

New Horizons

March-April 2014

The Arc of Warren County Tapping the Potential of Social Enterprise Robert A. Pruznick, CEO

"The best way to predict your future is to create it" — Peter F. Drucker

Did you know ...?

- The Arc of Warren County celebrates its 60th Anniversary in 2014.
- Camp Warren celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2014.
- Project First Step celebrates its 35th Anniversary in 2014.
- That's a lot of celebrating! We want you to help us observe these milestones in The Arc's history.
- We'd love to speak with you to share your experience with Arc programs, see your photos, and hear how your loved one with a disability has benefitted from the many services that have been added since 1954.
- Please contact Kevin Guyette in The Arc Foundation office at 908-689-7525 x212 to share your Arc experience.

Several years ago I was introduced to the exciting concept of social enterprise at a summer training sponsored by the National Conference of Executives of The Arc (NCE). Simply put, social enterprise involves the use of mercantile tools to further the mission of charitable organizations. It represents a diversification of the revenue sources for non profits as a hedge against the erosion of public contract support. It also indicates a more robust approach to privatization as non profits expand into the dynamic realm of entrepreneurship instead of relying solely on the philanthropy of donors and the success of event based fund raising. At this presentation I heard about a range of interesting endeavors from the production and sale of organic dog treats to the operation of a typical "dollar store". These projects also create employment and training opportunities for individuals with disabilities while increasing direct public awareness through natural settings.



Here in Warren County we have experimented with a day program model that utilizes downtown commercial space. However, until this past September these attempts had failed as business ventures. Thanks to several current staff members with excellent instincts regarding the world of consumerism, we have finally gotten off the ground with social enterprise at our renamed Washington store, **Serendipity**. The combination of a terrific location in the heart of a downtown renewal project, popular merchandise attractively presented, effective marketing and the unique creations of local artists with intellectual disabilities have resulted in encouraging sales data. Given the development of an eye catching webpage, aggressive social media promotions and Chamber of Commerce networking connections, we expect **Serendipity** to succeed on a grand scale in 2014.

On top of this very visible undertaking, we have also embarked on a document shredding business that will operate out of the day program in our headquarters. We hope to take advantage of the modern need for information security – initially targeting the Washington area and eventually broadening the scope of this service. Additionally, we are investigating an agri-business venture – growing organic vegetables in hydroponic greenhouses. While we are seeking grant funding to underwrite the capital costs of this enterprise, we have obtained commitments from two area restaurants and one grocery chain to buy our produce.

In sum, we are vigorously pursuing these several avenues for revenue enhancement. Success in these commercial activities hopefully will provide the means to control our fiscal future. To survive and thrive for another sixty years such activities may soon become essential.

Rossi “Festival of Trees” Raised \$20,000 for The Arc and Abilities of Northwest Jersey

It felt like Christmas all over again when we met with Ed and Patti Sue Rossi recently to accept a check in the amount of \$10,000, representative of The Arc’s share of the \$20,000 raised in December during the 4th annual “Festival of Trees” event. Arc CEO Robert A. Pruznick, far right in photo, thanked the Rossi’s for their continued support of The Arc and Abilities, noting that the event was an “Elegant means of gathering the community in fellowship and in support of both organizations.”

Our sincere thanks to Ed and Patti Sue for their kindness and generosity—and for a memorable holiday party!

In photo, from left, are Abilities’ CEO Cindy Wildermuth, Patti Sue, Holly Range, Ed, Hannah Barry, Steve Yurga, and Bob Pruznick at the Rossi Chevrolet Buick GMC showroom on RT 31 S, Washington.



The Arc Foundation: Building for The Arc’s Future

One of the goals set by The Arc Foundation is the education of family members in relation to estate planning and planned giving. Toward this end, we will offer a special workshop Thurs., March 27 at 7 pm at The Arc offices that will feature guest speakers Katherine Ingrassia, a special needs planning attorney with Courter, Kobert & Cohen; and Robyn Jensen, financial advisor with Edward Jones Investments. Together, they will offer important information about financial planning for family members with disabilities as well as options for making a charitable gift to The Arc Foundation.

Families who have loved ones who are, or have been, recipients of Arc services and programs, whether they are early intervention, recreation, residential, or other are encouraged to consider making a gift now or through inclusion in their will. This gift of gratitude will help ensure the continuation of valuable services as The Arc moves forward in its mission to help provide better lives for those who have intellectual and developmental disabilities. Without your help, many services will not survive.

For more information about The Arc Foundation, please contact Executive Director Kevin Guyette at 908-689-7525 x212 or email: kguyette@arcwarren.org

The Arc and Centenary College: Building New Communities

Centenary College students and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities soon will be paired in friendship and companionship through a new program funded by the New Jersey Council of Developmental Disabilities.

