

The Arc of Warren County Spring 2021 Newsletter



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

It has been a bad year. That is what most people would tell you if you were to take a poll. It is hard to believe that it has been over a year that we have all been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Most facets of our daily lives have become more complicated, and we wonder if things will ever be “normal” again. The Arc of Warren County has certainly been challenged far more than we could have ever anticipated.

However, I would be remiss if I did not mention some of the positive things that happened in the past year...

Under the leadership of Annamaria Lavee, The Arc of Warren County’s Radiothon with WRNJ was converted to a totally virtual event, and with the incredible support of Norman Worth and Jim Travis, surpassed its’ goal by raising over \$67,000. The Food Truck Fest with Donaldson Farm was a huge success despite the restrictions that were in place. The Golf Classic held with The House of the Good Shepherd was amazing and raised \$13,000 for our organizations. Annamaria also procured substantial grants from

various sources: The Post Foundation in the amount of \$10,450, the Greenwich Autism Alliance Foundation - \$3,000 and the Warren County Cultural and Heritage Foundation - \$1,500. The Small Cities Community Block Grant from The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs was also awarded to the Agency in the sum of \$400,000 with Bonnie Hill navigating the state application process and management of vendor details. The Wakefern Partnership in Giving grant worth \$4,000 was awarded to the Community Living Arrangements Department.

On March 19, 2021, Annamaria arranged our first virtual event to celebrate National Disabilities Awareness Month and World Down Syndrome Day. Diana Stolfo, our guest speaker, did an amazing job. Also participating in this event were Congressman Josh Gottheimer and Tom Baffuto, the Executive Director of The Arc of New Jersey.

Project First Step was faced with the challenge of providing quality Early Intervention Services in a virtual



CEO of The Arc of Warren County
John Whitehead

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

format. This required Director Janine Pratt and all of the office staff and clinicians to learn an entire new way of delivering services. Despite the barriers they made it happen and provided essential therapies to almost 300 children in Warren, Sussex and Hunterdon counties.

Community Living Arrangements had the immense responsibility of protecting all of our group home and supervised apartment residents. Dori Howell and her amazing front line and support staff went above and beyond to make sure that our residents had a good quality of life, even though their ability to venture from their homes was greatly limited. Most importantly, we experienced very limited cases of COVID-19, and in most instances the symptoms were very mild.

Our day programs have been shut down for over a year, but Jennifer Speth and her staff have been providing virtual programming and other alternative methods to engage our service recipients. Serendipity has provided a supported employment opportunity for some of our individuals, and by the way, won the Washington BID's Hometown Holiday Business Decorating contest. Community Based Supports has provided much needed assistance to our families in the community at a time when they needed it the most.

Unfortunately, Recreation Services have been shut down, but that has not stopped Marci Gubich and Robyn Gardella from positioning this

department for a grand reopening. They were the recipients of almost \$800 worth of games and equipment from Special Olympics of New Jersey, some of which is now being utilized for virtual activities. They are also preparing for five weeks of day camp this summer at Camp Warren as long as State guidance will permit this.

To make the camping experience even better, we have ordered brand new playground equipment that we hope to have installed prior to camp season.

This year we were also the recipient of a donation of \$1,400 in supplies from Staples of Mansfield as part of their Care Packages Program. We also received a substantial donation of PPE from the United Way that included 18,000 surgical masks!

Recently two Arc of Warren County Staff received recognition for their outstanding contributions to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Robyn Gardella was named an Arc of New Jersey Hero of 2020, and Carinne Buzzuto was named Exceptional Direct Support Professional of the Year by the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network and the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project.

While many state and federal entities are still working remotely, all of The Arc of Warren County's administrative staff are now on site every day. Many of us have been on site all along, even when the state encouraged us otherwise, because our Mission must be fulfilled no matter what the obstacle.

Come to think of it, this hasn't been a bad year at all for The Arc of Warren County.

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

The Public Relations & Fundraising Department has been very busy in a great way! There is a lot of excitement and positive feelings about the last year's successes despite the difficult climate that has made an impact on every single person in one way or another. The pandemic really made people have to draw upon their inner resiliency and have a deeper appreciation of what is important in our lives.

