

# Schenectady ARC

## 2010 Annual Report

214 State Street  
Schenectady, NY 12305  
[www.arcschenectady.org](http://www.arcschenectady.org)



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**SCHENECTADY ARC**  
Advocacy • Resources • Choices

**2010 annual report**  
advocacy • resources • choices

*Providing services to people with developmental disabilities since 1952.*



## VISION

Partnerships create the power for people with developmental disabilities to live, learn, work and play as fulfilled members of society.

## MISSION

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 the community together to encourage dreams and respond to each person's life choices by offering high quality services, resources and supports.

# GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Volunteers are at the heart of our community. Those that volunteer not only assist in the daily functions of an agency, but they help promote our cause and contribute to the betterment of our local community.

Volunteering is by definition the act of giving back to one's community. For some it is done because it feels good to help out others in their community. They receive recognition for their acts and are rewarded for their contribution with feelings of appreciation. It is this satisfaction with the outcome that drives individuals to continue to volunteer.

For the individuals supported by Schenectady ARC - those that are sometime viewed as only recipients of care and assistance – the opportunity to give back to the community is extremely significant. Schenectady ARC individuals gain new work skills, life skills, and experiences. They become exactly what our mission promotes, productive members of their community.

Our consumers feel a certain personal satisfaction each time they help another individual. There is also a respect that is fostered through the volunteer opportunity. The smile on the face of a customer who purchases flowers from ARC individuals or the person who receives a smile for contributing to the ARC consumers at the Salvation Army. It seems to brighten everyone's day.

Our consumers take pride in their volunteer activities and feel useful and esteemed. When our volunteers are told that their services are appreciated or when they are honored with awards and accolades the motivation to continue with their service is clearly seen. Each opportunity that our community partners provide to ARC consumers brings about a sense of worth and empowerment.

In our effort to find meaningful activities for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities to engage in during the work day when full-time employment opportunities may not be present, Schenectady ARC has for many years secured volunteer opportunities around Schenectady County for individuals to take part in. Our volunteer locations are continuing to grow each day as new service organizations, businesses and charities become aware of the talented people at Schenectady ARC.

On the pages that follow you will read about some of the Schenectady ARC volunteers and the contributions they have made to our community.

Warm Regards,



Linda Lahaie  
Executive Director



Mary Otter  
Board President

# Board of Directors & ADMINISTRATION

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Mary Otter**, President  
**Adrienne Westfall**, 1st Vice President  
**Barbara Kania**, 2nd Vice President  
**Vernon Ketchum**, 1st Treasurer  
**Thomas Rice**, 2nd Treasurer  
**Bella Stuart**, Recording Secretary  
**Richard Bonaker**, Financial Secretary  
**Karl Horstmann**, Corresponding Secretary

**Linda Churchman**, Director  
**Angelo DeFelippo, III**, Director  
**Holly Gray**, Director  
**Jesse Koepp**, Director  
**Patrica G. Ross**, Director  
**Noreen Zido**, Director  
**Richard Johnson**, Director

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

**Linda Lahaie**  
Executive Director

**Steve Klein**  
Associate Executive Director

**Kirk M. Lewis**  
General Counsel

**Brian Dwyer**  
Controller

**Suzanne Pinto**  
Assistant Executive Director for Residential Services

**Jennifer Cole**  
Assistant Executive Director of Day Services

# Program DESCRIPTIONS

## DAY SERVICES

*Maple Ridge, Princetown Ridge, Life Prep*

**Individuals served: 236**

Therapeutic dance, horticulture, cooking, music, relaxation, math, computers, art and physical fitness are just some of the different special interest groups that individuals can choose to participate in while attending one of our day service programs. We offer countless opportunities to volunteer within the community at places such as the Schenectady and Albany City Mission, Bethesda House, Salvation Army, Regional Food Bank, Peaceful Acres Horse Farm, and the Ronald McDonald House. In addition, individuals may choose to attend college or work on skills that will enable them to obtain employment. Our agency's staff is on hand to assist individuals 18 years and older explore new interests and identify goals.

## RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

**Individuals served: 160**

Summer vacations, house Bar-B-Q's, gardening, movie nights and trips to the library, disco, bowling, skiing, and exercise groups are just a few of the activities in which individuals in our residential program may choose to participate. Schenectady ARC operates 21 community residences that provide 24-hour personalized care and 34 apartments where individuals live more independently while receiving necessary support services including money management, grocery shopping and residential habilitation. In addition, individuals have the option to join a variety of special interest clubs including art, fishing, photography and crochet.

## FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

**Individuals served: 430**

Schenectady ARC provides a wide variety of services that support families of individuals with developmental disabilities who live at home, including in-home respite reimbursement and community habilitation, which give caregivers temporary relief from care-giving responsibilities. Our respite recreation services give individuals the opportunity to participate in various activities, including volunteering in the community, attending local plays and participating in groups such as creative arts and cooking. Our collaboration with the YMCA allows children to attend an integrated after-school program at elementary level in the Scotia-Glenville school district that is made up of children of all abilities.

## SCHOOL TO WORK SERVICES

**Individuals served: 47**

Over 75 local businesses have collaborated with Schenectady ARC to provide internships to students with special needs, giving them an opportunity to gain hands-on work experience. Students learn appropriate work, social and job seeking skills with the support of Schenectady ARC staff that will assist them in obtaining and maintaining employment in the future. The Student Work Experience Program (SWEP) currently serves students in the Schenectady and Mohonasen school districts. The Community Transition Program (CTP), a special education GED program with an employment component, serves the Mohonasen and Schalmont School Districts. Transportation to and from job sites is provided by the participating school district.

# Program DESCRIPTIONS

## **NEW DIRECTIONS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**

*Individuals served: 171*

New Directions Employment Services is a supported employment program operated by Schenectady ARC since 1986. The program assists individuals with disabilities in obtaining and maintaining competitive employment opportunities. Using an intensive discovery process Employment Specialists work to understand each individual's needs, skills, strengths, job interests, and life goals. New Directions strives to find the best employment match and placement site to ensure success for the individuals and the employer. Through continued support, which includes additional training and follow-along visits New Directions works diligently to build strong partnerships with all employers.

## **RIDGE HEALTH SERVICES, Inc.**

*Individuals served: 575*

Schenectady ARC's clinic offers a full range of comprehensive services monitored by a board-certified physician, including primary medical, nursing, podiatry, nutrition, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, vocational rehabilitation, social work, psychiatry, and psychology. Our staff of caring, licensed health care and clinical professionals is committed to meeting the specialized needs of individuals with disabilities and their families. In addition, we offer our consumers the convenience of receiving many of our clinical services at select ARC sites as well as in the home.

## **RIDGE SERVICE TRANSPORTATION**

*Individuals served: 500+*

Schenectady ARC has 26 handicapped-accessible buses and over 100 vehicles that provide transportation to individuals who attend our programs. The agency's full-service repair facility ensures the safety and efficiency of all agency vehicles, as well as many vehicles for other non-profit agencies including Rainbow Express Children's Center, Alternative Living Group, RSS, Friendship Baptist Church, Catholic Charities, Northeast Parent and Child, Schenectady Head-Start and the Eddy. Certifications in Defensive Driving and 19A are also provided through Ridge Service to Schenectady ARC staff as well as individuals from other agencies. Ridge Service also provides transportation for Medicaid medical transports and the Seniors for Rotterdam group and has volunteered for the Schenectady City of Lights Tour and the Chamber of Schenectady County.

## **MEDICAID SERVICE COORDINATION**

*Individuals served: 430*

Schenectady ARC's staff of service coordinators work with individuals and families to select and coordinate desired supports and services. Service coordinators assist individuals from the age of three and up in developing individualized service plans that are based on their needs and interests and abilities. In addition, they can help secure resources and supports within Schenectady ARC and in the community to ensure that each person is given a variety of options to fulfill their life goals.

