

DECEMBER 2025

THE ARC OF VOLUSIA

ACHIEVING WITH US

NEWSLETTER

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Message from Our CEO



As we enter the holiday season, I'm reminded of how much joy, generosity, and togetherness fill our

Arc community this time of year. December is always a special month, but this year feels especially meaningful.

In just a couple weeks, we will host our inaugural Christmas Ball, a formal celebration designed especially for the individuals we serve. This event has been a true labor of love, and seeing our community come together to donate gowns, suits, food, décor, and time has been inspiring. I can already picture the smiles, the music, and the magic!

Later this month, we will gather again for our annual Christmas Feast, a tradition that brings so much warmth to our programs and reminds us what community is all about. Sharing a meal, celebrating accomplishments, and spending time together is one of the greatest gifts of the season.

There is so much happening at The Arc, and so much to be proud of. I am grateful for each staff member, family, partner, and supporter who makes our mission come alive, not just during the holidays, but all year long.

Wishing you a joyful, peaceful, and hope-filled holiday season,

Laurie Davis



Hearts are Full at The Arc in December

If there's one word that captures November and December at The Arc, it's joy. The last several weeks have been filled with joyful creativity, connection, and moments that truly highlight the spirit of our special community.

From decorating trees and transforming all of our spaces into winter wonderlands, to gathering for the annual Thanksgiving feast, and so many other holiday traditions, our programs have been buzzing with activity and smiles all around.

Over the past couple of weeks, we took groups to the Central Florida Zoo and on an eco-buggy tour of Longleaf Pine Preserve. These photos capture just a glimpse of the excitement!

Our clients are also serving as cheerful helpers to prepare ornament packages and elf notes for the holiday fundraiser. We are officially 20% into our ornament fundraising goal with 24 days to go! The Arc is in need of a new van for daily transportation, so every penny we raise selling ornaments will help offset the cost of such a big purchase. If you can believe it, we rack up over 130,000 miles on our van fleet every single year through day-to-day activities, appointments, and community outings.

As we move through December, we're looking forward to even more ways to connect, create memories, and celebrate the holidays together. Thank you for being part of our community!



During the holidays, it's easy to get caught up in the rush of shopping, wrapping, planning, and preparing. But some of the most meaningful gifts don't come in a box at all; **they come from the moments we share with each other.**

This month, we're inviting everyone in The Arc community to give the gift of time. Not hours... just **10 focused, intentional minutes spent brightening someone's day.** A small moment can make a big impact, especially during a season when many people need an extra dose of connection and kindness.

Here are a few simple ideas to try:

- Read a short story together or help someone pick out a book they'll love.
- Wrap a gift side-by-side while chatting about holiday traditions.
- Sit with someone during a quiet moment and ask about their favorite part of the holiday season.
- Help with a small task like organizing, tidying, or preparing for an event.
- Share a short walk to enjoy the cooler air and outdoor lights.

No matter how you choose to spend those 10 minutes, the goal is to slow down to make room for connection... the kind that warms hearts long after December has passed.



Staff Spotlight Allison LaRue



Your Role, In Your Own Words:

I serve as a Direct Support Provider (DSP) in the workshop at the Daytona Beach Campus.

Before The Arc, what type of work did you do?

In Greensboro, North Carolina, I worked as a sous chef at Starmount Forest Country Club.

What do you like to do for fun?

I enjoy playing pool and being in the outdoors. Yard work and working on my plants is my favorite way to spend time outside.

What advice or encouragement would you give to a brand-new client of The Arc on their first day with us?

Have patience and take time to learn about everyone around you. Everyone is unique and special in their own way.

What do you like most about being a DSP?

I love learning about everyone, knowing what their interests are, and encouraging them to live their lives true to themselves. My goal is to help them have a good day, make them smile, laugh, and find happiness around them.

What is your favorite activity to do with clients?

Going on nature walks and playing basketball. I also enjoy trips to the Central Florida Zoo with everyone.

How has your life/perspective changed working with The Arc?

I've learned to slow down, not take things so seriously. I'm also learning how to have patience, feel confidence in myself, and to have a good time every day.