Preparations are underway for The Arc of Warren County's 31st Radiothon with WRNJ which will take place on June 3, 2021. I cannot express enough how grateful we all are here at The Arc of Warren County to be able to continue this longstanding tradition that was the inspiration of the late Kevin Guyette, longtime Arc Foundation Executive Director. I am looking for volunteers to help with this initiative and to expand corporate

sponsorship. If you are interested, please reach out.

The events will continue after Radiothon throughout the summer and into the fall. Though we needed to postpone last year's Triathlon with DASH Multisport, we will be holding it again at 8 a.m. on July 17, 2021 in Liberty Township. The following weekend, on July 24, 2021, we will be holding the 3rd Annual Arc of Warren County Summer Food Truck Fest with Donaldson Farms. This is a family-friendly event that you will not want to miss!

Plans are underway to hold a Golf Classic again with The House of the Good Shepherd on Monday, September 13, 2021 at Hawk Pointe Golf Club. If you supported this event last year, please consider doing so again! If you missed it last year, consider catching up with us this time



Director of Public Relations
Annamaria Lalevee

around. I am always interested with connecting with the community and engaging in ways to collaborate with other organizations. Please always feel free to reach out. I can be reached at (908) 223-0884 or alalevee@arcwarren.org

A Look at Our Group Homes

Greenwich Group Home has just received an upgrade. The kitchen in this home was very worn and needed a major overhaul. Now the consumers and the DSPs have a beautifully updated space to enjoy cooking and prepping meals.

If you know any organizations that would be interested in helping to fund the upgrade of one of our 17 group homes, please contact Annamaria Lalevee at (908) 223-0884 or alalevee@arcwarren.org



Carinne Buzzuto, The Arc of Warren County's Training Coordinator and Self-Advocacy Adviser, Wins The New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network's Exceptional Direct Support Professional of the Year Award

Carinne Buzzuto, The Arc of Warren County's Training Coordinator and Self-Advocacy Adviser, has been awarded the Exceptional Direct Support Professional (DSP) of the Year from the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network and New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project (a program of The Arc of New Jersey).

"This is the first year the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network is presenting this Award," says Ashley Ritchey, Director of the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project. "Carinne was chosen by our Board of The New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network and its participants for her capacity to provide exceptional, person-centered and comprehensive supports to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This award is also meant to acknowledge a Direct Support Professional who infuses the principles of self-advocacy in their network."

Carinne's career at The Arc of Warren County started 20 years ago. She had a family member that worked for an Arc Chapter and thought it would be a good fit for her. Carinne felt that a career in human services would be appealing. She had worked with children in the past and wanted to expand her outreach to providing care to adults, as well.

She has held multiple positions at The Arc of Warren County including DSP, Coordinator of Independent Living/ Life Skills Coach and most recently as Training Coordinator since 2007 and Self-Advocacy Adviser for the past several years. Carinne left briefly to

explore living in Colorado. Her plan was to be a Colorado resident for at least one year, but instead returned after seven months to accept the Training Coordinator position that was offered to her at The Arc.

"I had no interest in public speaking," says Buzzuto. "In fact, it was a huge challenge for me. That is why I decided to go for the position and force myself to work hard to get past that fear."

She now routinely provides training sessions to new and seasoned DSPs all year long. She has continued to keep close to her DSP roots and always continues to work as a Direct Support Professional. As soon as she accepted the job as Trainer, Carinne began part-time work with two different families, supporting individuals in the family's homes. When Covid-19 restrictions began, she immediately returned to work part-time in The Arc of Warren County's group homes.

"Twenty years later I feel confident that I made the right career choice," says Buzzuto. "There is no other realistic job that I can envision that would be more fulfilling."

The Administration at The Arc of Warren County is so pleased that Carinne has been recognized for her commitment to the Agency and her profession.

"I am so pleased that Carinne is receiving this Award," says John Whitehead. "It is even more exciting because it is the first time that the

New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network is presenting this accolade. Carinne is an employee that always goes above and beyond. She is extremely creative and even spearheaded a new event for consumers called the Pandemic PenPal Park N' Party. We are very grateful to have Carinne on our team!"

Carinne has a message that she would like to say about her colleagues and fellow DSPs that she feels that it is essential to mention.

"I humbly accept this recognition, but also want to acknowledge many of my other colleagues for the exceptional work that they do," says Carinne Buzzuto. "I know that our commitment makes an impact on the many individuals who we serve. I see that what we do makes a difference from their expressions and their smiles."

