

The Arc of Blackstone Valley
LIVE • LEARN • WORK • PLAY
500 Prospect Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860
www.bvcriarc.org
contact@bvcriarc.org

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit #264
Pawtucket, RI

WINTER
2017

The Arc of Blackstone Valley Resource

LIVE • LEARN • WORK

A PUBLICATION FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE ARC OF BLACKSTONE VALLEY



Our Pawtucket Hall of Fame Inductee, Anna McLaughlin!

For over 17 years, Anna McLaughlin's dedication as program director and horticultural therapist at The Arc of Blackstone Valley has transformed Slater Memorial Park's old Zoo site into a beautiful place for residents and visitors. Her passion as a horticultural therapist has benefited our consumers who participate in her classes, create floral arrangements and design centerpieces for the Gift Shop.

"She makes a difference in people's lives every day."

*-Elaine Scott,
Associate Director,
The Arc of Blackstone Valley*



Nicole Hicks and Anna McLaughlin

clubs, libraries and church groups. Her vision and passion for the City of Pawtucket is evident. Anna has volunteered extensively at many events at Slater Park, including the annual Pawtucket Arts Festival. Her commitment to improving the city and also the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities is truly a testament to her caring personality, dedication and leadership.

Associate Director Elaine Scott recently said, "We are so very proud of the work that Anna does and how she makes a difference in people's lives every day. She has also been an integral part of the overall beautification of Slater Park and for that, the entire city should be proud. On behalf of all of us at The Arc, thank you for your dedication to our Arc family and congratulations on being an inductee in one of the strongest Hall of Fame classes ever!"

As a University of Rhode Island Master Gardener, she has been a gifted speaker on garden related topics at area social

dedication to our Arc family and congratulations on being an inductee in one of the strongest Hall of Fame classes ever!"



Arc Staff celebrating Anna's Induction on October 28, 2016

Amazon.com will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to



whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

Support The Arc with your everyday, seasonal or holiday shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0300152)!

**Just copy this link into your browser:
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/05-0300152>**

amazon smile gives back!

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

SUPPORT THE ARC OF BLACKSTONE VALLEY BY DOING ALL OF YOUR SHOPPING AT [SMILE.AMAZON.COM](https://smile.amazon.com)

For more information about our programs, call (401) 727-0150, go to our Web site at www.bvcriarc.org or e-mail contact@bvcriarc.org.

The Arc of Blackstone Valley is committed to supporting people with developmental disabilities secure the opportunity to choose and realize their goals of where and how they live, learn, work and play



Letter from the CEO

As we celebrate the holiday season and the end of 2016, we look back on a year filled with many new initiatives and accomplishments. It is exciting to see how we continue to

have a steadfast focus on providing quality care to all of our consumers, while also embarking on strategic initiatives that will provide community-based employment opportunities and a vision for individualized, self-directed achievement.

Together let's celebrate these 2016 accomplishments:

The Arc received \$90,000 from the Conversion Institute Trust Fund to support a major transition in employment training, placement and support, along with several other initiatives in fulfillment of the US Department of Justice's Consent Decree.

\$58,000 was raised to support the creation of a state-of-the-art computer center that will transform our vocational training program to include online job applications and much more.

In March we celebrated Dale Newton with two awards: Professional of the Year and 35 Years of Service to the Arc!

The 35th Annual Golf Outing and Live Auction on June 6th generated \$40,000 to support programs and services of The Arc.

In October, we co-sponsored "A New Path-Employment Information Session for Families of Adults with I/DD and had over 40 people in attendance. Arc panelists Mary Babiec, Luis Delgado, and Karen Lema gave outstanding presentations about their current jobs.

Also in October, our own Anna McLaughlin, Director of Daggett Farm Greenhouse and Gift Shop was inducted into the Pawtucket Hall of Fame!

Veterans For Tomorrow (VFT), our newest affordable housing complex for homeless veterans, received two exciting awards: RI Monthly's 2016 Annual Design and a 2016 Rhody Award for Historic Preservation.

As we look ahead to 2017, let's continue to unite in our journey to pursue self-advocacy on a statewide level and to give a voice to each and every member of The Arc of Blackstone Valley family!

Sincerely,

John J. Padien III
Chief Executive Officer

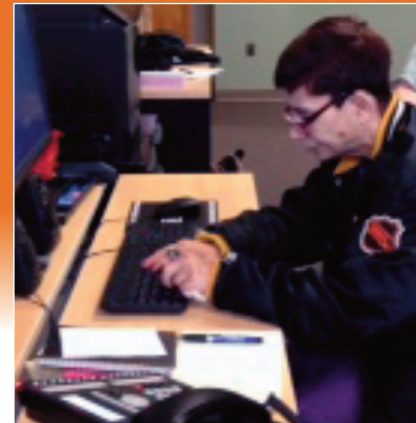


COO Kathy Hunt, Board Member Bill Szafarowicz, and Ann Telfer accept the 2016 Rhody Award from Preservation Rhode Island and The Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission for Veterans For Tomorrow

Consumers enjoy our new Computer Lab!

