

Around The Arc

News of The Arc of Chester County



Saturday, December 7

Grab your wish list and camera for Saturday, December 7, 2013 for The Arc's annual Breakfast with Santa Event to be held from 8:30 AM- 11:00 AM, at 900 Lawrence Drive located in West Chester. This festive event is a great way to kick off the holiday season for families with children ages 12 and under. Come and spend quality time with Santa and Mrs. Clause, enjoy holiday music, arts and crafts, face painting and on top of it all have a delicious pancake breakfast!

Tickets are \$20 per family pre-registration or \$25 on the day of the event. Online registration is available at <http://www.arcofchestercounty.org/events/special-events>. You may also call 610-696-8090 or mail in your registration payment to The Arc of Chester County.

From our Board President

Achieve with us! Annual Campaign

The time is now to *Achieve with us* in kicking off our annual campaign. Your generous gift supports unfunded or partially funded Arc programs. [Click here](#) to make your gift online now or to learn more about the other ways you can help support The Arc of Chester County.

Thank you to everyone who has already made a gift!

Car Donation



It's time to junk that junker! You had a good run, but your old car really needs to go. We don't care if she has some dents, a little rust or worse. Donate that old car, boat, or motorcycle to The Arc and let us turn it into cash to go towards our programs for advocating, educating and services to empower individuals with disabilities

Dear Friends,

Fall has arrived, and with it comes a season of thanks and reflection. Where would we be without the support of our community partners, volunteers and staff? The Arc is able to raise critical funds for its programs and services, along with introducing ourselves to the community and friends through our many annual special events. This would not be possible though, without the support, hard work and dedication of our over 150 volunteers.

We entered the fall season hosting our very first "Ride for The Arc" at which motorcycle enthusiasts from all over the county and surrounding communities gathered to ride 40 miles in honor of the individuals we serve and to raise funds for the much needed programs and services we provide. The event went off without a hitch because of the help from the West Chester University ABBES, a service organization, to whom we are so grateful. In September, our third annual golf outing was a huge success and it would not have been possible without the dedication of 25 Vanguard volunteers who spent the entire day on the course so golfers could enjoy all 18 holes. We ended the month of September with sparkling clean vehicles with Villanova University students volunteering their time for a day of service scrubbing The Arc's van fleet inside and out.

October was another busy month with all hands on deck from staff here at The Arc, MARS Drinks volunteers and West Chester University's service organization the FRIARS making and serving 30 gallons of chili for the West Chester Rotary Chili Cook-Off. All the hard work paid off, in the end, we placed 2nd in the non-profit category! The Early Intervention First Step children visited Milky Way Farms where they were able to pet animals and pick pumpkins with help from Siemens volunteers. The following week, the Hershey's Mill community graciously opened their homes to the First Step children to practice trick-or-treating. We wrapped up the month with the annual Recreation Halloween Dance, where over 80 participants enjoyed dancing and treats with the help of over 25 West Chester University Best Buddies volunteers.

Without the assistance and devotion from these individuals and companies who have contributed their time and efforts to The Arc, none of this would have been possible. For them, we are thankful!

Sincerely,

and their families to enhance the quality of their lives.

It's free, easy and the proceeds will stay with The Arc of Chester County. Plus, you get a tax break! Visit: www.thearcofchestercounty.org or call toll-free: 1-877-ARC-CAR-0 to donate today.

Upcoming Events...

December 7 [Breakfast with Santa](#)

Mark your calendar now for upcoming 2014 events...

June 8, 2014 The Arc Achievement Walk, Run and Fun Day

Stay tuned, details to follow...

Spotlight On... Carin Beam



Carin Beam rocking out with the First Step students at Ice Line this past summer.

You may have wondered who the young lady is you have seen around The Arc jamming out with the First Step students, or even may have observed her calming down a child



Jessica Straghan

You may want to know...

Accelerating your charitable deductions into 2013 may be helpful to your tax situation because of a charitable contribution alert that took effect this year at a higher 3.8% Medicare tax, also known as New Investment Income Tax.

Although qualified distributions are not affected, making a Roth conversion may increase the modified adjusted income calculation which is the basis of the income threshold. The Net Investment Income Tax applies to the **lesser** of net investment income or Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) of \$200,000 for single filers, or \$250,000 for married filers (at the bottom of page 1 of your 1040), and does not include itemized deductions, and personal exemptions.

