

Changing lives. Discovering abilities.

presents

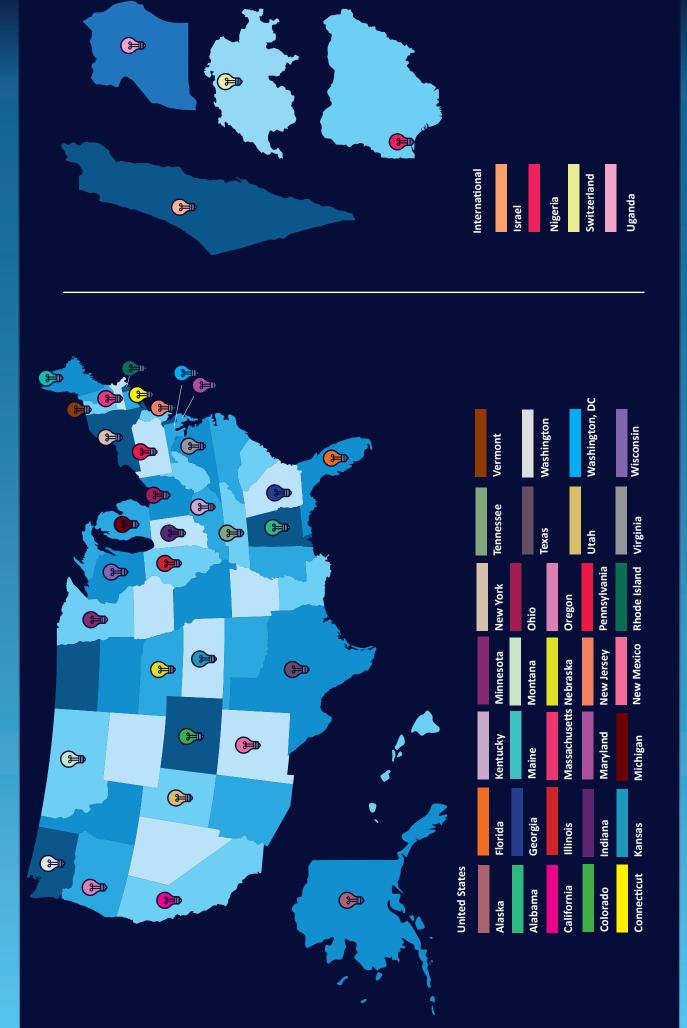


# The Arc Tank 4.0

Creating *positive disruption* to services for those with intellectual/developmental disabilities or autism

The Changing Lives ™ Fund established by Steven P. Rosenthal

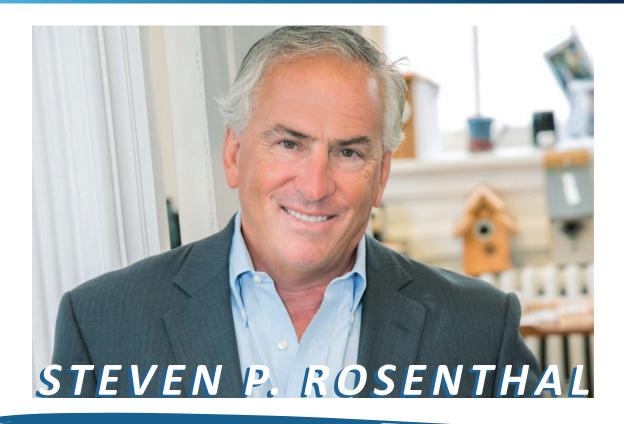
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# The Arc Tank 4.0

#### The Changing Lives ™ Fund



Steve founded West Shore LLC in 2016, a Boston-based real estate private equity firm, and serves as its Chairman. West Shore owns and operates a national portfolio of multi-family assets in excess of \$3.0 billion. Prior to West Shore, Steve was President and Chief Executive Officer of Northland Investment Corporation, which grew under his leadership into a \$3.5 billion diversified real estate company, including a 23,000 unit multi-family portfolio. Steve directed all aspects of Northland's multi-family, development and commercial portfolio, including capital formation and operations.

As co-managing partner at Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo P.C., the Firm grew to 500 lawyers and seven offices. During his 21-year career at Mintz Levin, Steve served as a business and finance attorney in Boston, where he focused on general corporate and business representation, business planning, mergers and acquisitions, venture capital, and corporate and real estate finance.

Steve holds an A.B. from Harvard College and a J.D. from Boston University School of Law. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Redwood Investments LLC, an investment management firm in Newton, Mass. Steve established The Changing Lives™ Fund at the Northeast Arc, and created The Arc Tank, which is being used to identify and fund positive disruptive ideas to improve the lives of persons with intellectual disabilities and autism and their families.

Steve has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) in Washington, D.C., as a Trustee of the Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, Conn., as a Director of the Harvard Alumni Association, Trustee of the Ruderman Family Foundation and as a member of the Harvard Corporation Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility. He previously served on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Downtown Crossing Partnership.



#### JO ANN SIMONS



Jo Ann Simons has more than 35 years of experience in the intellectual and developmental disabilities field. Her progressive initiatives have included closing several sheltered workshops, innovative school-to-work programs, inclusive community living and currently a large movement from community residences to shared living models.

She was named the CEO of the Northeast Arc in January 2016. The agency has an operating budget of \$290 million and supports more than 15,000 individuals.

Prior to joining Northeast Arc, Jo Ann had served as president/CEO of Cardinal Cushing Centers, Inc. since 2008, after leading The Arc of Middlesex as its executive director for 15 years. In addition, she had been the deputy facility director of the Fernald Development Center in Waltham; the director of Policy Initiatives and acting director of Family Support Services for the Massachusetts Department of Disability Services; and director of the Community Division of the North Shore Arc.

Under Jo Ann's leadership, Northeast Arc has been ranked in the top 10 five times by The Commonwealth Institute and Globe Magazine's Top 100 Women-Led Businesses in Massachusetts. In 2016, Jo Ann was named one of Boston's Power 50 by the Boston Business Journal.

