

THE FRIENDSHIP OF THOSE WE SUPPORT IS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR

PROGRESS

SPRING 2023

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

| Michael's Forever HomePage 2 |
|---|
| Message from the Executive DirectorPage 3 |
| Scott Kulp's |
| RetirementPage 4 MembershipPage 5 |
| GrantsPage 6 |
| In the AgencyPage 7-9 |
| EventsPage 10 |
| PAR Regional MeetingPage 10 |
| Car RafflePage 11 Calendar of Events Page 12 |
| |

Michael's Forever Home

By Mary Judd, Home Manager

This past April, Michael celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the day he chose to share his life with myself and my family. What was supposed to be a temporary 2-4 week stay became a forever home as part of BARC Developmental Services' Life Sharing program.

It all started back in April of 2003. My Program Manager at the time, Barbara Dennis, came into the Quakertown office worried about how she was going to find another apartment for Michael because he had been given 2 weeks to move out of his apartment that he was living in at the time. Michael was being evicted because of sounds he would make. The neighbors complained and said they were scared. My mom passed away a few months before this and I had a spare bedroom with furniture, so I told Barbara if she needed me to help until she found someplace for Michael to live, I would. Back then, taking the guys home to my house or taking them overnight in an emergency was not uncommon. This is how it all started.



(From left) Mary Judd, Home Manager, Michael, her husband, Phil, and Terry (front center)

I went to pick Michael up with a friend of mine. Michael's furniture was so old it fell apart as we tried to carry it out of the apartment. So, I gave Michael the furniture I had in my spare bedroom and said he could have it when they found him an apartment.



When Michael arrived at my home, my daughter, Nathina, and her friends were there. From that moment, Michael became part of our family. He use to be afraid of kids, as they would throw rocks at his windows and make fun of him. Nathina and her friends showed Michael he didn't have to be afraid of kids anymore.

Michael hardly spoke and when he did, it

was 1-word phrases. Today, not only will Michael engage in a conversation, but he will initiate them too. When it came time for Michael to look at new apartments, he would say, "No Thank You". This is when his team realized Michael did not want to leave our home and he had now found his forever family.

continued on page 2

Michael's Forever Home

continued

Michael is funny and likes to joke around with people who he knows. He LOVES to take pictures with his friends and always makes sure he has a disposable camera on hand. Michael has gone on vacations, has his annual bowling birthday parties, and loves holidays... his favorite holiday is Christmas. He use to make his Christmas wish list with my daughter, but when my husband joined our family 12 years ago, Nathina was quickly replaced with Phil. Phil is Michael's best friend.

Michael looks forward to his 1:1 time and outings with Phil. Michael goes to Phil for his wants and needs as he knows Phil never says, "NO". I always say it is like they are attached at the hip. His favorite places to go with Phil are Dunkin Donuts 3 to 4 times a week, Hershey at Christmas, and Cape May, NJ.

Michael has included my other family members, such as my cousins, as his family. His favorite person other than Phil is my cousin's wife, Debbie. Michael has his favorite friends, Alyssa, Jack, and DE. Michael's favorite Life Sharing Respite Provider is Diane.

Michael has always been able to remember everyone's birthday. Michael will remind me when someone has a birthday and he makes sure he tells me what type of cupcakes or cake to purchase for them, even if they are not there to eat it. He will enjoy it for them. Michael will sing "Happy Birthday" while playing his guitar or play his harmonica before eating the cake.

Michael has a housemate, Terry, who has lived with our family for the past 10 years. Michael is very helpful to Terry. They are like true siblings.

I could not see my life without Michael or Terry in it. Michael has put the meaning of "FAMILY" in Life Sharing Family. We share our life with Michael and Terry, and we have been both blessed and honored that Michael has chosen us to be his "Forever Family" for the past 20 years.







A Message from the Executive Director Mary Sautter, MSOL

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family healthy and well. BARC Developmental Services has entered its 72nd year of providing supports and service to children and adults with intellectual disabilities and autism. 2022 was a busy year for the agency, as we made several long-term investments such as purchasing and renovating residential homes and advancing our IT infrastructure. We look forward to continuing our commitment to long-term sustainability.

As we continue into 2023, we face similar challenges as in the past: advocating for greater funding on the federal and state levels; the staffing crisis; and potential service model changes, particularly in the vocational

department. The fiscal challenges are not new, and we have been successful in obtaining extra funding via COVID-related grants from the state and county levels over the past three years.

