

# The Arc of Warren County Summer 2020 Newsletter



## Letter from the CEO of The Arc of Warren County, John Whitehead

The last several months have been challenging for everyone managing day to day responsibilities in a world that has changed dramatically. I want to commend the staff at The Arc of Warren County for how well they have stayed on-task during this turbulent time. Our employees have remained engaged and have adapted to the ever-changing circumstances. They have prioritized the needs of the people we support. On the administrative level, all office staff have shifted back from working remotely. All have ensured that the emphasis remains on collaborating, safety and working toward keeping consumers content. During this time, we did not need to reduce our workforce in any way unlike many organizations.

Community-Based Supports now has the flexibility to facilitate some excursions outside of the home. Virtual meetings took place for our residents --- in particular for our Self-Advocacy Group. Early Intervention skillfully shifted their operations remotely for our families in a quick turnaround.

The commitment from our staff continues to be remarkable.

Fundraising management has taken a major shift as COVID-19 is the driver for everything we do. Although we needed to reschedule our Triathlon with DASH Multi-sport, we were so fortunate to be able to conduct the 30th Annual Radiothon with WRNJ in a modified manner. This opportunity would not have been possible without the dedication of our co-chairs Norman Worth and Jim Travis. We also are looking forward to The Second Annual Arc of Warren County Food Truck Fest with Donaldson Farms and our first Golf Classic with The House of the Good Shepherd. Both events will be modified to ensure the safety of those attending.

Throughout this time the focus to serve those with intellectual and developmental disabilities has continued to be our mission. That has been accomplished due to our excellent staff and loyal community supporters.



CEO of The Arc of Warren County  
John Whitehead

Lastly, as always, I am happy to hear from you to discuss the various services that we provide or to collaborate on new initiatives. Feel free to contact me by phone at (908) 689-7525, ext. 218, or by email at [jwhitehead@arcwarren.org](mailto:jwhitehead@arcwarren.org)

## *Note from the Director of Public Relations & Fundraising, Annamaria Lalevee*

The last several months have been incredibly challenging for everyone across the globe for a multitude of reasons. Early on during the pandemic, I reached out to our members to check on them and see if they were safe. Everyone has had to manage many, many adjustments.

I want to personally thank Radiothon co-chairs, Norman Worth and Jim Travis, because they both had the confidence to move forward with Radiothon this year. No one knew what to expect and we had to deviate substantially with the execution of our original plan that involved a local business campaign. Instead, we reached out to loyal donors and cultivated new donors for this initiative. A lot of emphasis was given to online solicitation and remote outreach. The results were great as we surpassed our goal of \$66,000.

We could not have accomplished this without the staunch support of Norman and Jim and many people who continue to help the organization on so many levels.

The 2nd Annual Arc of Warren County Food Truck Fest will take place at Donaldson Farms on August 8, 2020 with some modifications that will put the emphasis on guest safety and fun. Premier food trucks will be featured and will focus on all-day entertainment! Plans are underway to hold the First Golf Classic with The House of Good Shepherd on September 14, 2020 at Hawk Pointe Country Club with a rain date of September 21, 2020. Please consider registering online or securing a sponsorship at [arcwarren.org](http://arcwarren.org)

I believe that community collaboration is essential in building lasting



Director of Public Relations  
Annamaria Lalevee

relationships and alliances. I am always open to discuss ways to partner together with local businesses in the future.

I can be reached at (908) 223-0884 or [alalevee@arcwarren.org](mailto:alalevee@arcwarren.org)

## *Early Intervention Program is Life Changing for Local Family*

John's parents have been utilizing The Early Intervention Program at The Arc of Warren County since December 2018 when he was just four months old. He was eventually diagnosed with a rare condition called Sotos Syndrome and Chromosome 931.1. Deletion. The family receives physical and speech therapy and information about feeding strategies from the Agency.

"I can't say enough of the support that The Arc has provided to us," says John's mother, Elysia Welsh.

"His doctors predicted that he would be 100% g-tube dependent for eating and drinking. This has not been the case as a result to the services that the family has received. The Early Intervention program at The Arc of Warren County has been life changing!"

