

The  
**Arc**  
Of Schuyler

Chapter NYSARC, Inc.  
United Way Agency

*30 Years*

*of* **BELIEVING IN DREAMS**  
*and*  
**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**



The Arc of Schuyler was founded by a group of dedicated parents and interested citizens.

**1979**



A Day Treatment Program, supporting 40 individuals opens at Padua. The Arc's first residential facility program, a community residence on Church Street in Odessa, NY, opens with 13 residents. Employees - 40, Budget - \$1.05 million.

**1983**

**1978**



In response to the lack of services and opportunities for individuals with disabilities, parents/staff initiate a ground-breaking program called Glen Industries. A Work Center opens with a staff of 3 and 10 individuals in the gymnasium building at St. Anthony of Padua in Watkins Glen, NY with a budget of \$160,000.

**1982**



The closure of Craig and Newark Developmental Centers allows more individuals to move home and into the community. The Arc opens a home for 10 people on Cedar Street in Watkins Glen, NY. Employees - 65.

# Advocacy, Partnership, Involvement.

At The Arc of Schuyler, our vision is to be the best at supporting people with disabilities and their families in their everyday quest for the freedom to make choices about their lives and the services they receive.

Our journey began 30 years ago with a staff of four serving 12 persons with disabilities seeking training and employment in a supportive environment. Today our staff of 155 supports over 300 people, offering them and their families a lifetime of support in the form of individualized training, employment, and residential opportunities that enable them to realize their dreams.

We envision a future in which people with disabilities are fully included as members of a community that embraces the diversity of all people, and values individuals for who they are.

As we celebrate our progress, we also continue to challenge our thinking and find new ways to achieve our vision. We want to thank the many individuals, businesses and organizations that continue to share our vision and have championed our efforts over the years. We are fortunate to be part of a community that is open to inclusiveness and supports the dreams of our agency and the individuals and families we support.

James E. Wilson, Executive Director

Shirley Kohena, President, Board of Directors

## Coming home...

Imagine taking your 9-year-old son to the doctor and being told the best thing for him and your family is to place him in an institution. Ethel Warren will never forget that day, and the ride home without her son Donny.

"Donny had beautiful blue eyes and a great smile," Ethel said of her 56-year-old son, who passed away in March 2008. "When we cared for him at home, he used to love to sit out on our porch step. He only had about a 20-word vocabulary, but back then you wouldn't have known about his condition or frankly what to do. You depended on 'professionals' to help."

Brain damage and tubersclerosis left Don severely disabled and experiencing over a dozen seizures a day, added Ethel.

Don was placed at the Craig Developmental Center near Mt. Morris, NY. When the State of New York closed Craig years later, Don was one of the first Schuyler County residents to transition to a new home in the community run by The Arc of Schuyler in Watkins Glen.

"I will always remember the day I received that call," Ethel said. "I couldn't believe it. It was such good news to hear that he could come home and be close to family."

Don's stay at The Arc residence on Cedar Street in Watkins Glen ended when it was determined that his medical needs changed and he required the care level of a skilled nursing facility. Over a period of time staffing and program changes within The Arc made it possible for him to return to another home operated by The Arc. One constant for Don during this time was his participation in The Arc's Day Habilitation Program. He also participated in numerous outings and community activities.

Charmaine Wade, along with many others, supported Don while he lived at The Arc's residence on Canal Street in Montour Falls. She remembers Don's family, "They were wonderful and always were involved in his life," she said.

For Ethel, the feeling was mutual. "The staff at Donny's house constantly went beyond what they had to do, and it was always with a smile," she explained.

"I was so thankful for how they worked with and supported him to help him reach his potential," Ethel added. "The last four years he had more of a life than he'd ever had. He especially loved to go bowling on Saturdays, and to my house for lunch. He truly found success and happiness."



Began offering in-home support services through a Family Support Program.



Big changes occurred in 1990 as The Arc opened a home for 12 people on Canal Street in Montour Falls, NY and moved all of its offices and programs from the Padua gymnasium to the former Polio Dairy and Cheese plant on Twelfth Street in Watkins Glen, NY. Employees – 115.

1984

1986

1988

Another apartment opens on Jackson Street in Watkins Glen and becomes home for two additional gentlemen. Employees – 78, Budget – \$1.65 million.



1985

Franklin Street Supportive Apartment opens in Watkins Glen, NY and is home for 2 gentlemen.

1987



1990

The Glen Industries vocational training program is approved as a contract agency to provide new services through the NYS Education Department's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (now known as Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities or VESID). Revenues continued to increase, growing to \$1.53 million.

Transportation services are expanded as The Arc becomes a NYS Department of Transportation Contract Carrier.

## to a better way of life...

Lana Robbins and her brother, Rick Soule, grew up on a farm with five other siblings. Rick, born prematurely, became blind after being given too much oxygen at the hospital. Their mother did her best to obtain help for her son, but became discouraged with the system because nothing came without a fight. Upon her mother's death, Lana, a former employee at The Arc of Schuyler's Day Program and Family Outreach Program, became caregiver to Rick, now 55.