According to Arc Advocate Jeannette Weikel, *Building Communities Together* is a great partnership between The Arc of Warren County and Centenary College in Hackettstown and is designed to help fulfill Centenary’s graduation requirements of community service and integrate persons with disabilities into campus life. Together, the pairs can explore the campus, learn how to navigate Facebook, go to theatre productions at the David and Carol Lackland Center for the Performing Arts, go for coffee at the Greene Beans Café kiosk in the student dining hall, and much more. All activities will take place on campus, all participants will be age 18 or older, and there must be a caretaker, staff person, or Arc liaison in the general proximity of the activity.

If you or your loved one is interested in getting involved in this exciting new venture, please call Jeannette for more information. She can be reached at 908-689-7525 x211.

Recreation News

Carolyn Wolf, Kelly Holzli, Meghan Moyer ~ 908-689-7525 Ext. 208, 209 and 256

Important Newsletter Change: newsletters are now being distributed for a 2-month period so please keep this one for reference through April 2014. Use the March and April calendars provided to update the information which you received in your new schedules covering the period of February through June.

Area 3 SONJ bowling competition 2014 was held on January 18th at Hanover Lanes; 11 bowlers who received medals chose to advance to the North Sectional bowling meet in Wayne on March 1. Those who medal can then opt to participate in the finals at the Spring Sports Festival on March 30. Warren Arc will field 2 teams at Team Bowling on March 29 in North Brunswick.

The Valentine's Dance was finally held on February 25th after some disappointing cancellations due to the winter weather. DJ Sharbel provided a fun evening for all who attended. Serendipity, our beautiful Arc gift shop, graciously provided colorful balloons to decorate the dance hall - thank you to Addie Reid, the manager. There is no social club on March 4th but it will be held on March 11 and 25.



The annual **St. Patty's Dance** sponsored by the Catholic Daughters, Court Warren, will be held on **Monday, March 17th at the St. Philip and St. James Parish Hall at South Main and Stockton Streets in Phillipsburg.** Please enter through the parking lot doors of the parish hall. The dance will be held from 6:45 - 8:45 pm. Transportation will be provided on the usual routes for Tuesday night functions; pick up in Phillipsburg will be 1/2 hour later than usual but the same as usual for the other routes. Homebound transportation may be 1/2 later than usual. There is no fee for this event, thanks to the Catholic Daughters. DJ Sharbel will entertain.

Healthy Life Club will be held on March 10th and March 24th from 4:00-5:00 p.m. at the Arc office building in the 2nd floor Training Room. HLC will be held at Meadow Breeze Park from 4:00-5:00 p.m., at the Tennis Court, on April 14th, 28th. This program is free of charge and is intended for participants ages 5 and up.

Yoga – for ages 5 and up is a new program this year. The March class will be held on 3/31 and the April class on 4/21 in the Arc training room on the second floor of the office building. Bring your own mats if you have them, as our participant space is limited to the number of available mats. The cost is \$5.00/person.

Basketball Season continues through the end of March when the finals will occur at the SONJ Spring Sports Festival. Our team has been playing weekly games on Sundays and has a 50-50 record at this time.

Sectional competition will be held at Seton Hall University on March 15-16. Good luck, Stealers!

Swim Team Practices continue on most Mondays at Lafayette where the coach and student athletes work to refine our swimmers' skills. Area 3 competition is on 4/6 at Lakeland Hills Y and Sectional competition on 4/13 at Seton Hall. This is preliminary to the finals at the Summer Games at TCNJ at the end of May.

Ski and Snowshoe Practices at Shawnee will conclude on March 8 for this season. In spite of a very difficult training season due to weather problems, our 13 Winter Games athletes performed splendidly. They achieved 20 medals out of 26 competitions - 10 gold, 4 silver and 6 bronze at the games held on 1/27-29 at Mountain Creek. Thank you to the coaches/chaperones who assisted our athletes this season: Kelly Holzli, Liz Gensheimer, Bill Trainello, Walter Tietz, Emil Schoener and Carolyn Wolf.

Track and Field Practices are scheduled to begin at Phillipsburg High School track on the following Saturdays: March 15 and 22; April 5, 12, and 19. The time is 12:30 sharp at the track with dismissal of the adults at 2 pm.

Children will practice from 2 pm to 2:30pm. **This schedule is tentative presently depending on confirmation of usage of the track and also on the track conditions due to the residual snow pack. It is important at this time to call the recreation office to sign up your Special Olympics athletes for track and field!** Those who do not wish to participate in competition may also come out for the exercise but still need to register. The Area 3 meet will be held on May 3 at the Hackettstown HS track.

Bocce - the Area 3 meet will be held at Madison High on March 23rd. Please call our office immediately to register

Recreation Registration Forms for 2014: Please return the forms supplied and the annual \$50.00 fee as soon as possible if you have not already done so. Thank you.

Camp Warren 2014 Forms: forms have been mailed out to prior campers. If you did not receive a form and wish to have one, please contact Meghan Moyer in the recreation office. A fill-able form is available on-line at the Warren Arc web-site www.arcwarren.org. Look under Camp Warren. Please get your forms in as soon as possible in order to get your preferred time slots and to help our staff in the planning process. Thank you.

