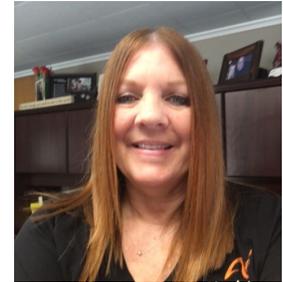


Quarterly Newsletter  
Volume 1, Issue 3  
June 2017

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## A message from our Chief Executive Officer, Sandy Amato



Dear Friends of The Arc of Southington,

This issue of the newsletter covers all of the progress and fun we’ve been up to since January. We’ve been busy with events such as our 25<sup>th</sup> annual “Moonlight & Magnolias” fundraising gala, 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Arc-a-Thon 5k Walk, and the Recreation Golf Tournament.

We hosted a legislative meeting at our headquarters in March that was well attended, and we participated in the Arc Connecticut’s lobby day at the Capitol on May 24<sup>th</sup>. We got to know our legislators and introduce them to some of our self-advocates and staff.

The Arc of Southington was the recipient of several wonderful donations including a \$1,000 Walmart Community Grant, \$500 from the Southington Professional Firefighters Union, and a \$500 Community Sponsorship Award from the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain.

We welcomed new residents, celebrated birthdays, and enabled a dream come true vacation to Graceland for a long time resident.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and encouragement. The Arc of Southington would not exist without the dedicated staff, volunteers, and donors who make our work so meaningful.

For more information on how you can get involved, please visit us at [www.arcsouthington.org](http://www.arcsouthington.org)

## Arc of Southington Granted Community Sponsorship Award

The Arc of Southington received a Community Sponsorship Award of \$500 from the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain to purchase costumes and materials to design the stage sets for the annual variety show that took place on Sunday, June 4th at the Plantsville Congregational Church.

The theme of the show was *Arc’s Got Talent!*, and featured songs, skits and more. Members of *A New Way* self-advocacy group performed solo and alongside staff from The Arc of Southington.

Proceeds from the variety show benefited *A New Way*, the self-advocacy group sponsored by The Arc of Southington. *A New Way* is a chapter of People First CT that helps individuals with disabilities better themselves in today’s challenging world.

Check out all the great photos from the show on our Facebook page! [www.facebook.com/ArcSouthington](https://www.facebook.com/ArcSouthington)

## Staff Profile: Brian Banks



Hello! I am Brian Banks, the Director of Behavioral Services at The Arc of Southington. I have been with The Arc of Southington in different roles through the years, starting out as a Program Manager in 2003. After a few years, I left for a position with another company, but still worked as a consultant for The Arc of Southington whenever they needed me. I officially came back full-time as the Director of Behavioral Services in 2012.

In my role as Director of Behavioral Services I work with the individuals, determining their behavior plans to help them learn and acquire skills with the goal of making better choices and relying on staff less. Furthermore, if a client has a behavior program or is on psychotropic medications, I am a part of their team. I frequently visit our homes and apartments to talk with our individuals and staff. Making and maintaining some level of interpersonal connectedness is important. If you are happy or angry with me, that's ok, I will still be there!

Another of my responsibilities is to reach out to other agencies and meet new people that may be a good fit for our organization. I enjoy working for The Arc of Southington because we're a small agency with a huge heart. We have people's lives in our hands, as their families have chosen us to help support them. To me, this is something special, and it is taken very seriously. People here go above and beyond what is expected and pick up when others are in need. When it comes time to make tough decisions, we are united in determining the best interests for those we support.

Over the years, I have helped people get through some of the most challenging moments of their lives. It's the times when they succeed and get through these hardships, both physically and emotionally, that bring me the most joy. Everyone at The Arc of Southington, from our CEO to part time relief staff, bring out the best in people. This is what brings me back every day.

## Arc of Southington 5K Walk Fundraiser



Handing out medals at the finish

On Saturday, April 29, we held our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Arc-a-Thon" 5K walk. This year we switched things up doing a 5K rather than a walk-a-thon. The event took place on the beautiful Southington Trail. We had over 70 walkers participate, including a group from Progressive Pathways in Southington. Members of the community as well as Arc clients tackled the 5K on what was thus far the hottest day of the year!

for helping with the tents and tables. A special shout out to the Arc staff and friends who donated their time to help set up and assist walkers. Together, we raised \$1,225!