Jo Ann is a member of the Governor's Commission on Persons with I/DD and a member of the Autism Commission. She is the past chair of LIFE, Inc. of Cape Cod and past director of Century Bank. She previously served on Gov. Charlie Baker's Transition Committee on Health Care as the Disability Advisor to the Ruderman Family Foundation, and a past chair of the National Down Syndrome Society and past president of the National Down Syndrome Congress. She is a board member of the Providers' Council, the North Shore Chamber of Commerce and past member of the board of directors of Special Olympics International.

Jo Ann is the author of the "Down Syndrome Transition Handbook" (Woodbine House 2010). She is also the chapter author of "Legal Issues in Babies with Down Syndrome," an essay in You Will Dream New Dreams and the author of the chapter on Long Term Impact in a textbook for dental students, "Treating the Dental Patient with a Developmental Disorder." In addition she created Footprints for the Future, a personal planning tool that provides a place for families and professionals to record specific and personal information as part of their future and estate planning.



#### PETER V. BERNS

Peter V. Berns is a nationally recognized nonprofit sector leader and public interest lawyer. He is the Chief Executive Officer of The Arc.

Berns has been at the helm of The Arc since July 2008, strategically managing a national organization with 600 state and local chapters across the country. Under his leadership, the nearly 70-year-old organization has charted an ambitious course of progress, innovation and change as it aims to achieve its mission of promoting and protecting the human rights of people with IDD and actively supporting their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

Before joining The Arc, Berns was the Executive Director of the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations. He also served as Chief Executive Officer of the Standards for Excellence Institute, Deputy Chief of Consumer Protection in the Maryland Attorney General's Office as well as Assistant Attorney General.



Berns served on the President's Committee for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities from 2011 – 2017. He sits on Comcast NBCUniversal's Joint Diversity Committee, representing the disability community. He has been named six times to the Nonprofit Times' Power and Influence Top 50 list, Berns received his JD, cum laude, from Harvard Law School and has an LLM in advocacy from Georgetown University Law Center. He received his BA in psychology, magna cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania.



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#### THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS

Our thanks to the following people, for their time and talent leading up to and at today's event:

#### RAUL MARTINEZ **EMCEE**

Sports Director Raul Martinez joined NBC10 Boston and NECN in May of 2016.

He was born and raised in El Paso, Texas and got his undergraduate degree in journalism at TCU. Syracuse University was his next stop, where he received his Master's degree in broadcast journalism.

Raul's search for his first job as a sports journalist led him back to his hometown. He started at KVIA back in 2004 as a weekend sports anchor. One year later, he was named Sports Director at the age of 24.

He left El Paso after seven years and joined KDVR/KWGN in Denver as the weekend sports anchor and spent four years in the Mile High City where he covered two Super Bowls.

Since coming to Boston, Raul has been a busy man. He's covered three Patriots Super Bowl appearances (2 titles), a 2018 World Series title from the Red Sox, a Stanley Cup Final appearance by the Bruins and the Celtics going to two Eastern Conference Finals.











**NECN** He and his wife have two daughters and son who was recently born in Boston.

### Heritage Shredding

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# The Arc Tank

#### THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS

Our thanks to the following people, for their time and talent leading up to and at today's event:

#### MARGARET AKE

PRESENTATION MENTOR



Margaret Ake is an instructor for the Corporate Learning Division of Harvard Business Publishing, a subsidiary of the Harvard Business School. She is also a partner at Herter Associates, a corporate training firm that offers customized courses for financial analysts and relationship managers at commercial and investment banks worldwide.

Margaret joined Herter Associates and Harvard Business School after a 14-year career in teaching at Endicott College in Beverly, MA. At Endicott College, she taught a variety of courses in the general business curriculum including: Finance, Accounting, Organizational Behavior, Business Writing, and Strategy. Margaret also taught a series of corporate financial training seminars delivered through the Graduate and Professional School. She directed the Case Writing Program and has had eight business education case studies published in a variety of business journals. She also has experience from her time as a Research Analyst for Fidelity Investments.

In addition to her work with Northeast Arc, Margaret regularly travels internationally with Operation Smile working as a medical records, statistical reporting, and data outcomes volunteer. Margaret's relationship with Northeast Arc began 28 years ago, when her son was served by the agency's Early Intervention program; he is now a high school special education teacher. For more than 20 years, Margaret was a valued member of the planning committee for Northeast Arc's annual golf tournament, the Mike Frangos Commodore Invitational. In 2018, Margaret received the 6th Annual Mike Frangos Award for her outstanding support of the tournament.

#### **BONNIE LEAVITT**

PRESENTATION MENTOR

Bonnie Leavitt is a Vice President on the Product Management team at EBSCO Information Services. EBSCO is the leading provider of research databases, e-journal and e-package subscription management, book collection development and acquisition management, and a major provider of library technology, e-books and clinical decision solutions for universities, colleges, hospitals,



corporations, government, K12 schools and public libraries worldwide.

Bonnie joined EBSCO in 2010 after graduating with a degree in Business Administration from Endicott College. At EBSCO she is responsible for managing the development, roll out and roadmap of the new user interface for EBSCOhost, the primary interface sold to the customers. This includes overseeing a team of product managers and working closely with customers and Sales teams to collect feedback to inform future development. Bonnie also works with third-party partners on software integrations via the interface and APIs and has focused on modern authentication options that make it easier for users to log-in for a seamless research experience. Prior to working on the product management team, Bonnie led sales efforts for the Software as a Service (SaaS) suite of products EBSCO sells worldwide.

In addition to her undergraduate degree, Bonnie holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Fitchburg State College.

Our thanks to the following business and community leaders for lending their time and expertise today to identify the winning ideas at the *Arc Tank 4.0* competition:

#### RALPH JAMES

Ralph James retired from Harvard Business School in 2017 and currently spends his time on philanthropic ventures and volunteer roles with organizations like Harvard Graduate School of Education, the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Studies, the Harvard Divinity School, the Joslin Diabetes Center and the International Quilt Museum.

He previously held both Strategic Advisor and Executive Director of University Affairs roles at Harvard Business School. He also had been responsible for External Relations and Executive Education activities for HBS.

James attended the College of Wooster in Ohio and received his BA in religious studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1977.

He received his MBA from Harvard in 1982. Over the next 15 years, he held several different positions at HBS in the areas of executive education, MBA admissions, and major gift fundraising, finally serving as Associate Dean and Senior Executive Officer under Deans McArthur and Clark.

