



# Around The Arc

FY25 second edition

## September – October 2024

September 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



### Important Dates to Remember

Sept 2 Labor Day holiday – all day programs closed  
 Sept 8-14 National DSP Recognition Week  
 Oct 9 Staff In-Service



### WELCOME NEW HIRES FROM JULY & AUGUST

Shannon Barnett	Deborah Samaniego
Jacqueline Hesser	Rick Manuel
Katie Jones	Samantha Ahrens
Courtney Bellinger	Gabrivella Lilius
Cortney Evans	Hannah York
Latree Jackson	Angel Barnes
Isabel Martinez	Marquitta Marble
Thomas Black	Mariah Moore
Raven Clinton	

### 2024 DSP APPRECIATION WEEK

ANCOR (American Network of Community Options and Resources) designated the week of September 8-14, 2024, as Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week nationwide. The Arc of the Quad Cities Area supports this effort and express our appreciation to those in our agency who provide vital DSP services to the individuals we serve. Thank you, DSPs, for all you do!

### ! PROMOTED !

**Sonya Ortiz** – promoted to Residential Supervisor 8<sup>th</sup> Street

### Employee Anniversaries – September

Pamela Turner	Sept 18	35 yrs
Takesha McNamee	Sept 19	17 yrs
Alisha Neely	Sept 10	15 yrs
Mary “Sue” McCabe	Sept 21	13 yrs
Wendy Hofmann	Sept 14	13 yrs
Amy Dillingham	Sept 27	7 yrs
Tiffany Goff	Sept 5	6 yrs
Freedom Janssen	Sept 2	4 yrs
Kaitlyn Collis	Sept 30	4 yrs
Elizabeth Keefe	Sept 30	4 yrs
Alayna Owens	Sept 1	3 yrs
Shyanna Williams	Sept 1	2 yrs
Merriyah Myers	Sept 13	1 yr
Justin Kemper	Sept 13	1 yr
Christina Sperry	Sept 13	1 yr
Katelyn Jones	Sept 13	1 yr
Heather Kitchen	Sept 13	1 yr
Aubrey Misner	Sept 27	1 yr

### Employee Anniversaries – October

Sherri Means	Oct 2	28 yrs
Katrina Obertance	Oct 10	23 yrs
Kristen Hammond	Oct 6	18 yrs
Rebecca Pisman	Oct 3	17 yrs
Jalisa Hardy	Oct 22	10 yrs
Kristina Lindstrom	Oct 28	9 yrs
Kalah Schnitzer	Oct 28	9 yrs
Alyssa House	Oct 5	8 yrs
Wendy Emerick	Oct 5	8 yrs
Kara Hernandez	Oct 3	6 yrs
Sandra Velez Gutierrez	Oct 31	6 yrs
Shirley Rhoads	Oct 4	5 yrs
Sara Ellet	Oct 7	5 yrs
Darci Simons	Oct 28	4 yrs
Amand Van Rycke	Oct 27	3 yrs
Amber Bauer	Oct 27	3 yrs
Nigel Thurber	Oct 27	3 yrs
Erin Ferrenburg	Oct 5	2 yrs
Lillian Rodriguez	Oct 11	1 yr
Angela Anderson	Oct 11	1 yr
Carole Plautz	Oct 11	1 yr
Jasmine Campbell	Oct 11	1 yr
Jessica Manning	Oct 25	1 yr
Jacob Winter	Oct 25	1 yr
LaCorrionna		
Washington McBride	Oct 25	1 yr

**Fall Festival** is scheduled for Sep. 27, 2024

The Rust Belt 4:30pm-7:00pm  
Bring a non-perishable food item for entry. Fun, music, games and prizes. Food and drink to the first 150.



**Trivia Night** is Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024  
Holiday Inn Rock Island



### Goodbye down-time, Hello Occupational Enrichment!

At QC Flex, we have eliminated downtime. Previously, during periods of low or no production, we would fill the individuals' time with games, movies, or walks. Now, we fill these gaps with Occupational Enrichment. Occupational Enrichment is our new program within the Community Employment Services department that is focused on advancing and enhancing existing skills while adding new ones to individuals' toolboxes.

This program covers topics such as requesting help and accommodations, responding to feedback in the workplace, and other subjects that are also beneficial in daily life, such as avoiding scams, technology safety and etiquette, interview skills. Through continual training, we hope to help individuals develop and improve their skill sets. With the help of online videos through a service called Kibu, and by implementing activities and discussions aimed at making individuals more familiar with the skills and habits needed, they would obtain and maintain community employment.

As we expand our program, we aim to increase our presence within the community. By engaging with the community, we will arrange insightful tours and job shadowing opportunities, allowing our individuals to explore the ever-increasing career options beyond just those of QC Flex. Our periods of low production do not have to be boring. With Occupational Enrichment we can keep an individual's mind and body active, and hopefully start to learn new and enhance some of their old skills. If you have any questions, thoughts, or ideas for activities, or help explore new opportunities, please reach out to CES.

