

## The Arc of Steuben

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Empowering and Enriching Lives for More Than 50 Years

Fall 2016

## Shake-Away Recognized for Production Increase

By Mark Failing

Shake-Away celebrated the completion of a 55-pallet order of a new trial-run product for Lowe's.

The total order of the product, Rodent, consisted of 2,420 cases that were put together in three weeks. With the help of a second shift of janitorial crew and staff, they were able to complete the order ahead of schedule. Shake-Away has also increased regular production in a four-month period by 8,328 cases, which is higher than last year's production for the same time frame.



Matt Mehlenbacher, left, Dennis Dinehart, Don Evia, Dan Warczok and Bernie Burns

They also had some other big orders in the same four months. In little more than a week, Shake-Away completed 33 pallets of mouse packs for Lowe's for a total of 3,135 cases. They also completed 20 pallets of six-pack boxes for Menard's for a total of 1,676 cases in just two days.

Currently, Shake-Away ships to 27 states. In the past four months, Shake-Away has shipped a total of 252 orders, 366 pallets and 20,106 cases.

In September, Shake-Away employees were honored for their efforts. Each person was awarded a certificate and everyone celebrated with lunch.

## Scholarship Winners Honored at Annual Meeting

Three local students were awarded the inaugural Arc of Steuben Foundation Ethel Strickarz Memorial Scholarship at our annual meeting in May.

Kristen Amidon, of Andover, and Collin Conklin and Kristin Kashmer, both of Hammondspport, received the scholarship, which was created to honor former Development Director Ethel Strickarz for her dedication to the agency's mission, vision and values.

Several other people were also honored at this year's meeting. Joseph Gregory, Jules Powell, Kelcy Harvey and Rachael Costanzo received the Elias-Hubbs award.

The Honor Grace Award was presented to Latrisha McCaig, Spencer Thomas and Elisha Stromsness.

Michael Holbrook was honored with the Joan McNamara Award. Other awards presented during the annual meeting include:

**Customer of the Year** – Wineglass Marathon

**Employer of the Year** – Burger King, Coming

**Vendor of the Year** – SM Crystal

**Friends of the Arc** – Renee Smith, of Smitty's Restaurant/Renee's Catering; Ryan Wheeler, of Arby's, Painted Post; Patricia and Sarah Cunningham; Marleah Denkenberger.

Lisa Rosekrans was named the agency's Associate of the Year. Lisa worked in the Community Supports department as a Support Specialist. One of the accomplishments Lisa was recognized for was the creation of the Quality Living and Giving Back Club.

The club, which is celebrating its second year, consists of self-advocates and Arc of Steuben associates who enjoy finding ways of volunteering and getting involved in their communities.

### Your Membership Matters!

We had another great membership drive in 2016!

This year's drive brought our membership total to 1,921, an increase of 421 members from 2015.

This year membership is more important than ever. As we team up with Arcs across the state to get increased funding for Direct Support Professionals' pay, our elected officials need to know there are thousands of people across the state who support causes that impact people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Not a member yet? You can join the Arc of Steuben by visiting the membership page on our website, [www.arcofsteuben.org](http://www.arcofsteuben.org)

### We're Going Green

In an effort to keep you connected in a timely fashion, we will be providing an e-newsletter. If you'd like to receive your newsletter via email, contact Bob Recotta at [brecotta@arcofsteuben.org](mailto:brecotta@arcofsteuben.org) or call (607) 622-1874

## Arc of Steuben Honors Associates of the Month

**March** - Ariel Edwards (residential) was nominated for organizing trips to the Hornell YMCA so some of the people living at the East Main Street home could go swimming.



Edwards

Despite the extra time needed to organize the trips and resources required for the trips to be safe and successful for everyone involved, it was well worth it for the people at the East Main Street home.



VanAllen

**April** – Chari VanAllen (residential) was recognized for the part she played in preparing for a number of surveys and audits performed at the residences.

"Chari continually thinks outside of the box and is one of the first people who suggested we move an individual from West St. to a different site that could provide him with the level of support needed," Karen Andrus said.



Miller

**May** - Becky Miller (residential) was nominated because of initiatives she undertook that improved the lives of the people at the Oaklawn home, as well as the direct support staff that work there.

Sharon Saker also said that Becky showed strong leadership skills when a new person with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) moved into the Oaklawn home.

**June** - Melissa Garner (community supports) was nominated because of the attention and consideration she puts into the plans she creates for people on her caseload.



Garner

Garner's attention to detail, her efforts to get to know the people for whom she's planning and the extra time she spends to include input from those who know the people on her caseload best, including Direct Support Professionals at the people's homes, make her exceptional at her job.

## A Message from the Executive Director

*"The times they are a changing" – Bob Dylan*

As I sat down to write this the above lyrics came to mind. Services for people who have Developmental Disabilities are changing in New York. Some would say the changes are positive, others maybe not so much. But one thing is certain, they are going to change.

With the environment being what it is, the Arc of Steuben began a strategic planning process early this year. We focused on the service parts of the organization, evaluating what changes are anticipated in the coming years and how we can best provide the supports for people and their families that are needed.

You should be aware that there are a number of federal and state initiatives that will influence our plans:

**The Federal HCBS Settings Waiver** – These are new regulations that go into effect in 2019 that set new standards for Residential Services and Day Habilitation. The primary focus of the regulations is to set benchmarks for community integration.

