When The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming Foundation set out to honor a local business for its commitment, accessibility, and support for individuals with disabilities, making the right choice was easy as pie. On Monday, December 9, the Foundation presented The Leaning Tower pizzeria in Mount Morris with its 2019 Foundation Hero Award - topping a supreme partnership of more than 40 years.

"The Leaning Tower and The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming have been fortunate to grow alongside each other for decades," Arc Foundation Board President Tim McCallum said. "Our staff and the individuals we support love to eat at The Tower, and everyone at The Tower treats us like family. In fact, at this point, I'd say that ‘family’ is the word that best describes our relationship."

The Arc Foundation is the fundraising arm of The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming, a 501 (c) (3) private, not-for-profit agency that supports individuals locally with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Leaning Tower owners Ben Rudney and Tony Pagano accepted the award alongside a group of individuals who work at Hilltop Business Services, The Arc's vocational rehabilitation program on State Street in Mount Morris. The Hilltop program was founded on nearby Murray Hill in 1974 before moving to its current location in 1983. The Leaning Tower has been a staple of the Mount Morris community for almost as long, opening its doors to hungry customers in 1976.

In the years that followed, The Leaning Tower has delivered more to The Arc than just pizza. The restaurant is the perennial Lunch Sponsor for the Friends Fore Life Golf Tournament, The Arc Foundation's largest fundraiser, now in its 25th year. Each June for more than 10 years, The Leaning Tower has catered Hilltop's summer picnic for individuals supported by The Arc.

And when The Arc has needed the dough, The Tower has kneaded the dough, as a financial supporter of The Arc Foundation's fundraising campaigns over the years. But there's a lot more to this sauce than just monetary support.

For The Leaning Tower's owners, awareness of neighbors with disabilities began early in life. During their formative years, Craig and his brother lived there, Ben explained. "Tony and I used to play baseball together, and we knew people who worked there."

"The Leaning Tower and The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming have a long history together," Marcy VanZandt, Board President of The Arc Foundation said. "We put a lot of emphasis on the right choice being the easy choice, and The Leaning Tower embodies that."

For more information about The Arc Foundation's Foundation Hero Award, please contact The Arc Foundation at 658-2828 ext. 139 or visit www.lwarc.org.

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Message from the President

Happy New Year, Friends! A new year brings new resolutions. Any thoughts? How about choosing to make a difference in someone’s life! The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming can check those boxes:

1. Work for us! You could drive a bus, work in one of our houses, or work in the community by helping an individual become more independent! Check out our openings at lwarc.org.

2. Attend an event! We have a Taste of Livingston coming up May 19th, the Annual Dinner June 5th, Friends Fore Life Golf Tournament June 26th, and Tour de Perry on July 11th.

3. Volunteer! Share a talent or hobby with our Enrichment Program; they produced the Broadway review that’s featured on page 3. Or, share a volunteer opportunity like the one at Warsaw Food Pantry (page 7).

4. And last but not least, become a member or renew your membership for as little as $1. All memberships are for 1 year and come due in March!

You will become an ambassador by telling your friends and neighbors about what we do. Your membership gives us a louder voice when we advocate for services and funding for programs from preschool at KidStart, through our recreation, residential, and day programs. This all adds to the quality of life for the individuals we support...and that is what The Arc is all about!

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Show the more that 700 people we employ that we value what they do. Show the 1,000 plus individuals who look to The Arc for supports that you are there for them. Show the politicians in both Albany and Washington that we are a FORCE! Choose to make a difference in 2020!

Wishing you a happy and healthy New Year.

Welcome, Leaders!

On Thursday, December 12, the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Livingston class toured and learned about The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming, including KidStart, Hilltop Business Services, and a visit to the Eric Grammas IRA, one of The Arc’s Residential homes in Geneseo. Bus transport was provided by (you guessed it) our Transportation department. Thanks to all involved!
ties protect their eligibility for government benefits and improve NYSARC Trust Services has administered supplemental needs all, we are considered to be their family."

"The last few years we have also done a summer luncheon," they said. "After their birthday to a restaurant of their choice, and we have a their birthday and Christmas. We also take them out to eat for Bridge. "The committee purchases gifts for each individual for Arc of Livingston-Wyoming Guardianship Coordinator Rebecca purposes, needs/wants of our individuals, and parties," explains $13,500 Grant Benefits Guardianship about NYSARC Trust Services

About NYSARC Trust Services

NYSARC Trust Services has delivered $13,500 grant benefits guardianship supports and services to three people and is ready to assist more.