# Program DESCRIPTIONS

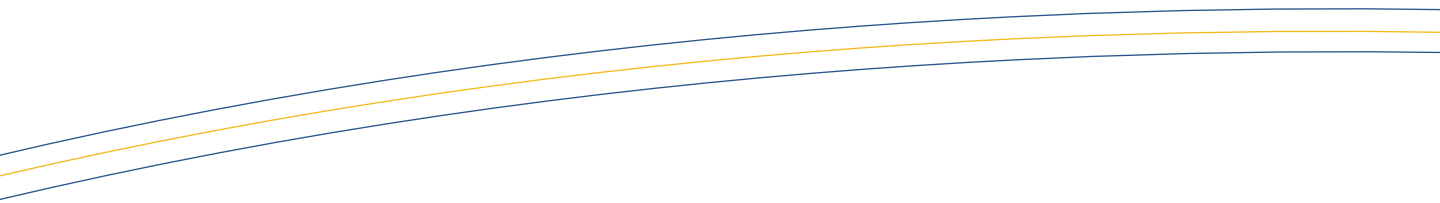
## **PINE RIDGE INDUSTRIES**

*Individuals served: 125*

Schenectady ARC's work center located in Scotia, NY is home to over 125 employees with disabilities. Our workforce performs a wide variety of tasks including assembly and packaging, light manufacturing and document preparation, one of the fastest growing services in the capital region, secured document destruction services. Our customer base consists of state, national as well as international businesses including; Transworld Entertainment, Applied Robotics, Comfortex, Mohawk Paper, Environment One, NYS Attorney General, NYS Health Department and MapInfo. Schenectady ARC also provides any supportive services that may be necessary to maintain employment as well as on-site clinical services.

## **TRAINING SOLUTIONS***NOW*

Training Solutions Now, Schenectady ARC's training department offers customized training for all SARC employees as well as outside companies and agencies. In 2010, we trained 4,079 employees and 388 individuals from outside organizations. Our past customers include; the YMCA, the City of Schenectady, Burnt Hills School District, Ellis Hospital, Day Haven, Clearview Center, Head Start Schenectady and local ARC chapters. With over 700 training opportunities, Training Solutions Now is a cost-effective alternative to ensure that Schenectady ARC employees receive the best training available.



# Financials

## ASSETS

### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and equivalents	\$	1,315,767
Investments		2,180,256
Accounts receivable, net		2,753,250
Inventory		3,354
Prepaid expenses		164,633
Current portion of debt service reserve funds and due from funder		619,678
Cash held in trust for participants		60,530

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<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>7,097,468</b>
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### PROPERTY, BUILDINGS & EQUIPMENT

Land and improvements		1,506,221
Buildings and improvements		11,597,958
Furniture, fixture and improvements		3,378,452
Leasehold improvements		2,789,272
Vehicles		3,781,565
Construction in progress		97,612

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		<b>23,151,080</b>
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Less: Accumulated depreciation and amortization		(14,777,960)
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		<b>8,373,120</b>
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### OTHER ASSETS

Deposits and other non-current assets		131,296
Debt service reserve funds and due from funder, net		410,443
Deferred compensation investment		129,284
Deferred financing costs, net		304,697

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		975,720
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	\$	<b>16,446,308</b>
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# Financials

## LIABILITY & NET ASSETS

### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Lines-of-Credit	\$	558,538
Current Installments of long-term debt		1,109,608
Accounts Payable		268,820
Accrued Expenses		1,740,957
Current portion of due to funding sources		606,480
Participants' trust liability		60,530
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>4,344,933</b>

### OTHER LIABILITIES

Long-term Debt, net		6,499,240
Due to Funding Sources, net		525,706
Deferred compensation liability		129,284
Reoffering premium, net		39,538
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>11,538,701</b>

### NET ASSETS

Unrestricted:		
Operating		2,727,351
Board designated		2,180,256
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		<b>4,907,607</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>16,446,308</b>

### SOURCES OF FUNDS

Waiver related	95.22%
Deficit funding (OPWDD/OMH)	1.61%
Fee for service	0.70%
Gross Profit form sales	1.84%
Vesid	0.47%
All other	0.15%

### USES OF FUNDS

Salaries	63.16%
Benefits	16.82%
PP&E	9.21%
food supplies & materials	1.94%
utilities, telecommun & taxes	2.46%
transportation related	1.64%
professional fees	1.48%
All other	3.29%

