

# THE ARC ADVANCE

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2      SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2009



FESTIVAL OF TREES

Information on The 2nd Annual  
**Festival of Trees**  
on Page 2!

## Our Mission

The Arc of Orange County works with and for people who have or are at risk for developmental disabilities to promote full participation in all areas of life in our community.

The Arc seeks to accomplish this through advocacy, education, and collaboration, as well as through the provision of quality supports to individuals with developmental disabilities, their families and the community.

## Individual Services Update

*By Duffy Palmer*

As The Arc of Orange County forecasted, budget cuts from State and local funding have arrived. We are working diligently to prevent major changes to our services and programs, however, some changes will be necessary. One example is our new "Service Order" system for families utilizing IPRS funds (Fee-for-Service). This new system will allow us to comply with newly released rules, the aforementioned funding reductions, and cover needs with greater fiscal efficiency. Those who utilize IPRS funding could see a reduction in hours and a small increase in per hour costs, however, we are working as hard as possible to minimize these hardships.

In other news I would like to

announce Individual Services' new focus on *three* main categories: Children, Transition, and Adult. I would like to remind everyone Michelle Merritt supervises and coordinates our services to children and Tom Galperin supervises and coordinates our services to adults; and now Mike Kirschner supervises and coordinates our services to transition age participants. He has done a wonderful job coordinating and directing The Arc's group programs in the past, most of which were for young adults in school preparing for after school years. Now Mike will bring that experience and increase his expertise to support those individuals close to graduation throughout their "transition" into adulthood. We're happy and excited to have him working more closely with us.

Have an idea for the Arc Advance?

Contact Tom Galperin at 919.942.5119 x112.

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VISIT A WINTER WONDERLAND & STROLL THRU A FOREST OF AMUSEMENT

**DECEMBER 2-5, 2009**

THE ARTSCENTER at UNIVERSITY MALL • ACROSS FROM THE PRINT SHOP

**Open to the Public – Wednesday, December 2nd – Saturday, December 5th**

Journey through the magical Christmas Tree Forest  
wonder at the imagination and creativity of local vignette and tree designers.

**Family Day – Friday, December 4th – 3pm till 8pm**

Enjoy an afternoon of arts & crafts, picture taking with Santa and other free activities!

**Gala – Saturday, December 5th – 6pm - 9pm**

This year's **Gala** will be held in the middle of the wintery wonderland. Enjoy an evening of light hors d'oeuvres, signature poinsettias drinks with cranberry juice & champagne provided by Triangle Catering, music by Equinox (Holden Thorp's band) featuring Terri Houston, magic by Joshua Lozoff's Parlor Magic and more!

**Tickets are: Individual - \$50 and Couple - \$80**

**A Visit from "Santa"**

Through a special agreement with Santa Claus and the North Pole, the Arc of Orange County has arranged for a special visit to Chapel Hill on Christmas Eve.... Experience Santa with Your Family The Night Before Christmas!

**Raffle Tickets are: \$5 each, \$10 for three, \$15 for five, \$20 for ten**

**Place bids on your favorite tree & wreath designs via our Silent Auction.**

Visit The Arc's Gallery featuring *The Art Walk of Fame* – A new addition to The Festival this year!

All proceeds benefit The Arc of Orange County and its efforts to assist the differently abled among us.

**It's an amazing culmination of everything that makes the holiday bright and joyous in one location.**

**See you there!**

For more information please visit [www.arcoforangefot.org](http://www.arcoforangefot.org) or call 919-942-5119, ext 116.



# Staff Appreciation - On A Daily Basis

*By Christian Keller, Director of Human Resources*

"Thank you" - - - Eight letters arranged to comprise two simple words.

"Thank you" - - - A phrase that is many times spoken without much thought given to its deeper meaning.

"Thank you" - - - Two simple words.

Yet those two words convey so much on a number of levels. The profundity and magnitude of this little expression must not be lost in its simplicity - Sentiments of appreciation, gratefulness, and gratitude are summed up in the oft-used phrase: "Thank you".

And these are the sentiments that the administrative staff here at The Arc want to convey to our Direct Care Staff (a.k.a. Care Providers) on a daily basis!

As Care Providers you may have heard us say that The Arc would not exist without you - That may sound cliché, but it is very much a true statement.

Without you and the services you provide on a daily basis, a large measure of the personal and profound impact that The Arc has on the lives of the individuals we support would be lost.

And thus we say: Thank you!

On a daily basis, you are purveyors of joy, encouragement, and purpose to many in our community.

And thus we say: Thank you!

And each day, you diligently complete the less-spectacular aspects of your employment (i.e. the beloved timesheets and other associated documentation). Yet, without this essential paperwork, the more meaningful and personalized services could not be carried out.

And thus, on a daily basis, we say: Thank you!

Thank you for your commitment to The Arc and, much more importantly, for your commitment to the individuals you support each day!

As Care Providers, you are indeed a vital part of The Arc! And although we may not get a chance to see you each day to say it, please know that on a daily basis we extend to you our deepest thanks!

For all that you do every day, we genuinely thank you!

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**Place your ad here!**

**Call Pat Richardson @ 919.942.5119 x116**

## Volunteer Spotlight

By Susan Paul

The Community Connections Program at The Arc of Orange County matches a volunteer with one of our adult participants. Together, forming a friendship, they go out and about in the community enjoying things they have in common.

One such friendship began over a year ago between our volunteer Katie and connections partner Amanda. Both were born in September, (one day apart!) both are Virgo's, and both share a common love for animals of all kinds! With this love they came up with the idea of volunteering together at the new Orange County Animal Shelter.

I had the opportunity to catch up with these busy ladies at our September meeting (now a PACT that we meet in our common birthday month of September!)

**Susan:** Katie and Amanda, how did you begin your volunteering at the animal shelter?

**Katie** – when I first moved back to this area I wanted a dog and knowing there are so many dogs needing a home, went to the shelter and adopted our Golden Retriever. Amanda and I heard about the volunteer program, scheduled a time for orientation and now are setting a schedule where we can volunteer there together.

**Amanda** – when my family was living in West Virginia, there was a cat living inside of a cinder block. I think it may have been abandoned, and I felt protective of it. I asked my mom if we could keep her and that was over 10 years ago. So I think it was meant to be!

**Susan:** What are some of your responsibilities at the shelter?

**Amanda** – we volunteer as cat “socializers” – going in to play with the cats, giving them toys, petting and holding them, we are there to give them attention, cats get lonely and they need companions.

**Katie** – we are given smocks to wear, fill the water bowls, give treats, sweep the floor, we play with some of the wild dogs, helping them learn how to interact with potential families.

**Susan:** Why do you think it is important to volunteer at the shelter?

**Amanda** – I love animals and see sometimes the cruelty in the world, like the killing of baby seals and so many homeless animals. A small amount of kindness can create a great amount of difference.

**Katie** – It is important to raise awareness and educate the community of the need for more people to adopt.

**Susan:** What are some of the other things you enjoy doing together as community partners?

**Katie** – we both enjoy watching American Idol, so we talk on the phone a lot during the commercials! We went to see the movie “Dark Knight” and enjoy taking walks together.

**Amanda** – Katie knows I love to read “People” magazines and she always saves them for me. We both like to people watch and will go to Katie’s Pretzels at the Carr Mill Mall. And we both like to volunteer at the Arc during their special events like the Festival of Trees.

Way to go Amanda and Katie!!!!

If you would like to become a Community Connections Partner, or know someone you think would like to have a partner, please contact me at extension 111.



*Katie and Amanda*



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