



Schenectady ARC Update

Annual Luau/BBQ Celebrates Summer Hawaii'an Style

Schenectady ARC staff, friends and families celebrated a great year and a fantastic summer with the ARC "Luau in the Park". The annual event brought the agency and community together for a fun night with tropical flair.

This year the weather held out and the sun was shining down on the party. Over 300 ARC friends and families packed into the Isabella Pavilion in Central Park.

The night was kicked off by a live performance from Elvis Presley

impersonator, Bill McGrath, who twisted and charmed the crowd with his Hawaii'an performance.

Executive Director Kirk Lewis welcomed the crowd and introduced the main act of the evening, the Polynesian Dance Productions dancers. The hula performers are an authentic act that invited ARC individuals to join in the

celebration by learning traditional Hawaii'an dancing. The event ended with a wonderful Maholo or Thank you shout from the crowd.

The event was sponsored by Trustco Bank, CDPHP, Old Brick and the Golub Foundation. ARC extends a special thanks to the City of Schenectady and the Schenectady County Sheriff's Department. [See more photos on page 5.](#)

UP COMING events

15 SEPTEMBER 2011
ARC 1st ANNUAL 5K CHALLENGE

12-16 SEPTEMBER 2011
DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS WEEK CELEBRATION

29 SEPTEMBER 2011
GUARDIANSHIP TRAINING & INFORMATION SESSION

01 NOVEMBER 2011
SCHENECTADY ARC PARTNER AWARDS DINNER

Schenectady ARC
214 State Street
Schenectady, NY 12305
www.arcschenectady.org
518.372.1160



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Members Gather to Celebrate Achievements of 2010 Year

The 2011 Annual Membership Meeting held at Princetown Ridge was a well-attended success. With over 80 guests, including of Schenectady ARC members, consumers, families, staff and supporters, it was the perfect opportunity to share the agency's many accomplishments as well as challenges of the past year. Special guests included founding chapter member Bertha Westfall, Schenectady City Court Judge Mark Blanchfield, Assemblymen George Amedore and County Legislator Angelo Santabarbara.

Board President Mary Otter welcomed the crowd and reviewed the accomplishments of the year and then welcomed Judge Blanchfield to officially swear in the Board of Directors. Judge Blanchfield stressed the importance of the work that each board director undertakes with his or her appointment. Mary Otter concluded the swearing in ceremony by bestowing an honorary membership on Judge Blanchfield. Mrs. Otter also honored retiring board members Linda Churchman and Jesse Koepp for their service to Schenectady ARC.

Following the official ceremonies, Linda Lahaie unveiled the 2010 Annual Report. To a very receptive audience. This year the Annual report diverged from the traditional consumer profiles to a focus on community partnerships. The report highlighted five volunteer and



Linda Churchman accepts the Schenectady ARC Service Award from Mary Otter, board president for Schenectady ARC

supported employment partnerships that have had a profound impact the individuals served by Schenectady ARC.

The event concluded with a presentation by members of the Schenectady ARC Aging Committee that highlighted a study and other collaborative efforts to improve services to aging individuals at Schenectady ARC. The presentation demonstrated several new ways in which the Nutrition, Psychology, Social Work and day staff are collaborating to identify and address the early effects of Alzheimer's and Dementia in individuals at Schenectady ARC.

Sue Pinto Appointed Associate Executive Director

Schenectady ARC Executive Director Kirk M. Lewis has appointed Suzanne Pinto Associate Executive Director at Schenectady ARC.



Suzanne has been an employee with Schenectady ARC since 1985. Pinto started as a direct care worker at Schenectady ARC's day programs. She has previously been promoted to Director of Day Treatment and most recently Assistant Executive Director of Residential Services, during her tenure at Schenectady ARC.

"Suzanne, is an exceptionally talented individual," said Kirk Lewis, Executive Director. "Her years of experience in this field will be as great asset to the individuals we serve and to the many agencies that we work collaboratively with throughout the Capital Region."