# Residences

## **AGNES HOUSE**

100 Agnes Avenue  
Rotterdam, NY 12303  
Tel #: 355-1602  
FAX#: 355-3228

## **BUZZO HOUSE**

144 Snowden Ave.  
Schenectady, NY 12304-1331  
Tel: 518-372-1571  
Fax: 518-372-1526

## **CONNORS HOUSE**

256 Autumn Run Drive  
Schenectady, NY 12306-6702  
Tel: 518-356-7936  
Fax: 518-356-9759

## **DEFELIPPO HOUSE**

1955 Eastern Parkway  
Schenectady, NY 12309-6014  
Tel: 518-346-6590  
Fax: 518-374-1722

## **HERTZMAN HOUSE**

2211 Neil Street  
Schenectady, NY 12306  
Tel: 518-370-8616  
Fax: 518-347-3556

## **KETCHUM HOUSE**

1132 Glenmeadow Court  
Schenectady, NY 12309-2512  
Tel: 518-346-5752  
Fax: 518-374-0413

## **KIRVIN HOUSE**

2739 Myrtle Ave.  
Schenectady, NY 12306-2206  
Tel: 518-372-7087  
Fax: 518-372-6062

## **LEWIS HOUSE**

344 Mohawk Ave.  
Scotia, NY 12302-1822  
Tel: 518-346-4753  
Fax: 518-346-8031

## **PAUL CHRISTIAN HOUSE**

14 Jane Drive  
Glenville, NY 12302  
Tel: 518-399-1290  
Fax: 518-399-3559

## **MATRICARDI HOUSE**

1319 Regal Ave.  
Schenectady, NY 12309-1709  
Tel: 518-374-6937  
Fax: 518-374-1534

## **MINARD HOUSE**

1485 Mariaville Scotch Church Rd.  
Pattersonville, NY 12137-9607  
Tel: 518-864-5810  
Fax: 518-864-7514

## **PAHL HOUSE**

125 Woodhaven Drive  
Scotia, NY 12302-4817  
Tel: 518-399-8946  
Fax: 518-399-6614

## **PAULEY HOUSE**

238 Spring Road  
Glenville, NY 12302-3706  
Tel: 518-384-1652  
Fax: 518-399-4081

## **RAKVICA HOUSE**

3 Yorkshire Court  
Scotia, NY 12302  
Tel: 518-395-9865  
Fax: 518-395-5917

## **ROBIN HOUSE**

298 Gutha Road  
Delanson, NY 12053  
Tel: 518-864-7508  
Fax: 518-864-5194

## **RUZZA HOUSE**

998 Lilac Street  
Schenectady, NY 12306  
Tel: 518-355-5429  
Fax: 518-355-4747

## **SCHLIFF HOUSE**

17 Bigwood Road  
Glenville, NY 12302  
Tel: 518-399-0535  
Fax: 518-399-5852

## **STILES HOUSE**

2215 Eastern Parkway  
Schenectady, NY 12309-2206  
Tel: 518-346-6731  
Fax: 518-374-3943

## **STOWELL HOUSE**

500 Normanskill Drive  
Duanesburg, NY 12056  
Tel: 518-355-6152  
Fax: 518-355-3629

## **STUART HOUSE**

1740 State Street  
Schenectady, NY 12304  
Tel: 518-372-1522  
Fax: 518-372-0042

## **WESTFALL HOUSE**

653 St. David's Lane  
Schenectady, NY 12309-4925  
Tel: 393-4381  
Fax: 374-1638

# Agency Sites & LOCATIONS

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

214 State Street  
P.O. Box 2236  
Schenectady, NY 12301-2236  
Tel: 518-377-2186  
Fax: 518-377-2189  
[www.arcschenectady.org](http://www.arcschenectady.org)