Special thanks to our generous volunteers, particularly Judy Roberge, Maureen Jahne, Sandy Brown, and Gina LaPorte who donated all of the home made baked goods, and Randy Clair



The Progressive Pathways Crew

You can check out all of the great pics from our programs and events on our Facebook page!  
[www.facebook.com/ArcSouthington](http://www.facebook.com/ArcSouthington)

## Recreation Update

The Recreation Department's annual golf tournament was held at Hawk's Landing Golf Club in Southington on May 12th. Proceeds benefit a group of approximately 30 individuals who will enjoy a 6-day trip this summer to Lake George, NY, as well as a weekend away for others.

Mary and Judy recently attended a performance of Beauty and the Beast at Kennedy Middle School. The Recreation Department participants were treated to breakfast before the show, and pictures with the cast at its conclusion. Their day was complete after enjoying a delicious lunch at Kizyl's restaurant.



*Golfers enjoying the beautiful day!*



*Judy & Mary with the cast of Beauty & the Beast*

## SoCCA "All Access" Group

Several members of the Arc of Southington Recreation group are participating in the SoCCA "All Access" art classes. Recently, they were learning to weave lovely patterned fabric that will be turned into place mats and cross-body hand bags ready to sell in the SoCCA gift shop. Debbie Henry, a master seamstress, is volunteering her sewing abilities and time to instruct the weaving group.

The goals of the All Access program are to connect those with intellectual disabilities with their community, provide creative skills training, earn meaningful income, and most importantly, enhance quality of life through the creative process. For more information visit [www.southingtonarts.org](http://www.southingtonarts.org).



*Brandon with his first weave*



*Master Seamstress Debbie Henry*



*Chris at the floor loom*

## An Arc Member in Her Own Words...



Hello everyone, I'm Donna Brouillard, and The Arc of Southington has been an influential force in my life, spanning from childhood to the present day, and I would like to share my story with you.

From the day I was born, I've been living with a neurological condition that has affected my life considerably, however, it has also created opportunities for me, for if I had been born neuro-typical, I would have never been recommended to The Arc of Southington thirty years ago, and my life would have been very different.

I can still recall that my first Arc outing was during the winter of 1987. I remember Derek Callahan going on that trip, too. We went to The Children's Museum in New Haven that day, and I especially remember meeting two people who would go on to be honorary family to me, Dan Dickinson and his son, Craig, and in the months to come, their family as well.

As my time with Arc progressed, I became involved with many of their activities like bowling with The Arc's youth bowling team, The Sabers, therapeutic horseback riding at the current Hayes Equestrian Center (which led to participation in the 1987 Connecticut Special Olympics), and Arc Craft Nights, too.

When I was in my late teens, my involvement with Arc ground to a halt. During the time I was away, I graduated from Southington High School, and four years later, graduated from Middlesex Community College with an Associate's Degree in Fine Art. After that, I sought employment at the Southington Super Stop and Shop.

In the Fall of 2014, with Judy Roberge's encouragement, I returned to The Arc of Southington, and started anew as an adult member, getting involved with its array of activities, especially the All-Access Art Class at SoCCA.

For me, being a member of The Arc of Southington has meant having a platform to enhance my advocacy skills for myself and hopefully for others. It has also meant being able to meet all kinds of people, and to be reminded often that even though we're different, we're all identical inside our hearts, where it's truly important.

## Arc of Southington Hosts Legislative Meeting



*Self Advocates with Senator Joe Markley*

The evening of March 30<sup>th</sup> the Arc of Southington hosted a legislative meeting to connect the Southington area legislators with who we are and what we do.

Senator Joe Markley, and Representatives John Fusco and Rob Sampson attended. Guests included Mary Hayden from the CT Sibling Connection, Tom Fiorentino, Board President of Arc CT, A New Way Self Advocates (Carnezz, Wendy, Jenny & Becky), Arc of Southington board members Walter Rice and Bob Holm, and many staff.

