



THE Parchment

N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 11, Issue 1

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OUR VISION:

*The Arc
of Livingston-Wyoming
empowers people of all ages
to experience the joys
and challenges of life
with a growing sense
of personal dignity
and independence.*

Redeeming Value

Workers at Hilltop Industries are hopeful that 2012 will hold many happy returns. The vocational services offshoot of The Arc formally introduced Hilltop Bottle and Can Return, a redemption center located at 5 East State Street in Mount Morris, at a grand opening on Wednesday, January 11th. According to Hilltop Program Director **Kellie Kennedy**, the new venture is part of Hilltop's ongoing effort to offer eco-friendly services while providing gainful employment opportunities for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.



Job Coach Tammy Kovacs holds the ribbon for Martin Miskell and Marcy VanZandt to cut at the Grand Opening of Hilltop's Bottle and Can Recycling Center

"The primary intention is to create meaningful jobs for people with disabilities in our community," Kennedy says. "Entering the redemption business is also in line with Hilltop's commitment to recycling and the environment."

Until recently, **Ivan Davis**, owner of Grizzly's Custom Cutting, operated a bottle and can redemption center at 30 East State Street, directly across from Hilltop's sheltered workshop and administrative headquarters. When Davis exited the business, Kennedy and her team worked with their neighbor to absorb it and lay the foundation for Hilltop Bottle and Can Return. Next, Hilltop maintenance crews transformed a modest free-standing

structure between the workshop and Transportation Center on the Hilltop campus into the redemption center. Their motivation: to watch those nickels add up.

New York State redemption centers receive a handling fee of 8.5 cents for every container they reroute to its source, so after returning the nickel deposit to the customer they bank 3.5 cents per bottle. For Hilltop, more bottles and cans equal more opportunities for people with disabilities, Kennedy reasoned. At anticipated volumes, Kennedy expects the redemption center will employ three to four people with disabilities, supported by one "Job Coach," a paid direct support professional to oversee the center. Redemption center hours are 10 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday, and 9 am to 1 pm on Saturdays.

"The job isn't easy, but I like the variety of tasks," says **Rose Nehrbass**, a Hilltop Bottle and Can Return employee. "I get to use counting and sorting skills and especially like using the cash register. I look forward to meeting and helping our customers."

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Message from the President, Cheryl Englert

As we start off this year, we can look back at our successes of the past year and ahead to the challenges of 2012. It doesn't seem possible that we moved into the new Lehman Building for KidStart one year ago. Our Capital Campaign is over the half-way mark as we appeal to the community to help us continue to provide our valuable services to families. As the new year moves along, we will encounter many new challenges as the

State of New York changes the funding support for many of our programs to the 1115 Medicare Waiver. We are aware that funding sources will become limited and once again, we will be asked to continue our current services with decreases in funding. Our staff takes the brunt of these cuts; we constantly ask them to provide the best of care for our family members while we have to trim their financial support. The Board recognizes that we have a very talented staff, who work very hard for their money, yet again we ask them to help us in the battle to continue to provide all of the best services available in Livingston and Wyoming counties. On behalf of the Board of Directors of The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming, I want to give a very big thank you to all our staff. We promise you that we will continue to remember the sacrifices you make to take care of our children, and will in every way possible try to compensate you fully for all your hard work and dedication.



(front, left to right) Meg Johnson, Theresa Pratt and Heather Taft (standing, left to right) Lori Peraino, Naomi Thompson, Deb Tuckerman, Tamara Lincoln, Chris Peterson, Marcy VanZandt, and Sue Zehler (missing) Rondee Pierson, Amy Teeter, Kathy Johnson, Adam Moore and Jessica Every

Direct Support Professionals Aim High

On December 20, 2011, current staff participants in the Direct Support Credentialing Program were recognized by The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming.

Currently, the Arc sponsors 11 individuals pursuing their National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals credentials. All of the DSP program participants have achieved DSP-Registered status

and are participating in the University of Minnesota's College of Direct Support online learning program with course curriculum developed by leading intellectual and developmental disabilities experts. The courses are informative, educational, and challenging, and will give them skills that can be applied in their jobs immediately.

Theresa Pratt is the first Arc employee to have completed all of the courses offered through the college and is working on the requirements to become DSP-Certified. If Theresa achieves that level of credentialing, she will be one of only five individuals in New York to have done so.

Additionally, the group gathered at The Arc to do a special recognition for **Rondee Pierson** (Avon IRA), The Arc's 2011 nominee for NYSARC's Tom Maul Award. She has been an employee at The Arc for six years, and is an enormous supporter and friend to the four gentlemen living at the Avon IRA.



