

July 2020

ARC NEWS

The Arc of Volusia's Newsletter



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

As you might imagine, we are proceeding very cautiously with regard to reopening our agency to provide services.

Our date for opening is tentative as we continue to watch COVID-19 cases rise across the state.

To that end, we have developed a Reopening Plan, which will be posted on our website and available to anyone who would like a copy. We are still working out communication arrangements for the distribution of this information. All of our staff will be trained on the protocols contained in this plan prior to our reopen date.

During our closure to participants, our staff have been busy preparing our facilities for our reopening. Rooms have been set up to respect social distancing, we are ordering supplies and Personal Protection Equipment to have on hand for assistance in protecting our staff and participants, our facilities have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected which will continue regularly until our reopen.

I realize everyone is anxious to return, and we are anxious to return to a "new normal".

Please follow our FaceBook page and website for updated communications during this time.

Stay healthy and safe!

Mary Jo

Never regret a day in your life. Good days give you happiness, bad days give you experience, worst days give you lessons, and best days give you memories.



Campus Improvements

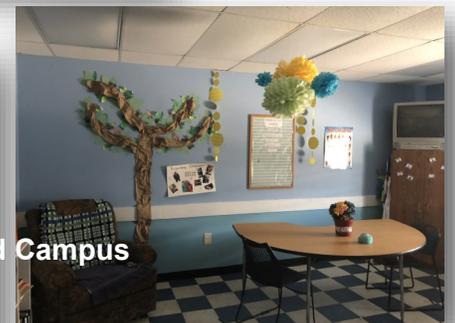
The Arc staff have been working very hard cleaning and sanitizing both the Daytona and DeLand campuses to ensure a safe and healthy environment for the return of our clients. Not only have they been cleaning, but also working very hard to create new looks in the classrooms.



Daytona Campus



DeLand Campus



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Supported Employment Client Spotlight

“Mikey”

Mikey loves to bus tables at Carrabba's Italian Grill in Palm Coast. He says that he loves to go in and help the customers and see all of his “best buddies” whom he works with. Carrabba's is his first paid job and he has been successfully employed as a busser for over a year now.

Mikey was temporarily laid off from March until May of this year due to the restaurant's dining room being shut down during the mandated social distancing put in place to curtail the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mikey was very distressed by not being able to come in to work, make money and to see his coworkers. His Employment Coach helped him to stay in touch with one of his supervisors by phone, who assured him that he would be returning to work once the restaurant reopened.

Mikey was excited when he received the call to return to work in late May. He actually did a “happy dance” for his coworkers upon his return. His supervisors walked him through the new intensive cleaning procedures which had been put in place to help protect the customers and staff from contacting Covid-19. Mikey was also required to wear a mask and gloves while working. He adjusted well to the new safety measures and was soon performing at a high level once again.

Mikey told his Employment Coach that he really missed his job while he was at home and was so glad to be back to making money! One of the hostesses said, “Mikey is the best! We are so glad to have him here.”

Written by: Mike Gussman, Employment Coach

July Employee Anniversaries

Thank you to the following employees for their hard work and dedication to our clients at the Arc of Volusia:

- LaRhonda Thomas, DSP (5 yrs.)
- Jason Crannell, DSP (4 yrs.)
- Arielle Perryman, DSP (2 yrs.)
- Jim Leggio, DSP (2 yrs.)
- Anna Pipkins, DSP (1 yr.)
- Tamara Crawford, DSP (1 yr.)
- Fredricka Brinson, Driver (1 yr.)

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION

In the month of July, our Adult Basic Education program has been very busy providing our clients with virtual learning activities.

This month's curriculum covered the topic of communication and social skills such as sign language, telephone etiquette, and verbal/nonverbal communication using interactive Q&A, fun games, and learning activities. In addition, our Virtual Learning FaceBook group also featured science experiments, history lessons and food recipes. To view a calendar of events each month, visit our website under the Program Tab—Adult Basic Education at www.arcvolusia.org.