



# Achieve



**The Arc**  
Bristol County

## *This just in...*

**March 27, 2014:** The CDC has just announced new numbers in autism prevalence: 1 in every 68 children under the age of 21 has autism spectrum disorder, including 1 in every 42 boys. This is a 29% increase since the last update (1 in 88 in 2012). Please go to our website [www.arcnbc.org](http://www.arcnbc.org) for the link to the full story.



## *Legislators hear The Arc's concerns*



Two legislative breakfasts were held in March to discuss budgetary issues with our state legislators. The Arc of Bristol County partnered with Attleboro Enterprises, Inc., BETA Community Partnerships and Kennedy Donovan Center to bring our mutual issues to the attention of the Massachusetts legislators. On March 7th, over 80 people gathered at Cardi's furniture to discuss the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the need for continued support. Legislators attending included Sen. Richard Ross, Rep. Betty Poirier, Rep. Paul Heroux and Lisa Nelson, Senior Aide to Congressman Joe Kennedy. Leo Sarkissian, Executive Director of The Arc of Massachusetts moderated the breakfast.

On March 14th, 40 supporters were gathered at The Arc of Greater Fall River to meet with Rep. Antonio

Cabral, Sen. Michael Rodrigues, and Rep. Carole Fiola. Barbara A. L'Italien, Director of Government Affairs for The Arc of Massachusetts was the moderator. Thanks to all who participated in the breakfasts and represented the interests of the families we serve. More information about Massachusetts legislative process can be found at <http://www.arcmass.org>.



# Welcome

Dear Friends of  
The Arc,

After this long winter season, we are all looking forward to a hopeful and pleasant spring. Here at The Arc of Bristol County, we're excited about many new and interesting things to offer our community. I have highlighted some below to name a few:



-March was Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month; we have joined with others across the country to support inclusion!

-April is national Autism Awareness Month and The Arc and The Autism NOW National Autism Resource & Information Center are working to empower people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) with the

information and resources they need to live their lives to the fullest potential. We are also working to help others become more aware and accepting of people with ASDs.

-The Arc's Adult Services has once again received full two years certification from the MA Department of Developmental Services

-A story of The Arcs working together to provide emergency supports in a storm 700 miles away

-Honoring our employees. This month's employee of the quarter, Kelly Donovan, for their outstanding dedication. As well as the ADDP Direct Support Professional of the Year- Mark Bumpurs received recognition on March 21, 2014.

-Our Child and Family Services Department has moved to a new location at 146 Pleasant Street in Attleboro, and will offer expanded services of the Family Support Center.

The Arc also just hosted two legislative breakfasts to open a dialogue between those needing

assistance and the legislators deciding on budgetary issues. The breakfasts were held in collaboration with Attleboro Enterprises, Inc., Kennedy Donovan Center and BETA Community Partnerships. Thanks to all who attended: legislators, family members, staff and individuals. Your advocacy is critical throughout this Spring for each respective state budget- if funding is reduced or eliminated, so will services.

I encourage you to visit our website [www.arcnbc.org](http://www.arcnbc.org) for the latest events and news from The Arc. Through the website, please sign up for our e-newsletter, and be informed of workshops, activities and various ways you can help The Arc. Your involvement strengthens our agency and increases our impact on the families who need us.

Best regards,

Michael Andrade  
President and CEO

## The Arc Awarded Highest Licensure and Certification

The Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services Office of Quality Enhancement has awarded The Arc of Bristol County's Adult Services Department the highest licensure and certification available, once again. The Arc was awarded two-year licenses for both its day and residential supports, and was commended for having met 100% of the residential and day support indicators during the review.

The new Licensure and Certification process went very smoothly and they gave feedback after each audit including: "...A strength of the agency is the strength of many staff in both residential and day supports, as they clearly respected, encouraged and fostered individuals to maximize their independence in community activities. The team also noted that individuals were

provided with information and guidance based on their unique needs and interests to understand the pros and cons of making decisions which broadened their independence and increased their confidence."

"I cannot say enough about our outstanding staff and supporters who work tirelessly in providing the

highest level of care to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities," said Michael Andrade, President and CEO of The Arc of Bristol County. "We take great pride in providing progressive and individualized services, meeting the needs of each person who seeks our help. It's wonderful to have this effort recognized by the State and reaching their highest standards."

