

THE ARC MID-HUDSON'S PARKSIDE PRESCHOOL RECEIVES A \$25,000 GRANT FROM NEARING BUTREMUK FAMILY FOUNDATION

On Monday, November 15, 2021, the Nearing Butremuk Family Foundation generously donated \$25,000 to The Arc Mid-Hudson Parkside Preschool, located in Putnam County.

Preschool Director Jane Curtin received a phone call from Joe DeMarzo, president of the Board of the Nearing Butremuk Family Foundation, announcing the good news. The grant will enable

Parkside Preschool to enhance and continue its music therapy program, along with many other needs the school has for its 2022 academic year.

"Parkside Preschool is so fortunate to be the recipient of this extraordinarily generous grant from the Nearing Butremuk Family Foundation once again this year," said Jane Curtin. "We are so grateful for the Foundation's

ongoing recognition and support of the work we do at Parkside with young children with autism spectrum disorders and other special needs. The grant monies afford a professional music therapy enrichment program that provides stimulating, fun, and therapeutic learning experiences for our students.

The Nearing Butremuk Family Foundation is located in Carmel,

NY, and works on philanthropy issues. They have long been a donor and supporter of The Arc Mid-Hudson and Parkside School.



GOVERNOR HOCHUL ANNOUNCED \$1.5 BILLION TO CAREGIVERS



Governor Kathy Hochul announced that the New York Office for People with Developmental Disabilities will provide over

\$1.5 billion in onetime American Rescue Plan Act Funding to support recruitment efforts, retention incentives, and vaccination bonuses for direct support professionals who provide support for people with developmental disabilities in an effort to address workforce shortages in this field.

"Direct Support Professionals provided essential support to people with developmental disabilities throughout the pandemic when we needed them most, in spite of the risk to themselves and their own families," Governor Hochul said. "We owe these workers a debt of gratitude, and the American Rescue Plan funding paves the way for bonuses, incentives and onetime pay raises to help keep these hardworking, loyal, and devoted workers doing what they love most, supporting people with developmental disabilities."

New York State submitted its initial draft spending plan to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for the enhanced federal funding provided by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 on July 8, 2021. The CMS has provided partial approval

of the plan as it relates to the workforce.

As approved, OPWDD's plan targeted most of the funding to workforce initiatives, including payments to provide bonuses to DSPs and family care providers. OPWDD plans to invest the onetime ARPA funding in workforce improvements and incentives, including:

- A "Heroes Fund" which will provide incentive payments to those DSPs who worked during the unprecedented pandemic, with additional payments for those who received the COVID vaccine.

- Retention and longevity bonuses will make additional investments in the workforce by rewarding longevity and providing additional bonuses to staff who remain in the DSP workforce.

- Long-term recruitment and retention strategies which will be developed and tested with funding for projects that address the long-term stability of the workforce. Funding will be made available to incentivize credentialing and other strategies that build skills and competency of DSP workforce and frontline supervisors.

Acting Commissioner of the New York Office for People with Developmental Disabilities Kerri E. Neifeld said, "Direct support professionals provide

essential services to people with developmental disabilities so they can lead rich and rewarding lives of their choosing. They are the backbone of our system and they bravely showed up to work throughout the pandemic to care for and support some of the most vulnerable New Yorkers. Although the work is emotionally and physically taxing, direct support is a labor of love for the people who choose this career. As commissioner, I am pleased to be able to make crucial investments in the direct support workforce through the American Rescue Plan Act funds and look forward to continuing to support this vital workforce."

Senator John W. Mannion said, "Securing this vital federal funding and directing it toward the well-being of an overworked and depleted workforce is a strong signal from Governor Kathy Hochul that New York State is committed to overcoming the staffing crisis. The entire care delivery system in the developmental disabilities field is built on the work performed by Direct Support Professionals. We can show our thanks and appreciation for their vital, caring, and compassionate work by providing a living wage and recruiting more people into the field. This investment will help begin to address the extreme workforce shortages and ultimately lead to better services for tens of thousands of New Yorkers with

an intellectual or developmental disability and their families."