Early Intervention is providing evaluations and services for children birth to three years old via telehealth. To make a referral, please call 888-653-4463. For more information, please call 908-689-4542 ext. 225



## “We Got One!” | 30 Years of Radiothon and Counting

### 2020 Co-Chairs Norman Worth and Jim Travis Weigh In on Why this Fundraiser Has Staying Power

In the early days of Radiothon, Norman Worth President and Managing Partner of WRNJ, said it was a melting pot of community support where many people congregated at Knechel Ford in Hackettstown (which is now The Dollar Tree and Czig Meister). Hard wire phones had to be rented for the day for the initiative where Radiothon VIPs did their magic by calling their friends and colleagues to help support The Arc of Warren County. All the hustle and bustle of the day was full of positive energy. Callers would exclaim “We Got One!” after securing a phone donation similar to Annie Pots’ character, Janine, in “Ghostbusters” when she yelled the same sentence after receiving her first official call for her ghostbusters’ team.

This project was first developed 30 years ago when the late Kevin Guyette, longtime Arc Foundation Executive Director, collaborated with Kathy Hall, a reporter for WRNJ who had been involved in a radiothon at her previous employer – a radio station in Nashville, Tennessee.

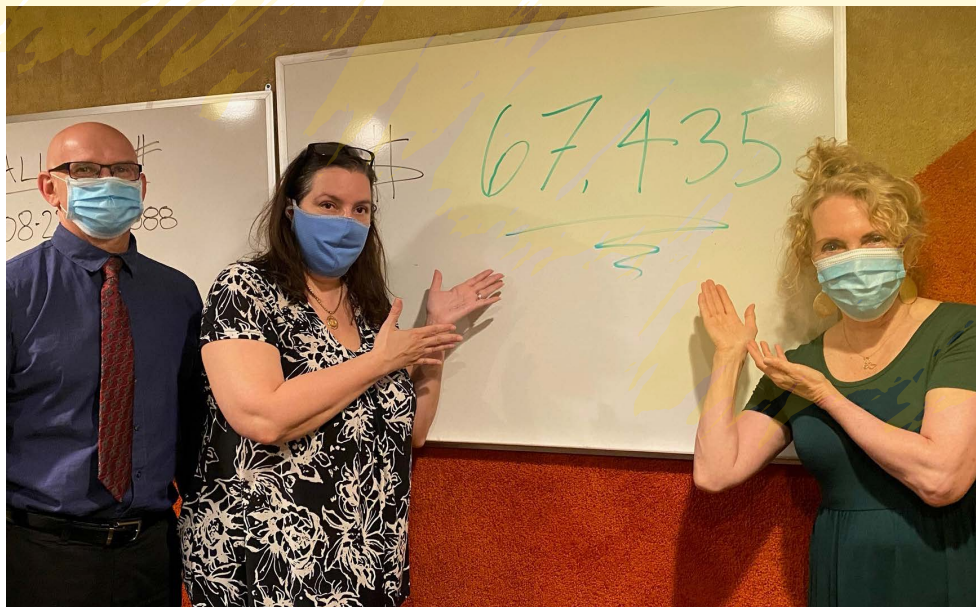
Kevin joined forces with Norman Worth to give this concept a try as a fundraiser for The Arc of Warren County. It would entail a day full of broadcasting on WRNJ. Interviews would include those who helped make the day a success, along with stories from families and consumers who utilize the organization’s services. \$12,000 was raised that first year.

“It started gaining momentum and became an annual event,” says Norman. “Kevin had such an engaging personality – a strong ability to connect with people and connect people with others. She was able to mobilize many professionals in the county to help with the cause (The Arc of Warren County) or the community, in general.”

This ability was how Jim Travis of SASCO Otterstedt first became involved with The Arc of Warren County.

“I always knew of The Arc and knew Kevin Guyette and she was the driver in engaging me,” he says. “It started with Radiothon when Kevin had provided me with insight on how beneficial the organization is. It was a brilliant concept inviting one’s networks of contacts to help the Agency.” Kevin eventually asked Jim to co-chair with Norman Worth. Throughout the years, he and Norman co-chaired about seven times, including serving in that capacity for the last two years. About seven years ago, Kevin asked Jim to consider running for the board. Since then he has served as Treasurer and is a member of several committees, such as Compliance, Finance and Human Resources.

