Planned Sensory Garden to Honor Margaret Harrington

With another school year underway, it is with heartfelt thoughts that we’re reminded of Margaret Harrington. A dear friend, colleague, and former Director of our Children’s Services/KidStart program, Margaret passed away in early June of this year.

“Her dedication to providing the most appropriate services for children and families throughout her 18 years at the helm was combined with a continuous drive and passion to research new educational and innovative opportunities to enhance each child’s development,” says Chloe (Zigrossi) Budenhagen, a colleague to Margaret, and co-chair of The Margaret Harrington Memorial Project.

Other members of the newly formed group established to honor Margaret include Shirley Espersen, Cindy Hicks, Chris Lynch, Stephanie Metz, Kristin Provo, Sherrie Reilly, and Peggy Siebers. All are KidStart personnel who worked with Margaret during different stages of her tenure in Children’s Services at The Arc.

The group is raising funds to realize one of Margaret’s ardent hopes: to develop and incorporate a Sensory Garden which would benefit all children at KidStart. Through the use of various plants, materials, and structures, a Sensory Garden stimulates the senses of sight, taste, touch, and sound. For children with special needs, it allows them to explore their senses in a safe environment without feeling overwhelmed by them.

Fortunately, the KidStart program has an area adjacent to the existing playground that would be an ideal setting and would easily accommodate this valuable addition.

“To honor Margaret’s memory and to acknowledge her caring years of dedicated service, we would very much like to fulfill her clear and hopeful vision by bringing her Sensory Garden project to fruition,” Chloe says. Donations for the Margaret Harrington Memorial Project are being accepted through Winter. To give, please see the remittance envelope included in this issue of The Parchment.

Preparing for Change in Service Coordination

Since the early 1990s, Service Coordinators at The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming have been an important part of the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families. Our qualified Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC) team proudly supports individuals as they pursue their goals and dreams.

You may have heard about a directive by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that will affect MSC services. Under it, New York State’s Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) is introducing its “People First Care Coordination” initiative. The initiative will add the coordination of people’s healthcare services to their current developmental disabilities Individualized Service Plan, which will become known as a Life Plan.

The foundation of People First Care Coordination are Coordination Organizations (CCOs), which will be networks of existing OPWDD providers that will come together to provide integrated care coordination. As an OPWDD provider agency, The Arc is among several agencies that together will make up a CCO for our area.

Under People First Care Coordination, Service Coordinators will no longer work for provider agencies such as The Arc; instead, they will be employees of the CCO. This is because the federal government requires “conflict free case management,” which means that a person cannot receive care management from the same agency that provides services. They will also not be called Service Coordinators or MSCs, but rather “Care Managers.” A specialized team comprised of the Care Manager and other professionals will work with the people we support and their families to plan, execute, and monitor individualized Life Plans.

The Arc is making every effort to maintain continuity of relationships between people receiving services and their current Service Coordinators. In many instances, the present-day MSC will continue to work with an individual through the CCO transition, and then ideally as his or her Care Manager, if possible. Within the CCO, individuals will not lose any of the benefits of Medicaid Service

continued on page 7.......
As we approach 2018, it is important that we keep in mind our successes from 2017, feel good about our accomplishments, and build on them as we move forward.

Here are a few of our proudest quality- and growth-focused achievements:

We are experiencing expansion within our Residential department. We added three supported apartments in 2017, which brings our total to seven. We recently submitted a request to the Office for Developmental Disabilities to develop a 6-bed home in Avon, and are awaiting their response.

We have made great strides with POMs, a person-centered process of getting to know the individuals we support better, to make sure that we are helping them in areas that are most important to them. POMs, which stands for “Personal Outcome Measures,” was developed by CQL. POMs focus on individuals’ satisfaction in five key factors of life: My Human Security, My Community, My Relationships, My Choices, and My Goals. Since 2015, we have interviewed about 100 individuals using the POMs framework.

Thanks in large part to you, we surpassed our membership goal of 1,500. This ensures our agency an extra vote on the governing board of our state organization. The vote is important because not all agencies have the same programs that we do. Sometimes we have to push our state organization to advocate for our programs that aren’t covered by all chapters.