In 1996, James left HBS to join the First Marblehead Corporation, as Chief Marketing Officer, becoming Chief Operating Officer in 1998 and President in 2000, prior to the company going public in 2003 (NYSE: FMD). In 2005, James stepped down from his position as Vice Chairman to return to HBS.



#### MATTHEW KENNEDY

Matt Kennedy is a Senior Adviser at Laurel Strategies and a founder of Kennedy Merchant Partners (KMP) and has worked in more than twenty countries on six continents. Previously, Matt served in senior roles in the Obama Administration at the Department of Commerce, Department of the Treasury and the White House. As the Director of the Office of Strategic Partnerships at Commerce, Matt worked closely with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and Export-Import Bank of the United States to develop innovative public-private partnerships with leading Trade organizations and several Fortune 500 businesses. These partnerships have enabled more than 5,000 small businesses to learn about overseas markets and begin exporting.

Prior to his service in government, Matt managed Senator Edward M. Kennedy's 2006 reelection campaign and the MoneySite, a non-profit financial services initiative that leverages tax preparation as a vehicle to create personal financial plans for low-income households.

Matt graduated from Stanford University with a B.S. in Management Science and Engineering, where he was also captain of the lacrosse team. He holds an MBA from Harvard University. He sits on the board of the John F. Kennedy Library and the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights.

#### PANEL OF EXPERTS



#### SHIRLEY LEUNG

Shirley Leung is a columnist writing on everything from the intersection of business and politics to gender issues in the workplace. She is also a contributor to "Boston Public Radio" and "Greater Boston" on GBH.

Shirley has been a three-time finalist for the Gerald Loeb Award for Commentary, and has been featured on Boston Magazine's list of "100 Most Influential People" in Boston.

Previously, Shirley was the Globe's interim Editorial Page Editor and business editor, where she oversaw

its award-winning coverage of the 2008 financial crisis. Prior to the Globe, she was a staff reporter at

the Wall Street Journal. A graduate of Princeton University, Shirley started her career at her hometown paper, The Baltimore Sun.

She is a working mom of two sons on the autism spectrum.



#### MATTHEW MILLET

Matthew Millett works for the Department of Youth Services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and former member of the Board of Directors for the Special Olympics Massachusetts.

He is a well-rounded athlete participating in soccer, basketball and volleyball. In 2010, Matthew earned the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel to South Africa to play in the Unity Cup, a global, unified soccer match prior to one of the FIFA World Cup quarterfinal games in Cape Town Stadium. In 2018, Matthew traveled to Seattle, Washington along with his basketball team to compete in the Special Olympics USA Games.

Matthew and his basketball team participated in the 2019 Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates as part of the Special Olympics USA team. In one of the basketball games, Matthew scored a Hail Mary basket from within his own free throw line at the buzzer. The YouTube video of this feat has over 24,000 views and shared on multiple platforms.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAeweVKwnEo

#### PANEL OF EXPERTS



#### MARYLOU SUDDERS, MSW, ACSW

Marylou Sudders serves as Secretary of Health and Human Services for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, overseeing 12 state agencies and the MassHealth program, with a combined budget of \$26 billion and 22,000 public employees. EOHHS programs and services represent 56 percent of the state's budget and provide treatment, care, and support to one in every three residents.

Sudders never forgets that behind those numbers are the lives of individuals, families, and communities in need of support. She is a social worker committed to the health and well-being of Massachusetts residents, including addressing equity and reforming behavioral

health care so that residents can access care where and when they need it.

Sudders chairs the Massachusetts Health Connector Board, the Autism Commission, and the Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund. She co-chairs the Governor's Interagency Council on Housing and Homelessness and the Governor's Council to Address Optimal Aging. She is a member of the Health Policy Commission and the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence.

Sudders holds a bachelor's degree with honors and a master's degree in social work from Boston University, and honorary doctorates from the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology and Bridgewater State University. She is the recipient of many civic, social work, and professional honors.

#### **MODERATOR**

Our thanks for moderating the Panel of Experts' deliberation today:



#### DAVID S. CHANG

David is an entrepreneur and angel investor who has held operating roles at 6 startups and invested in 80 companies. He was most recently the Chief Executive Officer of Gradifi, which was acquired by E\*TRADE. Previously, he was Entrepreneur-in-Residence at Harvard Business School and Director of the Babson Summer Venture Program.

David has held product and marketing roles at five Boston-based startups that were acquired. He previously led the PayPal Boston office and co-founded the Start Tank innovation space. Earlier in his career, he held roles at TripAdvisor (IAC), m-Qube (Verisign), edocs (Siebel), SnapMyLife (Exclaim Mobility), and Goldman Sachs.

As a leader in the entrepreneurship community, he holds several advisor/board memberships and has made 80 angel investments in early-stage startups. Awards include Boston Business Journal's Power 50: Most Influential Bostonians, BostInno's 50 on Fire: Education Winner / Investment Winner / Tech Finalist, and Finalist for NEVY Angel of the Year.

David holds a BS with Distinction in Computer Science from Cornell University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.



#### FIRST ROUND REVIEWERS

Name Affiliations

Erin Stewart Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc

Max Friedman GiveButter

Lisa Collins Doug Flutie Foundation
Nick Randall The Tower Foundation

Jeff Keilson Advocates

Katie Sweeney NAFI

Leah Hill Department of Developmental Disabilities

**Cynthia O'Donnell Department of Developmental Disabilities** 

Crystal Bates Essex County Community Foundation

Kathleen Machete Essex County Community Foundation

Sarah Jackson Sarah J. Consulting

Sarah Mae Gibbons Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc

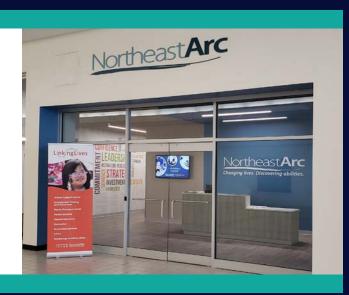
Elspeth Slayter Salem State University



#### The Center for Linking Lives

An inclusive and vibrant gathering place at the Liberty Tree Mall in Danvers where individuals with disabilities can reach their full potential, and learn to lead fulfilling lives alongside their peers.

Visit ne-arc.org/linkinglives to learn more about this innovative space.



