

OCTOBER 2025

THE ARC OF VOLUSIA

ACHIEVING WITH US

NEWSLETTER

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Message from Our CEO



October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), a time to shine

a spotlight on a truth that matters all year long: *people with disabilities belong in every workplace.*

Too often, individuals with disabilities, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) such as autism, Down syndrome, and cerebral palsy, are shut out of job opportunities, despite bringing valuable skills, dedication, and fresh perspectives.

Today, only about 37% of working-age people with disabilities are employed, compared to 75% of people without disabilities. For those with IDD, the challenges can be even greater, with employment rates falling behind due to bias, limited training opportunities, and a lack of employer support.

Yet the research is clear: organizations that prioritize disability inclusion outperform their peers financially and enjoy stronger employee retention and morale. Inclusive hiring isn't charity – it's smart business. And it's the right thing to do.

To learn more about NDEAM and our Supported Employment program, contact: achievewithus@arcvolusia.org

Laurie Davis, CEO



The Arc in The News!

On September 6, The Arc of Volusia hosted its first-ever Wings for All® event in Daytona Beach, welcoming about 100 individuals with autism or intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families. The program gave participants the chance to rehearse the airport experience and even board an airplane, many for the very first time.

The event drew media attention and was featured in the Daytona Beach News-Journal on September 16. As the article noted, Wings for All® launched in 2014 and has since been held annually in communities nationwide. Its goal is simple but powerful: to help families build confidence in air travel by walking through each step of the process.

"A lot of our folks who were apprehensive about flying were able to go through the whole process, from start to finish, and we couldn't be more pleased," said Laurie Davis, CEO of The Arc. "We were so thrilled with being able to provide our folks an opportunity to have this experience. We couldn't have done it without the great partners we had at the airport."

Families experienced nearly every part of a typical airport journey, with the exception of takeoff. The day began at the Breeze Airways ticket counter, where participants received boarding passes. From there, they proceeded through security, waited at the gate, and then boarded the plane. Once on board, they were greeted by the captain and spent about 20 minutes interacting with the flight crew.

The event was such a success that community partners are already exploring opportunities to host it again next year.

The Arc of Volusia partnered with Daytona Beach International Airport and Breeze Airways to bring this unique and impactful experience to life.

Support The Arc of Volusia at [ArcVolusia.org/donate](https://arcvolusia.org/donate)



Keeping your room clean doesn't have to take a long time. Just 10 minutes a day can make a big difference!

A tidy room helps you:

- Find your things more easily
- Feel calmer and less stressed
- Stay safe by keeping floors clear of clutter
- Show independence and pride in your personal space

So, how can we take this step by step to get tidy in 10 minutes?

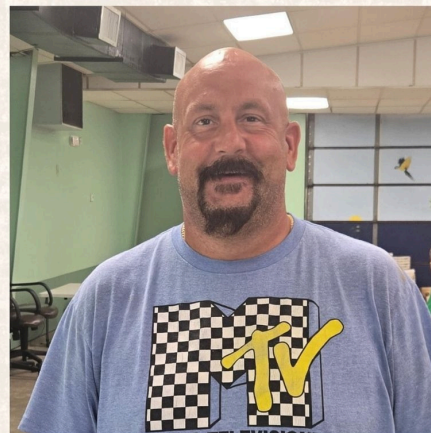
1. Set a timer for 10 minutes to see how much you can do before the alarm sounds!
2. Grab a trash bag to pick up any wrappers, papers, or empty cups and throw them away
3. Put all dirty laundry in one spot
4. Fold and put away clean clothes
5. Put toys, shoes, or books back where they belong
6. Make your bed. Even pulling the blanket up and fluffing your pillow makes the whole room look neater!

✓ Make it a game: try to "beat your time" each day.

✓ Do this once a day for a week and notice how much easier it feels by the end!

Family Idea: Parents, caregivers, or siblings can join in with a "10-minute tidy" challenge in their own rooms at the same time. It helps make cleaning a team activity rather than a chore. Even better, you can both tackle the same space together and accomplish twice as much in just 10 minutes!

Staff Spotlight Will Thomas



Your Role... In Your Own Words:

I take care of the maintenance needed to keep our campuses in working order. If it's broken, I'll fix it!

Before The Arc, what type of work did you do? I served in the U.S. Army. My career began as an airborne infantryman, and then I transitioned to a transportation specialist. Serving in the Army took me all over the world, including North Carolina, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Korea, and Iraq (twice!)

What do you like to do for fun?

I love to travel, especially to the islands. Jamaica is my favorite place to go. I've been several times, and it's still my dream vacation. I'm a beach bum at heart.

What advice or encouragement would you give to a brand-new client of The Arc on their first day with us? Just be patient. For me, coming to The Arc was a complete change of scenery. I learned that the more patient I was with myself and the people around me, the better I adjusted to this fun and ever-changing environment.

What's been your favorite event with The Arc so far? It was cool how everyone came together for our staff Christmas party. It was a lot of fun! We work together every day, but it's different when we're together in a more casual environment. I'm looking forward to that event again.