Michael Seereiter, president and CEO of the New York Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation, said, "These resources begin to help stem the exodus of Direct Support Professionals from our field by recognizing DSPs for the extraordinary work they have always done - but especially that which DSPs demonstrated throughout the pandemic, literally sacrificing their own health and well-being for that of people with disabilities they support. This commitment represents a refreshing new perspective in governmental priorities and serves as an extraordinary down payment toward raising up the DSP profession, as DSPs help raise up New Yorkers with disabilities to be all that they can be."

Erik Geizer, chief executive officer, The Arc New York, said, "Our essential workforce is the foundation of supports and services for New Yorkers with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and these funds represent the first step in what we hope will be a sustained investment in our workforce. We are very pleased to hear the waiver was approved, and grateful to state leadership for ensuring the funds will be directed to address our most critical needs."

Article posted on November 18, 2021 at governor.ny.gov.

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*Family member of person who receives support from The Arc Mid-Hudson.

Tell Me Something Good

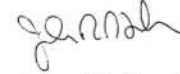
At the risk of “dating” myself, how many people remember the song “Tell Me Something Good” by Rufus? I was thinking about that song (actually singing it in my head) the other day, as news of a new COVID variant was emerging. Like many of us, I was thinking, “here we go again.”

It is easy for all of us to fall into the trap of depression and despair when we read about all the things that are going wrong in the world today. There’s the pandemic, inflation, reports of violence, staffing issues, and on and on and on. So much of what we read and see during our day is very negative and depressing. Sometimes we become jaded and pessimistic about everything in our lives. In addition to that, the holidays actually cause some people to fall into depression, as well.

My message this month is to not despair. There are many good things in our lives that we can point towards that sometimes get clouded because of all the negativity that bombards us. If we just pause for a moment to think, I believe we could come up with a list of ten things that are good in our lives. In fact, I want you to tell us what is good in your life. What is going on in your department, the group home you work in, or the program that you are a part of? Share it with us so we can share it with others. Let’s put it on our website, post it on Facebook, or print it in this newsletter. Let’s counteract all the negative “stuff” with positive stories about what’s going well in your life.

We cannot get caught up in all the bad things that are happening in the world. That does not mean we ignore them, but that we do not let it impact our lives and how we present ourselves to our families, friends, and co-workers. I am blessed with many good things in my life, and one of the biggest blessings is being a part of this wonderful agency that has so many dedicated and hard-working people in it. I want to wish all of you the happiest holiday season and a very healthy new year. God bless.

Sincerely,



John McHugh
 Executive Director
 The Arc Mid-Hudson



PLANNED GIVING

The past year has reminded us how fortunate we are to have the unwavering support and dedication of our donors and volunteers. We thank you for making it possible for us to face the many challenges of 2021. You have strengthened our ability to plan for our future.

Expanded Tax Benefits for Charitable Giving in 2021

As you plan your year-end charitable contributions, we would like to remind you of some important CARES Act provisions that are scheduled to expire on December 31 (unless Congress acts). These tax incentives may benefit you and provide a means for you to make a gift to The Arc Mid-Hudson. They include:

- Deduction for Individuals Who Don't Itemize

The law now includes a charitable giving incentive that allows taxpayers who take the standard

deduction to make up to \$300 in charitable cash contributions for single filers and \$600 for married couples filing jointly to qualified charities like ours.

- 100% Limit on Eligible Cash Contributions

If you itemize your deductions, the law allows for cash contributions to qualified charities such as ours to be deducted up to 100% of your adjusted gross income for the 2021 calendar year.

Popular Year-End Giving Strategies

- Contribution of Appreciated Securities

Avoid capital gains while helping others. When you donate securities, you receive the same income tax savings that you would if you wrote a check, but with the added benefit of eliminating capital gains taxes on the transfer, which can be as high as 20%.