#### LIVES IN PROGRESS



#### **LEADER & PRESENTER:**

David James (DJ) Savarese
The Alliance for Citizen Directed Supports
18 E Second St
Media, PA 19063

djs avarese @ citizen directed supports.org

Presenters: DJ Savarese, Marian Frattarolo-Saulino, Priya Penner, Caitlin Bailey

Requested funding amount: \$90,000

#### INTRODUCTION

We all yearn to be an essential part of something bigger than ourselves. We all want the freedom to pattern our own lives. For those of us with disabilities that freedom is called self-direction. By definition, self-direction needs to be collectively—not just individually—led by people with disabilities. Thirty years after the passage of the ADA, the disability community has the diverse, national leadership needed to make this a reality.

People often tell us the Lives-in-Progress Collective (LIP) is too ambitious, but for people with disabilities and our fresh-thinking allies, it's imperative. LIP will enable people with disabilities to be visible, essential members of their local communities, building a national collective with one another and defining what's possible in our own lives.

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Led by and for people with disabilities, Lives-in-Progress will offer collective leadership and a free, accessible, individualized, culturally sensitive, online national map of diverse, documented paths to meaningful, self-directed lives-in-progress that allows people to search for mentors, resources, and practical ideas by location, interests, talents, and vocations and dismantles common barriers to access.

Unique and disruptive, LIP will create a national collective of leaders with disabilities focused on transforming self-direction; provide a national resource that allows individuals to build self-direction from the ground up; offer multiple pathways and perspectives based on real lived experience; be led by the dis/Abled, particularly the multiply marginalized and alternatively communicating, while collaborating with nondisabled allies from other organizations; pay dis/Abled people for their expertise and lived experience; offer fast, easy access to the various resources, programs, and supports used by others who are self-directing; and assist people who want to move out of state for college, employment, +/or personal reasons.

One in 50 adults with disabilities living in the US currently self-direct and live the lives they imagined. The other 58.8 million deserve the same freedom. In the first year, we expect 1000 people will access the LIP resources and at least 50 will receive direct mentor consultations. If fully funded, in only 3-5 years, LIP has the potential to impact tens of thousands of people with disabilities, their families, and their communities.



#### GAB-ON!



#### **LEADER & PRESENTER:**

Sylvia Hall GAB-on! 19 Rumstick Road Barrington, RI 02806 sylvia@gab-on.com

Presenters: Sylvia Hall and Jarrid Hall Requested funding amount: \$131,560

#### INTRODUCTION

Inspired by our son who learns differently, we created GAB-on! for all kids to develop self-advocacy, build agency, and discover the possibilities in themselves.

GAB-on! facilitates consistent, meaningful, student-led conversations with family at home about a child's day at school, after-school programs, and camp. Student-managed and simple to use: teachers provide 2 minutes each day for students to enter GABs (3 to 5 words per subject) that act as a hint or reminder and sparks family conversation at home (about school) that leads to even bigger conversations. Exercising executive functions, strengthening social-emotional skills, and building confidence, GAB-on! deepens family connectedness through conversations that matter to help prepare kids for school, future work, and life.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

GAB-on! is patented technology. Unique in the market with a student-led approach to parent engagement in education and beyond. With 40+ years of research proving the impact parent engagement has on students' academic performance, mental health, and life outcomes, the majority of efforts promoting this engagement focus on teacher-parent and school-parent relationships.

Of the  $\sim$  50M students in the USA attending grades k-12, approximately half are middle and high school children. With 1 in 5 children who learn differently, there are an estimated 5M children grades 6-12 with special educational needs in the country. Our goal is to reach 5% by the end of the 2023-24 school year.

GAB-on! is partnered with the University of Pennsylvania GSE Human Development Division lead research team to quantify impact on family connectedness, student agency, and mental health. We launched our pilot schools in the Fall of 2019 only to pause in the spring of 2020 when covid turned education on its head. The past 18 months we have built affiliations that include Military Childhood Education Coalition (MCEC), Impact Parents, and Partners in Promise. In February 2022 we are launching GAB-on! in PA, AZ, and TX school districts.

GAB-on!'s innovative approach, simple design, and singular focus on the goal of getting students leading conversations with their families about school every day, empowers students and families to have more frequent, more engaged, and more powerful conversations around the dinner table, in the car, on a walk, anywhere they have a few minutes to connect.



#### WARM SPRINGS



#### **LEADER & PRESENTER:**

Phil Kongtcheu
eMotionRx, Inc
Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities
245 Main St, FL2
Cambridge, MA 02142
kongtcheu@emotionrx.com

Requested funded amount: \$101,556

#### INTRODUCTION

Why a Warm Springs Hub? The issues faced by businesses initiated by people of diversifying abilities (a.k.a disabilities), or those building solutions targeting them, face specialized sets of challenges that require targeted and focused responses to achieve equal opportunities in any society that seeks to achieve inclusive economic opportunities. We know it based on first-hand experience.

This initiative takes the shape of two specific project:

- (1) An IRS sponsored VITA center specialized in helping file taxes of people with disabilities, businesses of people with disabilities, or businesses servicing the needs of people with disabilities
- (2) A specialized assistive technology makerspace where members of the public can quickly access the expertise and tools to make assistive tools

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This idea in its two specific areas of focus is unique because it seeks to attack chronic poverty of people with disabilities with specialized fiscal enforcement, developing and sharing expertise to most efficiently claim the many benefits present in the tax code to support

- (a) employment of persons with disability
- (b) the cost of accessibility for people with disabilities
- (c) savings by persons with disabilities

Many tax code incentives are typically not claimed, resulting in lost opportunities for wealth accumulation that sustain the endemic poverty of this community. We expect to be able to reach the over 25% of Massachusetts residents that identify as having a disability, and in particular those receiving Social Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Income (SSDI).

This idea is disruptive as a pilot that if proved successful, will provide a template for easy replication in other communities, in the region, and even nationally or globally. It will help change lives and bring this underserved community to discover abilities it never knew it had.