Chris Peterson,
Executive Director

Comments from the Executive Director

My recent *Parchment* messages have touched on the state budget and negative impacts on our agency. 2011 was a particularly tough year brought about by a sagging economy, taxes and sensational media reports that focused on a few negative aspects and created the illusion that everyone is guilty.

On a more positive note, we passed the one year anniversary for the Lehman KidStart building on January 21st. Plans for a reception for the donors who have contributed to the capital campaign in the spring or early summer are underway. At the reception we will unveil the Bricks, Stars and other recognition for the generous donations made to our first ever Capital Campaign.

It appears that Hilltop Industries will set a new annual record for sales which translates into thousands of hours of meaningful and productive work. Another bright spot is the overall improvement in vacancy reduction in our 14 residential homes. Of course, Transportation continues to tie our services together by making it possible for people to move about our region and take advantage of Arc services for kids and adults.

Remember that The Arc's website at www.lwarc.org is an excellent tool for keeping current with agency information, events, job openings, media coverage and more.

Wow! \$4,000 in Scholarships!

Once again, The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming Foundation is giving a \$2,000 scholarship to a Livingston and a Wyoming County student who are specifically pursuing careers serving persons with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.



Samantha Johnson, Letchworth HS, accepted her scholarship award from Foundation President, Tim McCallum, at the 2011 Annual Dinner

Completed applications are due in The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming Administrative office by 5 pm on Thursday, March 1, 2012. One (1) college-bound, high school senior pursuing a career, such as a special education teacher, OT, PT, speech pathology, art or music therapy, etc., will be chosen from both counties at the March Foundation meeting and notified by Monday, March 19th. Successful applicants are asked to attend the Annual Dinner on Friday, June 1st to accept their scholarship award and give a brief acceptance speech.

Scholarships are payable in \$500 amounts annually. Recipients attending a two-year

school will continue to receive their annual scholarship contingent upon verification of continuing their education in an appropriate course of study at a four-year college or university and receipt of their official notification to The Arc.

Applications can be found in the Livingston and Wyoming County high school guidance departments and at www.lwarc.org. Any questions, please contact The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming PR Director, Jeff Thomas at 585-658-2828, extension 128.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Service Coordination

Hilltop Industries

Residential Services

Family Support Services

Recreation

Clinical Services

Transportation Services

Day Care

Day Habilitation

Residential Habilitation

Early Intervention & Pre-School Services

Livingston County Head Start

Do you like the quality of this publication? The Parchment is printed by the Graphics Department at Hilltop Industries. To find out how you can have this same quality product, call David Coon at (585) 658-3311 or e-mail him at dcoon@lwarc.org.

The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming wants to be an important part of your social media so check us out on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Blogspot and LinkedIn. Help us share the good word and make a difference!

Make A Difference Today

Become a member of The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming today. It's easy...simply fill out and return your 2012 membership envelope that will be arriving soon or sign up now at www.lwarc.org. **Membership starts at only \$1 per person!**

Besides the many benefits, your membership gives us a much needed voice in Albany as we face even more state funding cuts to our important and life-changing services. With your help, our goal of 900+ members is achievable, so be sure to have your friends, family, neighbors and business associates become members too. **Please, for just \$1, join us and make a difference today by becoming a 2012 member!** Please accept our apologies if we have mistakenly overlooked anyone on the 2011 membership list.

Thank You 2011 Members

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Bill & Paula Abraham
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In Memory of Lois Miller
William and Miriam Dankert
Margaret Fairbanks
Daniel and Mary Fridley



Lisa Irwin and Chris Clark enjoyed Recreation's 2011 Halloween Dance



Senator Patrick Gallivan recently visited the kids at the Lehman Building (left to right) Margaret Harrington, Lyle Lehman, Senator Gallivan, Cheryl Englert, Chris Peterson, Martin Miskell and Chris Lynch



Elvis, aka Joe Wright, made his appearance at the 2011 Hilltop Christmas party



The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming Foundation believes in giving back to our local community

Thank You for Opening Doors

The Arc's commitment to special needs children is the very foundation of the agency. Currently, the **Opening Doors Capital Campaign** has raised \$435,000 of the \$800,000 goal to help fund the new **KidStart** school at the Lehman Building in Groveland.

Fifty years ago, parents had two choices: to institutionalize their children or to keep them at home without support or training.

In 1961, a core group of parents began meeting in small groups, gathering resources and services to support the special educational and physical needs of their children. Their hard work and perseverance resulted in this area's first preschool class for children with developmental disabilities, established in the public school system in Geneseo in 1962.