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Season’s Greetings from the Community Connections bell ringers at Tops Friendly Markets in Warsaw!

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"I... 2... 3... Broadway rules!" Rave reviews all around for the amazing cast and crew of "A Broadway Review with a Spice of Disney," the five-star performance from The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming Enrichment Program that was held Saturday, November 2 in Mount Morris.

L-R: Sarah Jennejahn, Cathie Reinard, Matt Holcomb, Tyler Garrison, Heather Burley, Richard Johannes, Tracy Kennedy, and Scott Cunningham at Wegmans in Geneseo. In December, the store donated amazing holiday gifts that were given out at a huge Arc holiday party. On Monday, January 13, Matt, Tyler, and Richard represented our Community Connections program and presented Wegmans staff with this huge thank you card for their support, partnership and friendship!

"Volunteers are critical to our operation, and our friends from East Aurora, Auburn, and Albion high schools are a big part of that," said Erika Forbes, director of volunteer services at the Arc of Livingston-Wyoming. "The students help us with everything from unpacking and shelving to real work experience, but I'm also lending a hand to people who need it."

"I feel good when I volunteer at the food pantry," she says. "I get a lot of satisfaction out of helping people and seeing the look on their faces when they receive the food they need."

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Dylan McClurg and Hannah Finch at the Hilltop Christmas Party, held Friday, December 6 at the Genesee River in Mount Morris.

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Arc Accolades

How we behave, individually and as an organization, is of the utmost importance as we empower and support people of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be independent, productive, and dignified members of our community.

Through Arc Accolades, the people we support, their families, and the public at large are able to recognize outstanding members of The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming Team who demonstrate our Brand Personality Traits. The Arc employees on these pages have been recognized over the past quarter for being Competent, Dedicated, Professional, Caring, and Innovative.

To recognize an Arc employee, visit www.lwarc.org/arc-accolades.

“Tammy has worked with my son for 2 years and she has gone above and beyond for him. She has been invested in his progress just as much as we have. He comes home and talks about her all the time. I feel very lucky he’s had her and I think he has gotten as far as he has because of her.”

“Jen is always there for me. She has helped me to get my own apartment and to talk my mom into letting me try again to have my own place. I am loving my own apartment. It is a much better fit for me; I’m so much happier in my own place. If it was not for Jen my mom would not of let me try again.”

“This group helps with the Letchworth Central School volunteers to the Castile United Church every Thursday and pack 13 backpacks for kids whose families need a little extra help with food for the weekend. After the bags are packed they bring them to LCS... through rain, sleet, and snow!”

“Adam was a bus aide and then became a bus driver. He is very caring and dedicated to his job and loves the people he works with.”

“He truly cares about his co-workers, peers, and his job. He’s truly one of a kind. He busts his butt and works through the daily physical pain all day, every day, no matter what happens. The peers all look up to him as a leader.”

“I’m beyond glad I had the experience of her kind, caring heart of gold when she was my teacher many years ago. I’m even more glad that she’s moved up within our organization and love my...
The Arc's Parchment Winter 2020 Issue

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“Melissa always strives to make sure everyone is safe. She goes above and beyond with her job and is one of the most caring people I have ever met. She’s always here for me if I ever need anything.”

Recognized for “his dedication and always being there to do activities with all individuals.”

Recognized for “his dedication to his profession and the students of KidStart. I am very proud of him.”

“Darlene is a sweet, kindhearted, hard working woman. I know I can always count on her to help me on my worst days as well as celebrate the best days with me. I just want everyone to know what an amazing person she is and how much she really helps us. Thank you Darlene for all you do!”

Recognized for “his dedication and always being there to do activities with all individuals.”

“A short story: one of Brenda’s Individuals’ parents had sent Brenda a card in the mail to recognize Brenda that read, ‘We think you are wonderful. Thank you for all you do at The Arc. They are lucky to have you! We specially thank you for taking care of our daughter.’”

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“Becky works with our daughter at Hilltop as her case manager. Casey has become more independent and confident because of Becky’s caring, dedication, and innovative ideas. Her Dad and I are thankful for Becky’s innovative ideas and her dedication to the individuals supported at The Arc.”

