



People Profile: Amanda

Amanda takes part in The Arc's employment program and was recently named employee of the month. She currently works at American Helping Hands. She helps mail out the company's range of products, like American flags and scented candles.

Upcoming Events

• Junior Board's Shamrock Shindig—Friday, March 14

The luck of the Irish could be with you when you attend this event at Avondale Brewery starting at 6pm. Enjoy some great food, locally brewed beer and great music for a cost of \$50 per person or \$80 per couple. Visit instagift.com/shamrockshindig for tickets. Your donation includes a chance at some incredible prizes.



• Monthly RecyclABILITY Shred Day—Thursday, March 27

Come to The Arc's main campus at 215 21st Avenue South from 1pm to 4pm with your confidential documents to have them securely destroyed. Cost is \$5 per banker box, \$10 per extra large sized box and \$5 per grocery bag of documents.

March is Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Celebrate the achievements of those around you who have intellectual disabilities and share about your involvement with The Arc to others as a way to mark this month.

215 21st Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35205
(205) 705-1800
arcofjeff.org



Board Members

Jack Knight, President
Phillip Richards, Past President
Ina Leonard, 1st Vice President
Bob Kracke, 2nd Vice President
Brad Paramore, Treasurer
Nancy Smith, Secretary

Jeff Adams
Jennifer Brakefield
Mark Branin
Dr. Michelle Bridgewater
Charlie Carper
Scott Comas
Deborah Hinton
Mary McPhillips
Larry Nix
John Norman
Becky Parsons
Kay Sanford
Grace Smith
Dr. Theresa Strong
Jerri Vining
Barbara Vinson

arcofjeff.org
205.705.1800

Achieve

this issue

- Arc Earns Two-Year Certification **P.2**
- Clay Shoot and Decked Out Results **P.5**
- Royal Cup's RecyclABILITY Support **P.6**
- Long-Time Employees Honored **P.7**



Renovations Begin On New Main Campus

The consumers and staff of The Arc of Jefferson County are one step closer to moving into the organization's new main campus. Renovations have started on the building, located off Crestwood Boulevard.

A new roof is in place, and new plumbing and fixtures are 75 percent complete. The move is something to look forward to for so many associated with The Arc.

"The staff is excited about the building," says CEO Chris Stewart. "It's because we've outgrown our current facilities. It's a dream come true."

The Arc's main campus is currently located off Green Springs Highway. It has been the organization's "home" for more than five decades.

While the building has been added on to and has served the Arc well, Stewart says it was time to find another place. Managers at The Arc quickly found the vacated Salvation Army Youth Detention Center and plans for renovations began.

Painting of the more than thirty rooms, kitchen, chapel and others areas started the last week of January and should last a few weeks. Next is new flooring and then wiring

the building for computers and phones.

As renovations have begun, community supporters are hearing about The Arc's future move and making donations to help. For example, a local insurance company merged with another and had some extra furniture. These cubicles, desks and filing racks from USI will all come in handy at the new campus.

Moving day is not too far away. Stewart estimates administrative staff will be in the new campus by late March or early April, and the building will fully be serving consumers in July.

It's welcome news to staff like Derek Bond. The Associate Director of Day and Work Programs is hopeful about what it all could mean to the people The Arc serves.

"The move to the Crestwood building will provide consumers and staff with increased opportunities for recreation and training," says Bond. "Having access to a full functioning gym, several kitchens, and numerous classrooms presents The Arc of Jefferson County with a unique opportunity to improve on the overall day programming experience."

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 2586

Achieve

The Newsletter of the Arc of Jefferson County Winter 2014



Main Campus

Alice E. Pigman Center
215 21st Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35205
205.323.6383

H.O.P.E. Program (Early Intervention)

2105 Joyce Street
Birmingham, AL 35205
205.322.4500

Day, Vocational and Financial Office

Tom Leonard Center
2665 Hackberry Road
Birmingham, AL 35226
205.503.4031

ArcWay Industries (Employment Program)

228 1st Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35202
205.322.9055

Arc North

4017 Village Drive
Birmingham, AL 35215
205.856.2912

Services in Blount Co. Residential & Adult Support

615 Fairground Avenue
Oneonta, AL 35121
205.625.3552

Cleveland Workshop

365 Head Drive
Cleveland, AL 35049



Steven takes part in The Arc's services and is employed at The Arc's United Way Food Bank.

The Arc Earns Two Year Certification

The Arc of Jefferson County recently received a two-year certification through the Alabama Department of Mental Health. It's the highest level of certification an organization can earn in the review process.

According to The Arc of Jefferson County Associate Director Nancy Cook, the way the state reviewed agencies serving those with disabilities changed this past year. In previous years, the Arc's certification process took place at the facility level, meaning each residential home or day activity program center was certified and received their own individual score. This year, the Department of Mental Health looked at The Arc overall.

"This year's certification included new standards and a different process than what we've experienced," says Cook.

The state looked at thirteen different factors and sent representatives on site visits to evaluate The Arc on each one of them. To earn the two-year certification, The Arc scored 100 percent on three of them, including safety, best possible health and protection from abuse and neglect. In the remaining factors like staff resources and rights protection, The Arc scored 90 percent or more.