Administrative Staff

Kirk M. Lewis
Executive Director

Suzanne Pinto
Associate Executive Director

Jane Canale
Assistant Executive Director
Human Resources & Support Services

Jen Cole
Assistant Executive Director
Employment & Day Services

Brian Dwyer
Controller

PROVIDING SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SINCE 1952.

Veteran ARC Employee to Head ARC as New Executive Director

The Schenectady ARC Board of Directors announced that they have completed their search for the next Executive Director of Schenectady ARC. **Kirk M. Lewis** was unanimously selected as the Executive Director for Schenectady ARC.

In a press release, the Board stated that Kirk's experience in the field and with Schenectady ARC, along with his professionalism and strong leadership skills, made him an ideal selection for leading Schenectady ARC forward to its goals.

Kirk's involvement with the agency began when he was a teen and had volunteered at the ARC. He first worked for Schenectady ARC after graduating from college. Kirk worked as a case worker, recreation aide, house manager at a residence, and eventually Assistant Director. Lewis has also volunteered on numerous committees and the board of directors. After law school, and a several years in private practice in Albany, he re-joined the staff at Schenectady ARC as General Counsel in 1999.

His term began July 1, 2011.

Schenectady ARC -

A chapter of NYSARC, Inc. and a Member of The Arc of the United States.

Schenectady ARC is committed to helping people in the Capital Region enjoy healthy, rewarding lives as members of their community. Schenectady ARC brings staff, families, and community together to encourage dreams and respond to each person's life choices by offering high quality services, resources and support.



"The board feels strongly that Kirk's appointment is the first step in continuing a strong tradition of stability, and excellent leadership at Schenectady ARC," said Mary Otter, board president. "Our success in achieving our goal of providing the highest quality supports and services for people with developmental disabilities has been achieved through the invaluable efforts of individuals such as Kirk Lewis who dedicate so much time to this field and the individuals we serve," Otter continued.

Schenectady ARC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012

Mary Otter
President

Adrienne Westfall
1st Vice President

Barbara Kania
2nd Vice President

Bella Stuart
1st Treasurer

John Bresonis
1st Treasurer

Thomas Rice
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Patrica G. Ross
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Richard Bonaker
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Holly Gray
Director

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Director

Richard P. Johnson
Director

John White
Director

Noreen Zido
Director

Schenectady ARC Update

ARC Receives 2011 Mary Frawley Memorial Grant

Grant will aid in the development of a new Fire Safety video

Schenectady ARC was awarded the Mary Frawley Memorial Grant from the NYS Association of Day Service Providers. The grant will be used to produce a 10-minute fire safety training video to assist with fire safety training for individuals who attend Schenectady ARC's four day habilitation programs.

Due to the scarcity of fire safety training material adapted for people with developmental disabilities, Schenectady ARC's day habilitation program staff, in collaboration with Rotterdam Pine Grove # 5 and Carmen Fire Departments, recently developed a comprehensive fire safety curriculum. The curriculum consists of over 25 multi-sensory activities, photographs and exercises that have been carefully adapted to accommodate the unique learning styles and functioning

levels of the individuals served by Schenectady ARC.

The video will serve as an essential supplement to the newly created curriculum. The video provides a multi-sensory interpretation of key fire safety practices for individuals with varying levels of intellectual functioning, communication skills and learning styles. Individuals will be able to complete the curriculum at their own pace, with progress tracked in a "Fire Safety Preparedness Assessment," which rates and documents skill acquisition.

Schenectady ARC staff believes that this program is unique, as they were unable to purchase or find any comparable set of fire safety training materials. The video will be an important element of helping



ARC staff at Maple Ridge demonstrate portions of their Fire Safety curriculum for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Schenectady ARC consumers learn and maintain critical fire safety skills.

Life Prep Newspaper group receives Rotary grant

Schenectady ARC's Life Prep program received \$300 grant from Rotary Club of Schenectady to produce a newspaper. The Rotary grant will assist in the purchase of design software, a high capacity printer, and supplies.

