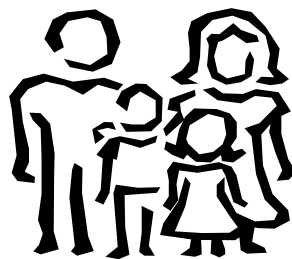


# BI-COUNTY OBSERVER: Northampton Edition



Volume 15 Issue 1

Jan/Feb 2015

Editor:  
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610-849-8076, ext. 25

Published six times a year to inform persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and the community about programs, trainings & events in Lehigh and Northampton Counties. Please visit [www.arcoflehighnorthampton.org](http://www.arcoflehighnorthampton.org) for more info.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear Friends and Families,

What better way to start the New Year than to have something nice to look forward to. The 9th Annual Celebration Luncheon will be held on March 26, 2015. If you've never attended, you've missed a great event. Come join us as we honor 12 individuals with intellectual disabilities who have made big strides at home, at school, at work, and in the community. Our keynote address will be delivered by Amy Beck, Executive Director of the Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living.

This year's event will feature Bill Zimpher as MC. Bill is a member of the popular Breakfast Club Morning Show on 98.1 WOGL, Philadelphia. A Bethlehem native, Bill started his radio career in the Lehigh Valley in 1977. He has worked for the last 30 years in Philadelphia. Bill is also well known to sports fans as the voice of Penn State Football from 1988-93 and the voice of the Miami Dolphins from 1994-2001.

Nominations will only be considered until the end of January, so if you have a name to submit, please do so ASAP. Also, if you'd like to serve on the steering committee, please let me know. Currently, the group is comprised of representatives from SAM Inc., Quality Progressions, and The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties. Newcomers are welcome.

At the Celebration Luncheon, we will be honoring 6 individuals with disabilities from Lehigh County & Northampton County. This column would be remiss if we did not also recognize Ann Kline, who has been employed at the county for many years, first as a Supports Coordinator and then as Deputy Administrator for the Northampton County Division of Developmental Programs. Ann retired in November. She will be remembered and missed! Thank you Ann for your dedicated service, and best wishes for retirement years that are happy and healthy.

Happy New Year to each and every one of our readers!

Ramona



**March is Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Month!**

**You are cordially invited to join us for  
the Ninth Annual Celebration Awards**

**March 26, 2015**

**11:30 am - 1:30 pm**

**The Best Western Lehigh Valley Hotel & Conference Center  
300 Gateway Drive (Routes 512 & 22) Bethlehem, PA 18017**

**Master of Ceremonies - Bill Zimpher, Radio Personality**

**Keynote Address—Amy Beck, Executive Director of  
Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living**

**CHOOSE FROM 2 DELICIOUS LUNCHEON ENTREES:**

Baked Chicken with Rosemary Jus

Pasta Primavera with veggies tossed in olive oil, diced tomatoes, & garlic

*Please indicate the food choice for each attendee in your group.*

**ALL MEALS INCLUDE: SALAD, BREAD, DESSERT, TEA, COFFEE**

*Cost: \$16 per person*

*RSVP by March 17*

*Hotel is wheelchair accessible*

*Hosted by the Intellectual Disability Awareness Steering Committee of Lehigh & Northampton Counties.*

**PLEASE CLIP & MAIL THIS FORM. USE ONE FORM FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street /City/Zip & Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

House and/or Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Menu Choice: Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Pasta \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you use a wheel chair or have special dietary needs \_\_\_\_\_

If possible, please seat me with: \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosed is a check payable to The Arc for a total of: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$16.00 per person)**

**Please return this form by March 17, 2015 to:  
Bob Madden, The Arc of Lehigh & Northampton  
2289 Avenue A, Bethlehem PA 18017**

*Note: Each table seats 8. Seating is assigned. It may not be possible to honor all seating requests. Please contact Bob Madden with questions or requests for special accommodations during the meal or during the award presentation itself. Bob may be reached at [bmadden@arcoflehignorthampton.org](mailto:bmadden@arcoflehignorthampton.org) or call 610-849-8076, ext. 17.*

PLEASE CLIP & MAIL THIS FORM. USE ONE FORM FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street/City/Zip & Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

House and/or Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Menu Choice: Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Pasta \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate is you use a wheel chair or have special dietary needs.

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PLEASE MAKE EXTRA COPIES IF NEEDED.