BARC Developmental Services continues to offer supports to children and adults in the three service departments – Early Intervention, Residential, and Vocational. Our Early Intervention Department offers therapies for over 440 children living in Bucks County aged birth to 3 years old in their natural environments. I am happy to announce that we recently expanded into Montgomery County! The two vocational workshop facilities continue to operate on a limited basis, and we hope to increase participation as staffing improves. Also, the Joint Opportunities for Business and Society (JOBS) program actively supports nine individuals in their community jobs. Our Residential Department provides every form of living environment in Bucks and Montgomery County.

After over 46 years with BARC Developmental Services, Scott Kulp has announced his retirement. Scott joined BARC Developmental Services in 1976 and has served as Director of Vocational Services since 2001. Scott's contributions to BARC reaches much farther than his many roles at the agency. He has been a mentor to so many associates and a role model for individuals he has supported. We wish him much happiness in his retirement and thank him for his years of dedicated service to BARC Developmental Services.

The agency's Development Committee oversees and monitors all fundraising activities. We are looking forward to several upcoming events including the Duck Derby (June 10th), Ivyland Open Golf Outing (June 26th), Cars for a Cause and Car Raffle (October 7th). We are grateful for all our sponsors, participants and volunteers and thank them for their generosity.

We continue to be proud of the quality of supports we provide to children and adults with intellectual disabilities and autism. Thank you to all our stakeholders and constituents for your support, it is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mary Sautter, MSOL

Mary Sautta

A Message from the Director of Vocational Services, Scott Kulp

It is with very mixed emotions that I retire from my position as Director of Vocational Services at BARC Developmental Services Inc.! This decision was not made easily or lightly.

When I first applied for a position as Job Placement Counselor with the agency 46+ years ago, little did I know it would be one of the biggest and most important decisions I would ever make; not to mention one of the best decisions I have ever made!



Truly, I did not choose BARC; BARC chose me. As I have noted many times (probably ad nauseum to some) I only intended to work for the agency for a year. Being fresh out of graduate school with a degree in counseling, I had big ideas about what my career would encompass. Those starry-eyed ideas quickly changed significantly as I began working with the folks we serve. They are the ones who changed me, though it took time for me to understand the positive impact they were having on me, not only as a professional in the human services field, but more importantly as a person.

I have enjoyed an amazing career at BARC! I have been given opportunities I couldn't have imagined 46 years ago. I am extremely proud of what we do at BARC and the part I have hopefully played in making the agency the wonderful caring organization we are. But now it is time to hand over the reins. I believe everything happens for a reason, and with all the changes our field is experiencing, I know the time is right for a new director to take charge of the Vocational Services Department and lead it in new and exciting directions.

Throughout the years....and to many more!















Annual Membership Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Ceremony

As per the By-Laws of BARC Developmental Services, a Membership Meeting is held the first Thursday of May each year, and it is during this meeting that an election for the Board of Directors is conducted. At the May 4th meeting, the members presented the re-elected incumbents, Patricia Schuck, Dana Teeling-Hernandez, and Peggy Dominy.

The meeting was followed by a Volunteer Recognition Ceremony which was the first since 2019. The ceremony recognized those who donated their time and outstanding efforts to the agency throughout the past three years.







Membership Is An Opportunity To Make A Difference

As a member:

- You are invited to attend the annual Membership Meeting held in May and participate in the election of the volunteer Board of Directors;
- Your vote directly impacts the future of the organization;
- Your tax deductible gift contributes to the support of the men, women, and children receiving services through our early intervention, residential, and vocational programs;
- You will receive this bi-annual newsletter, PROGRESS, which keeps you up to date on the agency's goals and accomplishments, as well as informing you of upcoming events.

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| | mbership Campaign. Please accept my donation of: |
| Name: | Check. Make payable to BARC Developmental Services |
| Address: | Visa or Mastercard (circle) Amt: |
| /iddress. | Name on Card: |
| Phone Number: | Address (including zip): |
| E-mail Address: | Card Number: |
| Mail Membership form and payment to: BARC Developmental Services, P.O. Box 470, Holicong, PA 18928-0470 | Expiration Date: CVV: |
| | Signature: |
| | For Fiscal Use Only - 14-17-4410 |

Grants

Emergency Evacuation Exit at BPSQ

A recent fire inspection suggested an additional accessible exit be constructed allowing easier egress from the building in the event of an emergency. Grant money was awarded by Foundations Community Partnership. The ramp is completed and ensures safety in the occurrence of a future emergency.





New Parking Lot at BPSQ

After more than 20 years, the parking lot at BPSQ was in desperate need of a full reconstruction. Thanks to a grant awarded by Bucks County Community Development, construction for the parking lot was completed in May of 2023.