Abigail Stroud enjoys the nice selection of books at the Fall KidStart Open House

By supporting Opening Doors, donors like you are continuing their work. Over the years, the number of children served by the agency's program has increased more than twentyfold, with several programs added to provide integration of disabled and non-disabled children, but our founders' vision and quality of service have remained rock solid. Opening Doors allows for services to continue uninterrupted at The Arc's new school.

To give, visit www.lwarc.org or call Jeff Thomas, PR Director, at 585-658-2828 ext. 128.

2012 Opening Doors Donors (Quarter 4)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Charles E. Benz | Ron & Ellen Herzman |
| Carl & Kathleen Broman | <i>(In Honor of Mary & Bill Derby)</i> |
| Kathy Brooks | Robert Isgro |
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| | Debbie Wood |



Making a Difference!

Over the 2011 holiday season, The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming was active utilizing monies raised from year long events and donations to support community members, including individuals with disabilities, to make their holiday season brighter.

During Thanksgiving, Foundation staff donated baskets of food complete with turkeys to 22 needy families so they could enjoy the holiday.

The annual Breakfast with Santa, a free community event held on December 10, 2011 for over 300 children, was a success due to help from volunteers, including SUNY Geneseo students, staff, Board members, Boy Scout Troop #4070 and Santa (Tim McCallum).

In addition, Foundation and Arc employees purchased gifts for the annual Angel Wreath Gift Program that benefited 86 local children. Bundles of gifts delivered by our "elves" helped to make their Christmas special.

The Arc, our Foundation and our parent organization (NYSARC) are committed to making a difference in lives of individuals throughout our communities in 2012. Please support our upcoming events (see page 8 for details), to make this a reality.



The Morrow Family brought Christmas joy to Hilltop consumers



Jamie Robinson is pleased with his Christmas gift from the Morrow family



Cathy Sullivan and Maggie Putman volunteered at registration for the annual Breakfast with Santa event



Santa listened attentively to this special Boy Scout at the 2011 Breakfast with Santa

Introducing the Dragonfly Project

The Dragonfly Project, developed by **Cathy Shaffer**, RN and Clinical Services Coordinator with the help of her assistant, **Veronica Spencer**, is built on the concept of our elders in the agency sharing their end of life issues and desires with their loved ones and the agency.



Ted Hall enjoys participating in the Dragonfly Project

Initially, consumers complete a questionnaire for their portfolio which includes information such as their name, date of birth, siblings names, fondest childhood memory, etc. Six, 1-hour sessions comprised of questions/ answers and activities are held in the first stage.

Discussions on real and sensitive topics concerning these individuals include: the most important memory of their lives, what they would like to be remembered for, what would be important to them if they were sick, what they are most thankful for, what would they like to change about their lives, and their preferences concerning their funeral arrangements. All of these wishes have been written down for staff awareness and follow through and also videotaped for family members and individuals who took part in the project.

The Dragonfly Project is now entering its second stage due to request by members and the "Wise Ones" group is meeting monthly. Another series will begin in the fall for those interested. To learn more about this innovative project, contact Cathy at 585-658-2828 ext. 304.

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U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

❖ June 1, 2012

The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming will hold our Annual Dinner on Friday, June 1st from 5:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. This yearly event



Chris Peterson presented Gertrude Houston her award at last year's Annual Dinner

recognizes Foundation high school student scholarship winners from both Livingston and Wyoming County, community members, longevity awards, and the election of Board officers and members. For more information and/or to reserve your seat, contact Bonnie

McGoldrick at (585) 658-2828 ext 108.

❖ June 29, 2012



Golfers enjoyed themselves at the 17th annual "Friends Fore Life" Golf Tournament

The 18th Annual "Friends Fore Life" Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, June 29th at the Livingston Country Club in Geneseo. This year's event begins with registration at 11:00 a.m., and will be full of food and fun for all partici-

pants. All proceeds will benefit The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming Foundation. *This event will sell out so be sure to sign up early.* To reserve your spot now or for more information, please visit www.lwarc.org or contact Jeff Thomas at (585) 658-2828 ext. 128.

❖ October 6, 2012



The 2011 awards, including the coveted 1st place sneaker trophy!

The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming and Kiwanis Club of Geneseo are happy to announce the Ramon Rocha 5K Run/1K Walk (one of three "Geneseo Trio" races) on Saturday, October 6th. Registration

begins at 9 a.m, with the race (electronically timed by YellowJacket Racing) starting promptly at 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Church in Geneseo, New York. Upon the race conclusion, all participants will enjoy complimentary refreshments, awards and prizes. Visit www.lwarc.org or contact Jeff Thomas at (585) 658-2828 ext. 128 for more information.