Theater Trip: S.K.I.T will be performing Shrek the Musical at Voorhees High School on May 2nd. Enjoy a pizza dinner at Desiderio's. The bus will leave the Arc Parking lot at 5 p.m. Cost is \$30 per person. There are only 14 spots available. Please contact Meghan Moyer, (908) 689-7525 ext: 256 or mmoyer@arcwarren.org, to reserve your spot by April 14th.

Mini Winter Carnival Blasted Cabin Fever Feb.23rd!



Many thanks to the Key Club of Hackettstown High School and the Kiwanis Club of Hackettstown!



From goldfish to rabbits and baby chicks, the annual Mini Winter Carnival held at Hackettstown High School was one surprise after another!

The Drama Club presented several numbers from the spring musical, "All Shook Up" to the delight of the little kids who tried their best to mimic the dancing and singing. We had the world's most popular carnival game, Goldfish Bowl, a giant Moonwalk bounce house and boardwalk-style photo booth, and lots of fun and games. The Kiwanis Club had refreshments for all, and it was a ton of fun as we celebrated this student kick-off to our Radiothon 2014 activities! Thanks to all!



Are Arc programs and services important to you and your family?

Do you want to see them continue?

Please make your pledge—and ask family, friends, colleagues, and professionals who assist your family—to support the WRNJ Radiothon, as well.

We need the support of our Arc families to make this a success on April 11!

Oxford Central School Boosts Down Syndrome Awareness



Students at Oxford Central School have been conducting a public awareness and fundraising project to educate their peers about intellectual disabilities and raise funds for The Arc.

Special Education teacher Milissa Dachisen reports that Down Syndrome Awareness Week activities March 17-21 will include student and teacher -read "facts" about Down Syndrome during morning announcements, the wearing of awareness buttons and a T-shirt designed by student Bella Gilberti, presentation of recorded "High Fives and A Big Heart", a 21-minute Buddy Walk with signs and banners designed by homerooms, a Crazy Sock project, and a Friday wrap-up with World Down Syndrome Awareness Day.

Order YOUR OWN T-shirt!!! Shirts are just \$10 and come in child and adult sizes. Show your support of Oxford Central School's student efforts at promoting acceptance and inclusion. Call Kevin Guyette for more information. This is something YOU can do to promote understanding and compassion.



Friday, April 11 from 8 am to 5 pm

How Can You Help Make Radiothon Successful?

It's easy, and you have a variety of options from which to choose:

Start by making your own pledge! Fill out the pledge form below and mail to The Arc at PO Box 389, Washington, NJ 07882. Please print clearly and enter all information.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: THE ARC FOUNDATION

* **Call your friends and family directly** to ask them to make a pledge. Call in your results to The Arc at 908-689-7525 anytime or to 908-850-0600 on **Friday, April 11**. We will fill out the pledge forms for you and mail them.

BE SURE TO GET THE FULL NAME AND ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, AND AMOUNT .

***Ask your friends and family to call Radiothon on April 11** to give their pledge directly to one of our many volunteers.

The Radiothon Hotline number is 908-850-0600.

4) **REMEMBER:** Pledges are welcome at any time: Before, during, and after our April 11 Radiothon event!

Thanks for your help in making our 24th WRNJ Radiothon a success!
Never has the need for funding valuable Arc programs been so critical.
Your help is needed - and appreciated - more than you'll ever know.

	Pledge Amount _____ Credit Card: Visa/MasterCard _____ Acct. #: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Contacted by VIP _____ Telephone _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Announce Pledge On Air <input type="checkbox"/> No? <input type="checkbox"/> Donation to General Fund / _____ Camp Warren
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Please make check payable to:</i> The Arc, Warren County Chapter, Inc. P.O. Box 389, Washington, NJ 07882</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thank you for your contribution to The Arc, Warren County Chapter, Inc.</i> <small>Your gift is tax-deductible, and will help assure the continuance of quality programs for children and adults who have intellectual and related disabilities.</small></p>



PO Box 389
Washington, NJ 07882

The Arc of Warren County

Quality service and support for people
with intellectual disabilities,
and their families, since 1954.



Phone: 908-689-7525
Fax: 908-689-4898
E-mail: info@arcwarren.org

Coming up ...

WRNJ Radiothon for The Arc: Friday, April 11 at Hacketts-town Hyundai, 28 Rt 46 from 8 am to 5 pm.

Music at Jack's Barn: Sun., July 20 from 1-5 pm at Jack's Barn, RT 31, Oxford. Benefit for The Arc and WNTI Public Radio from Centenary College. Michael Long and Electric Gumbo—family event!

19th Annual Golf Classic: Monday, Aug.25 at Hawk Pointe Golf Club, 294 Rt 31S, Washington.

The Arc's 60th Anniversary Gala: Sat., Nov.1 at Hawk Pointe Golf Club, featuring the world-famous Rockettes!!!

Rossi Festival of Trees: Thurs., Dec.11

Information regarding additional special events to celebrate Arc, Camp Warren, and Project First Step anniversaries will be posted on The Arc's website (www.arcwarren.org) and in future editions of New Horizons as soon as details are confirmed.

We look forward to having you join us in celebrating these remarkable milestone observances.