## RIDGE HEALTH SERVICES

214 State Street  
P.O. Box 2236  
Schenectady, NY 12301-2236  
Tel: 518-372-8178  
Fax: 518-372-8939

## HUMAN RESOURCES

214 State Street  
P.O. Box 2236  
Schenectady, NY 12301-2236  
Tel: 518-372-1160  
Fax: 518-372-5261

## RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

214 State Street  
P.O. Box 2236  
Schenectady, NY 12301-2236  
Tel: 518-377-2186  
Fax: 518-377-2189

## MAPLE RIDGE DAY SERVICES

2999 Hamburg Street  
Schenectady, NY 12303  
Tel: 518-355-2390  
Fax: 518-355-1929

## PRINCETOWN RIDGE DAY SERVICES

395 Becker Drive  
Schenectady, NY 12306  
Tel: 518-357-0129  
Fax: 518-357-0137

## LIFE PREP 1

136 State Street  
Schenectady, NY 12305  
Tel: 518-428-3283  
Fax: 518-688-1482

## LIFE PREP 2

1760 Union Street  
Schenectady, NY 12309  
Tel: 518-723-9133  
Fax: 518-723-9135

## NEW DIRECTIONS EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

2999 Hamburg Street  
Rotterdam, NY 12303  
Tel: 518-355-2390  
Fax: 518-355-1929

## PINE RIDGE INDUSTRIES

52 Market Street  
Scotia, NY 12302  
Tel: 518-372-1160  
Fax: 518-372-1801  
[www.pineridgeind.com](http://www.pineridgeind.com)

## RIDGE TRANSPORTATION

1400 B Dunnsville Road  
Schenectady, NY 12306  
Tel: 518-356-0611  
Fax: 518-356-0478



“We are thrilled to be part of a collaborative effort to meet this need in the Scotia-Glenville School District.”

*Jennifer Cole, Schenectady ARC*

## LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

# SCOTIA -GLENVILLE SCHOOLS

Scotia-Glenville schools stress a solid, traditional education that emphasizes reading, writing and mathematics while nurturing creative thought, critical thinking and expression through art, music, technology, and physical education. Scotia-Glenville caters to students of all learning abilities. Strong programs are offered for the gifted and talented child as well as the academically-needy student.

Schenectady ARC's partnership with the Scotia-Glenville School District dates back nearly 15 years, when the high school began working with our agency as part of the GIVE Program (Governor's Initiative for Voluntary Excellence). This service-learning program was a collaboration of Capital District schools and community partners through which students learned and developed active participation in service experiences that met the community's needs. Schenectady ARC became one of many organizations where Scotia-Glenville students could choose to volunteer. Today, the school has several teams of students that visit our group residences on a weekly basis throughout the school year.

Together, students and our consumers share conversations, play games, do crafts, bake, watch movies and go outdoors. While the GIVE program has proven to be beneficial to students, this partnership has been also a tremendous asset to Schenectady ARC. In addition to the quality time students spend with our consumers, the GIVE visits have helped to raise awareness about our agency and those we serve and more importantly contribute to our individuals being accepted and active members of the community. Beyond their weekly visits, students have put together parties for consumers and volunteered at our agency's Annual BBQ. Seeing the smiles from the students and

those we serve as they interact has made this partnership more than we could have hoped for.

In 2005, our partnership with Scotia-Glenville expanded when Schenectady ARC received a grant to operate an integrated after school program at one of the elementary schools. Scotia-Glenville offers on-site after school-care to students; however it did not always meet the needs of children with disabilities. Schenectady ARC was thrilled to be a part of a new and exciting initiative that would help fill a critical void.

Sacandaga Elementary School became one of the first integrated after school programs offered in the area, allowing children with disabilities to attend an after school program with their classmates, while still receiving the care required to meet their needs. Working alongside peers, students tackle homework, learning new adaptive physical activities and appropriate social, behavioral and recreational skills. In an amazingly short amount of time, students developed an increased awareness and understanding of the needs and issues children with disabilities face. The void that once existed has been filled. The program is exceeding everyone's expectations. Schenectady ARC, Scotia Glenville school administrators, parents and most importantly the students have all been thrilled with the results.



## GROWING IN OUR COMMUNITY

# SCHENECTADY GREEN MARKET

Enjoy shopping at a variety of vendors who offer fresh fruits and vegetables, natural eggs, herbs, wines, baked goods, flowers & plants, crafts and more. All products are grown by area farmers. The Downtown Green Market offers a lively outdoor setting complete with music, great food, food demonstrations and weekly special events all in the heart of the City of Schenectady.

Each Sunday, vendors, shoppers, musicians and friends gather at Schenectady's Green Market a year-round market open 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the winter market is located inside Proctors Theatre from November through April. In April the market takes to the streets in front of City Hall every Thursday and individuals from Schenectady ARC are there to sell their goods.

The market offers an array of local vendors, including Schenectady ARC. Schenectady ARC produces everything we sell: plants, flowers and vegetables. Schenectady's Green Market hopes to capture and maintain the sense of community that is such an important part of Downtown Schenectady. Being a part of the community is one the core reasons ARC is involved with the Green market.