REMEMBER, WE NEED A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING!  
THANK YOU.



**Oops. Did you forget to send in the name of someone who deserves recognition? There's still time, but hurry! The steering committee will be making decisions at the end of January. To refresh your memory, here are explanations of the categories & a form for you to use.**

This event provides a great opportunity to recognize the successes of individuals with developmental disabilities. This is our chance to publically honor their varied achievements.

At the *Celebration 2015* luncheon, awards are given to individuals who demonstrated success in one of these areas: **1) Vocational Achievement, 2) Employment Achievement, 3) Educational Achievement, 4) Transition Achievement, 5) Exemplary Citizenship & 6) Personal Achievement.** Awards for individual achievements are given to a person from Lehigh and from Northampton County for each category.

**Please copy the form on the next page to nominate an individual for recognition. All nominations must include a detailed narrative describing the reason(s) for the nomination. Check only one award category for each form. To nominate an individual in more than one category, use a separate form & narrative for each nomination. Please attach additional paper if needed to provide sufficient/specific details. The more info the better your person's chance of being chosen for an award.**

### **Awards Descriptions**

- Vocational Achievement** - *Someone who has made great progress over the past year, has acquired a new skill, attained a new position/promotion, has good attendance, and has a positive attitude about work (includes sheltered employment).*
- Employment Achievement** - *Someone who is successfully employed in a job in the community or who has had a job in the community over the past year.*
- Educational Achievement** - *Someone in an educational setting who has made great educational progress over the past year, is motivated to learn, & is a positive influence on others.*
- Transition Achievement** - *Someone who has acquired a new skill or participated in activities that will enable him/her to attain a job or greater independence in life after school. Someone who is an inspiration to teachers and other students.*
- Exemplary Citizenship** - *Someone who has made contributions to the family, school, and community, specifically with actions that put others first. Someone who has moved beyond significant hardships or difficulties to enhance the lives of others.*
- Personal Achievement** - *Someone who has made great strides in reaching personal goals and who has enriched his/her own capabilities and thereby opened the door for others to achieve as well.*

**PLEASE SEE NEXT PAGE FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS FORM...**

**Note: An electronic version of this form is available & is strongly preferred. Please contact Ramona at 610-849-8076, ext. 25 or [rneidig@arcoflehighnorthampton.org](mailto:rneidig@arcoflehighnorthampton.org) to obtain. Hard copies should be sent to Ramona Neidig at The Arc, 2289 Avenue A, Bethlehem PA 18017. Thank you.**

# Celebration Awards Nomination Form

## Nomination Form Submissions needed by January 30, 2015

**Full name of individual nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone number to reach nominee:** \_\_\_\_\_

**County where the individual receives services:** *Lehigh* \_\_\_\_\_ *Northampton* \_\_\_\_\_

**I am nominating this person for the award I have circled below:**

*Vocational Achievement*

*Transition Achievement*

*Employment Achievement*

*Exemplary Citizenship*

*Education Achievement*

*Personal Achievement*

**If nominating someone in more than one category, use a new form for each category. Specific details & anecdotes needed in order to be considered. Include reason(s) for nomination as well as any hobbies, talents, memberships, previous awards, etc. Thank you. Please attach more paper if necessary.**

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**Your name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone or e-mail in case we have questions :** \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN BY JAN. 30, 2015 to: Ramona Neidig, The Arc, 2289 Avenue A, Bethlehem PA 18017 or  
email nominations to: rneidig@arcoflehighnorthampton.org.**



## **Center for Integrated Behavioral Health: An Overview of Services**

**Hosted by The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties**

**2289 Avenue A, Bethlehem PA**

**January 14, 2015**

**6:00-8:00 PM Refreshments Served**

The Center for Integrated Behavioral Health is a multidisciplinary group whose mission is to provide compassionate, scientifically valid assessments, treatment, and consultation to alleviate problems and promote an improved quality of life.

Please join us as Dr. Amy Lynn Saborsky, Licensed Psychologist, and Victoria Monaco, Intake Coordinator, describe the broad scope of services available for children and adults.