The quarterly newspaper will be written, edited, and published by 20 individuals with developmental disabilities served at Schenectady ARC. It will serve as a practical and enjoyable way to reinforce a variety of skills necessary for community integration. This quarterly newspaper will be distributed initially to over 165 individuals with developmental disabilities attending Schenectady ARC's Maple Ridge Day Center and Life Prep programs, with eventual circulation to our Pine Ridge Industries and

Princetown Ridge Center programs.

Correspondents, who will be individuals with developmental disabilities, will be responsible for submitting content on current events of a local, regional, statewide and/or national nature, budgeting and money management, hygiene and grooming, socialization/communication, using public transportation. The program uses innovative hands-on activities to develop a variety of essential skills.

An Editorial Board, composed of agency staff, administrators and peers, will provide ongoing oversight and technical assistance, as well as approve the final version before each issue gets to print.



James Vallely (C) & Luke Wilkinson (R) accepted a \$300 donation from Mark Sheehan (L) a member of the Schenectady Rotary Club in April.

PROVIDING SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SINCE 1952.

Were you seen at the ARC Luau?



Donations & Sponsorships

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Mr. & Mrs. Arcangelo Cestra
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice W. Goyette
Ms. Dolores Holtman
Mr. Richard Johnson
Schenectady Rotary Club
Sportime
Stewart's Foundation
Ms. Linda Mertz
Mr. Paul Partridge
Ms. Josefa Salvo
Mrs. Trisha Vieira

Grants:

New York State Association of Day Service Providers, Inc. Mary Frawley Memorial Grant
Schenectady Rotary Club

Corporate Sponsorships:

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2010 Holiday Appeal:

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2011 Membership Campaign:

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Mr. Eli Taub
Mr. Michael J. Wager
Bertha, Adrienne & Patricia Westfall

In Memory of Paula Hummel:

Mr. & Mrs. Richard H. Klemm

In Memory of Timothy Kelly:

Mr. & Mrs. David Charles Smith

In Memory of Caroline Wagner:

Mr. & Mrs. Angelo DeFelippo
Ms. Amelia M. Malgieri

In Memory of Charles & Mary Hughes:

Mr. Thomas P. Hughes

In Honor of Evelyn Eisner on her 90th Birthday:

Mr. & Mrs. William Garber

ARC 5K Challenge - September 15, 2011

1st Annual Schenectady ARC 5K and 1 Mile Fun Walk
Thursday, September 15, 2011 * Central Park, Schenectady, NY
1 Mile Walk 5:15pm * 5K Race 6:00 pm
OPEN TO COMPETITORS OF ALL LEVELS



Registration Packet Pickup	<u>Early pickup:</u> September 14, 2011 2:00pm-7:00pm Schenectady ARC 214 State Street Schenectady, NY 12302		<u>Day of race:</u> 3:00 pm – 5:45 pm Pavilion in Central Park
Entry Fees	Early Registered 5K - \$20 (Deadline: August 19, 2011)	After August 19 Registration - \$25	1 Mile Fun Walk - \$5
Race Shirts	Shirts and sizes only guaranteed to the first 300 early registered 5K participants		
Awards	Awards will be given to top finishers overall and age groups		
Course	USATF Certified 5K Course	USATF Certification Code: NY00936AM	

Please, no headsets, strollers, bicycles, skates, or animals in the 5K race; strollers are allowed, however, in the mile walk

Contact and Questions:
Douglas Secor, Race Director
(518) 372-1160 Ext. 8641
dougs@arcschenectady.org

Mail Applications to:
Schenectady ARC
c/o Douglas Secor
214 State Street
Schenectady, NY 12305



Checks Payable to:
Schenectady ARC

PLEASE PRINT

RACE (Circle one ONLY): 5K Race 1 Mile Walk T-SHIRT SIZE (Circle one): S M L X-L

FIRST NAME LAST NAME

ADDRESS:

CITY: STATE: ZIP:

PHONE: () - SEX: M F

DATE OF BIRTH: AGE AS OF 09/15/11:

Month Day Year

E-Mail Address:

I know that running/walking a road race is a potentially hazardous activity and by signing below I attest that I am physically able to compete in this event. I assume all the risks associated with running/walking this event including, but not limited to, falls, the acts or negligence of other participants or volunteers, weather, road conditions, traffic conditions, etc. By signing below I hereby release Schenectady ARC, NYSARC, Inc., ARE Event Productions, event sponsors, and any municipal agencies from responsibility or liability for any claims, injuries or damages I, or my child, may suffer as a result of my/his/her participation in this event.