What do you like most about your role? Since retiring from the military, I wasn't sure what direction I wanted to take. My hope was to find something meaningful and fulfilling, and that's exactly what I've found here at The Arc! Even in a maintenance role, the work is incredibly rewarding. Something as simple as fixing a toilet can turn into a celebration, with clients cheering and clapping like I've just done something amazing. It's unlike any other place I've worked.

What started as "just something to do" has become a true sense of purpose. The clients make it all worthwhile. They're wonderful people, and they keep me laughing every day.



THANK
YOU

It was a beautiful day out on the course in September for our annual golf tournament! Thank you to our generous sponsors, Venetian Bay for hosting us, and the 76 golfers who came out to support our mission. Your participation helps us continue providing vital programs and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our community.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Ashley Sciarappa 10/4
Kathleen Evans 10/8
Jason Karaginis 10/8
Jennifer Forman 10/10
Courtney Widdison 10/15
Calvin Williams 10/19
Dylan Coleman 10/20
Daniel Hatcher 10/24
Ronald Tourville 10/28
Megan Johnson 10/29

Staff Birthday

Will Thomas 10/1

Trunk or Treat Friday, October 31

Parents and family members are encouraged to attend.

*Candy donations requested.



Family Forum

Wed. October 22 at 5PM

Open to the Public



Whether you are currently an Arc of Volusia family member or are just looking to learn more about future options, we invite you to join us!

Our speakers will include:


Dina Justice, COO of The Arc of Florida

Katie Widdison, an Arc of Volusia family member who has navigated the system of iBudget waivers and CDC+ as a family member AND as a Support Coordinator

Lizzie Johnson, Managing Attorney, Community Legal Services
Older Adults Program

Please RSVP via email by Monday, October 20 to m.dockery@arcvolusia.org

Daytona Beach Campus Menu & Calendar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
29	30	1 Salmon patty, hush puppies with greens, drink & dessert	2 Chicken sandwich with fried potato, drink & dessert	3 Cheeseburger with fried potato, drink & dessert
6 Nuggets with fries, drink & dessert	7 Pizza and salad with drink & dessert	8 Chicken salad with macaroni salad, drink & dessert	9 Spaghetti with salad, drink & dessert	10 BBQ burger with fried potato, drink & dessert
13 Tuna sandwich with chips, drink & dessert	14 Pizza and salad with drink & dessert	15 Veggie soup with grilled cheese, drink & dessert	16 Chicken tenders with mac salad, drink & dessert	17 FALL DAY! Burger or hot dog with fries, drink & sweets during the day
20 Nuggets with fries, drink & dessert	21 Pizza and salad with drink & dessert	22 Tater tot casserole with drink & dessert	23 Hamburger steak with mashed potatoes, green beans, drink & dessert	24 Bacon cheeseburger with fried potato, drink & dessert
27 Corn dog with fries, drink & dessert	28 Pizza and salad with drink & dessert	29 Taco pie with drink & dessert	30 Hamburger with bacon, cheese potato half, drink & dessert	31  TRUNK OR TREAT Nuggets with fries, drink & sweets during the day

Daytona Beach Outings & Activities

Friday 10/3, 10/10, 10/24
Swimming \$3

Wednesday 10/8, 10/22
Bowling \$10

Monday 10/13
Aunt Catfish \$20

Friday 10/17
Fall Day

Friday 10/31
Trunk or Treat



Interested in purchasing breakfast, lunch, or snacks?

Cash or check
accepted for the day,
the week, or the month.



Breakfast: \$2.00
Lunch: \$7.00
Snacks: \$1.00

Alternate Lunch Choices
Available Daily
Chef's Salad
Ham or Turkey Sandwich
w/ Beverage & Dessert

Snacks
Assorted Snacks
(selection varies)
Soda, Juice, Gatorade

Daily Breakfast Choices
Sausage, Egg, & Cheese Sandwich
Ham, Egg & Cheese Sandwich
Oatmeal
Assorted Cereal Cups

DeLand Outings & Activities

Tuesdays 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28
Chuck Lennon Park

Thursday 10/9
Coffee & Donut Day \$4

Thursday 10/16
Marine Science Ctr \$8

Wednesday 10/23
African American Museum \$3

Friday 10/17
Fall Day

Friday 10/20
Trunk or Treat
in Daytona

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
29	30	1 Loaded nachos with drink & dessert	2 Chicken parmesan & spaghetti with drink & dessert	3 BBQ Burger with tater tots, drink & dessert
6 Turkey sandwich with chips, drink & dessert	7 Pizza and salad with drink & dessert	8 Salmon patty, hush puppies with greens, drink & dessert	9 Chicken sandwich with fried potato, drink & dessert	10 Cheeseburger with fried potato, drink & dessert
13 Nuggets with fries, drink & dessert	14 Pizza and salad with drink & dessert	15 Chicken sandwich with mac salad, drink & dessert	16 Spaghetti with salad, drink & dessert	17 FALL DAY! Burger or hot dog with fries, drink & sweets during the day
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27 Nuggets with fries, drink & dessert	28 Pizza and salad with drink & dessert	29 Tater tot casserole with drink & dessert	30 Hamburger steak with mashed potatoes, green beans, drink & dessert	31  TRUNK OR TREAT Bacon cheeseburger with fried potato, drink & dessert