

# THE ADVOCATE

News of Delaware County Advocacy & Resource Organization, PA Winter, 2018



Delaware County  
Advocacy & Resource  
Organization

## The Arc of Delaware County Announces Independence and Changes Name

*Our discontinuance as an affiliated chapter of The Arc of Pennsylvania does not mean we will change our role as the premier advocacy organization for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Delaware County.*

**SWARTHMORE, Pa.** – After almost 42 years of operating as a state affiliated Arc chapter, the organization announces it has officially ended its affiliation with The Arc of Pennsylvania.

“As part of our ongoing strategic planning efforts and looking in depth at our organization’s history, current status and possible future, and developing a solid three year plan that allows us to continue our advocacy mission, we looked to a team of stakeholders, board members, staff, parents, members and donors to help us identify what we wanted for our future”, said Eileen MacDonald, Executive Director.

Along with the disaffiliation comes a new name for us which we are proud to announce as, “**Delaware County Advocacy & Resource Organization**”. The new name was chosen by collaboration with the nonprofit board of directors and a vote in early January from the organization’s membership which includes people with disabilities and family members, friends, advocates, and other members of the Delaware County community.

Delaware County Advocacy & Resource Organization is a nonprofit dedicated to advocating for and serving Delaware County residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) while providing support to their families. The nonprofit supports individuals with several different diagnoses, including Autism, Down Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy.

“Our mission and vision remain the same: to support individuals with Intellectual and developmental disabilities,” explained Eileen MacDonald, Executive Director, in a statement. “We will continue to be the premier advocacy organization for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Delaware County.” The organization assured its membership “all programs will remain the same.”

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### STAY CONNECTED



[thearcofdelco.org](http://thearcofdelco.org)



## BOARD MEMBERS

Officers

Diane Perry  
*President*

Candice DiLorenzo  
*First Vice-President*

Bradley Beck  
*Second Vice-President*

Theresa Roberts  
*Treasurer*

Emily Webb  
*Secretary*

Directors

Colleen Shepherd  
Jessica Clark  
John Innelli  
Marisa Leslie  
Nancy Larson  
Jim Murray  
Donna Wetherill  
Claudia Guerrazzi  
Essence Allen-Presley  
Kendall Curto  
Geraldyn Arnngo  
Irene Hoffman  
Darlene Luther  
David Thomas

## Happy New Year!

I am very proud to start this New Year off by serving as President of Delaware County Advocacy Resource Organization. New name, new President, and several new board members as well.

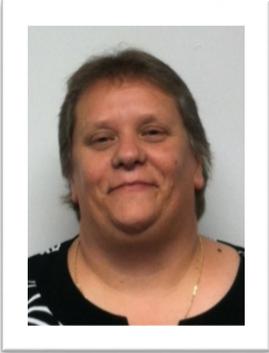
I am looking forward to working with the board, staff and membership to continue to strengthen our organization so we can better serve our family members, neighbors, friends and colleagues with disabilities. My experience as a parent of a young man with an intellectual disability brings our voice to table on many issues locally and statewide that many of us face in this political climate. Our relationships with local and state legislators are strong and we will continue to advocate not only for legislative issues but educational issues particularly due to a significant grant we received from the PA Developmental Disabilities Council. We will be working towards building a statewide model to combat the school to prison pipeline.

Our board is dedicated to working on several committees in the New Year to serve our membership. They include but are not limited to Fundraising, Legislative, and Outreach. If you are interested in joining a committee, please let me know.

Feel free to contact me anytime at [President@delcoadvocacy.org](mailto:President@delcoadvocacy.org) so I know how we are doing and please feel free to offer any suggestions or ideas to better serve our members.



**Happy New Year and YES....  
we are going to the SUPERBOWL!!!**



Well it is certain that the NEW in Happy New Year applies to us all in 2018. A new end to a football season and lots of new things here at the Delaware County Advocacy & Resource Organization! A new name, a new logo, a new board of directors and a reNEWed enthusiasm for carrying out our mission and vision. But what is *not* new is what we do and how we do it.