**31st Annual State Representative Cup**  
to benefit the Advocacy Resource Center of Greater New Bedford

Monday, June 9, 2014  
12:30 pm Shotgun  
Country Club of New Bedford  
North Dartmouth, MA

Please call Lisa Furtado at 508.996.8551 for more information. **Sponsorship opportunities available.**

# Attleboro resident's new-found friends help him get back home

by Rick Foster, Sun Chronicle Staff  
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ATTLEBORO - Bob Deshetres unexpectedly spent two days in Detroit recently when a blizzard delayed the disabled man's diverted airline flight.

But staff members of The Arc, a nationwide advocacy organization, worked together across hundreds of miles to make sure he got home safely.

Deshetres, 68, of Attleboro, is intellectually disabled and had flown to Florida in December to spend time with his mother and sister. He was due to leave on his return trip Jan. 6, but his initial flight was delayed and a substitute plane was diverted to Detroit, where the airport was soon shut down by snow.

"I had to stay overnight in the airport," said Deshetres, one of about 2,000 intellectually disabled persons served by the Arc of Bristol County. "I had a blanket covering me, but it was cold."

Deshetres, who stayed in regular phone contact with The Arc of

Bristol County President and CEO Michael Andrade and team supervisor Sandy Boyer, quickly became the target of a rescue effort linking Arc offices in two states.

Airport security personnel also got involved to help the Attleboro senior.

Local Arc officials, unable to find alternate transportation for Deshetres, reached out to The Arc of Dearborn Director Lisa Nygord.

Nygord went to the airport as soon as she heard, and contacted Deshetres. She and her husband brought the 68-year-old to eat at Chili's and found him a hotel room.

They also returned the following morning to shuttle the weary traveler to his early morning flight back to Providence.

Later that day, Deshetres arrived safe back in New England.

"It seemed like it was a long time since I'd seen my apartment,"

said Deshetres, who added he was grateful to his Arc protectors.

Arc of Bristol County Director of Development Patricia Kirby said the interstate effort on Deshetres' behalf was heartwarming, but not surprising.

"People who are in this work are in it because they care," she said.

Boyer said she found Deshetres' safe return and cooperation between agencies hundreds of miles apart particularly rewarding.

"I'm just proud that the agency I've devoted so much time to, being a national organization, was there to help halfway across the country," she said.

Deshetres said that in several trips to visit Florida, this was the first time he's ever been marooned in an airport. He said he doesn't harbor any fears about flying again.

"Probably not in the winter, though," he said.

## Diversity Banner

The Arc of Bristol County dba proAbility's Diversity Committee implemented a survey to gain information on the diversity of its employees and to celebrate the diversity of the workforce. The Diversity Survey completed in July of 2013 indicated our employees come from eighteen different countries of origin. A banner of flags representing the

eighteen countries of origin will be displayed at each location for a few months of the year. The Diversity Committee would like to thank Valerie Zagami for creation of this Diversity Banner.



## Mark Bumpurs - Direct Support Professional of the Year

*"He is the most selfless, compassionate, patient, respectful and capable caregiver that I have met. He is endlessly cheerful and fun loving even in the most difficult situations."*

*"He treats her with unfailing respect, all of the time."*

*"Mark is truly a force for good, working to transform our world into a place where everyone belongs by showing the way himself. He and Jessica are a powerful partnership!"*

*"Mark is worthy of awards, kudos, recognition, praise, and thanks from our family and the community for his wonderful care for Jessica. We are grateful knowing that he is her caregiver, and that she is in such dedicated, loving hands. He is a light and source of inspiration to those around him."*

The quotes above are just a sampling of the nomination letters The Arc received in support of Mark Bumpurs receiving the 2014 Direct Support Professional Award from



Michael Andrade with Mark Bumpurs and Lesley Azzinaro at the ADDP Award presentation

the Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers on March 21, 2014. The Arc of Bristol County's Board of Directors and Michael Andrade congratulated Mark on receiving this prestigious award, "Your work for The Arc has been extraordinary, and it is a great honor to have it recognized by an

outside professional organization like ADDP. This award brings honor to the rest of our agency, and we greatly thank you for all you do to bring professionalism, compassion and quality to the work we do." Congratulations Mark, on this well-deserved honor!

