Carlene Embraces Change

Carlene lives with two caregivers, Russ and Sharon. Carlene went on to have two more children who were part of her life. After her daughter passed away in early 2000 and her son moved out of state, Carlene was left without any relatives in the area and missed her sense of family. Carlene treats her home care provider’s family as her own. Carlene’s home care providers received a surprise one summer evening back in June when a nice woman and her two sons knocked on the door asking if his grandmother lived there. The home care providers were caught off guard and told the man that they would speak with Carlene and directed him to contact The Arc. The man spoke with Carlene and she agreed to the meeting.

The Arc was excited to see their first face to face meeting with Carlene in the comfort of her living room. Carlene chose who she wanted to be there to support her during this meeting. She went ahead and made nice apple bread. Carlene and Dan spent some time catching up and getting to know one another and tell the man that they would each have other in their lives. And even more good news, she’s just had a baby and this makes Carlene a great grandmother!

Carlene was pleasantly surprised. She did not even have the chance to “sign anything”.

Our residential programs are the heart of what we do at The Arc. People with disabilities have experienced growth and new opportunities have been provided to the people we support. The Arc was also selected to participate in HealthMeet, a wellness initiative for people with I/DD funded by the CDC and The Arc of the United States.

Prior to Chapter 257, some of the services purchased by the Commonwealth included hospitalization, home health care, and various state-funded programs. The Arc of North Central Massachusetts was able to increase their efficiency and effectiveness.

Carlene’s story is no exception. Our dedicated staff, volunteers and board of directors will work unceasingly to provide lifetime opportunities to individuals and their families.

The Arc of Opportunity in North Central Massachusetts is grateful to you for your continued support. Your generosity allows us to carry out our mission to create and support lifetime opportunities in the community for individuals with disabilities and their families to reach their fullest potential by providing advocacy, education, employment, residential, and recreational services to enhance quality of life.

Contact Us

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View a complete listing of our donors, sponsors, and members at www.arcofopportunity.org
Our Day Services include:
• Day Habilitation - provides a therapeutic and medical approach to skill-building including physical and occupational therapy, speech and language, behavioral management and health care supervision through nursing.
• Supported Community Options (SCOP) - a stepping stone to and from full-time work that includes a blend of employment and recreational activities.
• Elder Services - offers older adults a retirement option while supporting them through the aging process.

The Family Support program responds to families by providing a confidential and non-judgemental setting in which to share information and get answers to situations they are facing. A variety of supports are offered including:
• Support groups, Family education and trainings
• Legislative and programmatic updates
• Family fun and networking days
• Food baskets and gifts during the holidays
• Information and referral services
• Resource materials

Our Recreation program provides diverse, year-round leisure and group activities that play an important role in the emotional and social growth of people of all ages with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Programs include:
• Special Olympics
• Bowling and miniature golf leagues
• Monthly dances
• Weekend recreation club and overnight trips
• Annual family vacations

The Recreation program receives no state or federal funding and relies solely on fundraising. The Arc’s Annual Auction and other fundraising events support this critical program. Thank you to all who participate in making this event a success.

Our Vocational program offers a continuum of opportunities that allows people to build the skills they need in order to obtain competitive employment. Services include:
• Center-based production
• Small groups working out in the community
• Competitive employment placement

Visit www.arcofopportunity.org for more financial information including The Arc’s form 990.