We continued to set the bar for Transportation services. In 2017, we entered into a Shared Services Agreement with The Arc of Steuben to assist with their Transportation department. We helped improve their services by providing management, training, and maintenance support in all areas, including a shared Director of Transportation and shared 19A Examiner/Trainer.

Public Relations added two new events: the Taste of Livingston food tasting, and the Tour de Perry bike trek. Along with our established events, they help to raise money and build awareness for The Arc.

As we look forward, it is important to note that our agency is unique among Arc chapters in that we offer birth to end of life care. We provide a wide range of programs, and I want to continue to do that. I want to make sure that, if there are other programs or ideas out there, we are nimble enough to add them and creative enough to make them work.

We did not choose the many changes that are being imposed on us in 2018 and beyond, but it’s also an opportunity to raise the bar. We’re going to come out better down the road. We will be a better run organization, with better quality, that is more person-focused.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The role of a sibling in the life of a person with a disability is as complex as it is meaningful. Over the years, there has been a heightened awareness of the need for siblings of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to have the opportunity to share experiences and to learn from and support each other.

Today, there are a number of programs and resources available to siblings—many supported by Arc New York Chapters. The link below contains several important resources for those who are interested in sibling support—one of which is the Sibling Leadership Network (SLN). The SLN provides siblings of people with disabilities information, support, and tools they will need to effectively advocate with their brothers and sisters. It also helps to promote the issues important to siblings and their families.

https://lwarc.org/content/uploads/sites/18/2017/11/sibling-resources.pdf

Sibling Support Available

Our Clinical Services’ Comfort And Support Team (CAST) recently caught the attention of the Council on Quality Leadership (CQL) with the CAST Dragonfly Project.

CAST Dragonfly is a social group for aging individuals with disabilities to assist them in dealing with end-of-life issues, and ensure that their wishes are met after death.

Clinical Services Coordinator Dan Gallagher, Occupational Therapist Sara James, and Speech Pathologist Krystin Petzoldt accepted an invitation on October 18th to speak about the project at the national CQL Conference in Indianapolis. The team has also applied for grant funding that would help us to market the CAST Dragonfly model to other agencies, and expand our services into communities.

Dragonfly Project Recognized Nationally

Photographers and organizers at the Humphrey Nature Center also display their work at the park’s Humphrey Special Reception at Livingston Arts. The exhibit captured our communities’ attention this Fall.

Continued from Page 1

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**About NYSARC Trust Services**

“The last few years we have also done a summer luncheon, “ Becky says. “Most of the committee members don’t have the opportunity to see our individuals out to eat for their birthday to a restaurant of their choice, and we have a Holiday luncheon with the entire committee and all of our individuals. “

Brandi is among 26 men and women with disabilities who benefit from the Guardianship Program. The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming’s Guardianship Committee, staff, and community volunteers, the Guardianship Program currently provides guardianship supports and services to three people and is ready to assist more.

The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming’s board president Cheryl Englert and Secretary Marcy VanZandt at The Arc National Convention in San Diego.

The ladies of Sanford IRA were out and about at the Brantley Gilbert concert. Looks like Nicole (left) and Sabrina had a great time!

The Arc Self-Advocates attending The Self-Advocate Collaborative Conference in Geneva. Way to advocate for yourself and peers!

The Arc was honored to be a finalist for the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce Large Business of the Year Award, along with Wegmans and winner Genese Valley Motors. Thank you to the Chamber for a wonderful evening.

Every year, Frank Bullock (left) has a drink sale fundraiser for MDA, a cause that is near and dear to his heart. This year, Frank raised $67 through drink sales and donations! Frank is pictured here with pal Andy Hint.

The Arc’s award-winning booth at August’s Wyoming County (Pike) Fair.

We were thrilled to host a group of Wegmans Scholarship winners on Tuesday, July 18. The scholarship winners joined Wegmans employees, Arc individuals, and staff for outdoor beautification efforts at two of the Geneseo houses.