From the words of Allison's workshop colleague, Bill:

"Allison has breathed new life into the workshop. She is full of energy and enthusiasm for our mission, and it shows in how she interacts and leads our clients. Her presence has been a game-changer for this environment and we're fortunate to have her working with us."



★ DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Caitlyn Campbell, 12/1

Christina Denino, 12/08

Nickolas Marinacci, 12/10

Tyler Shaefer, 12/14

Gaye Wambles, 12/15

Leah Allion, 12/15

Tabitha Holloway, 12/17

Charles Flowers, 12/18

Lauren Goethals, 12/18

Christopher Cassady, 12/19

Michael Camarata, 12/24

Theodore Holmgren, 12/27

Robert Slayton, 12/29

Both campuses will enjoy a Christmas formal on December 12 at the Daytona Campus.

Donations welcome. Contact Mechelle for information: M.Dockery@ArcVolusia.org



The Arc will be closed
December 25 and 26
for the Holidays



HOLIDAY ORNAMENT Fundraiser

GIVE ONE, GIFT A FEW \$10 EACH OR 3 FOR \$25



**GIFT ORNAMENTS AT A BULK RATE:
ACHIEVEWITHUS@ARCVOLUSIA.ORG**

SCAN THE QR CODE TO ORDER ONLINE



DECEMBER 2025



Daytona Beach Campus Menu & Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
01 Turkey Sandwich w/ Chips & Dessert	02 Pizza with Salad Drink & Dessert	03 Nuggets with Fries Drink & Dessert	04 Baked Ziti with Salad Drink & Dessert	05 Hamburger w/ Potato Wedge Drink & Dessert
08 Pancake & Sausage Drink & Dessert	09 Pizza with Salad Drink & Dessert	10 Chicken & Gravy w/ Mashed Potatoes Drink & Dessert	11 Meatloaf w/ Mixed Veggies Drink & Dessert	12  Christmas Ball
15 Tuna Sandwich w/ Chips & Dessert	16 Pizza with Salad Drink & Dessert	17 Ham or Turkey Sub w/ Chips Drink & Dessert	18 Nuggets w/ Fries Drink & Dessert	19  Christmas Feast
22 Beanie Weenies w/ Potato Wedges Drink & Dessert	23 Pizza with Salad Drink & Dessert	24 Ham or Turkey Sub w/ Drink & Dessert	25 Closed	26 Closed
29 Fish & Chips Drink & Dessert	30 Pizza with Salad Drink & Dessert	31 Meatloaf w/ Mixed Veggies Drink & Dessert	01	02

Daytona Beach Outings & Activities

Tuesday 12/2
Craft Day – Making Aprons

Friday 12/5
Cooking Class – Oreo Cookie Dessert

Monday 12/8
Polar Express Movie & Wear PJ's Day

Monday 12/15
The Grinch Movie & Snack

Wednesday 12/17
Santa & Mrs. Claus



Daytona & DeLand Campuses

Friday 12/12 Christmas Ball, Formal **Friday 12/19** Christmas Feast **12/25-26** Campus Closed

DeLand Outings & Activities

Thursday 12/4
Goodwill

Monday 12/8
Polar Express Movie & Wear PJ's Day

Tuesday 12/9
Culvers

Tuesday 12/16
McDonald's

Wednesday 12/17
Santa & Mrs. Claus

Thursday 12/18
Manatees

Tuesday 12/23
Dairy Queen

Tuesday 12/30
Krystal

DeLand Campus Menu & Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
01 Tuna Salad with Chips & Drink	02 Pizza with Salad Drink & Dessert	03 Turkey Sandwich w/ Chips Drink & Dessert	04 Beanie Weenies w/ Chips Drink & Dessert	05 Hamburger w/ Tater Tots Drink & Dessert
08 Turkey Sandwich w/ Chips & Dessert	09 Pizza with Salad Drink & Dessert	10 Nuggets w/ Fries Drink & Dessert	11 Baked Ziti w/ Salad Drink & Dessert	12  Christmas Ball
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Support The Arc of Volusia at [ArcVolusia.org/donate](https://www.ArcVolusia.org/donate)