

Astra Zeneca and The Arc of Delaware... Partner to Make a House a Home



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Executive Director's
Column

Employee Spotlight

All About
People First!

Sixteenth Annual
Arc of Delaware
Golf Tournament —
A Record Breaker!

The Arc of Delaware
Proudly Announces...
Twins.

Upcoming Events

The Arc is Moving

Now More Than Ever...
The Arc needs you!

On the evening of June 18th this year, Patricia Kelleher, Housing Coordinator and Judy Govatos, Executive Director, received this e-mail from an exhausted, but ebullient, Fran Albera:

"Hi Trish and Judy,

Well, I just arrived home from Beth's and am exhausted but wait till you see what the team did! I thought it would be a tall order to get everything done in one day, especially since we had some last minute cancellations, but the core team of 12 really came through. The place looks great and it was a very fulfilling day for all. Beth arrived home about 5:00 p.m. and I think she was very pleased with the results.

Thanks again for the opportunity and for all The Arc does for the community,
Fran"

What did this team, all employees of Astra Zeneca here in Wilmington, accomplish in one day? They completely repainted the home of Beth, a homeowner with a disability who came to The Arc last year seeking assistance with financial issues. As we explored her money problems, it became obvious that maintenance to her home had been deferred as she struggled to make ends meet. The house had become an unpleasant and not very sanitary place to live in and work was needed to make it comfortable for Beth. With the assistance of Steve Knox, Steve Scarfo and Tom Wright from The Arc's maintenance department, some very important maintenance issues were addressed, such as replacing a leaking water heater. The owner of Persia Carpets agreed to remove all the old carpeting and installed new carpet at no cost for the materials. A new bed was donated. But the whole house badly needed to be painted, every single window, door and wall, and needed several coats of primer and paint at that.

Astra Zeneca held a volunteer fair at their Wilmington headquarters earlier this year where Patricia met Fran, who turned out to be an old friend of The Arc. He wanted a team project to work on, and Patricia thought about Beth, and well...it was a perfect match.

(continued on page 5)

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Executive Director's Column... Judy Govatos



Is it a Curse or a Blessing to Live in Interesting Times?

We get to decide whether we are cursed or blessed depending on our perspective, courage and commitment. At least that's what I believe. As The Arc's Executive Director for only 10 months, I am already keenly aware of the challenges we face.

There are also extraordinary opportunities for The Arc to make changes for the better. Changes that will make us even more effective advocates for the people with disabilities we serve.

The Board of Directors has initiated a strategic planning process to set priorities and guide the future of The Arc. You will be hearing more about the plan in the next edition of this newsletter. In the meantime, let me share a few ideas about my vision for The Arc.

There are many fine organizations in Delaware providing services for people with disabilities. Most of the time we work separately and independently, often competing for the same scarce resources. Given the current financial crisis and the changes on the horizon dictated by self directed services initiatives and other changes in the disability community, my vision sees a future that brings together the many disability groups in a spirit of collaboration. Together we evaluate the areas where we can share common ground. We are all committed to inclusive education, better employment opportunities, more affordable housing options and advocacy.

Working together collaboratively instead of competitively, we can each maintain our identities, but we can be stronger and more efficient in delivering services. Instead of being only small, single voice that can be easily ignored when we request funding from legislators, foundations and corporations, together we can be a strong, powerful chorus with a message that can't be ignored.

To move from vision to reality, The Arc approached United Way to host a workshop that will bring the non-profits serving the disabilities community together to discuss strategies for collaboration. The workshop is being scheduled for January 2009. The future will not just bring change; it will demand change. The Arc of Delaware can't afford to curse the change. We must be the change, and with courage and commitment we can lead the change.