“This was an organization that I wanted to be involved in,” says Jim. “My cousin is autistic and I saw the challenges that he and the family has had. I can give back by providing time,



Radiothon 2020 Results – Pictured are John Whitehead, CEO of The Arc of Warren County, Annamaria Lalevee, Director of Public Relations & Fundraising at The Arc of Warren County, Deirdre Bryant, Host of WRNJ Radiothon

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## Continued... | 30 Years of Radiothon and Counting

### 2020 Co-Chairs Norman Worth and Jim Travis Weigh In on Why this Fundraiser Has Staying Power

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resources and my knowledge to The Arc of Warren County. I believe people find value to my commitment and I can contribute in a positive manner.”

This year was the second year where Radiothon’s interviews were conducted at WRNJ studios. The phone bank portion of the project had to be modified due to COVID-19 restrictions with callers stationed in their own homes or offices making calls. The end result is that the goal of \$66,000 was surpassed by \$2,000 – an amazing accomplishment during these turbulent times.

“At the end of 30 years, at least \$1.5 million have been raised,” says Norman. “I have learned that people like to help the same cause on a regular basis. Listeners and potential and longtime donors like to hear from families and individuals who have benefited from the services that The Arc of Warren County has to offer. WRNJ provides a platform for those stories to be heard and to give listeners the opportunity to relate to those who are interviewed. The Arc makes an enormous impact on our County allowing families to have support that would otherwise not be available to them.”

The team at WRNJ that helps make Radiothon Day a reality include alternating hosts, such as Deirdre Bryant who has hosted every one of



Norman Worth, Bob Eberle (formerly of Panther Valley Pharmacy) and Jim Travis

the 30 Arc Radiothons. This year and last, Deirdre shared the host duties with Joyce Estey, WRNJ News Director and afternoon air personality Greta Latona. “The Dawnbird” Melanie Thiel, Executive Director of the Washington BID and an Arc Foundation Board member, also served as a host this year. Over many years, WRNJ’s Pat Layton and Wanda Bazur have provided remarkable support for this project.



Norman Worth and Jim Travis after the Hackettstown BID’s 2019 St. Patrick Day Parade (Jim Travis served as Grand Marshal)

## *A View from Community Living Arrangements: Meet Brianna Olson*

Brianna loves her career. For the past seven years, she has been employed by The Arc of Warren County. She started as a Direct Support Professional and now oversees three group homes. When asked what inspires her the most about her work, she felt that it was deeply rewarding having the ability to help people.

“Everyone works as a cohesive team and the consumers and staff members care for each other almost like a big family,” says Brianna. “I find it satisfying to aid the individuals who I support in their progression to independence.”



### *Do you know...*

Do you know anyone that is interested in a rewarding career at The Arc of Warren County?

Find out more by visiting [arcwarren.org](http://arcwarren.org) or call (908) 689-7525, ext. 241.

## *The Arc of Warren County and The House of The Good Shepherd to Host First Golf Outing*

Don't miss out on this opportunity to take part in the First Golf Outing with The Arc of Warren County and The House of The Good Shepherd. This event will support The Arc Foundation and the House of the Good Shepherd's special charity called The Shepherd's Fund.

The Arc Foundation was established in 1998 to provide a continuum of funding to help assure the financial security of The Arc programs.

There are many sponsorship levels available. Below are several opportunities:

- Gold sponsorships, silver sponsorships, bronze sponsors, tee sponsors and more!

For more information regarding sponsorship opportunities and pricing, please call Annamaria Lalevee at (908) 223-0884 or visit [arcwarren.org](http://arcwarren.org) to register.