However, individuals can reduce their MAGI by making qualified contributions, charitable contributions and reducing self-employment income (by accelerating expenses or deferring income). If you are expecting a spike in your MAGI from the exercise of an incentive stock option or sale of a property, you may want to examine the impact to time the income or defer taxes. There is also an additional 0.9% increase in the Medicare tax from 1.45 to 2.35% on income over the above limits. Please consult a tax advisor for details.

Golf Outing Raises More than \$22,000!

through her soothing music. This musically talented Arc employee is Carin Beam. Carin is the part-time Early Intervention First Step Program Board Certified Music Therapist and also provides 1:1 and group music therapy sessions in the disability community.

Carin is no stranger to the Chester County community, raised in Malvern, she has been a lifelong musician, starting at a young age with her father being the owner of Beam 's Music Store. Her drive to help others stemmed from her mother being a special education teacher. Together her parents created a passion within Carin to pursue a career with helping others through music. She went on to study at Queens University of Charlotte in North Carolina where she obtained her Bachelors in Music Therapy, Board Certified (MT-BC).

After graduation, Carin briefly worked at The Arc of Chester County for a summer before moving to New York and eventually migrating south to Florida where she worked at a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center as the music therapist. She enjoyed her time at the rehabilitation center but her true love Carin says, "...was with seeing children making serious strides" from her music. After some self-reflection, she contacted Anne Bernstein, Director of Early Intervention and Social Work at The Arc, to see if there were any openings for a music therapist. She was in luck, there was an opportunity for her to return. Carin packed her bags, headed north, and has been working at The Arc since May of this year.

When asked what she does for fun outside of The Arc she laughs and says "music". She currently plays in a band, *Old Arrows*, and gets together on the side with musicians she used to play with both in New York and Florida. At home she enjoys time with her pit-bull



Mark and Sean Parsons stand alongside board member, Paul Cardell and son, Paul.

It was the perfect weather for the Third Annual Arc of Chester County Golf Outing held on September 23. The golfers enjoyed playing 18 holes of golf at the beautiful and challenging Penn Oaks Golf Club in West Chester. Thanks to the event co-chairs, Allen Rogers and Phil Rogers, along with their families for their continued support and dedication to The Arc, this event once again was a huge success!

A great thank you is also extended, to all the golfers who came out to play, corporate sponsors, and the Vanguard team of volunteers who have supported this event for the last three years through their United Way Day of Caring. We greatly appreciate the volunteers' time and commitment.

To view photos from the entire day, visit The Arc's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/arcofchestercounty.

Want to be sure you don't miss out on next year's event along with any other events going on at The Arc? Keep reading *Around the Arc* for the latest on upcoming events.

boxer named Mia who she takes on walks at the reserve with her "loving boyfriend, Matt". Just recently, she has found an interest in motorcycles and is debating whether to get her motorcycle license this spring.

When asked what she loves about the Arc, Carin replied, "I love that it is family here, despite being a large organization, you can feel the genuine compassion emanating from the staff here. Even though The Arc has been around for a long time, it still makes sure the primary focus is on the participants we serve and care so much about. My greatest joy when working with the children is seeing them grasping for the instruments, singing along, allowing the children to choose what songs should be played and overall, witnessing them experiencing sensory stimulation. What I play is music therapy, not just music, it's a tool which is used to achieve goals and change people and I get to see this everyday through my music".

Did you know...

...that the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce designated The Arc as one of two non-profit organizations who work directly with families in our community to receive toys collected through the 2013 WSFS Old-Fashioned Christmas Toy Drive?

The Toy Drive will run from November 4 through December 6 with drop-off boxes located throughout WSFS Pennsylvania branches. Volunteers and staff from WSFS Bank will also be on hand on December 6 at the MARS Drinks Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade to collect unwrapped toys along the parade route and toy drop-off table located on High Street between Market and Gay Streets. Also, keep an eye out for The Arc's van, recreation

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-
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staff and individuals we serve participating in the parade this year!

... that The Arc of Chester County will be participating this year in #GivingTuesday? This is an on-line fundraising initiative taking place the Tuesday after Thanksgiving that started as a movement and now has become a national day of giving to charitable organizations. To find out more details and to learn how to participate go to our website: www.arcofchestercounty.org. Also, look for more #GivingTuesday updates coming to you via email from The Arc!