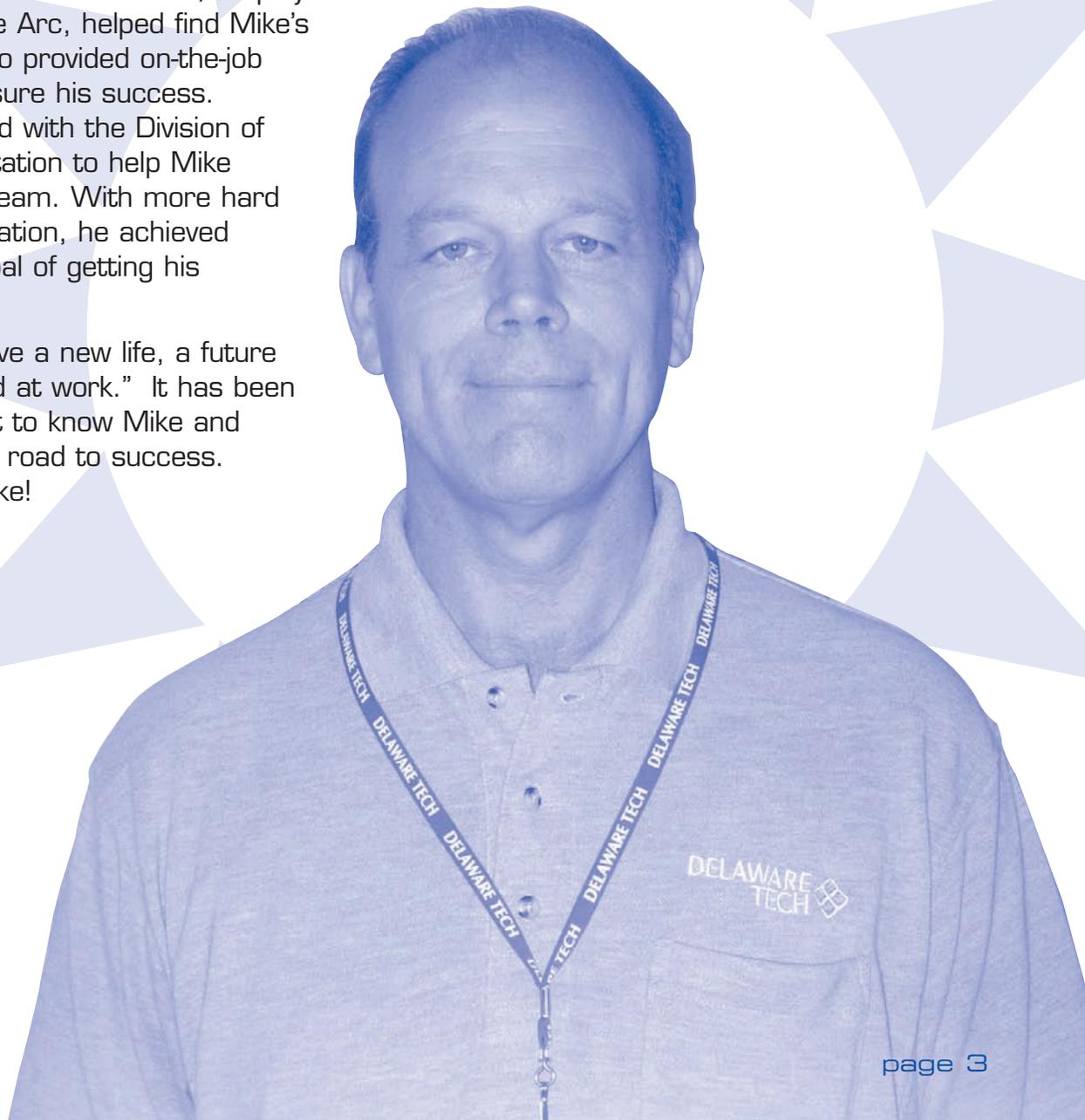
Employee Spotlight

Michael Christie... Hard Work and Determination Pay Off

With the support of The Arc of Delaware Employment Program, Michael Christie is a full time employee with full benefits. In January 2008, Mike was offered a position at Delaware Technical and Community College, and since then he has become a valued member of the custodial team. Mike enjoys his position and takes pride in his job responsibilities. Prior to working at Del Tech Mike worked for many years washing dishes part time and dreamed of having a “real job” where he could be in a professional environment and be part of a team.

Mike’s hard work and determination to fulfill his dreams paid off. Yvonne Coleman, Employment Coordinator for The Arc, helped find Mike’s dream job. She also provided on-the-job training to help ensure his success. Yvonne then worked with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to help Mike achieve another dream. With more hard work and determination, he achieved another life long goal of getting his driver’s license.

Mike reports, “I have a new life, a future and I am respected at work.” It has been our pleasure to get to know Mike and support him on his road to success. Congratulations Mike!



All About People First!