While so many things are new and changing we are happy that our programs, staff, membership, mission and position as the premier advocacy & resource organization here in Delaware County for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are not. As we begin this new year we will, as we do each year, look to enhance and improve our programs and advocacy efforts but we will not stray from our dedication to our mission.

Look for new and exciting themes for our First Friday Program, come join us at the first time staff-driven fundraising event—The Brewhaha Bingo Bash, keep an eye on our website at [www.delcoadvocacy.org](http://www.delcoadvocacy.org) for lots of new and useful information and lots more! 2018 stands to be one of our best years yet!

I would like to take a minute to thank everyone who supported our 2017 Annual Giving Campaign. The generosity and commitment shown by so many to support our advocacy and Social/Recreation programs has been overwhelming. I am constantly moved by the true dedication and commitment we are so lucky to receive from our loyal membership, families, community partners, donors and friends.

I will continue, as always, to draw on that inspiration to drive my own personal commitment to our membership, staff, board and community!

Thank you,

*Eileen*



**STAFF**

**Eileen MacDonald**

*Executive Director*

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*Administrative Assistant*

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**THE YEAR OF CHANGES...  
CHANGES TO SERVICES IN  
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY (ID) DELCO COMMUNITY**

As many of you may or may not know, Pennsylvania State government along with the Federal government has issued several service changing amendments to the current waiver system. For instance, there are services now that fully promote and support competitive employment. There are more community living options than ever before. Therapies such as equine, music and art have been added under the waivers. There is also a huge push to make residential providers more accountable to the programming of the individuals they serve. Come January 2018, Delaware County, along with the rest of the state are preparing to become familiarized with the new service definitions, billing codes, changes to the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) requirements, and how all of this is going to trickle down and impact the ones who are being supported. It's a scary thing and will sure be the most evolving year we have had in a while.

#### **NEW WAIVER**

Pennsylvania has stayed rather "hush hush" about this, but I'm here to shout it from the rooftops! In January 2018, it is estimated that a new waiver called Community Living is set to take off on its maiden voyage. This waiver still serves the ID population but opens up a

new door of service opportunities for individuals who are exceeding the Participant/Family Directed Services (P/FDS) waiver but who do not quite need the funding amount of a Consolidated Waiver. The Community Living waiver will be capped at \$70,000 and will promote an even more inclusive lifestyle for individuals who want to work, become more independent, or who need a slightly more intensive level of care in the community. We are so excited to see this happen because it will give our members a better opportunity to obtain the services they greatly need. A big THANK YOU to the legislators at the State for listening and bringing in the New Year with a bang!

#### **WHAT ARE WE THANKFUL FOR?**

Up until now, the statistics of the Adult Advocacy program have not been publicly advertised. This certainly needs to change because you need to know why we are so grateful for the wonderful people who support us. The Adult Advocacy program has not only flourished but has grown exponentially in the last 4 years. We are so proud of the amount of people we serve every year that we want to share our celebration with you!