Lana has seen life become easier for people with disabilities in our community, thanks to the work and advocacy of The Arc. "They have given people like my brother opportunities that they never had. Rick and other people with disabilities have choices now, as do parents and caregivers," she said.

"The Arc has offered new opportunities, and Rick now has his own room, which makes him very happy, and he knows all the people he's with, so it is more like a family," Lana explained.

## that mirrors one's dreams.

Every day when the rooster crows at 5:30 in the morning, Jason Crane wakes up to his dream. The 30 year old has his own home in Montour Falls, a job he loves at the Take a Break Café in The Arc's cafeteria at their facility in Watkins Glen, and the freedom to come and go and do what he wants during his time off.

With the help of The Arc of Schuyler, Jason explored a number of residential options, but none met his need for privacy and connection to the community. When a staff member suggested his parents' old house, Dyanna Crane was not sure that she was ready for that.

"It has been six months now, and it is going well," she said. "Jason is very happy." This experience has taught her not to be afraid to try new things. "The first situation may not be the right thing, but keep trying. You never know what's going to work," she said.

Having a developmental disability has not limited Jason's independence. He shares his one-bedroom house with his cat, Nightrider, and his barn is home to a number of chickens and a rooster. Jason administers his own medicines, cooks, cleans, does laundry, mows his lawn, rakes leaves, and fills the bird feeders. When he has somewhere to go, he hops on his bike or gets a ride from

The biggest difference Lana notices is how much more engaged Rick is in his daily life than he was at home. "Our family was never held back from doing things, but Rick didn't actively participate," she said. Lana lists a few of the things he enjoys, such as his current involvement in the 12th Street day habilitation program where he learns a variety of skills, bowling, dancing, shopping, and participating in the Special Olympics.

"The Arc has helped the Schuyler County community become accepting of people with disabilities by being visible and giving people they support the opportunity to live normal lives like everyone else," she added.

Lana's own health problems have forced her to limit her day-to-day involvement in her brother's care. "I need to let others take over more," she said. "I felt guilty at first, but I know that he's in the right place and in safe hands with The Arc. She continues to meet quarterly with The Arc team to discuss Rick's support and his goals.

friends and family. He uses transportation through The Arc to come and go from work and never misses a day.

The Arc provides Jason with support, specifically through its Family Support Program. He receives help with shopping on Saturdays and Mondays, and monthly visits with his service coordinator to ensure he has everything that he needs.

Jason chooses to spend two afternoons a week at a GED class for reading and algebra, is active in his church, and has been a proud participant in the Schuyler Steps Out community health walk, taking over 10,000 steps a day. Through The Arc he enjoys going bowling, being part of a theatrical group called the Twelfth Street Players, and doing track and field in the Special Olympics. Jason is active in the local self advocacy group, having served as secretary for 3 years. "Speak Up/Speak Out" is the local group's motto and Jason exemplifies why people with disabilities need to speak up about what they want, be listened to, and given the chance to achieve their goals. He has encouraged other people with disabilities on the local, regional and statewide level to voice their concerns and let people know what they value in life as well. "Being on his own is what puts a smile on Jason's face, and he was not going to settle for anything less than his dream," added his proud mom. "He knows that there is a whole world out there, and he wants to be part of it."



The Arc began opening smaller homes beginning with a site on Glen Avenue in Watkins Glen that has been home for 5 people. An additional home for 5 people was opened on L'Hommedieu Avenue in Montour Falls, NY. Employees - 128, Budget - \$4.9 million.



Planning begins for the "right" sizing of The Arc's 3 larger homes as parents and residents identify the need for smaller residential options at these sites.

1991

Revenues grew to \$3.2 million dollars.

The Arc converted its Day Treatment Program to a Day Habilitation Program in order to put more emphasis on community inclusion and individualized services.

1995

1994



Established independent service coordination department and began providing service coordination.

1997

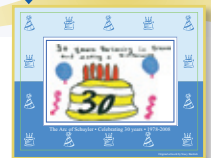
2002



Saw the opening of a home for 5 people on Route 79 in Burdett, NY. Employees -145, Budget - \$6.24 million.

2006

2008



The Arc celebrates 30 years of Believing in Dreams and Making a Difference. Employees - 155, Budget - \$8.7million.

## ***Our Mission***

The Arc of Schuyler is committed to securing for all people with disabilities the opportunity to choose and realize their goals of where and how they learn, live, work and play. This is accomplished by creating an environment of independence, productivity and integration through individualized services.

The Arc is further committed to reducing the incidents and limiting the consequences of disabilities through education, research, advocacy and the support of family, friends and community.

Through the successful pursuit of quality and justice, The Arc provides leadership in the field of disabilities and develops the necessary human and financial resources to attain its goals.

The Arc also provides community leadership by participating in a wide variety of activities that make our region a better place to live for all citizens.



James E. Wilson, Executive Director

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203 Twelfth Street  
Watkins Glen, NY 14891  
Phone: (607) 535-6934  
Fax: (607) 535-2666  
[www.arcofschuyler.org](http://www.arcofschuyler.org)