**Note: At The Arc's request, a large part of the presentation will focus on the center's Child and Adolescent Programs. Treatment is available for the following conditions:**

- |                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ⇒ Behavior disorders        | Self- injurious behavior              |
| ⇒ Anxiety disorders         | Sleep problems                        |
| ⇒ Depressive disorders      | School refusal                        |
| ⇒ Learning disorders        | Developmental concerns                |
| ⇒ ADD/ADHD                  | Enuresis/Encopresis                   |
| ⇒ Mood disorders            | Parenting skills & consultation       |
| ⇒ Autism spectrum disorders | Transitional events (such as divorce) |
| ⇒ Tic disorders             |                                       |

This event is free, but you must RSVP. Please contact Ramona at 610-849-8076, ext. 25 or [rneidig@arcoflehighnorthampton.org](mailto:rneidig@arcoflehighnorthampton.org).

Can't attend? Please visit [www.centerforibh.com](http://www.centerforibh.com), email [info@centerforibh.com](mailto:info@centerforibh.com), or call 610-865-4300. The Center for Integrated Behavioral Health is located at One Bethlehem Plaza in Bethlehem.



## Goodwill Youth Services

- When: January 28, 2015 (Snow date is Jan. 29)
- Where: Hosted by The Arc of Lehigh & Northampton Counties  
2289 Avenue A, Bethlehem PA
- Audience: Transition Age Youth & Their Families
- Presenters: Adele Bond, Work Incentives Coordinator  
Faye Warmkessel, Youth Services Coordinator

**General Group Informational Session: 10:00 am - 11:30 am.**  
**Individualized Sessions Available from Noon-1:30 PM if Requested.**

- Goodwill's Work Incentives Planning and Assistance services can help you prepare for work and career goals. Adele will talk about SSI/SSDI benefits and the impact that working could have on these benefits. Faye will explain how Goodwill helps prepare youth with disabilities for the world of work. For example, Goodwill partners with local businesses, school districts, and intermediate units. Goodwill can also attend a student's IEP meeting to assist in preparing for employment upon graduation.
- This event is free, but you must register. Please RSVP to Ramona Neidig at 610-849-8076, ext. 25 or [rneidig@arcoflehighnorthampton.org](mailto:rneidig@arcoflehighnorthampton.org). Be sure to indicate whether you want the group or individual session, or both.



In order to assist youth with disabilities to better prepare for their transition into the world of work and independence, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) recently started a new program called **Early Reach**. The Early Reach Coordinator works with youth with disabilities, their parents, schools, and community agencies. The purpose is to connect with youth at a younger age—beginning at age 14 so that they are more familiar with OVR services and can begin earlier to consider vocational options.

### **Early Reach Overview: Presented by LaRonda Moorefield**

**Hosted by The Arc of Lehigh and Northampton Counties**

**2289 Avenue A, Bethlehem PA**

**February 11, 2015 (Snow date is 2/18)**

**6:00–7:30 PM      Light Refreshments**

The Early Reach initiative includes both individual and group outreach. Attendees will learn how to make an application to OVR & reap the benefits of early planning! This new program provides valuable consultation and resources to youth on their journey to employment and independence. If you know someone who is 14 or older & has a disability, please consider attending. You may RSVP to Ramona at 610-849-8076, ext. 25 or [rneidig@arcoflehighnorthampton.org](mailto:rneidig@arcoflehighnorthampton.org). When registering, please advise the county you live in.



### **Can't attend?**

LaRonda Moorefield, Early Reach Coordinator, can be reached at 610-821-6441 or [lmoorefiel@pa.gov](mailto:lmoorefiel@pa.gov).



**Making a Difference: Educational Practices That Work!**

February 4-6, 2015

Hershey Lodge and Convention Center

Join Pennsylvania educators for the Bureau of Special Education's signature event. This annual statewide conference offers an opportunity to learn & engage with nationally-known presenters.



**Audience:** General education, special education, and gifted education administrators & teachers, career and technical education administrators and teachers, preschool administrators and teachers, parents, paraprofessionals, school psychologists, speech and language therapists, & higher education faculty.

**Keynote Presenters:**

**Leading the New Literacies: Digital, Media, Global, in Every Classroom for All Learners** Presented by:  
Heidi Hayes Jacobs, Ph.D.

How can schools engage in digital literacy? How can they help students critique & create media that prepares them for college & future careers? How can we "globalize" the classroom? Dr. Jacobs will share practical steps in identifying these literacies in classroom practice & how they intersect in dynamic projects for learners K through 12. Special attention will be given to aligning to standards and mission statements.