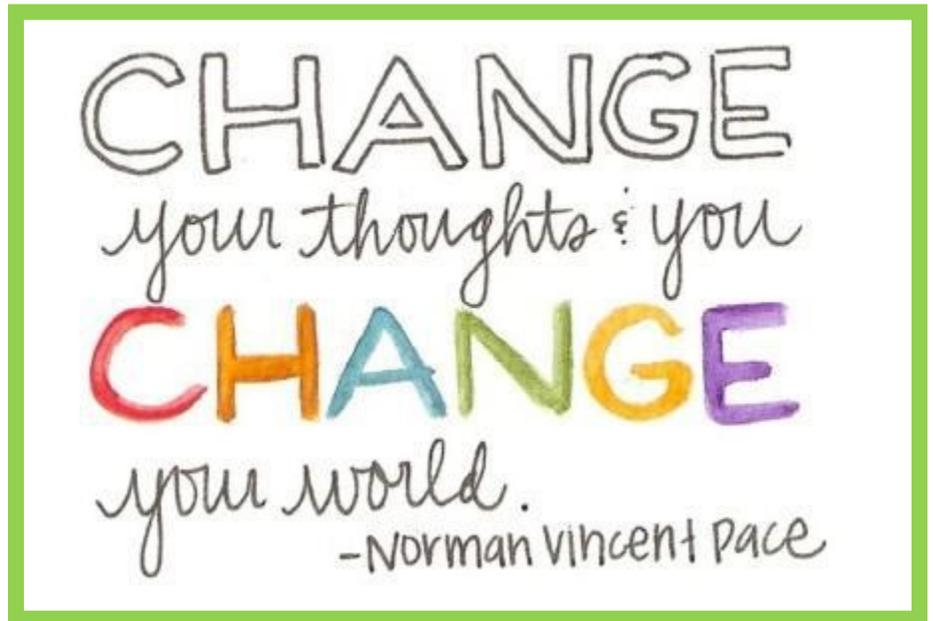


CATEGORY	2013-2014 FY	2014-2015 FY	2015-2016 FY	2016-2017 FY
Total Number of Individuals Served for FY	130	144	183	254
Average Number of New Individuals Served per Month for FY	9	9	9	10
Average Number of Duplicated Individuals Served per Month for FY	14	26	39	64
Average Number of Individuals Served per Month for FY	23	35	49	74

\*FY = Fiscal Year which runs from July 1 – June 30



Karissa Desiderio, Adult Advocate  
 Can be reached at ext. 110  
[kdesiderio@delcoadvocacy.org](mailto:kdesiderio@delcoadvocacy.org)





Nicole Mendez Education Advocate, can be reached at #107 or nmendez@delcoadvocacy.org

When challenged to write a piece on “change,” during the busiest time of the year, my thoughts switched from inspiring parents and IEP team members to become agents of change to discussing the appropriate time to change following a new intervention. Then I realized that what one truly needs to consider when contemplating change grows from their personal experiences. So, I reflected with some poetry...

Poetry reveals the beauty in prose and Haiku, particularly, teaches patience. And Haiku’s are really fun. I challenge you to write a haiku on anything today. It can be a wonderfully frustrating mental workout. Below is my attempt on *Change and some of my favorites found on the Interwebs. Enjoy and good luck!*



## Sharing Our New Year's Resolutions

By Vera D'Ercole, Nonprofit Coordinator

It took a lot of prying but the staff shared their New Year's Resolutions. As for me, I haven't had a resolution in years since I don't tend to stick with them. What I will share is my 2018 Word. I've used a different word over the past few years to help me stay in check with goals for the new year. Once I shared that with the staff many of them decided that would work for them, too.



My word for 2018 is "Simplify." I'm looking to simplify all aspects of my life and enjoy those little things. You know, "stop and smell the roses."

With all the recent changes including our name change from The Arc of Delaware County to Delaware County Advocacy & Resource Organization it's not a surprise that our Executive Director, Eileen MacDonald choose "Change" has her word for the new year.

Nancy LeClair's word for 2018 is balance.

Colleen Foti's 2018 mantra: Prioritize & Balance. Her goal for 2018 is to take time to break down what needs my time and energy most. Prioritizing responsibilities will hopefully allow me to consciously choose where I believe I need to focus, resulting in being more effective & efficient with my time.

Dolores Kent shared that she doesn't make resolutions and like me, when she does she doesn't keep them. Her word for 2018---Positive.

Mary Brooks is working on her patience this year.

Looks like Nicole has a list of resolutions this year. She is going to meditate and do yoga twice a day, write to her representatives and politicians regularly, schedule family game nights weekly, purge her home of unused items and clothing and donate whatever she can more often.



Karissa plans continued growth in Delaware County Advocacy & Resource Organization's Adult Advocacy program, educate herself in all of the changes at the State, reach more students who are transitioning out of high school, and work to promote employment for all in Delaware County.

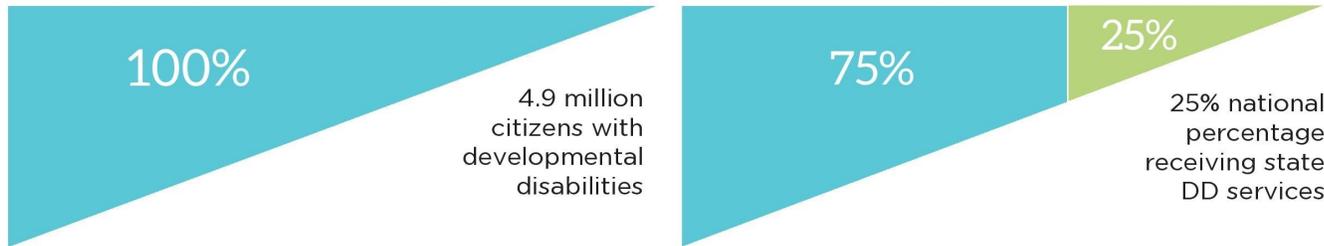
Looks like we will all be busy in 2018. Wish us all luck and Happy New Year!!!!

# Charting the LifeCourse

## Guiding Principles



## Focusing on ALL

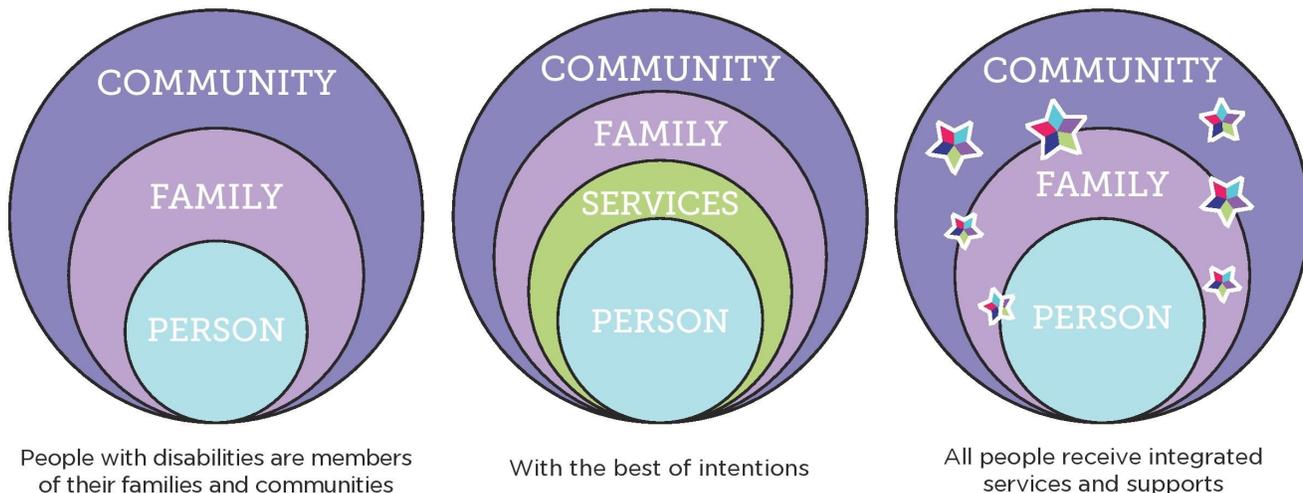


Based on 1.49% prevalence, US Census 2013. Braddock et al, State of the State 2013

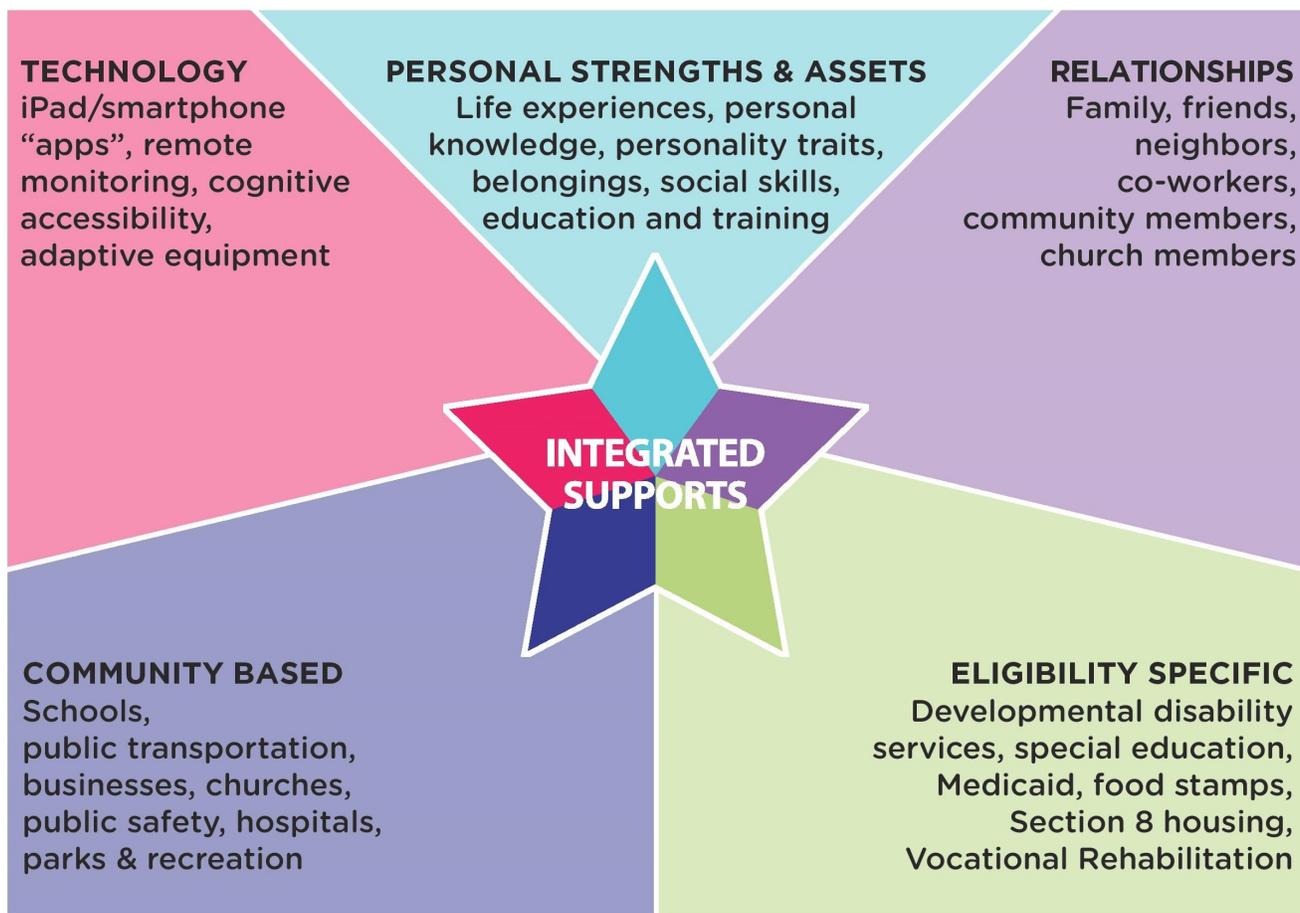
## Life Stages and Life Domains

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Daily Life &amp; Employment:</b><br/>What you do as part of everyday life– school, employment, volunteering, communication, routines, life skills.</li> <li> <b>Community Living</b><br/>Where and how you live– housing and living options, community access, transportation, home modifications.</li> <li> <b>Safety &amp; Security</b><br/>Staying safe and secure– emergencies, well-being, guardianship options, legal rights and issues.</li> <li> <b>Healthy Living</b><br/>Managing and accessing health care and staying well– medical, mental health, behavior, developmental, wellness and nutrition.</li> <li> <b>Social &amp; Spirituality</b><br/>Building friendships and relationships, leisure activities, personal networks, faith community.</li> <li> <b>Citizenship &amp; Advocacy</b><br/>Building valued roles, making choices, setting goals, assuming responsibility and driving how one’s own life is lived.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Prenatal/Infancy</b><br/>Early years, wondering if meeting developmental milestones</li> <li> <b>Early Childhood</b><br/>Preschool age, getting a diagnosis</li> <li> <b>School Age</b><br/>Everyday life during school years</li> <li> <b>Transition</b><br/>Transitions from school to adult life– Realizing school is almost over!</li> <li> <b>Adulthood</b><br/>Living life as an adult</li> <li> <b>Aging</b><br/>Getting older and preparing for end of life (parent/family/individual)</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

## Person within the Context of Family & Community



## Integrated Supports Across the Life Course



Access the LifeCourse tools and framework at [lifecoursetools.com](http://lifecoursetools.com)



Delaware County  
Advocacy & Resource  
Organization

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Classic

**Date:** Monday, May 7, 2018

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. Registration  
1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start

**Place:** Paxon Hollow Country Club  
850 Paxon Hollow Rd  
Media, PA 19063  
<http://www.paxonhollowgolf.com>

**Fee:** \$150.00 per Golfer  
**Dinner Only Option:** \$50.00 per person  
(Begins 6:00 pm - includes 2 hour Open Bar)

**Includes:** Green Fees w/Cart, Locker Room Facilities, Beverages, & Awards with 2 hour Open Bar at Anthony's @ Paxon Hollow.

**RSVP:** [colleen2617@gmail.com](mailto:colleen2617@gmail.com) - 610-960-6678



### **BALL DROP**

- Purchase a ball for \$20 each / 3 winning prizes for landing closest to the pin / Closest wins \$1,500 / Next 2 closest win \$250 each / To purchase your chance to win send your check or money order to Delaware County Advocacy & Resource Organization at 740 S. Chester Road, Ste G, Swarthmore, PA 19081 / For more information or questions contact Colleen Shepherd at [colleen2617@gmail.com](mailto:colleen2617@gmail.com) or 610-960-6678

**All Proceeds Benefit Delaware County Advocacy & Resource Organization**

It is the mission of Delaware County Advocacy & Resource Organization to advocate for inclusive community practices and influence public policy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Delaware County  
Advocacy & Resource  
Organization

740 S. Chester Road, Ste G  
Swarthmore, PA 19081  
610-544-6600 (P) / 610-544-8916 (F)

## BREWHAHA BINGO BASH

**Who:** Guys & Gals (Prizes are Guy and Gal friendly)  
All guests must be 21 (ID will be needed)

**Date:** Friday, April 6, 2018

**Time:** 7 pm Bingo begins promptly at 7:30 pm

**Where:** Ridley's Creekside Center

794 Milmont Avenue, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania 19081

**Cost:** \$35 per ticket, limited Tickets available. Ticket price includes 6 BINGO games, with prizes for each game, as well as Roast Beef sandwiches, salads, beer, wine and soda.



100% of all funds raised will be donated to Delaware County Advocacy & Resource Organization (formerly The Arc of Delaware County).

This is sure to be a evening of fun and laughter. Raffle tickets for various baskets will also be sold.

Tickets for this event can be purchased online at [www.thearcofdelco.org](http://www.thearcofdelco.org) or by sending a check or money order made payable to Delaware County Advocacy & Resource Organization ,740 S. Chester Road, Suite G, Swarthmore, PA 19081.