### **GOLF CLASSIC**

**at Hawk Pointe Golf Club  
Route 31, Washington, NJ**

**Monday, September 14, 2020**

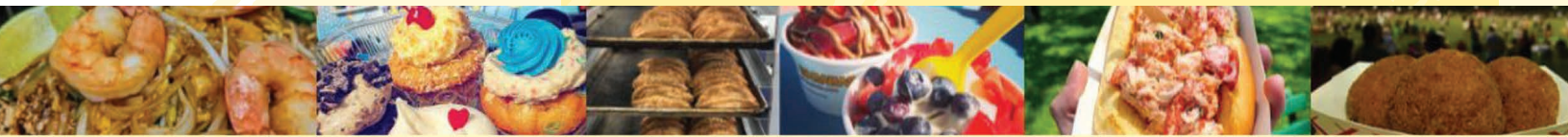


## The 2nd Annual Arc of Warren County Food Truck Fest

A special thanks for our sponsors for The 2nd Annual Arc of Warren County Food Truck Fest at Donaldson Farms, as well as Donaldson Farms for hosting this wonderful event this year on August 8, 2020. Attendees will enjoy delicious food from over 12 different premiere food trucks, music, a new Kid's Zone area, hard seltzer and beer from Czig Meister and much, much more!

The sponsors who helped make this possible are as follows:

- The House of the Good Shepherd ("Czig Meister" Biergarten Sponsorship)
- John Johnson Auto Group (Music Sponsor)
- Fulton Bank (Cooling Tent Sponsor)
- Mutual of America (Kid's Zone Sponsor)
- Nisivoccia LLP (Pony Petting Area Sponsor)
- AssuredPartners Benefit Advisors/ Walsh Benefits (Friendship Plus)
- Friendship Sponsors: Ashley Furniture Homestore, Hunterdon Healthcare, Maguire-Scala Memorial Home, Inc., Panther Valley Pharmacy, Julie Pruznick, TGM Services, Valley Plumbing, Heating, Cooling & Lawn Sprinklers LLC, Viking Pest Control and Mark J. Zgoda Architect.



# THE ANNUAL Arc OF WARREN COUNTY FOOD TRUCK FEST



## *Warren County Technical School Graduate is Awarded The Kevin McCall Guyette “Mover and Shaker” Memorial Scholarship*

### *Jayden Battle, Alpha Teen, Plans to Attend Sussex County Community College in the Fall to Study Education*

The Hackettstown Rotary Club has sponsored two annual scholarships to seniors graduating from Hackettstown High School for years. During one of the scholarship meetings, two members determined that a new scholarship should be added for a deserving young individual. This one would be named in memory of Kevin Guyette, Hackettstown Rotary Club member and longtime Executive Director of The Arc Foundation.

“I am so pleased that we can honor Kevin in this manner,” says Laurie Rapisardi, President of the Hackettstown Rotary Club. “She would be so touched that the Rotary Club has established this new scholarship in her memory that focuses on all of the wonderful attributes that Kevin embodied. She would be so happy and honored.”

“Kevin was a strong proponent of the Hackettstown Rotary scholarship program,” says Lisa Dimiceli, Hackettstown Rotary Scholarship Chair. “The student that was selected is full of talent just like Kevin.”

The new \$1,000 annual scholarship that is bestowed upon one Warren County Technical School senior per year was awarded to Jayden Battle, a student from Alpha. The Kevin McCall Guyette “Mover and Shaker”

Memorial Scholarship was open to a student who will be pursuing trade school, a two-year college or directly entering the workforce to begin their chosen profession. Award criteria includes holding a peer leadership position and being active in community service.

“It was essential that this candidate was always willing to step up for tasks that will benefit others and was a successful at networking like Kevin was,” says Lisa.

Jayden could not be more perfect as a recipient. He was the Vice President of the National Honor Society, served

as a Peer Mentor and a member of the Youth Tobacco Action Group. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, plans were to visit other schools to talk about the dangers of tobacco use. In addition, he serves as a camp counsellor for YMCA Camp Carr in Annandale. He has coached recreation basketball for 7th and 8th graders in Alpha and has been an American Ninja Warrior instructor for one to twelve year olds for the past year.

His plan was originally to pursue a career in law and public safety and he selected Warren County Technical School because he was in favor of small classes.

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Pictured: Kevin Guyette



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“I was in a graduating class of 28 students in Alpha so this was an appealing option for me,” says Jayden. “This is why I decided to pursue my Associate’s degree at a county college before I head over to a four-year institution. I also learned during my high school career that teaching is my passion. I realized that my own math teacher in Middle School was an inspiration to me, so my goal is to hold that exact position.”