### SENSATIONAL STORY TIME WITH A YOGA TWIST



#### **LEADER & PRESENTER:**

Janine Birmingham
The Arc of the South Shore
20 Pond Park Road
Hingham, MA 02043
JBirmingham@ArcSouthShore.org

Presenters: Janine Birmingham, Abigail Parrilla, Christine Walker

Requested funding amount: \$37,000

#### INTRODUCTION

Rather than being seen as a whole person with diverse strengths and talents, people with autism are often defined by their disability and isolated. At The Arc, we reject the notion that disability is synonymous with inability. Instead, we celebrate diversity and provide the resources and supports that allow people with unique abilities to lead full, active, and integrated lives.

Our program, SENSational Story Time with a Yoga Twist, combines story time with sensory kits and physical activity to offer a hands-on educational experience for people with Autism. With a new online training, we will empower other providers to implement this program at local libraries, schools, children's museums, and day programs—vastly improving learning and community inclusion for people with Autism.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

At The Arc, we have seen the transformative power of community-based programming for people with autism. The SENSational program not only provides valuable learning opportunities but also immense physical, emotional, and social benefits.

People with autism often struggle with spoken language, word recognition, and comprehension. They benefit from fully interacting with language, books, and their peers, and the program's sensory kits and yoga components allow for 360° learning. They tie to the characters and themes of the book, helping to bring them to life. They allow participants to fully engage with the story while increasing their comprehension and improving their social skills. The kits provide a unique sensory experience, and the yoga teaches them how to regulate their emotions while building their confidence and improving their social skills.

In addition to fostering literacy and wellness, sessions create a culture of inclusiveness in community spaces. Families of people with autism often feel ostracized from mainstream activities; they report being hesitant to attend based on previous negative experiences. In contrast, this program builds their confidence in visiting public spaces and improves their social connections. By launching an online training for service providers and yoga instructors, we will expand this program to six to eight new locations in the first year and improve the lives of up to 1,000 people with Autism.

The following submissions were placed in the *Holding Tank*, to be shared here so that attendees at the competition could pursue or learn more about them by contacting the lead applicant.

#### Able Eyes – Helping People of All Abilities Access their World and Travel Through the USE of Virtual Tours

Accessing the world for persons with physical and invisible disabilities isn't easy. Going to new places for the first time can be scary! Is it accessible? Are the bathrooms large enough? Is it a place I would feel comfortable visiting? So many things to take into consideration when you or a loved one has a disability. Able Eyes is the largest search database of virtual tours for accessibility. When possible, our tours include accessibility information that other virtual tours do not (entrances, restrooms, ramps, etc.). Able Eyes was created from a heart of accessibility but can be accessed for free by any person of any ability, anywhere in the world.

**CONTACT:** Able Eyes

Meegan Winters meegan@ableeyes.org

#### **Accessible Housing Solutions**

Those living with mobility challenges and their caregivers have a major housing challenge. Mobile homes, prefab units, and home additions/modifications to existing homes can be costly and time consuming. Other ADUs (accessory dwelling units) do not use universal design guidelines to remove barriers for all users. WheelPad L3C, however, designed, and sourced materials to create the first beautiful, affordable, ENERGY STAR rated, accessible modular housing with low VOC material. Only 6.7% of existing U.S. housing stock in the Northeast is wheelchair accessible. Because demand exceeded our capacity to deliver timely quality, we are creating a local manufacturing facility. Because information demand exceeds our capacity to deliver objective online resources, we need to develop an interactive app and high-performance website that are inclusive and accessible to people with disabilities.

**CONTACT:** WheelPad L3C Julie Lineberger Julie@WheelPad.com

#### **AdaptX**

AdaptX will make fitness more accessible for individuals with disabilities. Our business addresses the primary barriers towards better health for this population: access to knowledgeable coaches and supportive environments. After building an inclusive fitness center in 2016, we adopted the lean startup principles of build, measure, and learn. We spent more than five years measuring and refining our approach and systems of inclusive fitness through the process of training hundreds of athletes with various disabilities. We applied what we learned through this experience to build the AdaptX curriculum that has been beta-tested to more than 30 trainers from 12 states and four countries. Based on feedback, we revised the curriculum and launched the second edition of our course with an additional 30 trainers at seven YMCA branches and 40 people at the University of Michigan and University of Arizona. Scaling the business will equip more fitness professionals with the tools to design adaptive programming, and we also need to show them how to create genuine inclusion.

CONTACT: AdaptX

Brendan Aylward brendan.adaptx@gmail.com



#### **Alphabeat**

Bridging Education & Art Together (BEAT) champions Hip Hop as a dynamic tool to improve physical and mental health. After 10+ years of providing student programs, we've discovered the benefits of Hip Hop go beyond self-expression and can be used as a pathway to self-improvement and well-being. We've watched participants flourish and found beatboxing has a transformational impact on speech development for those with communication disabilities by encouraging them to practice. With your support in 2019, we piloted our "Beat Rockers" mobile app: an interactive beatboxing app that makes speech therapy fun. In this research and development phase, we found by limiting the program to an app, students can only access the course on a phone or tablet, while long-term overhead costs created an unsustainable structure. To ensure access and sustainability, we redesigned the program as Alphabeat: an online course with an option to download as an app, rather than limiting to app-only features. We developed a more accessible program to support the 6 million students who struggle with speech disabilities, without needing to create content for two competing operating systems. By collaborating with Speech Language Pathologists and hiring one as part of our team, we developed 10 self-paced interactive lessons. Students are excited to practice speech sounds through rhythm and repetition with a lively host beatboxer, phonetic visuals, and practice loops to sharpen their skills and increase their practice. Alphabeat disrupts traditional approaches to speech therapy by making it fun to practice.

**CONTACT:** Beat Global

James Kim james@beatglobal.org

#### **Celebrate Entrepreneurial Learning Center**

According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics only 17.9 percent of persons with a disability were employed in 2020. While research has proven that self-employment is a great option for this population, there are very few opportunities for a person with a disability to receive the education and support needed to start their own business. For this project, Celebrate EDU will partner with various disability organizations to open a Celebrate Entrepreneurship Learning Center in Cincinnati, OH. The center will provide valuable education and business development support for people with disabilities in the local community and across the country through virtual education. We anticipate that 85 self-advocates will participate locally and 25 remotely in the first year (2023). The project will also train 50 people including volunteers, community partners, small businesses, and disability service providers to support entrepreneurs with disabilities.