Recognized for “his dedication and always being there to do activities with all individuals.”

“Jen is always there for me. She has helped me to get my own apartment and to talk my mom into letting me try again to have my own place. I am loving my own apartment. It is a much better fit for me; I’m so much happier in my own place. If it was not for Jen my mom would not of let me try again.”

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“Rebecca Stroud Vocational Specialist

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“Kim always has a smile and takes the time to talk with you even on those really busy days and makes you feel at ease.”

“I’m beyond glad I had the pleasure of personally experiencing her kind, caring heart of gold when she was my teacher many years ago. And I’m even more glad I get to see her in our program, and gets to see my kids too.”

“Melissa always strives to make sure everyone is safe. She goes above and beyond with her job and is one of the most caring people I have met. She’s always here for me if I ever need anything.”

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Learn More at www.LWARC.org
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trusts since 1972, helping more than 20,000 people with disabili-
ties such as low sodium canned food. The Warsaw Food Pantry
accepts food and monetary donations year-round to meet the
needs of those with developmental disabilities.

Community Connections fills the gap in services provided by
the Arc of Livingston-Wyoming. "We are considered to
be their family," says Heather Burley, Assistant
Habilitation Coordinator for the Arc of Livingston-Wyoming.
Most importantly, the dollars help to round out the family atmo-
sphere that is desired by all.

"The last few years we have also done a summer luncheon," says
Heather. "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,
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About NYSARC Trust Services

NYSARC Trust Services has administered supplemental needs
trusts since 1972, helping more than 20,000 people with disabili-
ties protect their eligibility for government benefits and improve
their quality of life. Their trust programs give people with disabili-
ties 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 supple-
mental 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 adminis-
ter Medicare Set-Aside (MSA) accounts. For more information,
please call 1-518-439-8323 or visit www.nysarctrustservices.org.

Oh, What a Knight!

Arc of Livingston-Wyoming Executive Director Martin
Miskell and SUNY Geneseo hockey mascot Victor E Knight
at the Saturday, January 4 Community Tailgate hosted
by Campus Auxiliary Services at SUNY Geneseo. A raffle at
the event raised $270 toward adaptable bikes for KidStart!

Picture Perfect: Local Photographer Honored at State Level

Congratulations to Ginny Eley, a double winner in The Arc New York's state-wide 2019 Imagine Photo Competition: 1st Place in the
"People & Emotions" category, and 3rd Place for "Architecture & Places!"

Look closely at "See Me through the Windows in Your Eyes" (1st Place) and you will see literal windows captured serendipitously as
Ginny photographed Elizabeth Bierton, her teacher in the LIVES Program. "Where's My Door?" (3rd Place) presents a glorious doorway
into the hallowed halls of education, and ponders why the handicapped accessible entrance appears as more or less an afterthought.

Ginny is a photographer, poet, and graduate of LIVES, The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming's college experience program on the campus of
SUNY Geneseo. She is a protégé of SUNY Geneseo Campus Photographer Keith Walters, who in 2019 hosted an exhibition of her work
at the college's Brodie Fine Arts Building. Ginny's lifelong interest in the photographic arts gained significant momentum in 2016, when
she participated in the Different Point of View project, under the tutelage of area photographer Larry Tetamore. The spirit of that project,
tended to capture the perspectives of photographers with disabilities, continues to inform Ginny's work. Ginny currently serves as the
primary photographer for The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming's Public Relations department.

$13,500 Grant Benefits Guardianship

The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming received a $13,500 grant
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 individu-
als."

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

"The last few years we have also done a summer luncheon," says
Hecky. "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."
Arc Helpers Share Food, Joy All Year Round

**Even Santa’s elves** relax seasonally after a job well done. But there’s no rest for a local group of helpers who focus on a type of giving that’s needed all year round.

For participants in The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming’s Community Connections program, 2020 will mark their second year volunteering at the Warsaw Food Pantry, a community resource that supplies about 5,000 Wyoming County residents annually with healthy food and recipes.

"Volunteers are critical to our operation, and our friends from The Arc do so much," says Warsaw Food Pantry Coordinator Cindy Kiel. "We love having them come and visit us."