**Sacking Dyslexia: Enabling Students to Succeed** Presented by:  
Robert Tate, NFL Veteran

Robert Tate, has personal experience with the challenge of dyslexia. In this keynote, Mr. Tate will share his struggles in school and the toll it took on his state of mind. With his mother's support and hard work, Mr. Tate overcame his battle and now supports children with dyslexia in their efforts to succeed in school. Mr. Tate will discuss ways to ensure that children with dyslexia get the reading support needed for success.

**Enhancing Strength or Fixing Deficit: Shifting the Education Paradigm**  
Presented by :  
Yong Zhao, Ph.D.

Technology & globalization have brought massive changes to society. They have also redefined the value of talents and skills. What used to be valuable has become less so, & what used to be undervalued has gained more value. As a result, today's society values greatness and diversity – that is, all talents can be valuable, but they must be great. In this presentation, Dr. Zhao discusses a paradigm shift in education to enhance students' individual strengths.

- Choosing Transition Assessments.
- Common Causes of Disproportionality.
- Ethical Principles for School Psychologists.
- Getting Them All Engaged: Inclusive Active Participation.
- Reading Comprehension: The Quest for the Holy Grail.
- Short Writing Often, Not Just Long Writing Seldom.

**Registration Fee:** Early-bird registration (by 4:00 p.m., January 23, 2015) is \$75. Beginning January 24, 2015, registration will be accepted at the conference site only and the registration fee will be \$125. Out-of-state registration is \$500 at any time. Payment may be made with check, cash, or purchase order; no credit cards will be accepted. Make checks payable to MCIU 23/PaTTAN and send them to Debra Jordan, PaTTAN, 200 Anderson Road, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406.

**Inclement Weather:** The conference will take place rain or shine, regardless of weather conditions.

**Cancellations:** If you are unable to attend the conference, you must cancel your registration by 4:00 p.m., January 23, 2015, by contacting Debra Jordan at: 800-441-3215, ext. 7224 or [djordan@pattan.net](mailto:djordan@pattan.net), or your registration fee will not be refunded.

**Room Reservations:** Conference attendees may book a room at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center for \$128 (single or double room per night). Hershey Lodge reservations will be accepted at 800-437-7439. For more information & a registration form, [visit www.pattan.net](http://www.pattan.net). Click on the annual conference link.

**Questions:** Please contact Debra Jordan at [djordan@pattan.net](mailto:djordan@pattan.net) or 800-441-3215, Ext. 7224

## What is Pennsylvania LINK?



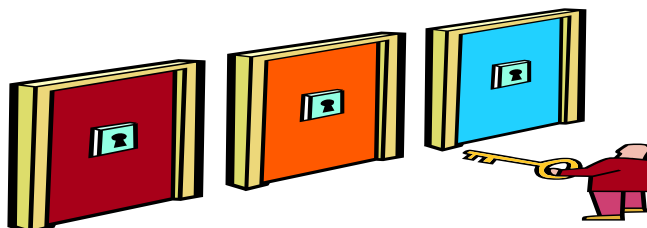
Pennsylvania LINK to Aging and Disability Resources is a nationwide effort between the U.S. Administration on Aging and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Pennsylvania LINK came to the Lehigh Valley in 2010 to provide information and linkages to long-term care services and supports for people over 60 and adults with disabilities. There are currently 15 LINKs throughout Pennsylvania covering 67 counties.

In Lehigh and Northampton County we work together to improve access to long-term care supports through a network of partners, promote consumer directed decision making, and enhance efficiency and quality of service.

LINK to Aging and Disability Resources is designed to be a coordinated network of partner agencies allowing consumers to initiate contact with any LINK network partner and experience the same access to information, assistance and resources.

What does this mean? A consumer should directly or seamlessly be connected to information and services needed, no matter the initial point of entry into the system.



The “no wrong door” approach attempts to minimize duplication of efforts by consumer and providers. How does LINK accomplish this? This goal is accomplished through outreach, education, and networking with providers and the community. Lehigh-Northampton LINK schedules speakers and trainings; holds partner meetings to network with each other; shares information, resources, and new initiatives; and holds workshops for organizations and folks in the community. Because of these collaborations, LINK partners are more efficiently and effectively assisting individuals navigate the complex system of program and services.