**CONTACT:** Celebrate EDU

Linda Anderson Linda@celebrateEDU.org

#### Collettey's Cookie Corp.

Our goal is to build our company to a national level, create more jobs for people with challenges, lower the unemployment rate, continue exposure in the media with additional seasons and strategic PR and Marketing, to show the world how able this community is and hopefully influence others to create jobs too! We share a commercial pace now but we need our own space to fit up for baking, shipping and packaging and workshop training.

**CONTACT:** Collettey's Cookie Corp. and Collettey's

Collette Divitto Leadership Org

collette@colletteys.com cwolcott@andersoncares.org



#### Early Work Experience for Homeschooled Youth with Developmental Disabilities

Without access to Early Work Experience Programming, individuals with developmental disabilities graduate from high school with little or no vocational training or job experience. And, the high unemployment rates for individuals with developmental differences will persist. Our goal is to ensure that youth with developmental disabilities in our community are employment ready by graduation day. The Farmer's House Early Work Experience Program represents the most promising model to prepare individuals with developmental differences for employment. It provides access to real-life work experiences in a safe, nurturing environment over an extended time. Further, the structured program offers continuous opportunities for goal setting and achievement. Most importantly, participants receive support and guidance from Employment Specialists who can adapt services and training to meet their needs and approaches to learning. Through these efforts, EWE participants discover potential employment possibilities and graduate from high school job ready with skills attractive to employers.

**CONTACT:** The Farmer's House

Amy Allison amya@thefarmershouse.org

#### EnvisionSmart(TM) Institute- Practitioner Guides and Software to Improve Client Outcomes

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported in March 2020 that approximately one in 54 children in the US were diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. As the incidence of autism has increased exponentially, so has the demand for evidence-based, applied behavior analytic services. To address the growing needs of this population, Melmark is developing the EnvisionSmart Institute, a wraparound suite of organizational training, consultation, and software. EnvisionSmart will enable providers to elevate the expertise of their staff, improve staff retention, reduce staff stress, improve workforce efficiencies, and build a program of continuous improvement based on an evidencebased commitment to Organizational Behavior Management and Performance Management Training Research. EnvisionSmart is the culmination of over thirty years of experience derived from Melmark's leadership team. It is an innovative series of practitioner guides coupled with a tablet/PC application that will deliver best-in-industry, evidencebased skill building directly to instructors and individuals across the country, disrupting head-on the current paradigm of individuals receiving varying levels of expertise based on factors like geography, budgets and instructor expertise. Instead, the EnvisionSmart system levels the playing field in at least three ways: 1) it brings access to the highest level of expert teaching to all programs, 2) it's intelligent teaching engine understands how to teach all of the evidence-based methods and facilitates the skill building process, raising the expertise of all levels of instructors, and 3) the software component does all the assessment work automatically and in real-time, accelerating the learning process by keeping pace with the individual's progress and dynamically increasing the challenge to meet them at their current learning level, step-by-step, lesson-by-lesson, day by day.

CONTACT: Melmark, Inc

Rita Gardner rgardner@melmarkne.org

#### Establishing a Uniquely Abled Academy for ASD Adults - Technical Training for Quality Careers

Today's workforce is lacking the benefits of neurodiverse individuals who are out of the box thinkers and doers with much to contribute. Ninety percent of ASD adults are un/underemployed due to lack of training opportunities and employers' inability to recognize that they are capable of more than minimum wage jobs. This prevents an ever-growing population of adults with meaningful careers that will allow them to gain independence and become full contributors to society. The Uniquely Abled Academy will provide high quality training in mechanical assembly and CNC machining, two careers with top priority in the Northeast Regional Labor Blueprint. Participants will gain knowledge, skills, and certifications required to establish careers that pay well and have opportunities for advancement.

**CONTACT:**Bonnie Carr

Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District bcarr@essextech.net



#### **Everyone is Work-Worthy**

Established in 2021, the CommonWealth GrantWorks Foundation, Inc. leverages funding for distribution to employment-related programs. Based on a model of redistribution of wealth, CommonWealth GrantWorks recognizes the value of employee training and security for reducing and possibly eradicating poverty amongst subsets of the American population. It raises revenue via the hard-working, for-profit CommonWealth GrantWorks grant-writer and then redistributes that income via the charitable donation arm of the for-profit company, targeting hard-to-employ individuals and groups, such as individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD). For example, data on employment statistics reveal that employment rates for individuals with disabilities lag far behind those for individuals without disabilities. Thirty-three percent of individuals with disabilities in Massachusetts are employed, which is nearly 5% lower than the national average (Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, 2017). CommonWealth GrantWorks Foundation aims to change these statistics. CommonWealth GrantWorks Foundation makes financial contributions to individuals with I/DD to support employment and prosocial activities in their communities. Priority is given to residents of Western Massachusetts. Eligible awardees are provided seed funding to launch a business, access needed resources to become employed, and in other ways that make productivity possible. In the coming year, we anticipate providing grant awards to at least ten individuals.

**CONTACT:** 

CommonWealth GrantWorks

Jennifer Higgins

jennifer@commonwealthgrantworks.com

#### Fly Safe Today – Get Charged

All Wheels Up is launching and expanding the Fly Safe Today program. The FLY Safe Today program provides free ADAPTS evacuation slings and Cares (Adult or child) Harnesses to people with reduced mobility so they can fly as safely and with as much dignity as possible. The project also includes wheelchair charging stations for power wheelchairs at airports. There are NO evacuation standards for people with reduced mobility. There is a pet relief stations at airports for dogs, there are rows and rows of charging stations for phones. Currently there are over 4 million wheelchair users in the United States, we want to make sure that wheelchair users can charge their chairs while they wait for flights. All Wheels Up is making sure power wheelchair users have no issue with power for their wheelchairs while they wait for their planes.

**CONTACT:** 

All Wheels Up

Michele Erwin

merwin830@gmail.com

#### **GCR Adaptive Project**

The GCR (Girls Chronically Rock) Adaptive Project values education, accessibility, and inclusivity with the primary goal of inspiring the creation and design of adaptive clothing for all bodies regardless of ability. A survey of over 1.000 people with disability discovered it was very hard to find accessible/functional clothing in the fashion industry. The GCR Adaptive Project will create a new wave of fashion designed specifically for people with disabilities and make it available both online and in retail locations.