With its densely packed shelves and generous selection, the pantry, which is located in the lower level of the United Church of Warsaw on Main Street, feels more like a convenience store than a typical food closet. It is open to all Wyoming County residents regardless of income, and those who make use of the pantry are treated as valued customers by Cindy and her largely volunteer staff.

It’s a perfect fit for the Community Connections crew, according to Heather Burley, Assistant Habilitation Coordinator for the program.

"A lot of our guys are interested in working retail, so the experience that they gain at the Warsaw Food Pantry is super relevant," she says.

The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming is a private, not-for-profit agency that supports individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Its Community Connections program focuses on volunteerism, as a way for participants to make a difference locally while they gain skills that can lead to increased independence and employment options for the future.

Erika Forbes, who is Heather’s supervisor, calls Heather "my amazing volunteer opportunity setter-upper." And it’s an apt description; in 2019, Heather forged Community Connections’ relationship with the Warsaw Food Pantry, as well as pantries in Wayland and Geneseo that also utilize Community Connections talent.

Heather’s process: a cold call to explain the Community Connections model. The rest is history.

In similar fashion, Arc staff members have set up other successful partnerships between Community Connections and everything from a local library to a petting zoo – all in the name of volunteer service and skill building.

With the Warsaw Food Pantry, typical duties include opening cases of food, stocking shelves, and reorganizing products as needed.

The Warsaw Food Pantry accepts food and monetary donations from a range of sources including local farmers, churches, schools, service organizations, businesses, and families. But the majority of its inventory is provided by Rochester-based food bank Foodlink.

The pantry is a participant in Foodlink’s "Healthy Pantry Initiative." As such, a delivery of items such as low sodium canned veggies and fruits in natural juices arrives every other Monday morning. It’s during this peak delivery time that participants from Community Connections are needed most.

According to program participant Julie Johnston, so much unpacking and shelving can be hard work. But to Julie and her fellow Community Connections “elves,” the benefits far outweigh the effort. After all, this is about spreading goodwill throughout the year.

"I feel good when I volunteer at the food pantry," she says. "I get real work experience, but I’m also lending a hand to people who can use some help."

The Warsaw Food Pantry is located at 22 S. Main Street in Warsaw. Hours are 9:00-11:00am on Monday, Friday, and the last Thursday of the month, and 11:00am-1:00pm on Tuesday. Donations are accepted at the church during its regular office hours of 9:00am-noon. For information about The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming’s Community Connections program, contact Erika Forbes at 585-658-3311 ext. 326 or eforbes@lwarc.org.

--------- Leaning Tower continued from Page 1

Colony in nearby Sonyea was a facility for care, treatment, education, and training for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

"We had family who worked there, and we knew people who lived there," Ben explained. "Tony and I used to play baseball against some of those guys when we were kids. We’re well aware of the special needs of so many people in this area. If we can do our part to help their quality of life, we’re going to continue to do it."

For The Arc Foundation, it’s this no-nonsense recipe of kindness and respect that makes the leadership at The Tower so worthy of special recognition.

"Ben very often goes out his way to personally make deliveries to Arc sites, even when business is busy," Tim said. "This could only be because The Leaning Tower has a strong connection to the people we support."

And the sum of those everyday gestures makes all the difference in the world, Tim said. No matter how you slice it.
March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Please plan to attend a Community Forum hosted by Arc of Livingston-Wyoming Executive Director Martin Miskell and Board President Marcy VanZandt, and featuring individuals supported by The Arc to assist in bringing to life the programs and services that make a difference in their lives every day.

We’ve scheduled a Community Forum for 6:30pm Tuesday, March 31 at Perry Central School, 33 Watkins Ave, and are presently confirming a date and location for a second Community Forum in Livingston County. Please call Marianne Miller at 658-2828 ext. 139 or follow The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming on Facebook or Twitter for the latest information.

The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming is working to increase our Day Program options, to be continually person centered, attract more individuals, help with downtime, and benefit the agency financially. We’ll do a deep-dive into those programs, in addition to answering your questions about all Arc offerings.

Services for loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities are changing in ways that we have not seen in more than a generation. At an Arc Community Forum, you will learn the simple steps that any community member can take to help protect life-changing supports for our family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and classmates.

Leaning Tower continued from Page 1

Leaning Tower continued on Page 7