Adam Russell assembles Barrel of Monkeys toys for Hasbro in a newly renovated workroom adjacent to Hilltop Industries’ Peterson Work Center in Mount Morris. The area, which was previously a garage, was transformed into workspace thanks in large part to generous grants from The Cellino Foundation and The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming Foundation.

“Thanks to Arc Recreation, Wall Gee, of Perry, OH last year were to Cooperstown, NY in 2015 and Cleveland, OH in 2016. The Pennsylvania excursion was the third major trip, and sometimes their first time outside of the county, ” says Arc Recreation staff member Gary Buchanan. “It gives them perspective. It ignites their travel bug. “

Wall, being a veteran traveler, he rates the Cleveland and League Museum in South Williamsport, shopped, and experienced a trolley ride, toured the Little amusement park and Chocolate World mega-structure. Brandi and company visited the Hersheypark Wagon Tours and guidance from a Recreation Director, Holly Hillyard and Gary Buchanan prepare to create their custom candy bars at Covered Commerce Large Business of the Year Award, along with Wegmans and winner Genese Valley Motors. Thank you to the Chamber for a wonderful evening.

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Harvest Fest Highlights

Combine generous portions of food and drink, a dash of local flavor, and two worthwhile causes and you have the winning recipe for “Harvest Fest: A Celebration of Food from Field to Table,” held Wednesday, September 20 at the American Legion Hall in Warsaw Village Park.

In its sixth year, Harvest Fest used a food sampling format to celebrate local growers, restaurants, and culture. For one price, attendees could taste a variety of local food and drink in a farm-market atmosphere that also included raffles and family friendly activities. The money raised benefits two area not-for-profits: The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming and the Wyoming County Business Education Council (BEC).


Local Heroes Capture Rocha 5K, Geneseo Trio Honors

Godzilla stormed the streets, the Justice League of America united, and Santa Claus brought his magic from the North Pole. But it was the fleet feet of two local residents that won the day at the Ramon Rocha 5K Run/Walk, Saturday, October 14 in Geneseo.

Paul Rellstab, age 30, and Catherine Staley, age 10, emerged as the true heroes from a field of 82 finishers that included dozens of costumed competitors in the Halloween-themed event to benefit The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming.

Paul finished in first place overall with a time of 18 minutes 23 seconds; Catherine was the fastest female and overall third place finisher, with a time of 19 minutes 51 seconds.

The treats didn't end there for Paul and Catherine, as both were crowned double winners. The Ramon Rocha 5K was the third event in the “Geneseo Trio” of races also includes the Oak Tree Half Marathon/5K and SUNY Geneseo’s Friday Knight 5K. Combining their times for all three races, Paul's 53 minutes 12 seconds and Catherine's 60 minutes 1 second earned them Overall Fastest Male and Overall Fastest Female for the Geneseo Trio series.

A total of 20 people completed all three races of the Geneseo Trio.

The Ramon Rocha 5K Run/Walk is named in memory of Ramon Rocha, a SUNY Geneseo professor and board member at The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming.

Sponsors included Alden Pharmacy, Genesee Valley Federal Credit Union, GioVanna’s Pizza & Pasta, KeyBank, Relph Benefit Advisors, the Rocha family, and Summit Family Dental.
**Celebrating Direct Support**

Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) are the backbone of our agency. In a workforce of more than 700 people, about 70 percent work directly with individuals with disabilities. These dedicated DSPs perform life-changing work 24 hours a day, seven days a week throughout our local towns and villages. On this page, you’ll meet a few of The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming’s everyday heroes.

There are times when the value of Direct Support simply can’t be captured in any job description – instead, a phrase such as “ray of sunshine” has to suffice.

Those words accurately describe the role that Diane Skeffington played during the most difficult time of one beloved individual's life, according to Diane’s Site Supervisor, Eric Carson.