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature (If under 18) _____

PROVIDING SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SINCE 1952.

State Assembly Speaker Silver Calls for Public Hearings On Abuse

State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver called upon the Chairs of three Assembly Committees to hold a series of public hearings to examine the quality of care and safety measures in "homes" for people with developmental disabilities. The hearings were scheduled in Buffalo, Farmingdale, New York City and Albany.

The purpose of the public hearings was to examine state and regulatory oversight of residential programs licensed by OPWDD to review current investigative policies and procedures as they relate to incident reporting, and to explore additional safety and quality measures to protect the State's residents with developmental disabilities.

Schenectady ARC Public Relations Director Marc DeNofio and Quality Assurance Director Bill Waters attended the meeting in Albany to evaluate the

outcomes.

The meetings were convened on a letter dated May 25th from Speaker Silver to Assemblyman Felix Ortix, Chair of the Assembly MH/Developmental Disabilities Committee, Assemblyman Joseph Lentol, Chair of the Assembly Codes Committee and Assemblyman Jonathan Bing, Chair of the Assembly Oversight, Analysis and Investigation Committee citing the New York Times article which highlighted abuse in the state-operated system.

Speaker Silver further called upon the Assembly Committee Chairs to examine what could be done to ensure that people with developmental disabilities can rely on the State to protect them and how to avoid abuse and mistreatment in the system.

5¢ can help more than you think

Pine Ridge opens new bottle redemption site

Do you want to help the environment by recycling your used bottles and cans, but don't have the time? Are you tired of waiting in line at the grocery store to return your bottles and cans? Are you frustrated with machines that frequently break down? Are you tired of wasting time searching and waiting for staff to assist you?

Well, Pine Ridge Vocational Center is now a certified redemption center and can assist you with these recycling needs. Just drop off your refundable bottles and cans in a labeled bag, and we'll take care of the counting and sorting for you. We have a variety of

payment options, including cash on delivery. It's that simple!



The DSP Retreat



SARC DSP's play volleyball as part of a team building exercise at the DACC.

The DSP Retreat is a fun event that helps Direct Support Professionals develop team building and interpersonal skills.

This May Direct Support Professionals from around Schenectady ARC attended three sessions at the Duaneburg Area Community Center. The DSP's were selected from all Schenectady ARC programs to attend based on their exemplary work with Schenectady ARC consumers

While at the retreat they participated in a variety of challenging and fun activities. Later evaluated the exercises to gain a better understanding of how their actions can create positive outcomes for those they serve.

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1st Annual Schenectady ARC 5K and 1 Mile Fun Walk

Thursday, September 15, 2011 * Central Park, Schenectady, NY

Rose & Kiernan, Inc.
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presents

Schenectady ARC
1st ANNUAL
5K
1 MILE FUN WALK
 SEPTEMBER 15, 2011
 CENTRAL PARK



ENTRY FEE:

Early Registered 5K - \$20
 (Deadline: August 19, 2011)
 After August 19 Registration - \$25
 1 Mile Fun Walk - \$5

REGISTER AT
ARCSKCHALLENGE.COM
 or at **ACTIVE.COM**

Packet Pickup: September 14, 2011 - 2:00pm-7:00pm
 Early pickup: September 14, 2011 - 2:00pm-7:00pm
 Schenectady ARC
 214 State Street Schenectady, NY
 Day of race:
 3:00 pm - 5:45 pm -
 Pavilion in Central Park Entry Fees
 Race Shirts and sizes only
 guaranteed to the first 300 early

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