**CONTACT:**Keisha Greaves

Girls Chronically Rock gcradaptivep@gmail.com

#### **Gnome Surf's Happy Camp Nantasket**

We are the only organization in the Northeast offering innovative surf therapy on a weekly, therapeutic, basis. Our total wellness program is implemented under the advice of world class researchers within the International Surf Therapy Organization (ISTO), of which we are contributing members and abide by the strict protocols of the organization. Gnome Surf Nantasket is an epic opportunity for us to bring our favorite summer stokefest, Happy Camp, to the beautifu lcoastline at Nantasket! Happy Camp is our signature weekly event at our homebreak in Little Compton, RI, designed for our families to experience the Gnome magic together, free of charge. We facilitate unforgettable nights of summer memory making for the entire family. While the DJ slices it up, we create beach inspired art, build sand castles, maybe break out into a spontaneous group cha-cha slide, host a guided family yoga session, hop in the water for a full one-on-one shred session with the athletes, and end the night with a hi-five awards ceremony to honor our athletes for their courage on the waves, followed by pizza and a s'more social around the beach fire.

**CONTACT:** Gnome Surf

Christopher Anato gnomecreate@gmail.com

#### In School Sports Program: Motivating Students of All Abilities

Drawing on 27 years of experience adapting sports of all types, we designed the In School Sports Program (ISSP) as a conditioning program which motivates & includes people of all abilities. The ISSP features adapted Functional Conditional Training & promotes each student's highest physical potential while cultivating cognitive, social, & emotional well-being. Students also learn functional fitness activities that benefit them in daily life. Through individually developed modules our game system of adapted drills, distances & types of scoring provides a series of unparalleled personal & team accomplishments. Students of every ability learn to value themselves & others as part of a team. We will provide a subscription-based training program that enables teachers to offer the ISSP in any school setting across the country. Teachers will be trained to go beyond basic introduction to a new sport & traditional gym setting, receiving tools & training to support their use. Providing our specialized training to school personnel eliminates geographic challenges & fiscal barriers of using outside instructors.

**CONTACT:** Access Sport America ross@goaccess.org

#### justb

Decreases in physical activity is a crucial health concern and key contributor to severe conditions including obesity. Children with autism who are 2x more likely to be obese often experience delayed gross motor development, low coordination, poor body awareness, and sensory processing issues with can affect their participation in sports, play, and other life activities. justb equips parents and schools with practical tool that supports each child's physical development. justb helps kids harness the power of their physical bodies to unlock deeper autonomy and understanding of their 'whole selves' leading to greater self-esteem and independence. justb's multidisciplinary team of Olympians, therapist, and neurodivergent learners produce equitable online movement programs for ALL kids.

**CONTACT:** Move with justb

Rosie White rosie@movewithjustb.com



#### Let's be Friends and Make Memories Together

Prior research has examined interventions to improve friendships and social skills among children with ASD, the majority of these interventions have been limited to children in middle childhood (i.e., 8-11 years old) with high-functioning ASD (Petrina et al., 2013). The goal of the current project is to conduct an intervention to improve social and emotional communication among children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), so they may develop friendships with their peers. Specifically, the project proposes a hybrid therapeutic program: a six-month-long course for neurodiverse children which combines virtual sessions, in-person meetings, and excursions to encourage the development of social skills. Though most ABA therapy sessions follow the one-to-one (therapist-to-patient) structure, ours will be: an ABA therapist and children with and without ASD. As we know, children are often more enthusiastic about learning in group settings than they are about studying in isolation.

#### **CONTACT:**

Niloufar Ziya Mahmoudi

niloo.ziaa@gmail.com

#### **Robots: Opening Doors for Better Communication and Social Skills**

Manhattan Children's' Center strives to be in the forefront of technological innovations towards meaningful instruction and learning. Our unique learners need more than traditional teaching methods to meet their maximum potential. High cost of individualized instruction and limited resources make it difficult for our educational programming to promote the best learning environment. The Robots4autism® straddle the divide between technology and social humans, giving our students the ability to practice new skills in a way that is similar to interacting with a human, but not as complex and dynamic. These robots teach and demonstrate self-regulation skills, conversational skills and emotional expression and recognition, as well as situational practice for a variety of social scenarios. Lessons can be repeated with perfect consistency and as often as necessary to build confidence and generalize these essential skills to real life situations. Existing research confirms that this program is more effective results compared to standard therapy. Once a student makes progress with the lessons, traditional teaching and therapy becomes more effective because the student is better able to focus, engage, and interact. This leads to generalization of targeted behaviors These robots can remove the learning barriers for 110+ MCC students, in the upcoming year and scores more in subsequent years. By using robots we aim to disrupt many of the common instructional challenges our students face today. The new paradigm of teaching involving robotics will profoundly affect education programming in the field of autism.

CONTACT: Ma

Manhattan Children's Center

Meredith Spirgel MSpirgel@manhattanchildrenscenter.org

#### **Tasium**

We all struggle focusing from time to time but for those with Autism and ADHD it is much harder. That's because an estimated 60 percent of children with Autism are also diagnosed with ADHD. This is the reason why fidget tools are so popular in the Autistic community. The great part about fidget tools is that they sharpen focus while reducing stress and anxiety, the problem is that they are easily misplaced. I have first-hand experience with this problem as my younger brother Joel would constantly lose his fidget tools. This was a constant struggle of his until I invented Tasium. A one-of-a-kind company that produces fidget infused appeal geared towards people with Autism and ADHD. My product is a system where you can have your fidget tool on your person, and not worry about losing it. While at the same time being interchangeable and customizable. This product has already changed the lives of hundreds of people with and without autism who deal with the problem of contently losing their fidget tool. Just because my product is geared towards those with Autism and or ADHD it doesn't mean that it is only for them.

**CONTACT:**Jose Rodriguez, Jr

Tasium World Wide tasium.worldwide@gmail.com`



#### The Paralegal Assistant Training Program

Recognizing the lack of vocational training programs and dire employment prospects for individuals on the autism spectrum, the Autism Higher Education Foundation (AHEF) launched the Paralegal Assistant Training "PLAT" Program in collaboration with the Massachusetts Probate and Family Courts, law firms, and related businesses. The focus of PLAT program is on the cohort of students on the autism spectrum and with related disabilities, who are unable to pass MCAS and receive a high school diploma. In partnership with a growing number of high schools in the Commonwealth, the PLAT program provides selected students with paralegal assistant vocational training in participating Courts and subsequently targets placement in paid part-time employment in law firms and other businesses.