**If your organization would like to become a LINK partner, please contact  
Kim Melusky, Lead LINK Coordinator for Lehigh & Northampton Counties**

**610-782-3096**

**17 Years and Still Going Strong...**

**Please Mark Your Calendars for this Annual Conference**

**March 28, 2015**

***The 17th Annual***

**Journey through Special Education Seminar**

**Park Inn Hotel  
5401 Carlisle Pike  
Mechanicsburg, PA**

**Topics:**

**Bully Prevention  
Assistive Technology  
Classroom Structure  
Behavior Support**

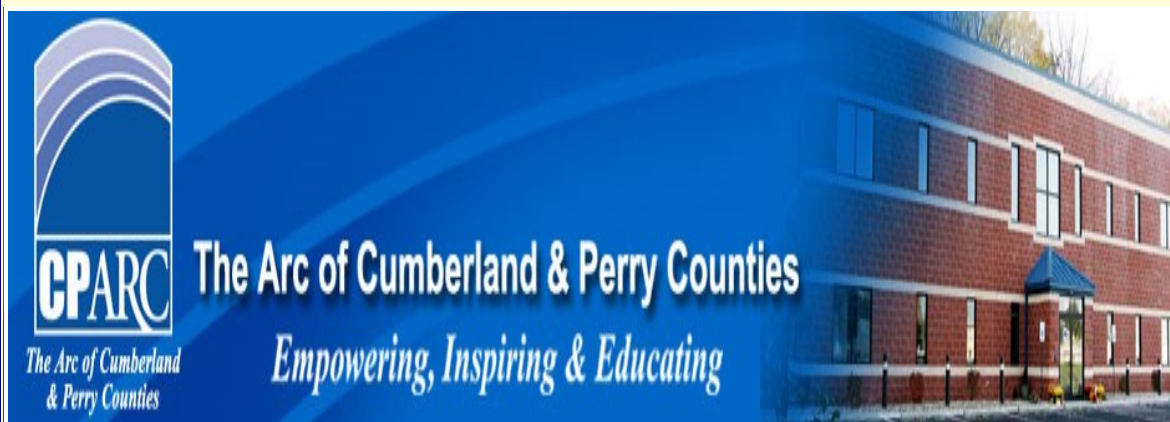
**Further details TBA. Please visit [www.cparc.org](http://www.cparc.org) or you may contact:**

⇒ **Pam Shenk**

**[pshenk@cparc.org](mailto:pshenk@cparc.org)**

⇒ **Cindy Adams**

**[cadams@cparc.org](mailto:cadams@cparc.org)**





**Hope Friendship Dances**

(Formerly "Arc Friendship Dances")

Third Monday of the month (September—May) 7:00-9:00 PM

**Hope Lutheran Church**

**4131 Lehigh Drive in Cherryville**

**Fee is \$5.00 a person**

No need to RSVP. Please park in the rear of the church & enter from the rear. Questions or want to volunteer? Please call Judy Dieter at 610-767-9170 or [dietervj@aol.com](mailto:dietervj@aol.com).

**2015 Dates:**

Jan.19 Feb.16 March 16 April 20 May 18 (Pizza Party 6-9PM)

**Via Basketball Clinics**

FREE Events for Children with Special Needs

**Clinic Dates**

Jan. 18, 2015

March 22, 2015

May 3, 2015

**Location**

DeSales University

NCC

Moravian College

**Register By**

January 12

March 16

April 27

All clinics run 1:00-2:30 PM. The clinics are hosted by Traci Cyr, member of the LehighValley Basketball Hall of Fame. Sponsored by MassMutual Financial Group Eastern PA's SpecialCare Planning Team. Athletes must be 8-years-old or older to participate. A parent or caregiver must remain in the gym during the clinic. Athletes will receive a complimentary basketball at the March clinic. Register at [www.ViaNet.org](http://www.ViaNet.org). For more info, please contact [A.Colucci@ViaNet.org](mailto:A.Colucci@ViaNet.org) or call 610-317-8000, ext. 459.



**TIP**

**Together It's Possible  
Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center  
2495 Fox Gap Road in Bangor**

TIP is a group of families from the Slatebelt area who seek to educate and support youth with disabilities and their families. To learn more about their potluck gatherings and the TIP glass studio, please visit [www.tipatkirkridge.org](http://www.tipatkirkridge.org) or contact Dr. Jean Richardson at 610-599-4604 or [jeanr@kirkridge.org](mailto:jeanr@kirkridge.org).



