



Empowering children  
and adults with  
developmental disabilities.

arcpsc.org

# The Achievement Center

## *The Arc's New North Campus for Adult Services*

The Arc is dreaming big for the amazing individuals we serve, and we are proud to unveil our new north campus for adult services – the Achievement Center.

Our amazing Facilities Team, led by Michael Erven, senior director of operational logistics, transformed the 15,000-square-foot Achievement Center in Riviera Beach, formerly the headquarters of Seagull Services, into a dynamic, specialized educational and career development hub for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our team completed all the labor themselves with some help from extraordinary volunteers from The Breakers Palm Beach, keeping expenses under \$150,000 for the entire interior and exterior overhaul.

Designed with the intention of supporting the whole person and helping adults with disabilities focus on their tasks, the new campus features six distinct studios and classrooms, a fulfillment work center, and a new outdoor social area with a turf-covered patio and basketball court.



Each specialized room adds a layer of support to help adults with disabilities achieve their educational and employment goals.

1. **"About Me" Studio** – Promotes mental health and wellness and will house our new group mental health program for adults with co-occurring mental health disorders
2. **Artisan Studio** – Creates opportunities for engagement in the arts and fosters a fun, collaborative setting for volunteerism
3. **Sensory Room** – Offers a calm setting with soft lighting and a white noise cloud for participants to take a break and relax if they feel overwhelmed or stressed
4. **Music & Movement Studio** – Encourages mental and physical wellness through exercise, dance, and other activities performed in the roomy, 400-foot space
5. **International Studies Corner** – Features a library table and floor-to-ceiling world map, creating an inclusive setting that stimulates curiosity
6. **Technology Lab** – Encourages connection between participants and individuals from other Arcs and the greater community, while honing technology literacy skills



The renovation also included aesthetic improvements to foster a warm, welcoming environment that complements our amazing services. The facility has new cabinetry, flooring, paint, lighting, air conditioning, freshly upgraded bathrooms, a branded landscaped exterior, and 11 new or refurbished offices.

Through the Achievement Center, we are showcasing our continuum of care model for helping all people with disabilities succeed. These changes have drastically improved workflow; productivity at the work center on campus is the highest it has ever been; and our clients are thriving – all thanks to the diversity of activities available to them.

Kimberly McCarten  
President & CEO





## ADULT EDUCATION

Our Adult Education team and participants were excited to make the move to the newly renovated Achievement Center. We now support **130 adults** at the north campus after successfully transitioning each participant from the Courim Center to the new training location in coordination with families, Waiver Support Coordinators, Agency for Persons with Disabilities, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Team members and clients participated in icebreaker activities to get to know one another. A fun balloon name game got participants moving around the room to locate their names in a sea of balloons, and find and introduce themselves to peers whose names were also written on their own balloon. For National Poetry Month, participants created a “poet-tree” by reading poems by famous poets and crafting leaves inscribed with their favorite poems to decorate the trees on campus. The activity was a great way for clients to show each other a piece of themselves and their personalities.

The energy and interactive activity at the Achievement Center has created excitement for participants and the team. The new, innovative spaces allow participants to engage in structured learning, recreation, and employment options in an environment that fosters growth in every aspect of their lives. Participants recently learned about climate change through science lessons in the International Studies Corner. The world map helped clients locate the ice caps where polar bears live, and participants demonstrated the impact of rising sea levels on the environment through a hands-on learning activity involving melting ice. The lesson concluded with an engaging discussion about how they can contribute to improving the environment and supporting animals like the polar bear.



More participants can now join art classes thanks to the expansion of the Artisan Studio, and our artisans have already set to work on a new, custom, 8-foot mosaic surfboard. Improvements to the structure and flow of the production area have removed distractions, allowing clients to focus on their work and increase productivity.

The updated outdoor space has a freshly painted fence, new basketball net, and comfortable patio furniture, making it a great space for clients to get some exercise or sit, relax, and have a conversation.

The Sensory Room was much anticipated by our team, and from the day that the first chair was placed in the completed room, it was being used for its intended purpose. The room provides a quiet space for participants to regroup and recharge, and has been a huge advantage during the transition with so many new team members and peers. One participant became upset when it was time to leave campus, and she was having a difficult time calming down. She decided to take the opportunity to spend some time in the Sensory Room, swinging in the hammock chair amid the calming lights and sounds. After about 20 minutes, she was ready to talk with the team and resolve the issue that had made her so upset.



## VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

The Breakers Palm Beach recently partnered with The Arc to improve their human resources processes and foster teamwork and mutual understanding among new hires. In their new framework, cohorts of new hires participate in a day-and-a-half orientation at The Breakers, followed by a half-day of volunteer service at The Arc.

Volunteers from The Breakers visited The Arc twice in April to help beautify our campuses, learn from the amazing individuals we serve, share their own life experiences, and to have fun. Groups of 26 volunteers created unique mosaics side by side with our Artisan Program participants, assisted with landscaping, painting, and window washing at The Arc's north and south campuses, and detailed a classic 1937 Chevy that will be auctioned off by The Arc later this year.

