



The Arc Gloucester Celebrates 60 Years with 60 Acts of Kindness!

Sixty is a humbling number. Sixty years of change, sixty years of acceptance, and sixty years of advancement in programs available to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, is not only cause for celebration but a reason for reflection.

As they say, it takes a village. The positive change we've seen over the past sixty years cannot be attributed to one, ten, or even one hundred people. It is thanks to the efforts of self-advocates, the hard work of employees and volunteers, the legislators, family members, community groups, and so many others who believe in and support the mission of The Arc Gloucester. Thanks to their actions the lives of thousands of people have been touched over the past sixty years.

In recognition of our 60th anniversary and the many people who have supported our Mission, The Arc Gloucester has decided to celebrate by paying it forward. From April of 2016 to April of 2017, we are sharing 60 Acts of Kindness with those in our community. The individuals who attend The Arc Gloucester's programs and our employees have been spreading kindness throughout all of Gloucester County, just like the kindness that has been shown to us since 1957. Here's a snapshot of some of the kind acts that have occurred so far!

The Arc Gloucester's Adult Training Services provide individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities an opportunity to learn new skills and interact with their peers. A group from Franklinville

ATS has built a terrific friendship with the men and women who live at Veteran's Haven, transitional housing for members of our armed forces. In August a group from Franklinville loaded up their vehicle with donations, fun decorations, games, a radio, tasty treats, and yummy salads made with vegetables from their own garden. They spent the day spreading kindness and enjoying time with our veterans.



Franklinville ATS also enlisted others to help them spread kindness. Their friends at D'Agostine's Produce put aside fruit and vegetables which

Franklinville ATS picks up and delivers to Funny Farm Animal Rescue. The bounty of special treats is joyfully shared with the many animals that live there.



Woodbury ATS, along with agency nurse Robyn Blanchard, also helped some of our four-legged friends. They collected and delivered items to West Deptford Animal Hospital's Precious Love Fund, which helps to care for animals with special needs. Everyone enjoyed furry snuggles when the group arrived to deliver the items. Woodbury ATS also donated a portion of the proceeds from the sale of their all natural dog treats, B'Arc Bones, to help the Precious Love Fund.



During the summer camp season, counselors and staff from The Arc Gloucester's Camp Sun 'N Fun assembled over 150 bags of food and hygiene items that were distributed to the homeless citizens of Philadelphia.



Employees at The Arc Gloucester's Administrative office collected items for the First Baptist Church of Clayton Food Pantry. One afternoon was spent delivering items and helping pack bags for the Thanksgiving holiday; the next day employees were on hand to help distribute the items to our neighbors in need.



Sadly the food supply in many local food pantries has become critically low. To assist with this need the Young at Heart senior's group from Chestnut Ridge ATS also collected food and delivered it to the food pantry located at Pfeiffer Community Center. Along with the donation they also brought cookies made at

The Arc Bakery. This group has visited the community center on other occasions to volunteer their time and help out where needed.

During the holiday season, we had many opportunities to spread kindness. The Saturday Drop-off and In-home Respite programs



honored veterans who have passed away by helping to place Wreaths of Remembrance on the grave sites at the local Veteran's Memorial Cemetery, an effort coordinated by People for People of Gloucester County. Tuckahoe House respite program collected gifts for the Toys for Tots campaign, and the staff members at the Family Intervention

Program assisted at the Homeless Holiday Brunch, an initiative started by Dominique Wellons and is supported by many groups in the community.

Attendees at the holiday brunch were given a meal, clothing, grooming items, and toys were given to the children.



The Aktion Club, a community service organization sponsored by The Arc Gloucester and the Greater Woodbury Kiwanis for young adults living with disabilities who want to become community leaders and give back to the community, have been sharing kindness in many different ways. They held a food collection, collaborated on a community coat drive with People for People of Gloucester

County, and they spread holiday cheer by making candy cane reindeer and delivering them to a local nursing care facility.

Over Columbus Day weekend, the employees and individuals who live at Heather Ridge Supervised Apartments also brightened the day of friends at a local nursing care facility by baking and delivering cookies to them. The residents enjoyed the cookies and were touched by the gesture of kindness.



On a daily basis The Arc Gloucester is shown kindness, and it is our pleasure to pay that kindness forward to others. We are lucky to be a part of a community where so many individuals, businesses, and organizations care for and support one another. Celebrating 60 years of service to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities is an honor and it is a privilege to celebrate that achievement through 60 Acts of Kindness. More kind acts are already happening!

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