It is the commitment that Carinne and other DSPs possess that contribute to the betterment of this industry.



Carinne Buzzuto (left) 20 years ago and in recent times with Mary, a resident of The Arc of Warren County.

Robyn Gardella is Named an Arc of New Jersey 2020 Hero

Robyn Gardella, Assistant Director of Recreation at The Arc of Warren County, was nominated as an Arc of New Jersey 2020 Hero.

Nominated for her love of humanity, Robyn has been an employee for the past twenty years since she was a college student. She has served in multiple roles, such as Direct Support Professional, Direct Care Adviser, Manager and Program Coordinator and, most recently, as Assistant Director for Recreation for the past couple of years.

When recreation programs were suspended because of Covid-19, she had the choice to continue working in an administrative role or work in a group home. Without hesitation, she opted to return to the group home

that she worked in previously. It was short staffed and needed her expertise.

“The need for support was great there and Robyn doesn’t perform direct care responsibilities halfway,” says John Whitehead. “Robyn really places an emphasis on the ‘care’ factor in everything that she does.”

Robyn delved back into this role and served as a mentor to her fellow co-workers. As always, she treats the residents and the individuals who The Arc serve like family. She is 100% committed to their welfare and their emotional and physical health.

“Robyn is extremely attentive and is always willing to roll up her sleeves and work where work is needed,” says Whitehead.

Robyn can always be counted on no matter what the circumstance. That includes volunteering for fundraising opportunities and making herself available to assist in activities that will better the Agency. Her work ethic, exceptional care and dedication has made her a true hero of 2020 to the Agency!



Assistant Director of Recreation
Robyn Gardella

The Arc of Warren County Holds its First Event in Honor of National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and World Down Syndrome Day

The Administration at The Arc of Warren County felt that this was the year to honor National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and World Down Syndrome Day in a significant manner. This was the year to bring a virtual speaker on board.

Tom Baffuto, Executive Director of The Arc of New Jersey, recommended approaching Diana Stolfo, an experienced Down Syndrome Self-Advocate. She was the keynote speaker at the first World Down Syndrome Day at the United Nations in 2012 and had participated in many speaking engagements, such as

keynote speaker for The Arc of New Jersey’s Annual Conference on Medical Care, The Arc of New Jersey’s Annual Self-Advocacy Conference and UMDNJ Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Patient Centered Medical Conference.

Diana addressed our audience on March 19, 2021 and talked about her life experiences and why it is important to be a self-advocate. The opportunity captured the attention of individuals near and far. Attendees included staff from SCARC, The Arc of Atlantic County, The Arc of Essex County and a self-advocacy agency with offices in Tennessee,

Virginia and Washington, D.C.

In addition, Congressman Josh Gottheimer attended the event and addressed the audience and Diana. Diana and The Agency also received a Certificate of Recognition from the Congressman.



Diana Stolfo

Meet Jacob Croom, Property Manager of The Arc of Warren County

Jacob Croom has been a member of The Arc of Warren County staff for eight years. Part of his responsibilities include tending to any maintenance requests, including preventive maintenance.

“What I do really runs the gamut in the realm of physical or mechanical work, such as shoveling at the group homes, power washing, fixing screens, changing air filters in the homes, fixing bed frames, flooring, doors, windows and spackling,” says Croom.

“I handle anything that is short of needing to involve a contractor, plumber or electrician.”

Jacob initially started as a Direct Care Professional (DSP) in the Alpha Group home. He soon found that he really enjoyed the field of social services. Having the opportunity to build relationships really appealed to him and it especially interested him to help people who need to depend on him. During his time as a DSP, Jacob was able to work nights and complete an Associate of Arts degree in Business Management at Warren County Community College.

He still works some hours outside of his regular work week at the Alpha Group home.

“It is near and dear to my heart,” says Jacob. “I live in Alpha so it is local for me and the Alpha group home is truly like a family. I also choose to work all of the holidays there.”

His experience at The Arc of Warren County serves the best of both worlds

for Jacob. He is able to work extra hours at the Alpha group home and serve in the maintenance capacity.