“Last year, we had a gentleman who had fallen ill and unfortunately was given a timeline on how long he'd still be with us,” Eric explains. “He had a love for old classic cars and oddly enough, Diane's husband does as well, and they live in a walking distance away. On one of his last days, Diane was able to wheel him down to her house to see these cars one last time as he wished: ‘I remember Diane asking me if it would be okay to take him to see some of her old cars on one of his good days,' adds Residential Director Deb Tuckerman. "A few days later, I received a text photo from someone of Diane pushing his wheelchair down the street to her house, and he had a big smile on his face. Diane gave him a tremendous gift on what was one of his last remaining good days – one more chance to check out something really cool antique cars."

Sue Snyder, of Mt. Morris, began her career in The Arc’s residential program 4 years ago.

When most of us are just getting up, Sue is assisting individuals at the Hope IRA in Retsof to get ready for the day, whether it be going to work or a day program, grocery shopping, or appointments. "Throughout the day, she helps with meal preparation, cleaning, and coordinating busy schedules of activities such as Special Olympics and art classes. Sue has tried her hand at different areas of The Arc, and finds the residential program to be the most rewarding. What’s the most rewarding part of her job? "When you walk into work, and the individual you help and take care of is excited to see you, and wants to tell you about their day," she says. "That, plus being part of a great team of individuals and other DSPs, is the most rewarding part."

Stacy Emerson is a Direct Support Professional from Wadsworth, NY. She chose her career as a DSP in The Arc’s residential program 2 years ago. She currently works at the Hope IRA in Retsof.

Her daily routine includes completing medication counts, running appointments, ordering any needed medicine, advocating for each individual’s medical needs, daily documentation, and cleaning. But it’s the personal connections that mean most to Stacy.

“I enjoy working in a field where I can be hands on in helping people,” she says. "And working in a home that has a great team of employees and a great group of individuals is one of the most rewarding parts of my job."

Steven Bergman is a Direct Support Professional in The Arc’s residential program. Steven lives in Dansville. He has been with The Arc for less than 6 months, but has been in the field for more than 2 years.

For Steven, no two workdays are quite the same. His time is spent cooking and spending time in the community, as just two examples.

Steven especially likes working one-on-one with each individual served, and bringing new ideas to the workplace. He says that the most rewarding part of his job is seeing the smiles and happiness from all the individuals.

Adam Ilerbrun is a Direct Support Professional at the Layton IRA in Geneseo. He lives in Mt. Morris, and has been a DSP at The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming for 5 years.

Adam chose his career path after seeing an ad for an employment opening at The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming in the Pennysaver while he was a college student looking for a job.

What is the most rewarding part of his job? "I can take all the guys to sporting events, and to see the gentlemen get so excited about attending the things they enjoy is really rewarding." Adam says.

Learn More at [www.lwarc.org](http://www.lwarc.org)
**A Chocolate Covered Dream Trip**

“For a lot of our participants, this is their first major trip, and sometimes their first time outside of the county,” says Arc Recreation staff member Gary Buchanan. “It gives them perspective. It shows that not everything revolves around their home town. They’re dealing with much larger groups of people, too. We learn a lot about safety and interacting with all different kinds of people.”

“We also have a lot of fun,” he adds.

For Brandi, it was a delicious diversion from her daily routine as part of The Arc’s Hilltop Cleaning Services team. While in Pennsylvania, Brandi and company visited the Hershey park amusement park and Chocolate World mega-store, experienced a trolley ride, toured the Little League Museum in South Williamsport, shopped, and dined at the Firehouse Restaurant in Harrisburg.

In one highlight, each participant was able to select the ingredients and design the wrapper for a custom Hershey candy bar that was created before their eyes.

“My candy bar was pretty much all chocolate,” says Arc Recreation’s Brenda Taber, with a laugh. “It was dark chocolate, with dark chocolate chips, dark cookie crumbs, and nuts.”

Brenda and Gary planned the event from the ground up, with travel consultants at Covered Wagon Tours and guidance from a Recreation Committee that consists mainly of individuals served by The Arc. Arc Recreation supports people with intellectual and other disabilities through a calendar of diverse outings such as bowling, dance class, horseback riding, scrapbooking, sporting events, shopping, and trips to local restaurants.