To implement a similar program at your business, contact Melissa Engelberg today at [mengelberg@arcpcb.org](mailto:mengelberg@arcpcb.org)!



# CELEBRATING DONORS

Golfers took to the green on April 11 at the stunning Dye Preserve in Jupiter for our annual Arc Invitational golf tournament, **raising more than \$97,000** to help our clients achieve. Nineteen foursomes competed on a picture-perfect day for first place, longest drive, and to try for an elusive hole-in-one.

We thank our sponsors for an unforgettable event: GEO Group, Genuine Parts Company, Peter DeGeorge Family Foundation, Otis Elevator, Pratt & Whitney, The Gardens Mall, Valley National Bank, Atoll Vodka, Searcy, Denney, Scarola, Barnhart & Shipley, Sisca Construction, and U.S. Sugar.

*Congratulations to our first place winners Ricky Wade, Donnie Wright, Walter Blum, and Austin Parker!*



We hosted two intimate Visionary Dinners at the exclusive 1000 NORTH restaurant for friends of The Arc in April. President & CEO of The Arc of Palm Beach County, Kimberly McCarten, shared the past and present experiences of people with disabilities, and revealed our “Stronger Together” vision for the future. Both evenings were full of engaging conversation around innovation and partnerships, and how to ensure that we celebrate each individual’s unique qualities and support their aspirations.

# EARLY INTERVENTION

**At-a-Glance: January – April 2022**

Families and children served: 1,208

New families referred into EI programs: 294

Developmental Assessments completed: 913

Our Early Intervention Team helps children from birth to age 5 meet developmental milestones, and learn and grow at the same pace as their peers. Caring for the whole family is integral to helping children achieve, and our community partners ensure we can help bridge the gap in needed services for the families we serve.

Through our continued collaboration with our local Safe Kids program, we have recently provided 95 car seats to families throughout the county. Clinics Can Help donated 50 pack-and-play packages to our families to ensure that their babies can sleep safely and worry-free. Our system of care partners, Child Find and the Early Learning Coalition, continue to complement our programs by promoting school readiness with specialized services and quality child care, respectively.

Together we work to ensure that the children and families of Palm Beach County receive the best possible services, and we are incredibly grateful to our many community partners for elevating our cause.

# EDUCATION

SAIL middle and high school students worked hard on their academics through the spring semester to prepare for statewide assessments, while still finding some time for fun. Students learned how to build solar ovens in science, studying the transfer of light energy into heat energy as their s'mores baked in the ovens.

For National Poetry Month, students wrote haikus and recited them at a special coffeehouse event, where they also planned a menu, greeted attendees, and served food to practice interpersonal and vocational skills.



Our team continues to engage with the community by building and maintaining internship sites. Each week, student interns and alumni working in our on-site food pantry program help ensure that others have supplemental, nutritious food. Our students are also participating in off-site internships with school partners like Publix, where they learn valuable job and social skills. Summer brings new opportunities for students to further their preemployment skills at our Career Camps.

Connect with Monica Sanchez at [msanchez@arcpbc.org](mailto:msanchez@arcpbc.org) to sign up now!





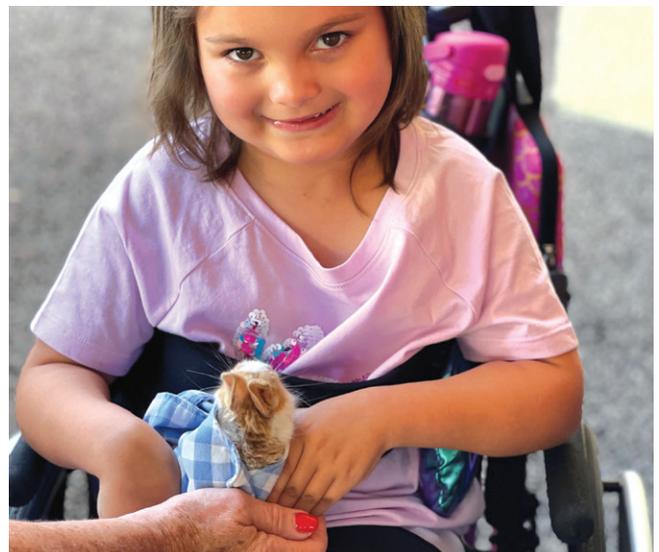
Congratulations to our high school graduate Tatyana Jean-Baptiste! Tatyana will be staying at SAIL to further her employment and independent living skills. We also have eight students who are aging out this year, and we wish them well as they embark on their journeys.