## A Mother's Letter

Our family has been so fortunate to be involved with The Arc of Bristol County. We have two children on the Autism Spectrum who require some special services. The Arc has been instrumental in providing guidance when we didn't know what direction to go. They offer valuable seminars to help you learn about what resources are available and how to go about applying for them. The team we have been so grateful to have worked with: Beth Bogus, Cathryn Vasconcelos & Amanda Masi have shared information and resources that we otherwise wouldn't have known was available.

We have had some challenging times over the past 4 years and the Family Support Center has stepped in to offer support and guidance. As an example they have a Dad's group which meets monthly, which my husband enjoys attending. Cathryn used to come to our home once a week to check in and make sure things were going well with the boys. I truly looked forward to her visits. When times were tough she provided us funding to help buy new mattresses for the boys when they desperately needed them!

The wonderful programs that The Arc offers are second to none. My boys had such a hard

time participating in organized sports, we didn't really know what to do; The Arc offered ACT, Active Children Together, it was wonderful. We have participated in family days, hay rides, an outing to the Paw Sox for the boys first baseball game, and many vacation camps. During the vacation camps the boys had the opportunity to ride a horse, it was an amazing day for them! The boys have taken an art class, gone bowling and swimming and many other fun activities which they always enjoy. We are truly grateful for all The Arc has done for our family!

~ Amy Flaherty

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## Recognize someone who's provided extraordinary dedication to those served by The Arc...

*If you know a person or organization that has made a difference in support of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families; please consider nominating them for any one of The Arc of Bristol County's 2012 Annual Awards listed below:*



**Sandra Andrade Self Determination Award:** honors an individual with a disability who has demonstrated exemplary self advocacy skills for themselves or on behalf of others.

**Family Leadership Choice Award:** pays tribute to the commitment of our organization's founders. The award honors an individual and/or family member who has provided exemplary support, guidance, and advocacy to and on behalf of families.

**Community Excellence Award:** recognizes outstanding accomplishments by community members who embody practices that promote inclusion and integration. This award is presented to an individual or community organization that has shown an outstanding commitment to the principles of The Arc.

**Arc Spirit Award:** recognizes a volunteer and/or employee who had advanced the mission of the organization. An individual's contribution must have a large impact for those supported by the organization.

Awards will be presented at The Arc of Bristol County's upcoming Annual Celebration to be held on Wednesday, June 11, 2014 at The Holiday Inn Mansfield-Foxboro. We ask that all award recipients are available to attend this event.

Nominations must be received by May 1, 2014. If you have any questions, please contact Patricia Kirby at (508) 226-1445 ext. 3111 or [pkirby@arcnbc.org](mailto:pkirby@arcnbc.org). Nominations may also be made online at [www.arcnbc.org](http://www.arcnbc.org).

**Instructions:** Nomination forms are available on our website [www.arcnbc.org](http://www.arcnbc.org) or contact any Arc office. Please complete the nomination form and submit with a letter of nomination by May 1, 2012. Letters of nomination must include specific examples of how and why the candidate qualifies for this award. Please limit all letters of nomination to one (1) page. Candidates will be evaluated on the basis of how they consistently demonstrate excellence, creativity and commitment in the award category.

**Mail, fax, deliver or email nomination by May 1, 2014 to:**

Patricia Kirby  
The Arc of Bristol County  
141 Park Street, Attleboro, MA 02703  
Fax: (508) 226-1476  
[pkirby@arcnbc.org](mailto:pkirby@arcnbc.org)

## proAbility Employment Services Works for Jordan

Jordan is employed. One of the day program participants has gained competitive integrated employment. Jordan has been with the day program since October of 2011. He has been looking for a job since he joined us. All of his hard work paid off in December of 2013 when he had an interview with Wood Boat and Motor of Warwick, RI. Jordan works every Friday 10:00 to 2:00. Jordan performs custodial duties such as sweeping, vacuuming, keeping the boats in the show room sparkling and ready for sale. Jordan states that the best part of the job is, "the people, the people that I work with" ! "I really like the work I do there and I am proud of myself"! Jordan is an example to all of the participants here that sticking to your goals in tough times is the way to achieve them.