The Pennsylvania excursion was the third major trip in as many years that was funded through NYSARC Trust Services. Previous excursions were to Cooperstown, NY in 2015 and Cleveland, OH last year.

Thanks to Arc Recreation, Wall Gee, of Perry, is a veteran traveler. He rates the Cleveland and Hershey trips equally high, and credits them for igniting his travel bug.

“I’ve never been to the World Games for Special Olympics yet,” he says. “That would be my ideal trip.”

With the next World Games scheduled for 2019 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Wallly’s dream trip probably isn’t in the cards. But plans for 2018 are already in the works, and a different trip of Olympic proportions isn’t out of the question.

“We’re already thinking about the possibility of a trip to Lake George or Lake Placid,” Brenda says.

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**$9,000 Grant Benefits Guardianship**

In addition to the NYSARC Trust Recreation Grant, The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming received another $9,000 from NYSARC Trust Services to provide guardianship services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who would not otherwise have a legal guardian or advocate. Supported by The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming’s Guardianship Committee, staff, and community volunteers, the Guardianship Program currently provides guardianship supports and services to three people and is ready to assist more.

“The funds are used for various things, including administrative purposes, needs/wants of our individuals, and parties,” explains Arc of Livingston-Wyoming Guardianship Coordinator Rebecca Bridge. “The committee purchases gifts for each individual for their birthday and Christmas. We also take them out to eat for their birthday to a restaurant of their choice, and we have a Holiday luncheon with the entire committee and all of our individuals.”

Most importantly, the dollars help to round out the family atmosphere that is desired by all.

“The last few years we have also done a summer luncheon,” Becky says. “Most of the committee members don’t have the opportunity to see our individuals that we serve often, so this gives them a chance to visit with them and spend time together. After all, we are considered to be their family.”

**About NYSARC Trust Services**

NYSARC Trust Services administers supplemental needs trusts (SNT) that can make dramatic improvements to the lives of people with disabilities while enabling individuals to maintain eligibility for public benefits programs, such as Medicaid and SSI. For 2017, NYSARC Trust Services has awarded a total of $2,793,500 in grants to NYSARC Chapters statewide.

NYSARC Trust Services has administered supplemental needs trusts since 1972, helping more than 16,000 people with disabilities protect their eligibility for government benefits and improve their quality of life. Their trust programs give people with disabilities the opportunity to remain in their communities with greater comfort and independence while providing peace of mind to their family and loved ones.

NYSARC Trust Services administers first- and third-party supplemental needs trusts, pooled trusts for income and resource (asset) protection, and individual trusts. When protecting settlement proceeds with a NYSARC Community Trust, they can also administer Medicare Set-Aside (MSA) accounts. For more information, please call 1-518-439-8323 or visit www.nysarctrustservices.org.
From paintings to photographs, the works of artists from The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming have captured our communities’ attention this Fall.

Displays at Livingston Arts Center, Letchworth State Park, and the Mount Morris Dam and Recreation Area are exposing unprecedented numbers of people to original works created by individuals with disabilities. Just ask “The Dam Folks” – representatives from the US Army Corps of Engineers who oversee operations at the Dam.

“(We) are sending you an ENORMOUS thank you for exhibiting your art therapy work at the Mount Morris Dam and Recreation Area Visitor Center for the months of September and October,” they write, in a note to The Arc’s Enrichment Group. “Local, out of town and international visitors truly enjoyed seeing the high quality work that budding artists are creating at The Arc. Thank you for sharing the work with over 4,000 visitors from all over the world.”

The Enrichment Group’s exhibit of drawings, paintings, and mixed media art overseen by Arc Art Therapists Katherine (Katie) Church and Caitlin Horrocks was one of three high-profile visual arts exhibits since September.

On September 6th, photographers from the Different Point of View project unveiled an exhibit of pictures taken at SUNY Geneseo, Geneseo Village, and Letchworth State Park at a special reception at Livingston Arts. The exhibit caught the attention of Roland Beck, manager of Letchworth State Park, who invited the artists to also display their work at the park’s Humphrey Nature Center throughout October.

