

February 2021

ARC NEWS

The Arc of Volusia Newsletter



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Hello Everyone,

With spring comes a sense of renewal, and it's no different for us here at The Arc of Volusia.

Our campus building in DeLand is getting a facelift! Due to a safety issue, we needed to pull the old brick off the building. Through the generosity of a local foundation and assistance from our very own maintenance staff, we were able to completely redo the front façade of the building. We are nearing completion of the painting, and are excited to see the finished product.

This is a great time to extend our thanks to our very generous community donors and all of the foundations who support our ability to complete capital projects such as this one. We are very grateful for your continued support.

Happy Sprint!

Mary Jo Thorn,
CEO



Patti— Deland Campus

Patti has worked for the ARC of Volusia Deland campus since August of 2019. She is a direct care staff in the workshop and also a driver. Patti is a dedicated employee and is always going above and beyond her duties. Patti really loves her job, with her ability to be empathic, affable, and sincere to the individuals we serve, she takes great care of each of them. We really appreciate all that Patti has done and continues to do.

We thank you for your compassion and dedication to our clients, Patti!



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Employee Anniversaries

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

- Shawn Keirnan, Maintenance (1yr.)
- Kristie Reyes, Program Coordinator (Deland Campus) (3yrs.)

Supported Employment Spotlight

“Sodexo”

The Pandemic has created barriers to employment for many people with disabilities, as well as for people in the workforce as a whole.

The food service provider, Sodexo, is one such success story. They provide cafeteria style meals for many College students in Volusia County. Since reopening due to Covid-19, they have put into place measures to protect their employees and the people they serve. The new measures allowed them to bring most of their employees back to work, including several of the clients I serve in my capacity as an employment coach for the Arc of Volusia.

Renewed demand for Sodexo food services has actually led to employment opportunities for two more of my Arc clients within the last month! The Volusia county Sodexo system has hired 9 Arc clients over the last 15 plus years and six of them continue to work for Sodexo in positions such as; Dining Room Attendant, Beverage Stocker, Dishwasher and Prep-Cook.

Through the year’s clients from the Arc of Volusia have come to be an integral part of the Sodexo community in Volusia County. Sodexo has come to know they can count on employees coming from our agency to be capable and dedicated employees who show great loyalty to their employer. We in turn, are grateful to Sodexo for giving many people with disabilities an opportunity to show what valuable employees they can be to their company.

Written by: Mike Gussman, Employment Coach

Adult Basic Education (ABE) —Virtual Learning

For the month of February, students explored the topic of telling time by learning about digital and analog clocks, how to tell time through digital and analog clocks, identify the hours, and half hours. Students learned how to create a balanced schedule for their daily routines. The virtual curriculum continues with small group sessions through Zoom. Students completed worksheets and participated in discussions about the importance of telling time and making schedules. Fun crafts, games, and music classes were also incorporated during this month.

Provided By: May Beaty, Education Specialist and Na’Kita Davis, Education Specialist Assistant

If you are interested in joining the virtual learning group, please reach out to May at m.beaty@arcvolusia.org or Na’Kita at n.davis@arcvolusia.org. Or, request to join the Arc of Volusia Facebook Virtual Learning Group via our Facebook page and/or website at www.arcvolusia.org.