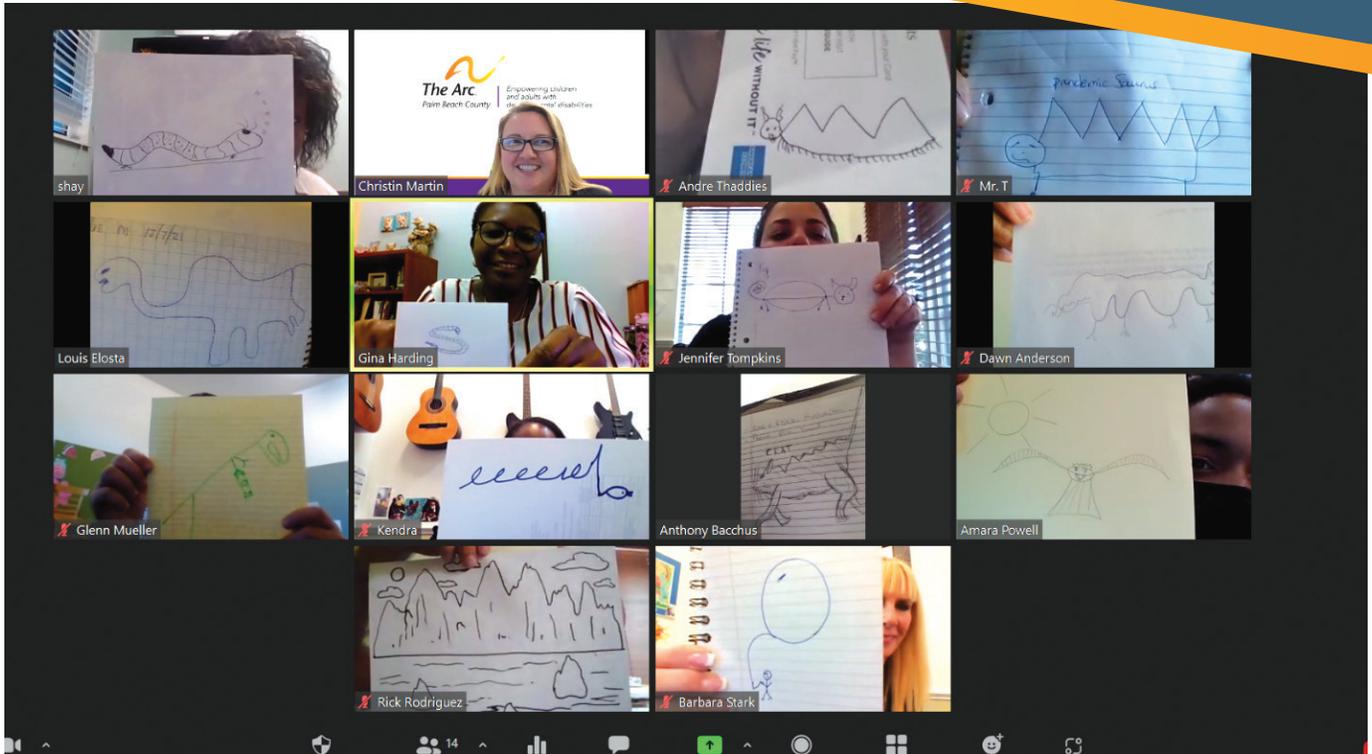
Potentials students had an engaging spring semester filled with opportunities for community inclusion. We welcomed back our nursing students from Palm Beach Atlantic University who gained clinical experience with children with disabilities and helped implement lesson plans and feeding. Cock-A-Doodle-Do Petting Zoo created a petting zoo experience for our students, bringing baby animals on campus for students to meet, hold, and help feed. A few brave students even got to enjoy a pony ride! Also, through a volunteerism partnership with The Benjamin School, we received dozens of excellent books for our students to explore.

In celebration of Earth Day, students learned about the artist, Monet, created garden sensory art, and participated in a music and movement activity using a parachute and inflatable globe.

Students also learned about plants and performed a science experiment to grow beans in our own greenhouses. We also adopted some caterpillars and observed their life cycle over two weeks, setting them free when they transformed into butterflies.

Congratulations to our 2022 Potentials graduates, Anthony, George, Zoe, and Andy! We wish them well as they transition into their new schools to accomplish wonderful things.





Practitioners displaying their "Picasso" activity drawings. They drew a single line (straight, curved, jagged, etc.) and created a drawing incorporating their line. Demonstrating the imagination of each person, unique drawings took the form of snakes, creatures, landscapes, and more.

## COMMUNITY INCLUSION

Over the past six months, our Inclusion Specialist hosted 22 trainings for more than 180 Out-of-School Time practitioners around the county – both in person and via Zoom. Classes like "Inclusion Strategies With Behavior Techniques" teach practitioners what it is like to have attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder and autism spectrum disorder, and how to define sensory issues, and provide role-playing opportunities for various inclusion and behavior scenarios.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

For more than two-and-a-half months, our IT team has implemented technology and hardware upgrades across all Arc campuses. We have installed two new servers, 126 new computers, 15 Wi-Fi routers and firewalls, 20,000 linear feet of data lines, three MedCart systems for our group homes, and emails, cybersecurity tools, and software upgrades for more than 200 users. This extraordinary effort was completed with less than six hours of user downtime and no disruption to data integrity.

Integrating and improving our IT systems ensure team connectivity, communication, and efficiency across the agency's program sites countywide, ultimately enhancing services for clients.