- Qualified Charitable Distribution

For donors taking the standard deduction, a QCD is an attractive gift option. Individuals over age 70 can donate up to \$100,000 from their IRA by December 31, 2021. Beginning in the year you turn 72, you can use your gift to

satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD). You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions.



The Arc Mid-Hudson has established the **Legacy Society** to celebrate and thank individuals who have remembered The Arc Mid-Hudson by creating a lasting legacy in their estate plans. Through their generous support, Legacy Society members play a vital role in defining our future success and inspiring others to join a society of forward-thinking, philanthropic supporters.

For further information, contact Lori McCabe, Senior Director of Communications and Development, at Lori.McCabe@ArcMH.org

CORNELL CREATIVE ARTS CENTER



We are excited to show off a new mural inside the Arts Center! Check out what Elena Lo-McEnaney, artist and member of the CCAC team, had to say about the mural creation process:

What was the inspiration behind the mural design?

"We knew we wanted to do wings because they're uplifting. Our mission is all about removing barriers and obstacles in the arts community, to encourage people to dive into the artistic process and take flight, so to speak, without fear of failure or judgment. They symbolize freedom. People can stand in front of the wings and take their photo with the wings,



use the hashtag #SoarAtCCAC, and spread the message that you never really know what you may be able to do until you try. It's OK to try something artistic even if you are new to it. I had never painted a mural before, but the process is already so rewarding!" The Winter Wonderland gallery opening was held on December 11. Many locals stopped by to enjoy the beauty of winter through the eyes of local Hudson Valley artists, as well as take their photos in front of the wings.

Attendees had the opportunity to make ornaments and enjoy hot chocolate and cookies to celebrate the beauty of winter in the Hudson Valley. CCAC was excited to feature the Ellenville

Central School District and Mrs. Streeter's 3rd grade class. Students had created acrylic snowflakes on 6x6 canvas and each was displayed in an exciting fashion on the Arts Center's wall.

The Community Garden is also coming along nicely. Feel free to stop by and add your flower to the growing garden, located at 129 Cornell Street in Kingston, NY.



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

We would like to introduce you to our 2021 Gold Level Sponsors — NFP and Alera Group/Relph Benefit Advisors.



NFP is a leading insurance broker and consultant that provides employee benefits, specialized property and casualty, retirement, and individual private client

solutions through our licensed subsidiaries and affiliates. Our expertise is matched by our commitment to each client's goals and is enhanced by our investments in innovative technologies in the insurance brokerage and consulting space. For more information, visit www.NFP.com.



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EVENTS

The Arc Mid-Hudson's Roy A. Gonyea Jr. Fall Golf Classic Raised Over \$60,000.

On Monday, September 13, 2021, 125 golfers teed off in The Arc Mid-Hudson's Roy A. Gonyea, Jr. Fall Golf Classic at Wiltwyck Golf Club in Kingston, NY.

The generous support of our Corporate and Event Sponsors (Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy, Rifton Equipment, Rose & Kiernan, Inc., Alera Group/Relph Benefit Advisors, LW Tree Service, Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, Rondout Savings, Dutton Architecture, Ulster Federal Credit Union, Bob and Merriam Boening, Wallkill Valley Federal, Ulster Savings, NXG Insurance Group, Hudson Valley Social Media, Adam's Fairacre Farms, O'Connor

& Partners, Bank of Greene County, Atlantic, Getler, Gomes & Sutton, Columbia Memorial Hospital, MyTown Marketplace, Herzog's, Viking Industries, FMC Maintenance, Arold Construction, Doyle Security, BKD, CPA, Rusk, Wadlin, Heppner & Martuscello, LLP, Ole Savannah Southern Bar & Grill, Timely Signs, and Moroney's Harley-Davidson) helped to raise over \$60,000 for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Golfers enjoyed a beautiful sunny day, with a continental breakfast provided by various donors and sponsors, as well as a delicious lunch and dinner provided by Wiltwyck Golf Club. A good time was had by all, and the Roy A. Gonyea, Jr. Fall Golf Classic continues to be one of the Hudson Valley's best golf tournaments.