In addition to grappling with the challenges that COVID-19 would present to a high school senior, Jayden also recently lost his beloved grandmother to CJD Disorder, which is a rare degenerative brain disorder.

“It would have been easy to fall apart at that point,” he continues. “We were very close. Instead, I remembered her constant advice to me to stay strong, so that is what I did.”

He would like to thank his parents and siblings for supporting him and providing him with strong family connections.

Jayden, keep in touch with The Arc of Warren County and Hackettstown Rotary Club. We expect that you will achieve much success!



Jayden Battle (seated) is pictured with his team from Alpha Recreation



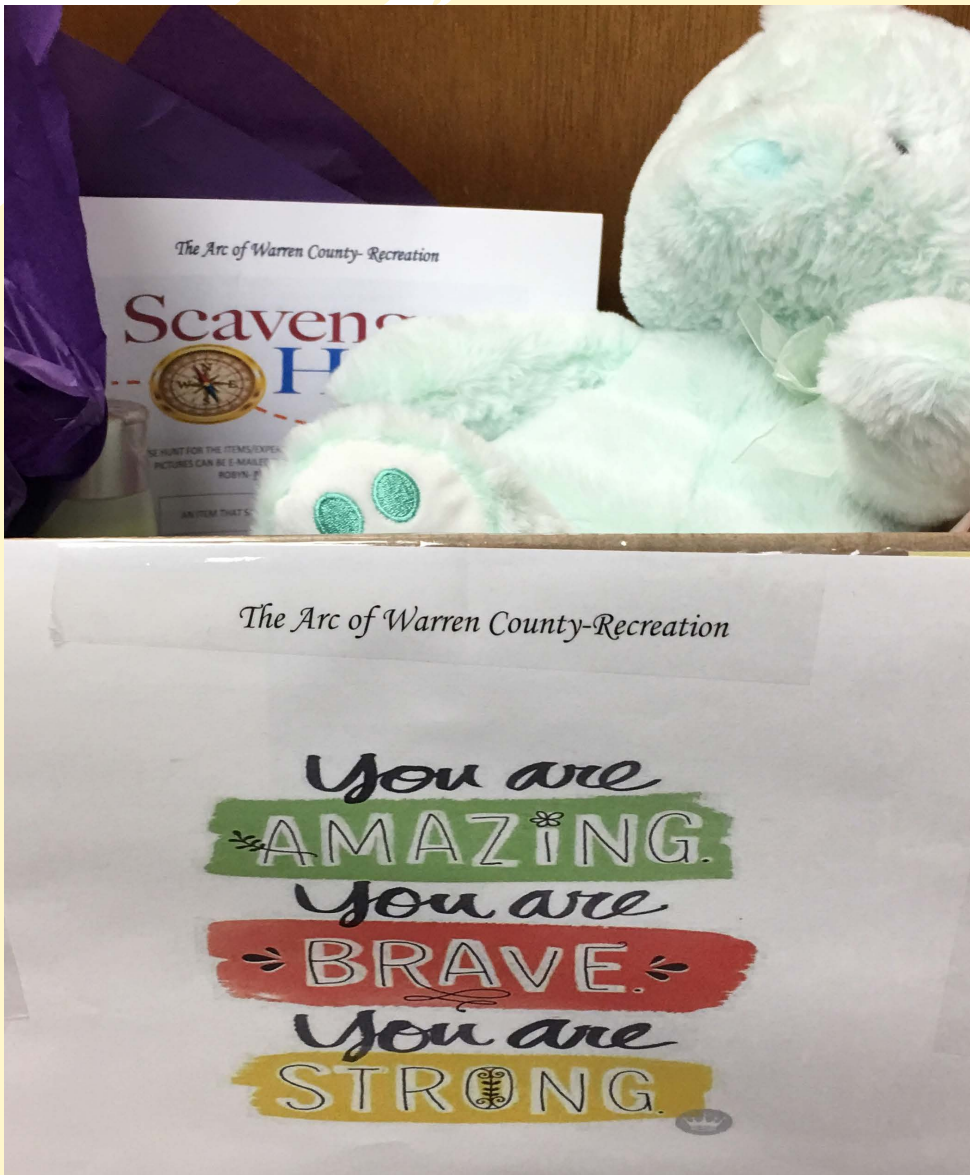
## *The Arc of Warren County's Recreation Department Spreads a Little Bit of Cheer*

The Recreation Department shifted its focus a bit in recent months and one of the projects that took place was delivering packages full of cheer to all 17 of The Agency's group homes. In addition, gift baskets were sent to 38 recreation participants who live with their families or caregivers. The packages included coloring pages, arts and craft ideas and supplies, bingo, scavenger hunt materials and jokes. In addition, each individual received a personalized gift.