If you missed any of these exhibts, don’t fret. The Different Point of View project will return next Summer, and Mount Morris Dam has already extended an invitation for the Enrichment Group to display their artwork in 2018.

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Coordination, regardless of who serves as the Care Manager. The new model for care will begin in July of 2018.

As more information emerges from OPWDD, we want to share it with you in the most accurate and timely manner. Due to the rapidly evolving nature of this topic, all future communication will be conducted electronically. The Arc is maintaining a Web page with Frequently Asked Questions and the ability for you to sign up for email updates. Please visit www.lwarc.org/msc-transition today to get started. If you have questions, don’t hesitate to contact us.

NYSARC is Now The Arc New York

The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming’s parent organization has changed its name from NYSARC, Inc. to The Arc New York. In doing so, The Arc New York joins nearly 700 state and local Chapters across the country that have chosen to brand with The Arc – the largest national community-based organization advocating for and supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

The change brings The Arc New York’s name and new logo in line with The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming’s current branding, according to local Public Relations Director Jeff Thomas.

“In 2012, we branded ourselves as ‘The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming’ with the national logo,” Jeff says. “In doing that, we were among the first New York State chapters of The Arc to align ourselves visually with the national organization. Five years later, we are thrilled that our state organization is able to do that as well. Uniting the identities of the national, state, and local organizations can only strengthen the public’s recognition and understanding of our goal to empower people with disabilities to live full, independent, productive, and dignified lives. We are stronger together.”

LEARN MORE AT WWW.LWARC.ORG
Preparing for Change in Service Coordination

You may have heard about a directive by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that will affect Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC) services. Under it, New York states will add the coordination of people’s healthcare to their current developmental disabilities Individualized Service Plan, which will extend the coordination of people’s healthcare to their current developmental disabilities Individualized Service Plan, which will be handled by a service provider agency. The foundation of People First Care Coordination, Service Coordinators or MSCs, will no longer work for provider agencies such as The Arc; instead, they will become employees of the CCO. This is because the federal government requires “conflict-free case management,” which means that a person cannot receive care management from the same agency that provides services. They will also not be called Service Coordinators or MSCs, but rather “Care Managers.” A specialized team comprised of the Care Manager and other professionals will work ideally as his or her Care Manager, if they lose any of the benefits of Medicaid Service Coordinators. In many instances, the present-Care Manager and other professionals will work to maintain continuity of relationships between people receiving services and their current Service Coordinators or MSCs, but rather “Care Managers.”

The Arc is making every effort to maintain the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families. Our qualified Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC) team proudly supports individuals as they pursue their goals and dreams. You may have heard about a directive by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that will affect MSC services. Under it, New York states will add the coordination of people’s healthcare to their current developmental disabilities Individualized Service Plan, which will extend the coordination of people’s healthcare to their current developmental disabilities Individualized Service Plan, which will be handled by a service provider agency. The foundation of People First Care Coordination, Service Coordinators or MSCs, will no longer work for provider agencies such as The Arc; instead, they will become employees of the CCO. This is because the federal government requires “conflict-free case management,” which means that a person cannot receive care management from the same agency that provides services. They will also not be called Service Coordinators or MSCs, but rather “Care Managers.” A specialized team comprised of the Care Manager and other professionals will work ideally as his or her Care Manager, if they lose any of the benefits of Medicaid Service Coordination, Service Coordinators or MSCs, but rather “Care Managers.” A specialized team comprised of the Care Manager and other professionals will work ideally as his or her Care Manager, if they lose any of the benefits of Medicaid Service Coordination, Service Coordinators or MSCs, but rather “Care Managers.” A specialized team comprised of the Care Manager and other professionals will work ideally as his or her Care Manager, if they lose any of the benefits of Medicaid Service Coordination, Service Coordinators or MSCs, but rather “Care Managers.” A specialized team comprised of the Care Manager and other professionals will work ideally as his or her Care Manager, if they lose any of the benefits of Medicaid Service Coordination, Service Coordinators or MSCs, but rather “Care Managers.”