## Spring Flapjack Breakfast

Fundraiser for  
The Arc of Bristol County

**Saturday, May 3  
8 to 10 a.m.**

Breakfast service  
ends at 9:45 am



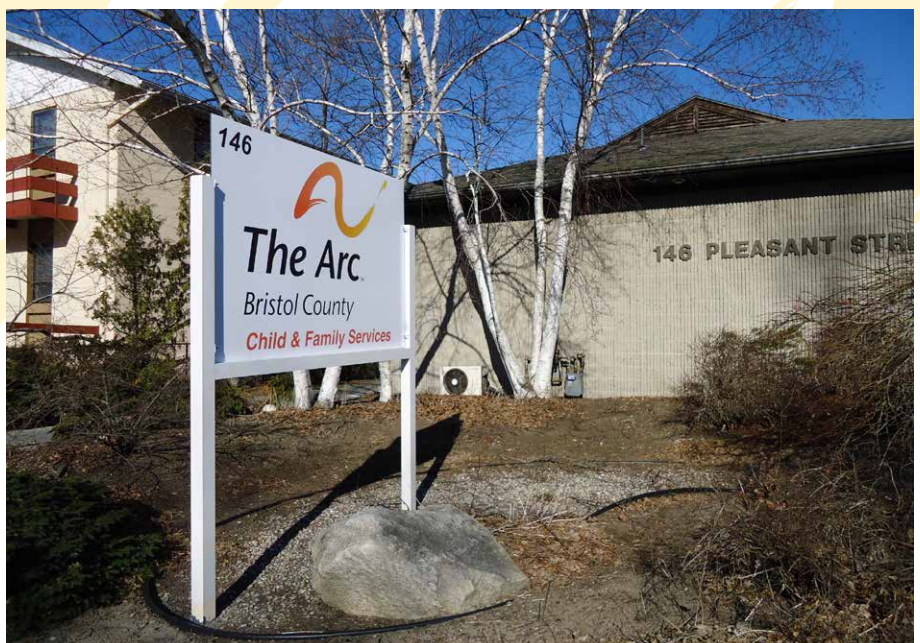
900 S. Washington St.  
North Attleboro, MA

\$8 per person  
proceeds support recreational  
activities for those of all ages  
with developmental  
disabilities

TICKETS: 508-226-1445,  
ext. 3105 or email [dbrown@arcnbc.org](mailto:dbrown@arcnbc.org)  
or purchase online  
at [arcnbc.org](http://arcnbc.org)

## New Pleasant Street Location

The Arc's Child & Family Services Department recently expanded its services to 146 Pleasant Street in Attleboro. This includes staff that work in Family Support and Adult Family Care Services. We welcome the individuals, families, and caregivers whom we support and our community partners to join us for our open house on April 17 from 3-7 p.m. at the new location. Please note that our mailing address is still 141 Park Street in Attleboro and our phone number (508-226-1445) and extensions remain the same.



## Community Connections



In February, The Arc of Greater Fall River Resource Center hosted a Valentine's Sweetheart Dance and invited participants from Middleboro's Day Habilitation Services. Our Project Rec-Connect also shared a Seal Watch activity with the Fall River Resource Center. It was cold, but a great time was had by all.

## Kelly Donovan

### Employee of the Quarter

Hi, I would like to nominate Kelly Donovan, our family AFC Coordinator, as Employee of the Quarter. Kelly



Donovan exemplifies the perfect model of what an AFC Coordinator is all about. Kelly is able to demonstrate professionalism while administering the necessary guidelines and procedures required of the AFC Program, at the same time, she is a true friend and supportive partner for my daughter, me and family. Kelly never makes us feel like she is just doing a job. My family has a support system in place, thanks in large part, to the amazing job done by Kelly. A caregiver's job is never done, and can be extremely stressful at times. Kelly helps alleviate the stress by consistently lending her support, answering questions, providing resolutions and guidance. I cannot think of one instance when Kelly has not been there for my daughter. She is a positive person who can be counted on to give her all in helping us succeed in this program. Kelly's integrity is apparent in everything she says and does for my family. Kelly's kind and caring attitude is an asset to The Arc; as well as her knowledge and professionalism. The Arc is fortunate to have such a wonderful employee. My family is fortunate to have her.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Lima, AFC Provider