“Maintenance always caught my eye,” says Jacob. “When I was growing up, my parents always needed help with various tasks, such as landscaping. I also had some neighbors who took me under their wings and I would split wood and cut grass. In fact, I started my own landscaping business at 14 years old and I still do that, too.”

He credits The Arc of Warren County in helping him find himself.

“This is a rewarding career,” says Jacob. “I have found my niche, my calling. I have the unique opportunity to do what I love to do. Working here has helped me grow into the person that I am today.”

He also attributes that growth to the impact that his fellow colleagues have had on him including John Ndewga, who was featured in the *Winter 2020 Arc of Warren County Newsletter*, because of his positive outlook and spiritual beliefs. John Whitehead, the Agency’s CEO, has been a mentor to Jacob and has been a strong professional influence on him.

Jacob was nominated as the 2019 Employee of The Year. This is an accolade that he is quite proud to receive.

“It is inspiring to be part of one large helpful community,” says Jacob. “This life comes down to having a clean heart and being part of bigger

team that consists of individuals with a strong work ethic who thrives on aiding others.”



Property Manager
Jacob Croom

Meet The Arc Foundation Board

In the *Winter 2020 Arc of Warren County Newsletter*, the Board of Directors executive team were featured. For this issue, we would like our readers to meet the volunteers who consist of The Arc Foundation Board. Unlike the Board of Directors that focus on many different aspects that make up the Agency, The Foundation Board focuses on opportunities and issues related to the Foundation and fundraising.

Melanie Thiel, The Arc Foundation Board President and the Washington BID Executive Director, has been involved with The Arc of Warren County for many years. She first became engaged when she and Kevin Guyette both were involved in the Warren County Chamber of Commerce.



Melanie Thiel

At that time, Melanie was serving as the Development Director and was the early morning on-air talent for WNTI at Centenary University.

“I would help her publicize The Arc of Warren County events and we really hit it off,” says Thiel.

The mission of The Arc of Warren County always interested her because her 48-year old nephew has Down Syndrome. He works for an organization that is similar to Abilities of Northwest New Jersey in South Jersey.

“I always knew about The Arc as an organization and was impressed with the work that they do,” says Thiel. “As Kevin and I became better friends we both would help each other with fundraisers.”

Melanie was nominated to be the fundraising liaison for The Arc of Warren County’s Board of Directors, a role that she held for many years. Eventually, she shifted over to becoming a Board member for The Arc Foundation, as she felt that her talents could be better utilized in that particular function.

“I really love the camaraderie of the Board,” says Melanie. “Everyone that I know at the Agency puts their hearts and souls into their work. As a result, I want to give back to The Arc as a volunteer. I am pleased that this is a very well-run Arc chapter.”

Melanie always volunteers for Radiothon and regularly serves as

on-air talent for this initiative. Melanie has really been pleased with how the Food Truck Fest has progressed over the past two years and how it brings in people who may not attend the other events.

“Families come because of the bands, but once they get there they stay and it is a great opportunity to raise awareness.”

Katie Donaldson of Donaldson Farms has been a member of The Arc Foundation Board for over a year now. Katie and Donaldson Farms has such a strong presence in the community, so Katie receives many requests to serve on different Foundation boards. She had not committed to other Boards, however, because the business requires much of her time especially during peak times.

The Arc of Warren County, however, was an organization that she felt that she wanted to devote her expertise to when she was approached by John Whitehead and Annamaria Lalevee shortly after the first Annual Food Truck Fest was held at Donaldson Farms.

“This is an organization that makes a difference in so many lives,” says Katie. “I heard Board of Directors member, Kerry Wolf, being interviewed for Radiothon and how many years ago there was not a lot of services for those who are differently-abled. I personally cannot imagine a world without an Arc.”

Cont. Meet The Arc Foundation Board



Katie Donaldson

She also knew John and Annamaria from the local community and welcomed the opportunity to work with them on a regular basis.

Regarding her fellow Board members, Katie is “blown away by their compassion and the resources that they bring to the table.” It further solidifies her feelings of being passionate about wanting to support The Arc.

She appreciates that the backgrounds of the Foundation Board are very diverse and it is a “creative group of professionals who have been able to still move forward and roll with the punches of Covid-19.”