Individuals served at Schenectady ARC's Maple Ridge Day program have provided the goods and products which are marketed at the Schenectady Green Market. Their products are often the highlight of the market in part because of the cheerful people who are selling the products.

Through their volunteer work the individuals at Schenectady ARC are learning valuable skills in horticulture. Each day they work on crop development and cultivation to prepare for the sale at the market.

Working as a team these volunteers love to talk with the customers at the Green Market about the quality of their products, and the great price of their hand raised merchandise. Their passion for their plants and the excitement of the sale is easily seen in the smiles that transact between all parties. The individuals that attend the Green Market from Schenectady ARC rotate each week to ensure that all that express interest are able to experience this great program.

Recently, Schenectady ARC worked with The Community Foundation of the Capital Region to upgrade the green house at the Maple Ridge site. This new state of the art green house will enable the ARC consumers to bring even more crops, plants and great smiles to the Green Market this year.

“We keep it super clean.”

*Lance, ARC Consumer.*



## WORKING IN A NEW ENVIRONMENT

# ENVIRONMENT ONE (E/ONE)

E/One currently has over 120 employees in Schenectady County. Environment One Corporation (E/One) is a diversified, high-technology company. Manufacturing, engineering, administration and marketing operations are managed from Niskayuna. Environment One also maintains regional sales offices in key cities in the U.S.A. and Australia. Environment One Corporation is owned by Precision Castparts Corporation (PCC), a worldwide manufacturer of complex metal components and products, listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Keeping the world clean is a daunting challenge. There is a small group of individuals at Schenectady ARC that is more than capable of doing just that. Working silently in the background, they provide an essential service that some rarely talk about. They are the mobile work crews of Schenectady ARC. Oddly, this particular mobile work crew is working at Environment One Corporation in Niskayuna, NY, which happens to provide a similar function to the communities across the globe.

E/One has developed and marketed low-pressure, gravity-independent, contour-following sewage collection systems. E/One Sewer® systems have proven to be an economical and effective method of sewerage otherwise difficult land areas, such as flat, wet, rocky and hilly terrain.

The same can most likely be said of the mobile work crews that tend to the dirty business at Environment One. They tackle the otherwise difficult cleaning jobs that keep E/One sparkling clean. Best of all they are one of the most economical cleaning teams in the market.

In 2009 Schenectady ARC began working with Environment One Corporation. The individuals from Schenectady ARC provide a host of services in the janitorial arts.

Each morning a small crew of four consumers and one supervisor leave the ARC State Street site for work. They provide cleaning services Monday through Friday for approximately four hours a day.

The partnership at E/One started small, but has now grown to a ten consumer mobile work crew. E/One has recently asked them to expand their workload at the corporation's headquarters, reflecting respect for the hard work that the ARC individuals provide to Environment One.

"At E/One we have been very happy with the level of professionalism and the quality of work that the ARC team provides.

They have become an integral part of maintaining E/One's reputation," said Eric LaCoppola, Vice President of Operations.



## HELPING FUTURE LEADERS

# LEADERSHIP TECH VALLEY

Leadership Tech Valley is a shared initiative of the Chamber of Schenectady County and the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce that enhances leadership resources and helps shape informed and action-oriented leaders and future leaders for the Capital Region and Tech Valley. The 9-month program gives participants access to some of the area's most innovative businesses, government and civic leaders as well as vital non-profit organizations such as Schenectady ARC.

For over ten years Schenectady ARC has been actively involved in the Leadership Tech Valley program. Schenectady ARC has provided transportation to the classes, opened our facility doors for class tours, had staff on the program's advisory committees, and, of course, we have sent staff to attend the program. Schenectady ARC's partnership with Leadership Tech Valley has resulted in some of the most rewarding exposure and raised awareness about our agency to countless community connections.

The Leadership program is built on the premise that we are all part of the community. In 2010, the class toured the Princetown Ridge site and saw first hand how interconnected the intellectual and developmental disabilities are to the community.

For many class members, it was the first time they had heard of our agency or been exposed to the population we serve. Hearing how Schenectady ARC consumers choose activities to participate in such as horticulture, therapeutic dance, art, cooking and music, highlighted the many similarities that exist between disabled and non disabled individuals. The class was equally impressed to learn about the number of organizations we volunteer at,

including the Albany and Schenectady City Mission, the Salvation Army, Regional Food Bank and the Ronald McDonald House.

