

# re·sil·ience

[rə'zilyəns]

## NOUN

- 1 : the ability to adapt to difficult situations and keep functioning — both physically and psychologically — often emerging stronger than before.



Westchester

New York

Supporting people with developmental disabilities throughout their lifetime

Dear Arc Westchester Family and Friends,

We hope this letter finds you happy, healthy and enjoying a new spring season. Spring is a time of renewal — spring leaves, spring flowers, spring cleaning, and the spring membership appeal!

This year, knowing that we can't change the past, we've learned to adapt to change and view new challenges with optimism. The resiliency of everyone in our Arc Westchester family — our generous donors, our incredible staff, and the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in our programs — **inspires us every day and encourages us to look forward.**

**Resilient people** are optimistic, realistic, emotionally flexible and socially connected. However, when faced with a crisis like the COVID-19 pandemic, it can be easy to get overwhelmed by things that feel far beyond an individual's control. Support from **family and friends like you** continues to bolster our staff and individuals, **making them feel like they have someone in their corner**, and builds **community resilience.**

Together, we have kept the health and safety of the **2,000** individuals with developmental disabilities who we support, **our top priority**, while finding innovative ways to keep them connected to their families, friends, and the community.

We've opened doors to new ways of volunteering, leveraged transition programming to help individuals who were furloughed build new skills, and we have found new ways to engage virtually.

## **Our individuals are thriving – connecting to the community.**

They are returning to in-person jobs and volunteer opportunities, and building the foundation for bright futures. As we celebrate their achievements, and admire their resiliency, we encourage you to make a gift to recognize these individuals and the staff who have helped them.

## **You have been instrumental in their recovery.**

We are so grateful to each and every one of you for your unwavering support!

Gratefully yours,

**Tibi Guzmán**  
Executive Director/CEO  
The Arc Westchester

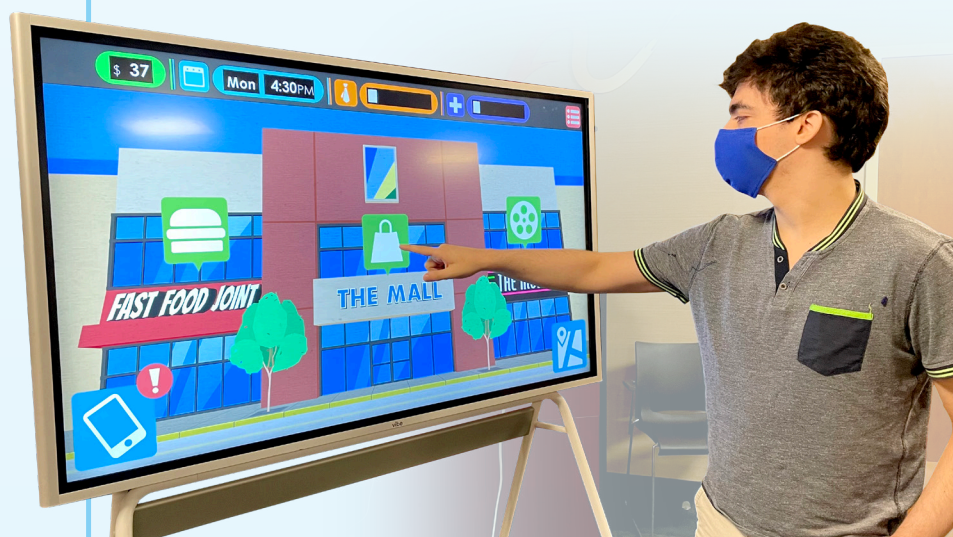
**Nancy Patota**  
Executive Director  
The Arc Westchester Foundation

P.S.: A recurring gift from our family of supporters, usually made monthly, protects the long-term financial health of The Arc Westchester. It's easy and secure – learn more by visiting:  
[www.arcwestchester.org/donate](http://www.arcwestchester.org/donate)



Our volunteers are back out in the community supporting a wide range of organizations, including The Sharing Shelf in Port Chester.

Vincent, a participant in Prep4Success, was very interested in gaining employment when he entered the program. With the help of the Prep4Success team, Vincent learned how to advocate for himself – so much so that he applied his enhanced advocacy skills to help secure a slot in Project SEARCH Autism Enhancement, which will help him build the skills he needs for employment.



Your support builds community resiliency by helping our staff and individuals:

### Get connected.

Volunteering in the community builds strong, positive relationships with loved ones and friends.

### Make every day meaningful.

Employment opportunities provide a sense of accomplishment and purpose every day.

### Learn from experience.

Direct Support Professionals receive ongoing training to create innovative services.

### Be proactive.

Figure out what needs to be done, make a plan, and take action. Our strategic plan, Recovery Through Resiliency, makes us stronger than before.

### Remain hopeful.

We must always think positive as we look towards the future. With your support, we will continue to adapt and view new challenges with optimism.



Crystal is currently employed at the Stop & Shop in Mount Kisco. She was so enthusiastic about getting back to work after being home for so long during COVID-19. ***"I'm proud that I have come a long way from when I first came to The Arc Westchester, and I'm still going. I'm growing as I'm going, and I'm proud of myself."***



Will joined the team at Zaro's Family Bakery, where he packages bread and cookies, during the pandemic. As Will said in an interview with News12, ***"The thing I love most about working here is it's teaching me to be independent."***



When The Children's School for Early Development was faced with a shift to remote learning, our team quickly launched Google Classrooms and began delivering services virtually.



Aditya, a participant in our Mount Kisco Youth Connection program and resident in our Scotts Place home, was selected as the 2nd place winner in the painting category in The Arc New York's 2021 Art Competition! Aditya's piece, Earth2020, captures a very special reflection on how the entire world was affected by the pandemic.



When Carly, a recipient of Arc's Supported Employment (SEMP) services, was furloughed from her job due to the pandemic, she enrolled in the fall cycle of Prep4Success. Thanks to the program's flexible scheduling options, we're pleased to report that she secured a new employment opportunity at T.J.Maxx while finishing the program.