The staff members at The Arc of Warren County that she knows have big hearts and a passion for their work. When asked what her favorite Arc of Warren County fundraiser is, of course, she responded with The Food Truck Fest and is pleased that this now annual event is taking off. She also appreciates Radiothon because it is connected with WRNJ and provides

The Arc of Warren County with the vehicle to tell the stories about the positive impact of the Agency that need to be told.

“I look forward to continuing working in this capacity and accomplishing great things with The Arc,” says Katie.

Dr. M. Linda Poisseroux is the newest member of The Arc Foundation Board. When approached if she would like to become a member of The Foundation Board, she decided to pursue the opportunity because working and helping those with intellectual and physical disabilities has always been an interest for her. In high school, she volunteered for SCARC, which is The Arc Chapter in Sussex County. She had also volunteered to help those with disabilities on a regular basis while she was in high school.

“This was a passion and calling combined at an early age,” says Dr. Poisseroux.

In her current role as an Assistant Professor of Business at Centenary University, she has played an integral role in their Step-Ahead Summer Program for the past six years. This program focuses on preparing students with disabilities for life as a college student. She ran sessions that focused on maintaining one’s emotional well-being and strategies that focuses on college readiness.

She is also open to engaging Centenary students to help with different Arc initiatives. She is looking forward to learning more about The

Arc of Warren County and being more involved in the fundraising aspect of it. She is the Adviser for Centenary University’s Enactus Chapter. Enactus is an international organization that engages the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders to use innovation and business principles to improve the world. She would like to explore engaging her Enactus students in studying the process of reducing fruit waste by starting a business where the focus is dehydrating fruits and vegetables and involving Arc consumers in that process.



Dr. M. Linda Poisseroux

“Fundraising has always been a side interest of mine and now being on The Arc Foundation Board, I have the opportunity to channel that pursuit,” she says. “I am really excited to start the journey with The Arc Foundation. It is such a great fit for me personally and professionally.”

When asked about the current fundraising opportunities, Dr. Poisseroux cites Radiothon as an exciting fundraising opportunity that has a long history and a strong following and aspires to be more involved in this project. She feels that

Cont. Meet The Arc Foundation Board

the Food Truck Fest with Donaldson Farms is a wonderful community idea and was pleased to see that The Arc of Warren County partnered with The House of the Good Shepherd for the newly annual Golf Classic.

Mike Donowick wanted to become involved in The Arc of Warren County and was introduced to the organization by Tom Baffuto, Executive Director of The Arc of New Jersey. Donowick who is the Managing Principal, Food Management and Trading Operations and Sales Consultant for U-Save-Foods, LLC. has an interest in helping individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Mike grew up with a stepbrother who at a young age had severe brain trauma. In his early years he was in and out of many institutional facilities in the Buffalo area. It became very evident to Mike at a young age how important it was to help be a voice for individuals who might not be well represented or find it difficult to advocate for themselves.

“Giving back in this manner is an experience that is life altering,” says Mike. “It is important to have fun in

life and to be cognizant to always treat people with special needs or just people in general in the way that you would want to be treated.” To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world. Mike manages the Tim Tebow’s Night to Shine prom initiative in the local community for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In the past, the prom has taken place at Mine Brook Country Club and Centenary University. In addition, he will be working with Rising Light Ridge in Bear Creek, Pennsylvania this summer. This is a camp for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities that was purchased by The Tim Tebow Foundation. He also worked with St. Luke’s Parish Special Needs Ministry in Long Valley for ten years. He helps coach Special Olympic basketball for children in the Morris County area for over 20 years. Being part of The Arc of Warren County is important to Mike to keep being involved on a local level.

He has spearheaded some new fundraising initiative possibilities, such as an Arc of Warren County raffle that

could be introduced to the community next year. When asked about other fundraising initiatives, Mike spoke about Radiothon.

“This is a great longstanding tradition that the surrounding committee embraces,” says Donowick. “Helping out for this project provides an enormous sense of fulfillment. I feel like if you can help out with a project that makes such a positive impact to a specific population, then you have done something right!”

Please reach out to Annamaria Lavee at (908) 223-0884 or at alavee@arcwarren.org to be part of the Radiothon volunteer team or if you are interested in helping with other fundraising initiatives.

