

**Healthy, happy
and safe...
Thanks to you!**



The Arc®

Westchester

New York

*Supporting people with developmental
disabilities throughout their lifetime*

Dear Friend,

We hope this letter finds you and your loved ones in continued good health.

This has been an unprecedented year in so many ways, and we are thankful to our wonderful, caring Arc Westchester family for always lifting us up when we need it most.

For that, we are deeply grateful!

At the beginning of this pandemic, you may have asked yourself, “what difference do I want to make in our family, our business, and in our community?” Many of you have already chosen to support the essential work provided at The Arc Westchester for individuals of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Collectively, past donors and new donors alike have moved local support from merely transactional, to truly transformational. Proving again, that together, we are stronger.

With a confluence of crises impacting our community today — a pandemic and economic uncertainty — it's easy to lose our way. As a matter of fact, it's predicted that half of our local nonprofits won't survive this perfect storm of challenges.

This is not an option for us, or for you, as evidenced by your continued generous support!

Together, we remain mission-driven and our focus is, and always will be, clearly fixed on the health and safety of the 2,000 vulnerable individuals with I/DD in our care, and the 850 professionals who support them with a continuum of excellent programs and services – every day, **crisis or not**.

As many of us found ourselves spending more time at home due to the pandemic, the 240 individuals living in our 45 residences found themselves in the same circumstances. When our homes went into lockdown, there was much fear about changed routines, connections to the community, outings with family, volunteer opportunities, and job losses. Overnight, our Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) became frontline healthcare providers, working tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of our individuals during this health crisis, many of whom have complex medical needs and require round-the-clock, skilled, compassionate care.

*While the challenges we face with COVID-19 are ongoing, our outstanding DSPs continue to find new ways to engage our individuals at home. **Melvin**, pictured with House Manager **Steven Bell**, has enjoyed learning how to grow vegetables and herbs that he and his housemates can enjoy.*



Our individuals rely on us, and we rely on you!

You helped us secure critical personal protective equipment (PPE) and sanitizing supplies, as well as provide the funds needed to continue to hire, recognize, and retain our heroic DSPs in their vital roles. Your philanthropic dollars made it possible for us to quickly shift our services from in-person programming to remote platforms for 550 individuals in Day Services, enabling us to reduce skills regression and the depression that can result from isolation. **We couldn't have done it without you!**

Good news! Limited participation in-person Day Services resumed on August 17, following a comprehensive COVID-19 Safety Plan for reopening. This first step in providing a critical need to so many who rely on our services every day was very important, and we are experiencing a gradual return of in-person participation.

Unfortunately, the threat is ongoing. Reserves are low, New York State budget cuts are on the horizon, and the cost of PPE and sanitizing equipment is now estimated at **\$50,000 per month**.

125,000 gloves and 21,000 masks are needed each month.

As we approach the end of 2020, we are pleased to report that, while the COVID-19 health crisis has created tremendous challenges and a future filled with uncertainty, **with your continued support**, we will safely move our mission forward into 2021 by promoting independence and inclusion for children and adults with I/DD and by providing a high-quality service organization for them – right here, in Westchester County.

As you spend time in your own home this holiday season, we hope that you will think of our amazing individuals and reflect on how you give them joy, hope, stability, and even a sense of wonder, much-needed in a world of uncertainty.

Best wishes for continued health and happiness for you and your loved ones throughout the holiday season.

Gratefully yours,



Tibi Guzmán
Executive Director/CEO
The Arc Westchester



Nancy Patota
Executive Director
The Arc Westchester Foundation



The Majsak family enjoyed a safe and heartwarming reunion after a tough three months without in-person visits. It was a joyful day for David, a resident in our Yorktown Heights home, and his parents.

P.S.: Your tax-deductible, year-end gift is an investment in keeping individuals with developmental disabilities healthy, happy and safe.

Stay safe, stay healthy, stay connected! Visit www.arcwestchester.org/about/annual-report for more information about The Arc Westchester, great stories of our mission-at-work, ways to make an on-line contribution, and so much more. Be sure to read our Annual Report + COVID-19 Update for more information about our ongoing response to the health crisis.