PROGRESS

The new year was off to a great start at BARC Developmental Services! Our folks enjoyed many exciting things from celebrating the holidays, to cheering on the Eagles, to dancing the day away at prom... and many more!

Holiday Party

For the first time since 2019, the Residential Department held its annual holiday party at the Franconia Heritage Restaurant on December 9th. The event, sponsored by US Medical Staffing featured dancing, delicious food, pictures with Santa, and of course ugly sweaters!



Giving Back

The PA Panthers 12U Softball team of Quakertown spread holiday cheer to our supported residents from two homes with many gifts for the individuals to open. Each player donated money to purchase gifts, which they hand delivered with Santa!







Big Apple Adventures

There's nothing like a trip to New York City during the holidays. Three of our folks enjoyed the sights at Radio City Music Hall! Also in the city, Sue visited the Titanic Exhibit where she experienced the 1912 history through photos, letters, and original objects and belongings from the sunken ship.







PROGRESS

Go Eagles!

E-A-G-L-E-S..... This past year was exciting for Philly sports fans. Although our home team did not bring home a win, we can count on our supported individuals and staff to show their support for the Eagles advancing to the

Superbowl!



A Night to Shine

A Night to Shine, it was! On Friday, February 10, 2023, five of our supported women enjoyed a fabulous evening at the Tim Tebow Foundation's, Night to Shine. These beautiful ladies attended the event at Immanuel Leidy's Chruch in Souderton.



Disney Adventures

Disney is a place where dreams come true! Faith and Home Manager, Alberta Wright, took a magical trip to Disney World with Special Vacations!









PROGRESS

Phillies Opening Day

The Phillies opening day called for an agency-wide spirit day! Supported individuals and staff celebrated the new season by rocking their favorite Phillies gear!









80's Prom

For the first time since 2019, the Residential Department held its annual Prom! The 80's themed event took place at Franconia Heritage Restaurant and did not disappoint! Supported individuals and staff came dressed to impress with crimped hair, colorful attire and of course, leg warmers!



Events

Vocational Photo Raffle

Congratulations to John Strayer of East Greenville, PA for being the winner of the 2022 Vocational Holiday Raffle, which was drawn on Monday, January 9th. John was presented his prize, a framed, textured photo titled "Wickecheoke Creek NJ", by photographer, Natalie Searl, at BARC Production Services Quakertown. However, this was not John's first time winning! He was also the winner of the 2009 raffle!



Sports Raffle Winners

After two years, the very much anticipated Baseball Raffle made its return! Congrats to the three lucky winners and thank you to all those who participated!



PAR Regional Meeting

On Tuesday, May 23rd BARC Developmental Services in partnership with Pennsylvania Advocacy and Resources for Autism and Intellectual Disability hosted a regional meeting with local legislators to discuss how we can better advocate for people with intellectual disabilities and the staff who care for them. Parents, board members and BARC staff were in attendance to share personal experiences. Special thanks to Senator Frank Farry for his participation in the discussion along with the staff members who represented several additional local legislators for attending.

What can you do?

Your legislators want to hear from you!

Advocate directly to your Representatives by phone or email!

Visit https://www.legis.state.pa.us/ to contact your local representatives!





To find out more about PAR, please visit: https://par.memberclicks.net/



VOUCHER TOWARD THE CAR OF YOUR CHOICE!

DRAWING: 1PM ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7TH, 2023 AT THE BARC DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES CAR SHOW

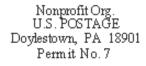
Warminster Community Park~ 300 Veteran's Way, Warminster, PA

TICKETS: \$100 A PIECE **ONLY 750 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!**

Mail 2023 Car Raffle order form and payment to: BARC Developmental Services Car Raffle, PO Box 470, Holicong, PA 18928-0470

_____ Cash (We can no longer accept credit cards for this raffle, per state gaming regulations)

| Check (Made payable to BARC Developmental Services) | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Send ticket(s) to: (please print) | Number of tickets: | |
| Name: | Name(s) on tickets: | |
| Address: | | |
| | E-mail Address: | |
| Phone Number: | For Figgal Use Only: 14-18-4405 | |





2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 10: 3rd Annual Duck Derby

LIVE on our Facebook Page

June 26: Ivyland Open Golf Outing

Five Ponds Golf Club, Warminster, PA

September 15: Designer Handbag Bingo

St. Cyril of Jerusalem Church, Jamison, PA

October 7: Cars For A Cause Car Show and Car Raffle

Warminster Community Park, Warminster, PA

November 5: Annual Autumn Fundraising Luncheon

Spring Mill Manor, Ivyland, PA

For the most up to date information regarding our fundraising efforts, visit our website at: www.barcprograms.org

Find us on our social media platforms:







