

Arc of Genesee Orleans Agency Update

by Donna Saskowski, Executive Director



To all of the families, friends and partners of the Arc of Genesee Orleans: “Happy Fall!”

We are happy to report we had a very good summer despite the ongoing pandemic and presence of COVID-19 in our area. Genesee and Orleans counties continue to report a very low number of cases and so do we, as an agency.

As of this writing we have had no positive cases of people we support in any of our residential programs or our recently re-opened day services. Only 3 staff have reported a positive test during the past 6 months, all of whom recovered nicely and were not part of a larger pattern of community spread.

We continue to be vigilant during this time as we are aware that with the re-opening of colleges and schools we could see an increase within our community and at the Arc.

We have developed and posted our safety plans for every open/active agency site. These plans are updated as needed and continue to follow OPWDD, CDC, DOH and NYS Guidelines.

Support for system updates are received frequently from The Arc New York, OPWDD and DDAWNY; this helps ensure we are acting upon the most accurate information available.

Re-opening programs has been quite a challenge, but oh so worth it! To enter a program site and see the “smiling eyes” (masks on) of people we support puts a lightness back in your step.

This will continue as a gradual process but we consider everyone and try to ensure that each person’s needs and desires are being met. We are also seeing an increase in requests for contract work which helps individuals return to earning a paycheck!

September recognizes our direct support staff and this year in particular we are recognizing ALL staff. Our “Hero Appreciation Week” runs from September 8-September 12. All staff will receive small gifts, a visit with the ice cream truck, lunch/dinner on the agency, and gift drawings throughout the week.

Without the dedicated staff we have, this unusual year would have been even more difficult. My sincere thanks and admiration to every staff at our agency. The teamwork that was displayed revealed their true character.

Thank you to all staff for work very well done!

Donna

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Executive Director