




The Arc
of Buncombe County
MAKING THINGS BETTER
NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2021 EDITION

HELLO SPRING!

It's that time of year when the world starts to wake up from the winter and nature begins to bloom! In March we celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness month, which is a wonderful opportunity for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be showcased. And there are a few local happenings that you'll want to be sure to read about below. Along with that, we know that parents and kids are starting to make plans for summer camp. So be sure to click the link below if you are in need of financial support.

And remember, if there's an item of interest for future issues of our newsletter, please contact Linda McDaniel with your stories. We'd love to share it!



March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is recognized and celebrated each year during the month of March. In 1987, President Ronald Reagan recognized Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month to “increase public awareness of the needs and the potential of Americans who face developmental disabilities and to provide the opportunities they need in order to live productive lives and to achieve their full potential.” According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, developmental disabilities are defined as impairments in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas, which include Autism spectrum disorders, Cerebral Palsy, attention-deficit and hyperactivity disorder, intellectual or learning disabilities, hearing loss, vision impairment, and other developmental delays.



Howdy Homemade Ice Cream, which Staffs Special-Needs Employees, to Open in Asheville

Mackensy Lunsford *Asheville Citizen Times*



Pete and Betsy Brewer stand with the ice cream maker they've been using to perfect their recipes at their South Asheville home on Nov. 12, 2020. Their neighbors have been acting as the taste-testers of their creations. *Angeli Wright, Asheville Citizen Times*

A business with a mission to build opportunities for people with special needs has its sights set on Asheville for expansion. Pete and Betsy Brewer will be behind a new South Asheville location of Howdy Homemade Ice Cream. Founded in Texas by Tom Landis, Howdy became one of the state's top employers of special needs workers. The Brewers moved to Asheville in 2008 with their two daughters,

Madeline and Annie. Annie, a junior at T.C. Roberson High School, also has autism. "Betsy and I have, for quite a few years, said when Annie completes high school, we'll need to confront two daunting words for special needs parents: 'Now what,'" Pete Brewer said. The unemployment rate among special needs adults is 82%, he said. "We wanted a landing spot for our daughter and other special needs adults in this community, and we decided we were going to take ownership and start a business," Brewer explained. At Wake Forest, where Brewer teaches accounting, a colleague approached him with a heart-warming story he'd seen on the evening news about a Texas man with a special ice cream shop. Brewer quickly contacted Howdy founder Landis, who offered to fly him to Dallas to see how the shop worked. "And Betsy and I concluded that this is the business for us," Pete Brewer said. "Not only would it be a great fit for Annie, but a wonderful thing for Asheville and for the community."



First Group of Cadets with Buncombe County's Growth Through Opportunities Program Receive Certificates of Achievement



Graduates of the Growth Through Opportunities (GTO) Program:
(from left) John Kniffin, Shawn Edward Stewart, and Jacob Landau.

The Buncombe County Sheriff's Office and many community agencies recognized the cadets that are part of our first cohort of the Growth Through Opportunities (GTO) program. This community of agencies has been serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and providing them valuable social and career

experience within a professional setting. The program's partners include the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office, City of Asheville Fire Department, Asheville Police Department, the Arc of Buncombe County, Liberty Corner Enterprises, and Universal MH/DD/SAS and many other local Fire Departments. Congrats to the cadets for their achievement and perseverance with the program despite the challenges COVID presented this past year!

Thank you to the Following Companies and Organizations for Your Support During these Challenging Times



GRANT LAUGHTER



Joyce Tweed, Administrative Assistant at the Arc of Buncombe County, accepting a grant check from Sheila Elinburg from WCMA (Walnut Cove Member).



Volunteer Testimonial

During the twelve years that I have been involved with the Arc of Buncombe County, I've been so impressed with the mission, the compassion, the programs, and the people who are affiliated with the organization. I have served in several capacities, but being on the Development Committee where we raise funds to support the programs and the needs of the families, is my strength. The role I play gives me a great sense of satisfaction to know that I have made someone's life easier.

– Dee Holmes

“To me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality.”

~ Alice Paul, suffragist, women's rights activist, leader of the National Woman's Party

March is also Women's History Month



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