Save the Dates

The Arc of Warren County Radiothon with WRNJ Radio – June 3, 2021

The 5th Annual Triathlon with DASH Multisport – July 17, 2021

The 3rd Annual Food Truck Fest at Donaldson Farms – July 24, 2021

The Second Annual Golf Classic with The House of the Good Shepherd – September 13, 2021

For more information, please call (908) 223-0884.

Greenwich Autism Alliance Foundation Awards Grant to The Arc of Warren County

The Arc of Warren County has been awarded a \$3,000 grant from The Greenwich Autism Alliance Foundation. These funds are earmarked for Recreation equipment and camp tee shirts.

The Greenwich Autism Alliance Foundation’s mission is to provide support for families and children with autism. One hundred percent of the net proceeds from contributions are donated to autism support programs.

A Look at Washington's Hidden Gem – Serendipity

The definition of the word Serendipity is the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way.

Serendipity is the name of The Arc of Warren County shop that is open to the public. It is located at 40 East Washington Avenue in Washington. It is also perhaps a hidden gem in the area, but the happy feelings that customers may experience is most definitely not caused by chance.

It is caused by the dedication of the store manager, Beverly Stewart, and the entire Serendipity team. Beverly has been on board since September 2013 and Jennifer Speth oversees multiple programs at The Arc of Warren County, which includes Serendipity. Some Arc of Warren County consumers also work in Serendipity and love to greet and assist customers.

Beverly started with the Agency eight years ago and worked in the Day Program with consumers and found it fulfilling to teach them new things. When the opportunity came about to manage Serendipity, Beverly found that it was a win-win situation where

she could continue working with consumers and exercise her creativity.

“Making this store the best that it can be is my passion,” says Stewart. “Every night when I close I say ‘good night store. See you tomorrow!’ “

The items that are for sale are eclectic. Many are handcrafted and are made by local artisans. Many artists that Serendipity may feature include business owners who have a disability or support those with disabilities.

It is also an interest to bring in vintage and consignment items and products that are not sold anywhere else in the area. For example, Serendipity has featured handmade crochet pieces from a high schooler with an entrepreneurial spirit.

Serendipity is also the winner of the Washington Business Improvement District's Hometown Holiday Business Decorating Contest for the third year.

“Beverly is the brilliance behind this accolade,” says Speth. “She starts planning the following year's window every year right after the holidays!”

The most popular items that are sold are various pieces of West Wind Jewelry, which is created by a consignment artist in Pa. The jewelry has an attractive price point.

When asked for a short-term goal for the store, the answer that was received was for more people in the community to know about Serendipity!

“We have a great following,” says Speth. “It is a situation where people love the store or don't know we are here. We want more individuals to know about us!”

In addition, it is a goal to incorporate a makerspace area for consumers and to incorporate workshops where individuals from the community and consumers can work together on projects.

Store hours are as follows: Monday to Friday – 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you have not already, please come and visit. Individuals who are Arc of Warren County members also receive a discount on products.



A Donor's Story: Glenn Beyerl from KPM Exceptional Tells Why The Arc of Warren County Inspires Him

Glenn Beyerl's business, KPM Exceptional has been a sponsor of The Arc of Warren County's Radiothon with WRNJ and our annual golf outing for many years. KPM Exceptional is a regional distributor of world class outdoor power equipment that is based in Landing, N.J. The business was founded by his current business partner, Steve Redan in the 1950's as Kenvil Power Mower, a retailer of snow-throwers, lawn mowers and other outdoor power equipment. While the retail operation was sold 25 years ago as a result of wholesaling outgrowth, KPM Exceptional now serves over 500 retailing and servicing dealers in the Northeast and Mid Atlantic states, from Virginia to Maine, and Long Island to Pittsburgh and Buffalo.

Glenn had established a great camaraderie with Kevin Guyette, the late Arc Foundation Executive Director and was solicited by Larry Schumacher, a retired Senior Vice President from Fulton Bank who regularly volunteered in past Radiothons.

Glenn Beyerl and his family recently donated \$10,000 to The Arc of Warren County End of Year Annual Appeal. He has donated these funds in Kevin's memory and in honor of Schumacher, Jim Travis of SASCO Otterstedt Insurance and Norman Worth of WRNJ.

"I have a longstanding friendship with all four of these amazing individuals," says Beyerl. "I also thought the world of Kevin Guyette. She was a wonderful person and was always upbeat and

pleasant. I know that anyone that knew her or met her for the first time was better for having done so. She made a difference!"