We discussed our concerns about the state budget, the challenges family members face when trying to secure placement for their loved ones with I/DD, the power of self-advocacy and the importance of community involvement and awareness.

## A Dream Come True Trip to Graceland



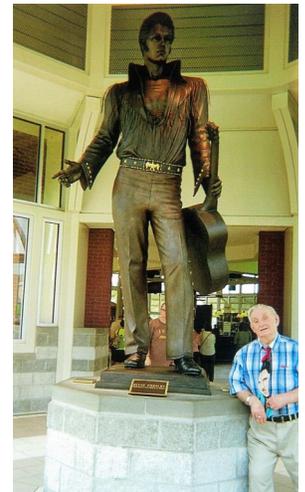
Last April, Bill went with his staff on a three-day trip to Memphis, Tennessee to visit Elvis's home at Graceland. This has been Bill's hope and dream for quite some time. In addition to visiting Elvis's house, Bill paid his respects at Elvis's burial site, and got to see the many cars that Elvis drove on the Blue's City Elvis/Memphis tour. Bill also visited Sun Studios (where Elvis and many other rock and roll greats recorded their music), and the Memphis Rock N' Soul Museum, which tells the complete story of Memphis music history. To finish off the trip, Bill went on his first horse and carriage ride and stated that the part he enjoyed the most was getting to pet the horse!



*Among the memorabilia*



*Chilling in Elvis's living room!*



*Bill with a statue of the King*

## Resident Update



*Welcome William*

*We welcomed several new residents to our Arc family over the last few months.*

William joined us on May 1st and now lives at one of our homes in Cheshire.

Sheryl T. and Sheryl N. made the move to their own apartments from Bristol to Plantsville.

Kristina moved in with Wendy to share an apartment in Plantsville. This was a huge move for Kristina transitioning from group home care to independent living!

## Moonlight & Magnolias Gala Marks 25th Anniversary

The Arc of Southington celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala at the Aqua Turf on March 25. The theme of this year's gala was Moonlight & Magnolias that offered a lovely backdrop to an elegant affair. We had over 200 guests who dined on a sumptuous sit down feast and danced the night away. Our silent auction and raffle featured a wide variety of items including vacation packages, sports memorabilia, wine, beautiful raffle baskets and so much more. Senator Richard Blumenthal stopped by to address the crowd and meet some of our clients and staff. In total we raised over \$11,000 to support our programs!



### ***Thank You Sponsors!***

#### ***Platinum Sponsor***

**Hancock Pharmacy & Surgical**

#### ***Gold Sponsors***

**Holm Corrugated Container  
Workers' Compensation Trust**

#### ***Silver Sponsors***

**Mr. & Mrs. Walter Rice  
Brown & Brown Insurance Company**

#### ***Bronze Sponsors***

**Southington Disability Commission  
Guilmartin, DiPiro & Sokolowski, LLC**

## Southington Firefighters Donate



L to R are Firefighter Dan Comen; Arc employees Tricia Gibney, Carolyn Williams, Lyn Lorenzo, and CEO Sandy Amato; Captain Eric D'Arcy

The Arc of Southington was the recipient of a \$500 donation from the Southington Professional Firefighters Union, Local 2033. Their members recently participated in a cooking competition benefitting the Dream Ride Event and chose to donate their prize money to The Arc of Southington.

The donation was a complete surprise and we all were delighted when the firefighters showed up at our offices in the big truck to present the donation!

The union believes in giving back to the community beyond their day of service.

## Birthday Celebrations!



We celebrated several birthdays this quarter! Erica and Lisa celebrated with house parties in April, Rita & Judy celebrated with a party at the Arc headquarters in May, and Mary will be celebrating her 50th with a party at the Arc later this month! Happy Birthday to all!



Rita



Judy



Erica



Lisa



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*Check out our website!*  
[www.arcsouthington.org](http://www.arcsouthington.org)

## ***Save the Date!***

**Friday, September 22, 2017**

*An evening with Psychic Medium Rebecca Anne LoCicero*

*Proceeds to benefit The Arc of Southington*

*Details coming soon....*