Since the early 1990s, The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming has been an important part of the lives of people with developmental disabilities and their families. Our qualified Medicaid Service Coordination (MSC) team proudly supports individuals as they pursue their goals and dreams. You may have heard about a directive by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that will affect MSC services. Under it, New York states will add the coordination of people’s healthcare to their current developmental disabilities Individualized Service Plan, which will extend the coordination of people’s healthcare to their current developmental disabilities Individualized Service Plan, which will be handled by a service provider agency. The foundation of People First Care Coordination, Service Coordinators or MSCs, will no longer work for provider agencies such as The Arc; instead, they will become employees of the CCO. This is because the federal government requires “conflict-free case management,” which means that a person cannot receive care management from the same agency that provides services. They will also not be called Service Coordinators or MSCs, but rather “Care Managers.” A specialized team comprised of the Care Manager and other professionals will work ideally as his or her Care Manager, if they lose any of the benefits of Medicaid Service Coordination, Service Coordinators or MSCs, but rather “Care Managers.” A specialized team comprised of the Care Manager and other professionals will work ideally as his or her Care Manager, if they lose any of the benefits of Medicaid Service Coordination, Service Coordinators or MSCs, but rather “Care Managers.” A specialized team comprised of the Care Manager and other professionals will work ideally as his or her Care Manager, if they lose any of the benefits of Medicaid Service Coordination, Service Coordinators or MSCs, but rather “Care Managers.”

Other members of the newly formed group established to honor Margaret include Shirley Espersen, Cindy Hicks, Chris Lynch, Stephanie Metz, Kristin Provo, Sherrie Reilly, and Peggy Siebers. All are KidStart personnel who worked with Margaret during different stages of her tenure in Children’s Services at The Arc. The group is raising funds to realize one of Margaret’s ardent hopes: to develop and incorporate a Sensory Garden project to provide a safe and nurturing environment for people with special needs. The Arc’s Sensory Garden is located adjacent to the existing playground and would easily accommodate this valuable addition.

To honor Margaret’s memory and to acknowledge her caring years of dedicated service, we would very much like to fulfill her clear and hopeful vision by bringing her Sensory Garden project to fruition, says Chloe (Zigrossi) Budenhagen, a colleague of Margaret, and co-chair of The Margaret Harrington Memorial Project. With another school year underway, it is with heartfelt thoughts that we’re reminded of Margaret. Her dedication to providing the most appropriate services for children and families throughout her 18 years at the helm was combined with a continuous drive and passion to research new educational and innovative opportunities to enhance each child’s development, says Chloe (Zigrossi) Budenhagen, a colleague of Margaret, and co-chair of The Margaret Harrington Memorial Project. The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming is proudly funded and growing to meet the needs of today and tomorrow.

Cheryl Englert
Board President

Message from the President

Traveling this Fall to the state (Arc New York) and national (Arc US) meetings, I have reaffirmed my need to ask all of our extended Arc of Livingston-Wyoming family to participate in all levels of advocacy for our excellent programs for today and the future. I implore everyone to voice support for our Federal (Medicaid) and state funding sources; champion our Direct Support Professionals through the “Be Fair to Direct Care” campaign; sign the “Keep the Promise” petition at change.org to support and add to our residential sources; and support funding for our KidStart programs.

There is power in our unified voice speaking to those who represent us in all levels of government to keep all our programs fully funded as well as supported in policy. I am “Matt’s mom,” but if I am to speak for all the people we serve I need your help, emails, phone calls, and office visits to get our message out loud and clear. We are here to continue to provide the best services we possibly can to everyone who needs them.

It will take all our members to make a difference, and there are are lots of things you can do. You can call, email or visit all your government representatives. You can volunteer as a Committee and/or Board member, at fund raising or other events such as Taste of Livingston, Pike Fair, the Ramon Rocha Run/Walk, Tour de Perry, or even Breakfast with Santa.

We are here to help those who need us, in the ways they need, and it is our responsibility to stand up and speak up – to keep The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming fully funded and growing to meet the needs of today and tomorrow.