In addition to The Arc of Warren County, Glenn has been a longtime supporter of charities that focus on helping individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities, such as Special Olympics.

"When 2020 came and Covid-19 hit, everybody was affected," says Beyerl. "We were very fortunate that KPM Exceptional thrived. I wanted to give back to a group of charities that are close to my heart and The Arc of Warren County was on the top of that list. Simply stated – I love this organization."

Glenn also cites that he was deeply touched by Courtney Graffin's testimonial on why working at The Arc of Warren County has changed her life for the better in the *Winter 2020 Arc of Warren County Newsletter*.

"Her story was incredibly moving," says Beyerl. "I had made a decision to donate to The Arc of Warren County at that point, but reading her story really resonated with me. It was so powerful that it further solidified the fact that I was making the right choice."

Thank you to Glenn Beyerl and the Beyerl family to your generous contribution!



The Beyerl family - Glenn Beyerl (far left) with Travis Beyerl, Holly Beyerl and Evan Beyerl

The Arc of Warren County's Sprint Triathlon: Meet A Past Participant and Winner for Two Years

Rich Uliana, a resident of Nazareth, had been a competitive cyclist for over ten years. He raced at the high amateur level circuit locally to his home and throughout New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. He had not been active in the sport for a bit, and wanted an outlet to channel the grief of the passing of his mother and father both in the year 2017.

"Getting involved in competing in triathlons helped me channel my emotions at that time," says Uliana.

He competed in two triathlons that year. In 2018, Uliana decided to compete in The Arc of Warren County's Sprint Triathlon, which is presented by DASH Multisport.

"It was local to my home and the

scenic nature of northwest New Jersey was a draw," he says. "It is a beautiful part of the State. It is a wonderful opportunity to swim in a glacial lake and have an environment with rolling hills and mountains. It is a fun yet challenging course."

"I also had an awareness of The Arc of Warren County," he continues "One of my friends used to work there and I like competing in an event that supports a non-profit cause."

He won the race against 65 other participants and won again the following year.

"This is a nice triathlon for beginners, as well as experienced competitors," says Uliana. "The swim is shorter than a lot of other triathlons, but it is still



Rich Uliana and his family at the Triathlon in 2019

very challenging. It is a smaller race, so there is a lot less of swimmers bumping into each other."

The Triathlon is back this year! Don't forget to sign up for the 5th Annual Triathlon to support The Arc of Warren County. Signups can be made through TRI Mountain Lake at trismountainlake.com/race/nj/liberty/trimountainlake

The Sports Entertainment Class at Centenary University Holds a Virtual Trivia Night for The Arc of Warren County

As part of Professor David Perricone's Sports Entertainment class at Centenary University, Perricone has his students run a fundraiser for a non-profit organization. A group of his students decided to focus their efforts on helping The Arc of Warren County.

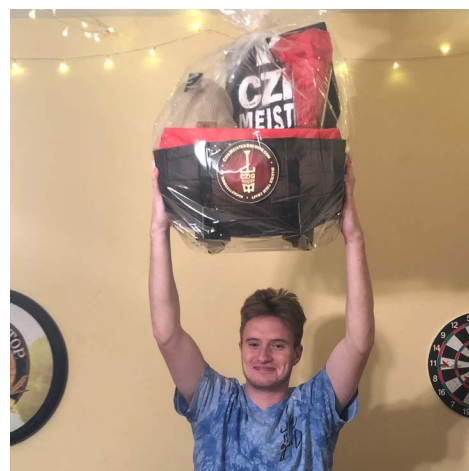
They held a Virtual Trivia Night on March 26, 2021 and all of the proceeds raised benefited the Agency. The students raised \$735 and all who attended learned about the mission of The Arc and participated in a fun trivia session in the process. Czig Meister

Brewing in Hackettstown donated a gift basket to the first-place winner.

"It was a great learning experience and it was very satisfying raising funds for a worthy organization," says Ellie Roberts, group leader for the project. Thank you to all of the students who made this opportunity a reality:

- Ellie Roberts
- Katie Holst
- Eric Nugent
- Wesley Peters

Congratulations to Nikolas Polizos, first place winner, and Callie Pullis, second place winner.



Nikolas Polizos, First Place Winner