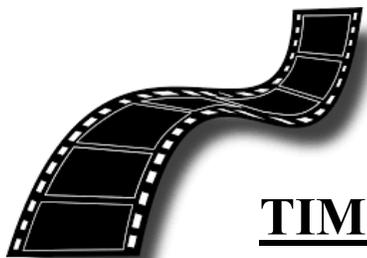




# MOVIE NIGHT



**WHERE:** DCIU  
200 YALE AVEUE  
MORTON, PA  
RM 171-172



**TIME:** 6:30-8:30 PM



**COST:** \$5 INCLUDES  
POPCORN & A DRINK



February 28th



March 21st

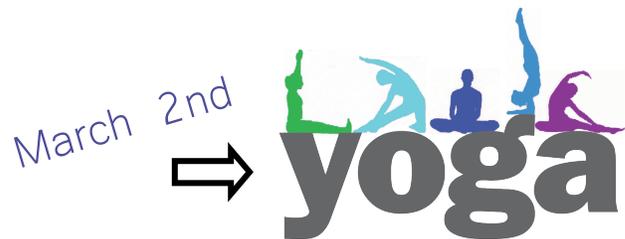
**WHERE:** DCIU  
Room 171 & 172

**WHEN:** 6:30-8:30 PM

**COST:** \$5 per member per event



**Come join the fun on a Friday evening with friends. Each month is a new activity and a new chance to get involved!**



## COME OUT AND SEE

Some wonderful art pieces produced by our members and friends as we participate in a juried art show hosted by

The Villanova University Art Gallery  
Connelly Center  
800 Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, PA 19380

**February 2– March 26**



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Our volunteers are all blessings. However, Delaware County Advocacy & Resource Organization may have found a “knight in shining armor” when we received a phone call from Vince Smith in the Fall of 2017.

Vince called out of the blue because he wanted to give back to the “disability world.” He explained that his grandson, Manny, age 9, has autism and he received so much support that Vince wanted to thank the community with volunteering to help those in the same arena. As a matter of fact, Vince has even brought Manny along for some of the volunteering events, such as collecting turkeys and canned goods for those less fortunate at Thanksgiving.

Vince is from Rhode Island and moved to Glenolden in 1985. He lives with his wife, Mary; daughter, Erin and grandson, Manny. If you take time to talk to Vince, you know his grandson is his pride and joy.

When asked what he enjoys most with this volunteer opportunity, Vince is really quick to point out that interacting with other families and our members makes him most happy. Although he also volunteers at the office daily. Vera D’Ercole, Nonprofit Coordinator, “Vince is a tremendous asset to our organization. He is always willing to jump right in with whatever needs to be done.” Vince has been working hard to assist in cleaning up the database, as well as our Constant Contact list. Every other Saturday, you can find Vince helping out at our bowling league. He also assists at many of our First Fridays and Movie Nights. His favorite social/recreational event held by Delaware County Advocacy & Resource Organization has been our seasonal dances. He stated “Those dances bring so much joy to our members. It warms my heart to see that joy.”

Vince has certainly made some new friends over the past few months and has even rekindled some friendships from the past. Vince previously worked as a Manager for Rite Aid and Kmart for over 30 years and one of our member’s parent was an employee years ago. That’s the whole six degrees of Delaware County!

Vince spends time with his grandson and they both enjoy the outdoors. So I typical day of fun would be time at the park, miniature golfing, or fishing and then a stop at a restaurant for a bite to eat.

All in all, Vince is very quick to point out he is so fortunate to have found this opportunity. Vince, we feel the same way about you.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Vera D’Ercole at 610-544-6600 ext. 109 or email at [vdercole@delcoadvocacy.org](mailto:vdercole@delcoadvocacy.org).

# SUPPORTERS

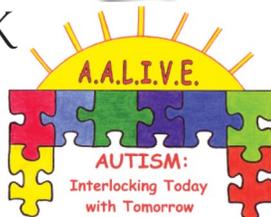
# Piazza Honda of Springfield



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www.delcoadvocacy.org



**Advocating for inclusive community practices and influence public policy for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities**



**Delaware County  
Advocacy & Resource  
Organization**

*Delaware County Advocacy & Resource Organization (Formerly known as The Arc of Delaware County)*

*Delaware County Advocacy & Resource Organization is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization - donations to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. The official registration and financial information of Delaware County Advocacy & Resource Organization may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*

United Way of Southeastern Pa · #00348