butler County - The money was used to create an outdoor seating area for the individuals we serve at the PARC Productions facility. Again, we thank you!

# WIPA

Work Incentive Planning and Assistance



[www.ssa.gov/work/WIPA](http://www.ssa.gov/work/WIPA)

The goal of the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program is to enable beneficiaries with disabilities to receive accurate information, and use that information to make a successful transition to work. Each WIPA project has Community Work Incentives Coordinators (CWIC) who will:

- provide in-depth counseling about benefits and the effect of work on those benefits;
- conduct outreach efforts to beneficiaries of SSI and SSDI (and their families) who are potentially eligible to participate in federal or state Work Incentives programs; and
- work in cooperation with federal, state and private agencies and nonprofit organizations that serve SSI and SSDI beneficiaries with disabilities.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



**You're invited to a Disney Party!**  
**Thursday, May 16, 2019**  
**6:00—8:00 PM**  
**Tanglewood Center**

**Sponsored by: The Arc of Butler County Board of Directors**

Adults Only  
 \$1.00 Admission  
 Snacks Provided

If you are coming to the party, PLEASE let us know!  
 Phone: 724.283.3300 x 117  
 marissawagner@arcbutler.org

First 30 people to RSVP will be entered into a raffle to win a prize!



**BANTAM**  
**JUNE 7-9, 2019**  
**BUTLER COUNTY, PA**



**2019  
Dates**

**Memorial Day Sidewalk Sale**  
 Thursday, May 23

**4th of July Sidewalk Sale**  
 Thursday, June 27

**Labor Day Sidewalk Sale**  
 Thursday, August 30

Sidewalk Sales will be held at **PARC Productions**  
 100 North Washington Street  
 Butler, PA 16001

**CALLING ALL VENDORS**  
**7th Annual Craft Show**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Saturday, September 28 2019**  
 ~Tanglewood Center, Butler PA~

Early Bird Registration begins May 1st - \$20.00 per table  
 \$30.00 after July 15th

Please visit [arcbutler.org](http://arcbutler.org) or contact:  
 Marissa Wagner, Special Projects Coordinator at:  
[marissawagner@arcbutler.org](mailto:marissawagner@arcbutler.org) or by calling 724-283-3300 x117

**The Arc of Butler County**



**Butler Farm Show** EST. 1948  
**August 5th - 10th, 2019**

"It began with a plow and grew into a family tradition."

# HELP US ACHIEVE OUR MISSION

The Arc of Butler County is committed to reducing the incidence and limiting the consequence of intellectual and developmental disabilities through:

Advocacy • Education • Support • Service Provision

The Arc of Butler County is committed to securing for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to choose and realize their goals of where and how they learn, live, work, and play. The Arc of Butler County will work toward securing, consistent with the individual's need, maximum personal independence, choices, inclusion, equal rights, and adequate supports, which are all necessary to guarantee a real quality of life to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Arc of Butler County will provide leadership in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities and develop the necessary human and financial resources to attain its goal.

This quarterly newsletter is produced by The Arc of Butler County. It highlights the many ways our dedicated staff, volunteers, and generous donors come together to support and empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live, work, and participate in their communities.



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**United Way**  
of Southwestern Pennsylvania

The Arc of Butler County is affiliated with the United Way of Southwestern PA, The Arc of the United States, and The Arc of Pennsylvania.

**Achieve With Us.**  
For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

## ADVOCACY

The Arc of Butler County is a chapter of the largest advocacy organization in the United States for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our advocacy services are free of charge to families and individuals in Butler County. Our advocacy efforts focus on helping families with children maneuver the special education process to ensure a positive, quality education. We help parents understand their child's rights to a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment, as guaranteed by law.

Our education advocate helps guide parents through the special education process, from how to determine eligibility for special services to how to prepare for Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings to how to file a due process complaint to how to find an attorney for legal representation. Our goal is to ensure that the school adheres to a child's IEP and makes a good effort to help the student achieve his or her defined goals. Parents are the most effective participants in developing and managing their child's education goals. Sometimes, however, they may find issues or instances when other resources are helpful. The Arc of Butler County's advocacy program serves as their leading resource for information and support.

### WHAT OUR EDUCATION ADVOCATE CAN DO FOR YOU:

- Provide resources and information about your rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and applicable state regulations, including Early Intervention, and about how to effectively advocate for your child to resolve issues.
- Provide resources to school districts and Early Intervention providers to help design and deliver supports and services that guarantee students with disabilities the opportunity to make progress on their education goals.
- Provide resources and information about IEP meets and refer families to education law attorneys for mediation or due process hearings.

For more information about our advocacy efforts and how we can help you, contact our Education Advocate, Philip Rosenbauer at 724-679-1955

### STAY INFORMED • STAY CONNECTED



**Check Us Out Online.**  
We can be found at [www.arcbutler.org](http://www.arcbutler.org).  
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