Trips to the beach, educational programs, conferences and going to the theatre fill up a busy schedule for People First, an advocacy group run by and for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Over the spring and summer, Delaware People First, has had a full schedule of activities. Activities ranged from healthy eating to money management. The Center for Disabilities Studies donated space so the group could enjoy an evening of healthy cooking and eating. Yvonne Coleman, The Arc's Employment Coordinator, is also studying for a certification in nutrition. She led a hands-on cooking class for People First where everyone helped prepare a delicious, healthy meal. The evening was a HUGE success where everyone learned a great deal about food preparation, cooking and sharing as a way to promote better health and well being.



Delaware People First held its 2nd annual fundraiser at Friendly Restaurant and raised money to support its speakers and activities for the year 2008. Many members of Delaware People First donated items and their time to help with this annual fundraiser.

In June the group took a trip to Ocean City, Md., where everyone enjoyed strolling on the boardwalk, shopping, swimming and dinner at the Dough Roller Restaurant. A trip to the Candlelight Dinner Theatre to see "The Phantom of the Opera" was a big hit and many People First members were thrilled to get autographs from the cast of the show.

On November 1, 2008, Delaware People First held their annual statewide conference at the University of Delaware's Center for Disabilities Studies. Our timely theme was "Financial Freedom". Topics included debt consolidation, credit card management, strategies for saving and identity theft. The group heard expert advice from The Delaware Money School, The University of Delaware Coop Extension, The Arc of Delaware and Delaware People First from Kent and Sussex Counties. A very special thank you to Catholic Charities for providing us a grant to support Delaware People First and the annual conferences over the years.

Judy Govatos, Arc Executive Director, and Debbie Nock, Outreach/Advocate, attended a mass at St. Joseph's in Middletown in October to receive the certificate presented to Delaware People First from Bishop Saltarelli and other agencies who participate in providing supports and assistance for individuals and other groups in Delaware with special needs.

For more information about People First, call Deb Nock at **302-996-9400**.

Sixteenth Annual Arc of Delaware Golf Tournament — A Record Breaker!

Monday, August 4th, The Arc of Delaware held its Sixteenth Annual Golf Tournament and Silent Auction at Hartefeld National in Avondale, PA. It was a picture perfect day: beautifully manicured greens, sunny, blue skies and soft breezes. One hundred forty-two golfers enjoyed a great round of golf with celebrity host, the former University of Delaware Blue Hens Coach and College Football Hall of Fame Member, Coach Tubby Raymond.

It was a record breaking day as the golfers and dinner guests raised more than \$49,000 to support programs and services for people with intellectual disabilities. The Golf Committee chaired by Doug Johnston with help from Bill Speaker, Richard Basilio and The Arc's Board President, Terry Reilly, worked for more than six months to assure the success of the event. Special thanks to The Arc's Office Manager, Elaine Raign whose extraordinary organizational skills make hard work look easy.

The Golf Tournament and Silent Auction raised more than \$49,000. All proceeds will go toward providing advocacy, education and direct services to individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families.

The Arc would like to thank all the golfers, sponsors and volunteers who helped make this year's tournament a success!

Astra Zeneca and The Arc of Delaware... Partner to Make a House a Home

(continued from cover)

All of the materials were purchased by the Astra Zeneca staff. They brought color swatches for Beth to choose from when they came to measure the rooms and evaluate the amount of work involved (a lot). On the day they painted, the team was so happy with the results that they washed all the windows as well so that the light would do justice to the rooms when Beth returned from work. The generosity of spirit, and genuine delight in assisting Beth that Fran, Bernie Marinelli, Herbert Scherrer and the others brought to this venture were truly wonderful to see. A reporter from the *News Journal* came to see the work in progress and wrote a lovely piece in the next day's paper.

Beth is thrilled with her revitalized home. She continues to receive support from The Arc and our two Steves have accumulated some new furniture to give to her. We all need community to succeed in our lives, and the neighborly support of those who have come to Beth's assistance has given her a much needed sense of security and comfort.



Doug Johnston and his friends enjoy a "perfect day"



The Arc of Delaware Proudly Announces... Twins.

On a lovely April morning earlier this year, The Arc of Delaware's two newest group homes, Twin Willows I & II, were dedicated in a ribbon cutting ceremony. The date of the event, April 25th, was chosen to mark Fair Housing Month and to reaffirm the commitment of The Arc to provide housing in the community for Delawareans with intellectual disabilities.