**CONTACT:** Khadem Law

Vanda Marie Khadem vkhadem@khademlaw.com

#### **TODEI (Training Organizations on DEI)**

Creating an equity-centered society requires disrupting monoculturalism and replacing it with multiculturalism – embracing and elevating differences such as disabilities, race, sexual orientation, etc. Judge Baker Children's Center and Centerboard Inc. seek to support and promote the best possible outcomes for children and families through equity-centered, culturally inclusive and connected practices. We will improve nonprofits' ability to embrace differences such as disabilities, class, gender, race, level, etc., and to truly recognize, understand, and appreciate the value and impact these differences have in the work that they do with their colleagues, and ultimately, with the communities they serve. Moving from seeing diversity as recruitment and numbers to retention and practice often requires significant changes in thinking. Our DEI work will help organizations shift from being simply goal-oriented to process-and relationship oriented when it comes to inclusion.

CONTACT:

Dr. Gary Lyon

Judge Baker Children's Center glyon@jbcc.harvard.edu

#### Virtual Apprenticeship for People with Disabilities for the Jobs of the Future

RespectAbility's National Apprenticeship Program fills a critical gap so that people with disabilities (PwD) can be force-multipliers in decision-making roles where they can open hearts, minds, and doors for others with disabilities to have jobs. Capitalizing upon the recent and dramatic expansion of remote work caused by the pandemic, our program is a game-changing model of innovation on how virtual cohort-based job-training and placement efforts can prepare talented, young, diverse PwD from all over the country for succeeding in the knowledge economy. A confluence of factors – the proliferation of remote work, development of new accessibility tools, and a job market eager for talent – makes our program uniquely positioned to deliver gains for PwD.

**CONTACT:** RespectAbility

Martin Koch franklina@respectability.org



#### **Virtual Reality Medical Center**

Increased telehealth and remote training and treatment, supplemented by Virtual Reality, allows the possibility to offer training and treatment to a wider segment of the population, both in the U.S. and worldwide. By moving VR to a universal platform that can be delivered at the patient's home, with an easy-to-use VR headset, we have continued to serve individuals throughout the pandemic - allowing ongoing practice of skill sets so that skill degradation does not occur. It also allows therapy to go forward, with patients learning skill sets, which are then practiced in the VR exposure environments. There remains a need to disseminate this more broadly, to help autism children, adolescents, and adults. Our goal is to 1. Train more clinicians to appropriately implement the technology, 2. Increase language offerings of training and diversify skin tones of avatars and 3. Increase access of technology to students during degree programs.

**CONTACT:** Virtual Reality Medical Center Brenda Wiederhold bwiederhold@vrphobia.com

#### **WiNC- Workers Imagining New Careers**

Community Work Services has remained committed to supporting the workforce needs of underserved individuals. The WiNC project uniquely advances the therapeutic aspects of horticulture therapy for disabled individuals, offers individuals with disabilities the opportunity to gain marketable skills, provides healthy food for an at-risk group, and supports a social enterprise business model that benefits community members that struggle to find living-wage employment. Participants with disabilities, including formerly incarcerated individuals with disabilities referred by Essex County Sheriff's Office, will use a terraponic indoor grow system which harvests crops such as leafy greens and herbs for cooking and as a sustainable food source. Products will then be sold to TD Garden for their culinary needs.

**CONTACT:** Community Work Services Greg Caplitz GCaplitz@cwsne.org

## Changing lives, one cup at a time



HOURS

MONDAY- FRIDAY: 7 A.M. - 5 P.M.

SATURDAY: 8 A.M. - 4 P.M.

coffee and tea bar • breakfast and lunch specialty foods • art exhibits • free wi-fi







May 12, 2022

The South Lawn Encore Boston Harbor 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Presented by



Benefiting



Cocktail Reception and Celebrity Fashion Show, featuring emcee Kim Carrigan



SAVE THE DATE



Mike Frangos Commodore Invitational

**SEPTEMBER** 19, 2022

at Myopia Hunt Club www.ne-arc.org/golf





www.ne-arc.org/5K **NortheastArc** 

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022

REGISTRATION OPENS 7:30 A.M., RUN + WALK 9 A.M.

**BALLOON ART** BUBBLES **FACE PAINTING** MORE

MUSIC SWAG **SAMPLES** MARKETSTREET

MARKETSTREET LYNNFIELD

FUN FEST 9:30-11:30 A.M.

# NortheastArc

Northeast Arc was founded in 1954 by families of children with developmental disabilities—families who wanted to raise their sons and daughters as full members of their communities, mostly in cities and towns north of Boston.

Those families were truly pioneers. They, and their successors over the decades, challenged the conventional wisdom that said their children could not be educated, would not live to become adults and could not lead satisfying lives. Working together, these families created support systems—from nursery schools to employment programs—that enabled their children to attend public schools, develop friendships, live where they wanted to live, and earn a paycheck.

Gradually, those support systems expanded to include a broader range of disabilities. Today, through the joint efforts of a skilled professional staff and a large volunteer corps—we serve thousands of individuals in nearly 200 Massachusetts communities. At Northeast Arc, we're also inventors, determined to find ways to improve the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We fund groundbreaking and innovative ideas through our annual Arc Tank program, and we operate our own inclusive businesses, Breaking Grounds Café, Peabody's Black Box, Heritage Shredding, and The Caning Company.

All of this adds up to a culture where we relentlessly pursue opportunities that will enable individuals with disabilities to become full participants in their communities.

Northeast Arc offers a wide variety of services covering the full spectrum of an individual's life—from early intervention following birth to end of life care.

#### Our programs include:

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Services
Including Center-Based ABA

Autism Coaching and Resources

**Day Habilitation** 

Early Intervention Services

**Employment Supports and Skills Training** 

Home Health Care Services

Independent and Supported Living

In-home Personal Care Management

Referrals and Advocacy

Social/Recreational Programming

**Support Groups** 