**Workshop Closure** – This is a New York State directive that requires workshops to be closed by 2020. New admissions to workshops were stopped in 2013. Approximately 50 people remain in our workshop and will require alternative service.

**Managed Care for People with Developmental Disabilities** – This has been a state initiative for a number of years now. Although not defined by the state, one of the critical components is to move away from fee for service reimbursement and move to payments based on outcomes. In the meantime they have implemented "rate rationalization" which is really just another way of saying less reimbursement for providing the same service.

The strategic plan will be completed by the end of 2016 and I will share it with the membership in the next newsletter. Until then, let me know if you have questions or input at [bburns@arcofsteuben.org](mailto:bburns@arcofsteuben.org).



**Bernie Burns**

**The Arc of Steuben**  
*A Chapter of NYSARC, Inc.*

Bernie Burns, Executive Director

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Volume 55

The articles in this publication are meant as information only, not as legal advice.

## A Message from the Board President

I have been a member of the Arc Board of Directors since 2002, elected president of the board in May 2016. I continue to be amazed at the progress and processes made at the Arc of Steuben regarding the people we support. I have visited the residential homes and have met the staff and the people we support. We have committed and dedicated staff that always goes above and beyond expectations to ensure the people we support receive quality care.

Every year I look forward to our annual meeting held in May. I have an opportunity to meet more people affiliated with our organization and learn more about their activities and programs. It is a pleasure to honor our deserving award recipients affiliated with the Arc. Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's membership drive. This year's drive was completed in September with a membership total of 1,921, an increase of 421 members. Congratulations to the Arc membership team!

Congratulations to the Arc Star Golf Classic team for another successful

event in June, raising more than \$23,000. This is the 21<sup>st</sup> year of the tournament with continued support from business donors and the community. A special thank you to all the volunteers for donating their time and work before and during the tournament.



**Helen Binkowski**

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## Arc Star Golf Classic Raises \$23,000 for People Supported By The Arc of Steuben

This year was a great year for the Arc Star Golf Classic! The weather was hot and sunny, the sausages were delicious and the golfers had a great time at the Bath Country Club.

This year's tournament raised more than \$23,000 for the people supported by the Arc of Steuben.

We had 32 corporate sponsors and underwriters, dozens of small business donors, 20 volunteers and more than 100 golfers from the community show their support for people with developmental disabilities.

Funds raised by last year's tournament funded an incredibly successful autism conference that featured renowned author and autism expert Dr. Jed Baker. Our Autism Resource Team is planning another conference for Spring 2017.

Money raised through the golf tournament also fund Arc Star Wishes. The Wish Upon an Arc Star program gives people the chance to have once-in-a-lifetime dreams come true, like trips to

Yankees games and the opportunity to have a close encounter with dolphins at MarineLand.

Tournament organizers would like to recognize the sponsors and underwriters that helped make the event such a huge success.

Our Honorary Chair, **Relph Benefit Advisors**, returned to show their support for our agency and the people we support. Other sponsors included **Corning Enterprises, Corning Inc. Sullivan Park, One-Group, Empire Access, the Mercury Corporation Foundation, Wegmans, Siemens, Corning Inc. MT & E, the Bonadio Group, KeyBank, Corning Inc.**



*The Corning Inc. Science and Technology team took first place*

**Business Services, Frey & Campbell, Maple City Dodge, Simmons Rockwell, Airflo, Canandaigua National Bank and Trust, Corning Credit Union, Corning Catering, ServU Credit Union, Wilkins Recreational Vehicles, MVP Health Care, Five Star Bank, Smith's Auto Body and Service Center, First Heritage Federal Credit Union, Walmart, Lake Road Advisors, Gunlocke and the American Cancer Society.**

## Volunteering at Daycare Center Leads to Big Dreams

Kelcy Harvey is turning her love of children and teaching into an opportunity to become involved in her community.

Kelcy, who lives at the Fourth Street home, is volunteering at the Little Sprouts Daycare Center in Canisteo. She reads to the older children and helps them with crafts and other activities. She sings the babies to sleep.

Kelcy's desire to work with children was revealed during an Individual Service Plan meeting. She was already volunteering at a local animal shelter when the Direct Support Professionals working with her discovered that she was also interested in working with children.



"It makes me happy to see the kids happy," Kelcy said. "They feel good when they've accomplished something and that's important to me."

Both the Direct Support Professionals that know Kelcy and the owner of the daycare center where she volunteers have said they've seen changes in Kelcy

in the months she's been volunteering.

"I've seen a lot of growth in Kelcy," Danielle Williams, owner of Little Sprouts Daycare said. "Now she comes in and she knows what to do. Even if I throw her off her routine, she's great with it. She just goes with the flow."

"Kelcy has become more independent," said Robyn Stephens, the residence coordinator assistant at the Fourth Street home. "Her inner strength is coming out. She's opened up more and is more open to new experiences. She's also become more confident. She used to keep everything inside, but now she's becoming more direct."

Kelcy enjoys passing on her knowledge and experience on to the children with whom she works.

"If one of them is frustrated, I teach them to cool off like my father taught me," Kelcy said. "When they get to school, hopefully they'll remember that when someone makes them upset."

Kelcy is now dreaming of opening her own daycare center.



**Harvey**