What are the parts of a computer and how do I log in? How does one research a topic using Google?

These are the basic questions that new users ask and three of our consumers Kevin, Terry, and Denise were able to answer these questions after their first, hands-on experience. With guidance by staff member Kathy Ryan, all three individually described the parts of a computer, used the mouse and opened the Google search bar to research a topic. Using the mouse and keyboard Kevin types in "how to write a resume" which surfaced quickly through a convenient drop-down menu. After looking at several sites, he successfully navigated out of the menu options.



Terry signs in!

On the other side of the room, Kathy has the projector running, with a new laptop computer showcasing several YouTube videos that are set to provide group instruction. The short video clips include learning about basic computer components, how to navigate various search engines, and how to search YouTube for instructional videos on topics of interest. The new computer lab has brought state-of-the-art technology to our vocational training program with the expectation of helping consumers to become proficient users, as well as pursuing job searches and completing applications on line.

The large desktop computer is equipped with special software including Zoom Text for individuals with low vision and Dragon Naturally Speaking for individuals with language and/or fine motor challenges. In addition to the desktop, the new lab also has three tablets and two laptop computers to accommodate group instruction or independent work. Over time, we expect to see consumers completing job interviews using Skype or FaceTime or perhaps practicing the art of interviewing using a virtual-reality interview simulator.

Thanks to several generous foundations and donors, this computer laboratory became a reality this fall: Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation, The Ocean State Charities Trust, The Emma G. Harris Foundation, The John E. Fogarty Foundation, The Conversion Institute Trust Fund and proceeds from the 2015 Annual Arc of Blackstone Valley Golf Outing and Live Auction.

Dear Arc Friend,

Some years ago you came to The Arc of Blackstone Valley to seek services and support for your loved one with developmental disabilities. Thank you for that heartfelt act of trust. We have worked hard to maintain that trust ever since.

Over the past year, we have worked to secure new funding for our state of the art computer resource center through several one-time grants. We are so pleased to have this up and running now. However, the cause for quality recreational and other community programs for your loved one needs to continue. Consider being a champion of The Arc by making a year-end gift which will be used to support recreation and social activities not covered by state or federal funding!

*Sincerely,
Jack and Kathy*

Staff Attend the 2016 Arc National Convention & International Forum

In late October, Board members and staff attended the 2016 National Convention & International Forum sponsored by The Arc USA and Inclusion International. One of our favorite sessions was an inspiring dialogue between brothers Walter and Owen Suskind, stars of the new documentary film *Life, Animated*.



Owen, who has autism, learned how to speak, write and communicate by memorizing and mimicking Disney characters and films. We encourage our entire Arc family to watch this inspirational and at times, humorous documentary highlighting the importance of a sibling bond.

COO Kathy Hunt, *Life, Animated* Co-stars Walter and Owen Suskind, and Ann Telfer pose for a picture

CONGRATULATIONS...

...to Mary, Luis and Karen for delivering a strong and engaging panel presentation on October 13th as part of "A New Path-Employment Information Session for Families of Adults with Intellectual Disabilities." Over 40 attendees listened to our panelists describe how they got their jobs, what their job responsibilities entail and how important it is for them to work in the community.



Mary, Luis and Karen

The evening seminar was coordinated by Claire Rosenbaum, Adult Supports Coordinator at RIC's Sherlock Center. Families, staff and consumers learned about employment opportunities, work incentives, benefits and family engagement. We hope to schedule future evening events for families in our community who are interested in learning more about The Arc's Resource Center for Vocational Services.

Donations of \$100 or more from August 1, 2016 through November 15, 2016

Crown Collision Centers
Mrs. Roberta Dery
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gendreau
Mr. Thomas Hodge
Bequest of Lester B. Keats
Dr. Margaret Klitzke
Ms. Erna LaPlume
Mr. Theodore Larson

Ms. Camille Letourneau
Manning-Heffern
Funeral Home
Ms. Elizabeth Murray
National Van Builders
Mr. James O'Sullivan
Mr. Frank Plante
Mrs. Gloria Reis
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Sullivan

Mr. Joseph Tumidajski
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Voigt

IN MEMORIAM:
Ms. Lillian Brule

*DONATIONS RECEIVED
IN MEMORY OF:*
Ms. Lillian Brule
Mrs. Mary Oldham

.....**special thanks**.....

Thank you to the **Emma G. Harris Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee** for a \$10,000 grant to support vocational training and instruction for our consumers in our new Computer Center. We are also grateful to the **John E. Moran Foundation** for a \$1,500 grant to support yoga instruction provided by Shri Service Corps!