As the class toured the site's grounds, they saw the outdoor tents that inclement weather had repeatedly destroyed, leaving no safe, shaded area for our consumers to enjoy the outdoors. Compelled to do something about it, the Leadership Tech Valley Class of 2010 took on the task of building a permanent structure as their required end-of-year community project.

Despite a tough economy, the class surpassed their \$5,000 fund-raising goal and raised nearly \$13,000, allowing the original scope of the project to be expanded. For months class members worked on constructing the pavilion, recruiting their friends and families to join their effort. Schenectady ARC employees also volunteered their time, making the entire process a true community effort.

The end result was a gorgeous, permanent, secure and safe structure complete with a landscaped courtyard and recreational and therapeutic equipment that will serve the needs of hundreds of developmentally disabled ARC individuals for years to come.

“The individuals we serve truly enjoy going out and participating in the community they live in.”

*Mark Sheehan, Schenectady ARC*



## A HELPING SET OF HANDS

# THE SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army is an evangelical Christian church known for charitable work. It is an international movement that currently works in over a hundred countries. It was founded in 1865 in the United Kingdom by William and Catherine Booth as the East London Christian Mission with a quasi-military structure. Today, the Salvation Army operates a host of missions that support a variety of individuals from the poverty stricken to veterans. Among the most recognizable missions is the Holiday Kettle Campaign where volunteers ring the bell for donations to “Keep the pot boiling”.

Schenectady ARC volunteers have “kept the pot boiling” by ringing the bell during the annual Kettle Campaign. Ringing the Bell is a huge privilege, and an honor. Schenectady ARC volunteers have continued in order to support the Salvation Army.

Ringing the bell and manning the kettle in the Rotterdam Square Mall during the holidays has been a volunteer effort for the Schenectady ARC for the past seven years. Schenectady ARC volunteers have received first, second, and third place awards for their ringing efforts.

“We ring the entire season,” stated Marilyn, a volunteer. The activity is a true benefit to both agencies.

The Bell ringing job is great as it allows nearly all ability levels to be involved. The consumers love the chance to socialize and be out in the mall during the holiday season. The decorations and music are fun for the individuals served at Schenectady ARC. The “job” experience, greeting others and having the community see individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in a positive light are other perks, too.

The volunteers at Schenectady ARC are go-getters; they have taken their bell ringing accolades and turned them into more opportunities with the Salvation Army.

The volunteers have formed relationships with kitchen staff at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen. Now Schenectady ARC volunteers are going even further to help those in need by serving those who come to dine at the Army kitchen.

Schenectady ARC volunteers have gained more acceptance from other community volunteers and the people that our folks serve at the soup kitchen through demonstration of their work ethic. The Salvation Army has come to depend on Schenectady ARC volunteers as they do other volunteers and Schenectady ARC individuals are treated equally as they work alongside other volunteers.

On top of all of those benefits each individual is gaining valuable job experience.

In the spirit of the Salvation Army they are sharing their wealth of kindness with those who are less fortunate.

# VOLUNTEER SITES

In addition to the sites that were highlighted in this report, individuals supported by Schenectady ARC programs and services volunteer at the following organizations and businesses:

ALBANY CITY RESCUE MISSION  
DAY HAVEN  
BETHESDA HOUSE  
CITY MISSION OF SCHENECTADY  
DUTCH MANOR  
MAPLE LEAF DAYCARE  
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY  
REGIONAL FOOD BANK  
RONALD MC DONALD HOUSE  
SALVATION ARMY  
SCHENECTADY INNER CITY MISSION  
LUNCH PROGRAM  
ROTTERDAM SENIOR CENTER  
YWCA CHILDREN'S CENTER  
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY  
PEACEFUL ACRES HORSE FARM  
UNCLE SHAUN'S HUGS  
TOYS FOR TOTS  
CONCERN FOR THE HUNGRY  
ELLIS HOSPITAL CARDIAC CENTER  
ANNIE SCHAFFER SENIOR CENTER  
SALVATION ARMY  
SCHENECTADY GREEN MARKET  
THE EDDY  
THE RONALD McDONALD HOUSE