Congratulations to the winners of this year's tournament: John Bennett, Robert Dziados, Sr., Robert Dziados, Jr. and Travis Blarton. The winner of our 50/50 Raffle, LW Tree Service, generously donated their winnings of \$528 back to The Arc Mid-Hudson.



The Arc Mid-Hudson raised over \$44,000 at this year's Annual Holiday Auction.

The Arc Mid-Hudson held its 29th Annual Holiday Auction on Friday, November 12, 2021. Once again, the auction went virtual with the theme "Winter Wishes and Snowflake Kisses."

Auction items were available for online bidding from November 5-12, 2021. There were 153 auction items available, including a Club Wyndham Resort Vacation, Foursome for Golf at Wiltwyck Golf Club, a beautiful Citizen Promaster Tsuno Chrono Racer Watch, and a visit from the Good Humor Man with a truck full of ice cream! The live presentation was held at The Arc Mid-Hudson office building located at 471 Albany Avenue in Kingston. Samantha Michaels and Brian Liston, both residents of a supported home in Saugerties, spoke about the holidays they celebrate. Videos of supported individuals in their homes, celebrating the holidays, were also shown throughout the event.

The Arc Mid-Hudson would like to thank the live auctioneers, Nadine Ferraro of Upstate Original, and Bob Siracusano from Sawyer Motors for once again helping us to have a successful event. The Arc Mid-Hudson would also like to thank their generous sponsors: Hudson Regional LTC Pharmacy, Rifton Equipment, Rose & Kiernan, Inc., Alera Group/Relph Benefit Advisors, LW Tree Service, Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, Rondout Savings Bank, Dutton Architecture, Ulster Federal Credit Union, Wallkill Federal Savings and Loan, Ulster Savings Bank, Bob & Merriam Boening, and many more for their continuous support of the agency.



SAVE THE DATES!

February 18:
Wine and Dine

March 18:
Perfect Pairings

May 22:
Humanitarian Awards Brunch

June 27:
Summer Golf Classic

September 12:
Fall Golf Classic

November 18:
Holiday Auction Cocktail Party

December 3:
Luminaries of Love

Here's your new edition of

insight

Specially created for:

Everyone at The Arc Mid-Hudson wishes you and yours a very happy holiday!

— THE ARC MID-HUDSON FOUNDATION 2021 ANNUAL APPEAL —



Help Us Make This SMART Home A Reality For People We Support!

WHAT THE SMART HOME WILL OFFER:

One floor, open-concept space with wide hallways that will allow two wheelchairs to pass each other.

8 single bedrooms with 4 bathrooms.

Many of the SMART house functions such as temperature control, light switches, security system and television can be controlled by resident's smart device.

Large kitchen and living room that allow everyone to gather together.

Some kitchen counters are lowered so residents who use a wheelchair can participate in food preparation.

A private room where parents/guardians can meet with their family members.

For people who live with disabilities, SMART home technology is powerful and allows the people we support to live a more independent and empowered life. Your support is critical to the success of this project. Please consider a year-end gift today, of any amount, to The Arc Mid-Hudson's Annual Appeal. You may donate online at arcmhfoundation.org/donate-now. Donations can also be mailed to:

The Arc Mid-Hudson Foundation
471 Albany Avenue
Kingston, NY 12401

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to The Arc Mid-Hudson and the individuals that we serve.

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STAY
CONNECTED



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You can also share your stories and give us feedback. Visit us often – there's always something happening!



Tell us what you think

Did you enjoy this newsletter?

Have a story you'd like to share for our next edition?

Send us an email at info@arcmh.org

We value your input.