Quotes from around The Arc

The MARS Drinks Volunteer Program was here at The Arc in October helping with several volunteer projects including the West Chester Rotary Chili Cook-off, preparing the Breakfast with Santa mailing invitations, and spending 1:1 time with students in the Early Intervention First Step Program classrooms. Tim Royer, a grateful volunteer and employee from MARS Drinks said:

"Thank you for allowing me to visit on Friday with the Early Intervention First Step children. It was a wonderful experience working with such a great group of kids. I look forward to many more volunteering opportunities I have with The Arc in the future!"





A big thank you to Vanguard employee volunteers for their 2013 United Way Day of Caring service at The Arc's Third Annual Golf Outing.



Golfer, Browyn Martin, event organizer, Allen Rogers and supporter Richard Harvitz, owner of Richie Rawbar.

Achieve with us. ... A Success Story!

Even the most "typical" activities, like trick-or-treating can be challenging for children with disabilities. The day before Halloween, the Hershey's Mill Community warmly opened their homes for the First Step students for a dress rehearsal before the actual day. It was a huge success and fun was had by all! Below are quotes from gratified parents who expressed their appreciation and shared the positive outcomes from their children practicing beforehand. Along with an uplifting quote from a Hershey's Mill resident who participated in the fun day of trick-or-treating.

"Thanks so much for the picture exchanged cards (PECS) trick-or-treating! She went up to every door with her brothers, read the PECS card and took candy. NO TANTRUMS! She smiled the whole time and only unwrapped two candies the entire 1 1/2 hours we were out. Greatest Halloween ever!"
-Early Intervention First Step parent

"We were so proud of JR, he did wonderful in his costume! He was great at trick-or-treating and did not complain at all! Thank you for practicing with him, it truly paid off!"- another grateful Early Intervention First Step parent



"I was so impressed and can't say enough about my experience with the children, it touched my heart."
-Jan Baiocchetti, Hershey's Mill resident



Kyle giving his Grammy an award at The Arc's Milestone Ceremony.

On June 22, 2013, Kyle Chamovitz led Shabbat services at Temple Brith Achim in King of Prussia to become a Bar Mitzvah ("Son of the Commandments"). He chanted prayers, sang songs and read from the Torah, a parchment scroll on which the Jewish Bible is handwritten in Hebrew. He kept the audience of family, friends and community members engaged throughout the Jewish adulthood rite of passage ceremony with his funny comments and excellent timing. This major milestone in Kyle's life would not have been possible without the support Kyle received at an early age at The Arc of Chester County's Early Intervention Program. The Arc's program began the process of setting realistic, high goals for Kyle to achieve.

The Arc's Early Intervention home based services provided Kyle the opportunity for many achievements. Even some of Kyle's first experiences with religion came from participating in The Arc's supported nondenominational services. The Arc also prepared him to attend a less restrictive preschool setting and gave him the start he needed to continue his education and be successful in a public school with educational supports. "Kyle's acquisition of skills gave him a tremendous start in learning to walk and talk. His family learned to support Kyle in a collaborative way and help him reach his potential. Kyle's ability to chant prayers, sing songs, and read from the Torah in a second language, Hebrew, is phenomenal." said Anne Bernstein, Director of The Arc's Early Intervention Program.

Kyle had the unique opportunity to journey to Tokyo, Japan where he lived for two years. During his stay in Tokyo, Kyle continued his Jewish studies, learned to take the public bus to school by himself, practiced Krav Maga, an Israeli self-defense system initially developed for

civilian training, and made friends with people from around the world. Most importantly, he learned from experience that he could overcome with time and effort, the feeling of not belonging in a land and culture foreign to his own.

Today, Kyle is on the road to becoming a Black Belt in karate at Pro Martial Arts, was manager of his middle school's basketball team and will manage the basketball team in high school. Special thanks are due to Rabbi Lazar, Temple Brith Achim's Education Director, Sharon Forman-Toll, and his Hebrew tutor, Ms. Marcie Goelman, along with The Arc of Chester County. Without everyone's guidance and support during Kyle's journey to becoming a Bar Mitzvah, Kyle would not have been able to share these significant achievements in his life that led up to him entering Jewish adulthood.



The Chamovitz family during their time in Japan.

Kyle holding the Torah.

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The official registration and financial information for The Arc of Chester County may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. The Arc of Chester County is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization - contributions to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Please consider making a gift to The Arc today. Your generosity will help us provide a lifetime of services to people with disabilities.

[Forward email](#)