## Flutie Funds iPad Program for Middleboro and Taunton

In 2013, The Arc of Bristol County Middleboro Day Habilitation Program received funding through the Flutie Foundation's Allison Keller iPad Program to purchase iPads, Otterbox cases and the communication application Proloquo2go.

The program has integrated this technology into their daily curriculum with attendees using the devices to acquire and enhance skills in a variety of areas. Attendees have used the iPads to complete skill-based activities including money skills, communication, newsletter, fitness activities, nutrition and self-advocacy.

Attendees have also worked with the Proloquo2Go application to express their feelings, thoughts, wants and needs. Proloquo2Go has been an important tool used to communicate a variety of things that otherwise may have gone unknown. Attendees and their



families are so pleased with the results many have purchased the same technology for their personal use.

We look forward to exploring the endless uses and opportunities that this technology will provide for program attendees.

The Arc received the good news in January 2014 that our Taunton office was awarded the Flutie grant to begin the iPad Program. Thank you to the Flutie Foundation for this great opportunity!

#### ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

141 Park Street  
Attleboro, MA 02703  
Tel: (508) 226-1445 • Fax: (508) 226-1476  
Toll Free: (888) 343-3301  
Web: www.arcnbc.org

#### THE ARC OF GREATER FALL RIVER

182 North Main Street  
Fall River, MA 02720  
Tel: (508) 679-0001 • Fax: (508) 679-9375

#### DAY HABILITATION SERVICES

5 Mill Street  
Middleboro, MA 02346  
Tel: (508) 946-2121 • Fax: (508) 946-2195

#### THE ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER OF GREATER NEW BEDFORD

412 B County Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
Tel: (508) 996-8551 • Fax: (508) 996-8553

#### PROABILITY

333 George Washington Hwy.  
Smithfield, RI 02917  
Tel: (401) 233-1634 • Fax: (401) 233-1674

#### TAUNTON AREA RESOURCE CENTER

437 Bay Street  
Taunton, MA 02780  
Tel: (508) 884-2971 • Fax: (508) 884-2964



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Achieve with us.*

## Family Support Center Support Groups

The Family Support Center provides a wide variety of trainings, talks, family days, support groups, and service navigation for families whose loved ones have intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The Family Support Coordinators provide a variety of resources and supports to families and / or individuals in the greater Taunton / Attleboro area. Our Family Support Coordinators work with each person to understand their needs, as well as, provide individualized supports that will be meaningful to them. At times this means connecting families to existing services / supports in the area, but other times it may mean connecting to other families in similar situations or exploring non-traditional supports.

Through our Project Kids Connect

(PKC) program we connect children and teens that have intellectual and developmental disabilities with other community members, supporting inclusion at various community activities. PKC provides supported recreation opportunities and vacation clubs for school-aged children.

The Family Support Center's library and resource room can be found at 146 Pleasant Street. The center is generally open Monday through Friday from 8:30am till 5pm however we suggest that you call first to ensure space and that a coordinator is available to assist you in navigating the service system. The center is open to anyone and everyone interested in exploring services. We look forward to hearing from you. Stop in or give us a call at 508-226-1445 extension 3118.

### SibShops

**Where:** The Arc, Attleboro  
Our SibShops' program is specially designed for brothers and sisters, between the ages of 6-12. Registration is required.

### Moms' Night Out

**Where:** This program alternates between Attleboro & Taunton restaurants  
**When:** Every 2nd Wednesday from 6:00-8:00pm. Light food is provided.

### Dads' Night Out

**Where:** The Arc, Attleboro  
**When:** Every 3rd Monday of the month, from 6:00-7:30pm. Pizza is provided.

*For more info SibShops, Moms', and Dads' groups, please call Amanda Masi at 508-226-1445 ext. 3130 or amasi@arcnbc.org*