"We miss our program participants very much," says Marci Gubich, Director of Recreation Services at The Arc of Warren County. "We are used to seeing everyone weekly, if not more. This was just a small token to let everyone know that we are thinking of them and cannot wait to get back together."

Ashley Lommatzsch was very surprised when she received her package equipped with crafts and

many yummy sugar-free products which complies with her dietary needs. "I want to thank you for supporting our families during this stressful time," says Ashley. "Receiving this basket really brightened my day!"



### *Testimonials are Needed for Website*

How has the services at The Arc of Warren County made an impact on you or your family?

We would like to add what you would like to say on The Arc of Warren County's website! Please reach out to Annamaria Lalevee at [alalevee@arcwarren.org](mailto:alalevee@arcwarren.org) or at (908) 223-0884 if you would like to submit a testimonial of how our services have made a positive impact on your family.

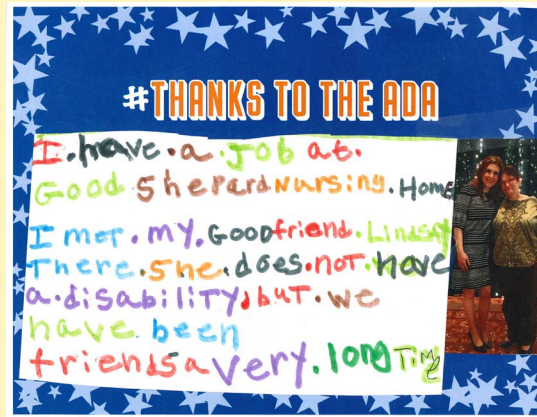
## Did You Know?

The Americans with Disability Act (ADA) celebrates its 30th anniversary this summer.

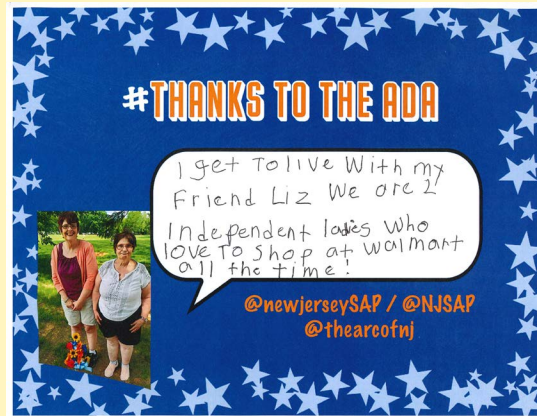
Our own Self-Advocates, Liz Moser, Karen Marshall and Suzanne Delgado have contributed these messages to The NJ Self Advocacy Project regarding what this Act means to them.

Their feedback is part of a national campaign to bring awareness to this Act and how it has improved the lives of those with disabilities.

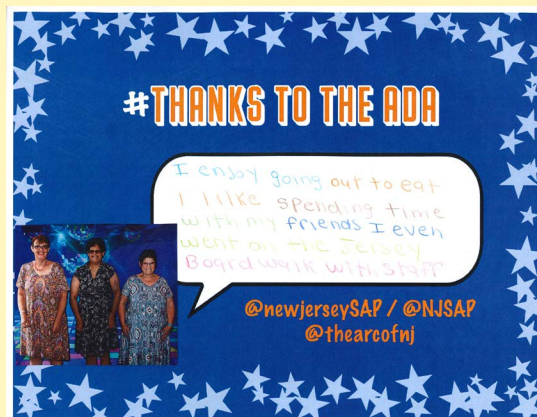
The #ThankstotheADA campaign brings awareness to the opportunities that are made possible as a result of this legislation.



#ThanksToADA - Liz Moser



#ThanksToADA – Karen Marshall



#ThanksToADA – Suzanne Delgado