"This new certification process is more focused on the individuals served and their responses and the information they provide regarding the services they receive," says Cook. "We are conducting more in-depth interviews with individuals we serve. We want to make sure they are experiencing the things they want to experience through the services we provide."

The Alabama Department

of Mental Health reviews service providers across the state to monitor the programs provided to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. A provider needs the certification to literally stay in business, and also receive state and federal funding.

"It's exciting to get the two years across the board," says Cook. "We will continue to work on areas that need improvement, and based on the review, we feel we are moving in the right direction."



Be sure to "like" and check out The Arc of Jefferson County on Facebook.



Arc Employees Honored

The fall membership dinner celebrated long-time employees and informed members and supporters of the upcoming move for The Arc's main campus. The event, which was football themed, was held in November at the Alice Pigman Center cafeteria.

Among those honored was Marriette Horschel, Residential Assistant Director. She's celebrating twenty years at The Arc.

"This is the kind of job you have to have a heart for—you don't do it for a paycheck," says Horschel. "Several of those ladies who got pinned with me I hired and I know they are here for the same reason."

CEO Chris Stewart commends all staff members who were honored.

"These employees have a commitment to The Arc and the people we serve. It's a job for your heart and soul."

Stewart is also grateful for the support The Arc receives from its members, who gather twice a year.

"These dinners give us the opportunity for feedback with those we don't see on a regular basis," says Stewart.

Beginning in the Spring of 2014, membership gatherings will be held during lunch time in lieu of a regularly scheduled board meeting.

Remembering Marguerite

The Arc of Jefferson County celebrates the life of Marguerite Davidson, an Arc participant who passed away in November. Marguerite took part in activities in Blount County.

She enjoyed country music and loved her family and Arc friends. Many of the Arc staff and consumers rallied around her as she took part in the Relay For Life events



in the Oneonta area. Their Relay team raised more than \$300 by selling luminaria bags in her honor. This picture is from the most recent Relay.

Marguerite will be missed greatly. Thank you to Marguerite's family for their generous support and referral of gifts to The Arc in her memory.

Employees Honored at Fall Membership Dinner:

5 Year Recipients

Larry Anderson
Helen Cervantes
Fabian Cipollari
Paula Garfield
Patricia Hartley
Rhonda Hitt
Keahley Lowe
Geraldine Maze
Sandra Rudolph

10 Year Recipients

Natalie Ludwig
Teena Miles
Roderick Rogers

20 Year Recipients

Lorri Cowan
Clarence Cowan
Annie Dickerson
Barbara Franklin
Deborah Hicks
Marriette Horschel
Lizzie Kennedy
Donna Reid
Betty Taylor

RecyclABILITY and its NAID AAA Certification

The Arc of Jefferson County's RecyclABILITY program has once again received the AAA certification by the National Association for Information Destruction (NAID), a differentiating certification that only a few of the businesses in the field can claim. The RecyclABILITY program has been AAA certified since 2010.

The RecyclABILITY program attained the certification by submitting for critical review their policies and document destruction procedure manuals, employment records, promotional materials, logs and paperwork to verify that they meet the requirements.

To maintain the certification, the program is audited annually. For more information on what it means to be NAID AAA certified, visit naidonline.org.



Service with a smile is exactly what Gena Hyatt at Royal Cup Coffee received when she hired RecyclABILITY to shred some of the company's documents.

"The guys were so pleasant, respectful and excited about their job," says Hyatt.

RecyclABILITY is part of the employment services program at The Arc of Jefferson County. People with intellectual disabilities are employed to run the truck, which destroys documents on site for businesses and even homeowners.

Hyatt with Royal Cup first interacted with The Arc during a tour she took for United Way of one of The Arc's campuses. Shortly after she got a call about the possibility of hiring RecyclABILITY.

"My experience could not have been better. From the beginning, setting up the appointment was so easy. The crew came out and did the hard job of carrying the boxes outside to the truck. I even enjoyed visiting with the workers while we waited for the truck to pack the paper down. It was all wonderful and easy, breezy!" says Hyatt.

After documents are destroyed with RecyclABILITY, the remnants are recycled. Customers can even ask for a certificate to show that those items were taken care of through the program.

Using RecyclABILITY also helps bring awareness to the benefits of integrating the workforce with people who have intellectual disabilities. Hyatt says hiring



Success Story: Royal Cup Coffee

RecyclABILITY has changed her perspective.

"I know there must be hundreds of local companies that employ disabled individuals," says Hyatt. "Since my encounter with The Arc and its RecyclABILITY program, I keep my eyes and ears open for any of these companies and the opportunity to work with them."

**To set up an
appointment
with
RecyclABILITY
or for more
information,
contact
Letessia
Penick at
205.423.6234.**



The Arc's Development Coordinator Amanda Marcrum with FOX6's Jeh Pruitt at Selwood Farm. Live interviews aired all morning on Good Day Alabama promoting the clay shoot.