The Twin Willows homes are a wonderful example of the synergy created by the partnership between the federal Housing and Urban Development program (HUD) and the Delaware Division of Disability Services (DDDS) and The Arc. HUD provided the funding for this project through their 811 funding stream; DDDS provides services and placements in the homes; The Arc will maintain the homes, and continue as an advocate for the residents. Marianne Smith, Director of DDDS, cut the ribbon in honor of her 41 years of service to the disabilities community. John Bravacos, HUD's Regional Director was the keynote speaker, and saluted the achievements of HUD's Delaware partners. Mr. Bravacos was quoted as saying "This is important work...it's about making people whole and protecting the rights of people who often feel they have no voice." Additionally, Mr. Bravacos emphasized that one of HUD's top priorities is enforcing the Fair Housing Act to ensure equal opportunity for housing for all.

A large group of guests mingled afterwards in the home enjoying coffee and pastries, and admiring the design and flow of the house. Twin Willows I & II are fully accessible, and their design will be used as a blueprint for all future Arc development.

With these new houses, The Arc now owns 82 group homes throughout the State that are home to 314 individuals. Twenty seven of these houses were funded by HUD.

The Twin Willows houses are not just houses; they are homes—homes that make The Arc of Delaware's mission to provide safe, affordable housing a reality for people with disabilities.



Upcoming Events

Understanding the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services in Delaware

This training is jointly provided by The Arc of Delaware and the Division of Disabilities Services. Parents, self advocates and others are invited to learn how to navigate the disability system in Delaware. Free, but pre-registration is required. Call 302-736-6140

New Castle County

Tuesday, November 18, 2008
9:00-12:00 pm
Fox Run-DDDS Facility
2540 Wrangle Hill Road
Bear, DE, 19701

Kent County

Tuesday, December 2, 2008
9:00-12:00 pm
Blue Hen Corporate Center
655 South Bay Road, Classroom A&B
Dover, DE 19901

Delaware People First Holiday Party

December 16, 2008
Neurology Associates
774 Christiana Road
Newark, DE 19713
For more information,
call Deb Nock 996-9400

American Idol Talent Show

Friday, November 21, 2008
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Grace Fellowship Hall, Wesley UM Church
Loockerman Street
Dover, DE 19903
Sponsored by Beta Sigma Phi.
For more information, call 302-736-6140

Holiday Dance Party

Friday, December 12, 2009
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Grace Fellowship Hall, Wesley UM Church
Loockerman Street
Dover, DE 19903
Sponsored by Parents
For more information, call 302-736-6140

The Arc is Moving

In early December, The Arc is moving from our offices at Chestnut Run Plaza to: 2 S. Augustine Street, Wilmington, DE. The new offices will be in the Parish House of Saint James Episcopal Church in Newport, Delaware.

This is a great opportunity to move to offices with a large meeting room to accommodate Board meetings and private offices for most of the staff. The building is accessible and there is adequate parking. The move also means a better bottom line for The Arc. Compared to our current lease, we will save \$100,000 over the next four years. In this era of tight money, the Board voted unanimously in support of the move.

Telephone numbers will remain the same. Drop by and see us in December. We may not be decorated for the holidays, but you'll get a warm welcome.

New Address after December 2, 2008: The Arc of Delaware
2 S. Augustine Street, Suite B
Wilmington, DE 19804



Terry Reilly,
Board President,
The Arc of
Delaware

Now More Than Ever... The Arc needs you!

The world we know has changed drastically since July when I accepted the Board Presidency. More than ever, your support is needed to help The Arc survive and thrive. There have been cutbacks on all levels of government funding, charitable grant funds and corporate contributions. As the grass root members of The Arc, I am asking you to stand up and be counted and to commit to The Arc's success in serving the community. The staff does remarkable things, as you will read in this newsletter, that changes the lives of many people. The Board of Directors is working on a three-year strategic plan to financially stabilize the organization and re-examine our core programs of advocacy, housing and employment.

Call, write or e-mail us with your commitment to financial support, time and/or talents you possess to assist The Arc in changing the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. **Help me keep the light of this organization burning bright!**

To make a contribution:
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www.thearcofdelaware.org

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