The Arc of Jefferson County's Annual Sporting Clays event was held again at Selwood Farm's wonderful facilities on Friday, December 6. Despite the chilly temperatures earlier in the week during FOX6's live promotion of the event, The Arc dodged both the cold and the rain that had been predicted and

enjoyed a sunny, fairly warm day out on the course.

The event raised more than five thousand dollars for The Arc. Thank you to Wells Fargo and Matrix Wealth Management for sponsoring the event.

Participants also bid on items in our silent auction ranging from a shot gun to a night out on the town.

Annual Clay Shoot Successful at Selwood Farm

A barbecue lunch was generously donated to the event from a local church and several businesses. Congratulations to the team from Allstate who averaged 87 out of 100 targets.

Plans are already underway for the 2014 sporting clays event. Save the date on your calendars for Friday, August 1st.

Spring Cleaning?

Don't forget The Arc's donation trailer. We take used household goods, clothes, furniture, games, books, electronic equipment, tools...really anything!

A consignment/auction business in Bessemer helps us sell the items and the proceeds go to The Arc of Jefferson County.

Last year, your donations of goods led to almost \$10,000 coming back to the organization.

For more information, contact the Development office at 205.705.1809.

Decked Out Dash 2013

The weather outside certainly was frightful this year and washed out The Arc of Jefferson County's Decked Out Dash. We held onto hope until the last minute we could get the race in, but the morning proved too dreary with mud and rain puddles surrounding the course and event venue.

Participants were especially looking forward to this year's Dash because of some additions made to the event. Not only was Santa taking a brief moment from his busy schedule to meet with runners, a jolly elf had collected hundreds of Christmas songs to deejay the event. A festive themed photo booth was also going to be open to capture the holiday spirit.

Thanks to all the participants who asked The Arc to keep their registration fees as donations. T-shirts are still available through the development office for \$12.



Thanks to Jagger Anderson of Helena and his dad for not letting the rain dampen their holiday cheer. They held their own "Decked Out Dash" the next day to show their support for The Arc.

Around the Arc

Events from October, November, December and January



The Arc’s Day Programs held Halloween parties. Tyrone chose to be Batman thanks to some volunteers who painted faces, and Laurel dressed up to be a witch.



Some of our residential consumers went on a Coosa River cruise in the fall. Seen here are Stephen, Jody and James with staff partner Patricia.



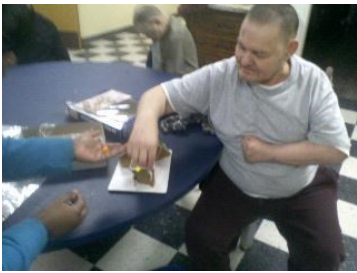
Members of Trinity AME Zion Church from Ensley served a Thanksgiving meal to many of our residential consumers from Hoover, Homewood and other areas.



Christmas parties took place across Arc campuses including this Hawaii themed one put on by the North Central and North units (staff above). To the left are Glenn and Nicole who hit the dance floor!



Employees from Bayside Business Solutions brought Christmas stockings for all day programming participants at the Alice Pigman Center. Jennifer sure enjoyed hers!



The North Central residential unit celebrated Christmas in many ways. Here’s Johnny making a gingerbread house.



Arc Way Industries held a job fair in January where employers came to interview consumers who are part of The Arc’s employment program. Joseph spoke with Curtis Giles from Break Time Food Services about a job.



Erin before her donation to Locks of Love, with her long locks in a bun.

It’s been said a woman’s hair is her crown of glory. Back in November, Erin of the North Central unit of The Arc of Jefferson County sacrificed her own crown to give someone an invaluable gift. She grew her hair for months to have it donated to Locks of Love.

“I heard about Locks of Love while watching the news one day,” says Erin. “I called my dad and he told me about children who need help and I wanted to donate my hair to them.”

Locks of Love is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. Most of the children helped by Locks of Love

have lost their hair due to a medical condition called alopecia areata, which has no known cause or cure.

When asked how much hair she donated, Erin simply states, “A lot!”



Erin after her donation

Locks of Love requires that a minimum of ten inches be given.

“Going from having that much hair to not much at all was weird,” says Erin. “My head is lighter now.”

A Crown of Glory

Managers at the North Central Unit of The Arc say Erin’s example has left an impressionable impact on everyone there. Erin says she appreciates the services she receives through The Arc of Jefferson County and therefore was excited to know she could offer her services to someone else in need.

“I know they need it more than I do,” says Erin.

Erin now sports a stylish, cropped do similar to those worn by today’s young celebrities such as Jennifer Lawrence and Ginnifer Goodwin. Erin giggles at the comparison.

“I love my new hair! It has taken some time to get used to the length, but it is very easy to fix now.”

Become A Member of The Arc of Jefferson County

We are grateful for the hundreds of people in our community who support The Arc by becoming members of our organization. Member benefits include automatic membership with The Arc of The United States, admission into The Arc of Jefferson County’s biannual membership gatherings, and subscriptions to The Arc of Jefferson County and The Arc of The United States newsletters. Plus, your donation is tax deductible.

There are three options for membership.

Individual	\$12
Family	\$25
Lifetime	\$200

Please contact Jasmine at the main campus at 205.705.1800.