Brian Nielsen



from  
**SARA ELLET,**  
Behavioral Health  
Program Manager

### September is Suicide Prevention Month.

At The Arc, we are part of the QC Behavioral Health Coalition. One of the campaigns for the Coalition is Zero Suicide. I have attached the flyer for World Suicide Prevention Day September 10, 2024.

The Zero Suicide Initiative is asking for you to show your devotion to Changing the Narrative on Suicide on Tuesday, September 10th. On this day, wear something that aligns with Suicide Prevention. Examples include:

- ZSI T-Shirt
- a T-Shirt from any Suicide Prevention and Awareness club/organization/agency
- the colors purple & teal
- colors that represent someone you've lost to suicide
- Pins & Ribbons

Show your support, have conversations, and most importantly **Change the Narrative.**

September 7<sup>th</sup> is also the Zero Suicide walk/run. Below is the informational/registration link.

<https://runsignup.com/Race/IL/Moline/WalkforZeroSuicide>

**I am signing up and would like to have people who join me.**



*Pictured above from left to right:  
Michael Glanz, Scott Maess, Suzy White, Darci Simons*

The Arc of the Quad Cities Area was awarded the proceeds from the **2024 Divots for DARI!** We are so honored to put these dollars to work for a new van in our residential program! Thank you, **DARI**, for giving back to the community.



Kaitlyn Collis  
Elizabeth Keefe  
Freedom Janssen  
Arriaja Johnson  
Elizabeth Jones  
Angela Kennedy  
Deanna Minter  
Darci Simons  
Chelsea Smith  
Miyanna Walls  
Haley Westfall



Dorthea Berry  
Natasha Blanks  
Tassy Blunt  
Holly Bowdre  
British Calvin  
Skyler French  
Tiffany Goff  
Kara Hernandez  
Cain Matter  
Audra Riley  
Alisa Robertson  
Valerie Streitmatter  
Darcie Strupp  
Cassandra Tiftsworth  
Sandra Velez Guiterrez  
Tommyka Williams  
Elizabeth York



Meg Davis  
Kristina Garcia  
Brian Nielsen  
Sarah Wright  
Emily Young



Tami Peck  
Suzy White



Rashima Newman



Jennifer Moran  
Lorrie Manley



Susan Smith



Darren Collins  
David Dewaele



**EMPLOYEE  
EXCELLENCE  
TEAM  
AWARD**

**KATHLEEN ANDERSON  
&  
TRACEY MCGINTY**

for their work expanding



**BENEVOLENCE  
AWARD  
NOMINEES**

*Diana Covey  
Thelma DePaepe  
Teri Fulton  
Takesha McNamee  
Diana Mendoza  
Rashima Newman  
Jesse Perry  
Alisa Robertson*

*And the winner is:  
THELMA DEPAEPE*



**RISING STAR  
NOMINEES**

*Allyssa Barnett  
Loneisha Crumbley  
Freedom Janssen  
James Maloney  
Deanna Minter  
Tacha Myles  
Alexis Pizano  
Haley Westfall  
Regina Wolkow  
Elizabeth York*

*And the winner is:  
ALEXIS PIZANO*

**FY24 ANNUAL AWARDS FOR EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE**

DIRECT CARE RESIDENTIAL	DIRECT CARE CDS	SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL	SUPERVISORY
DANIELLE CLARK	TACHA MYLES	JIM MALONEY	DIANA COVEY

## Who do you know around The Arc?



**Michelle Kresin** is one of The Arc’s QIDPs, and she shares the following about herself: *“I love to do crafts in my spare time. I make t-shirts & sweatshirts, do tie-dye, make jewelry, pictures, coozies, key-chains, I use sublimation and heat transfer vinyl. I also do some resin work, i.e. tumblers, pens, coasters jewelry etc. I love to watch documentaries and I am a huge horror buff. My favorite holiday is Halloween, and I love anything Bigfoot or alien related.”*

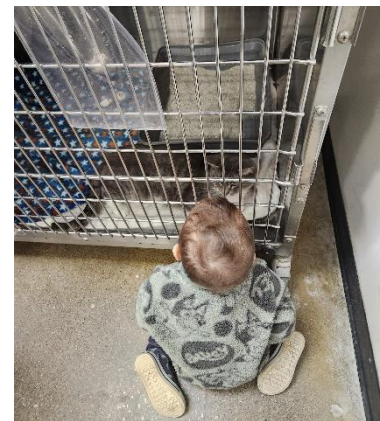
**Jenny Miller** is The Arc’s Director of Community Engagement, and can be found at the QC Flex building. She says *“I enjoy reading anything I can get my hands on; I even listen to audio books on my commute to and from work. During the spring and fall I enjoy short hikes (nothing that requires a backpack).”*



**Kayti Collis**, Residential Supervisor, shared that *“my hobbies and talents include doing diamond paintings, doing crafts with my kids, watching my favorite TV shows, and walking my dogs. I am also very talented in photography. I love taking photos of my individuals to put around their house, and taking photos for fun outside of work.”*



**Angela Kennedy**, one of The Arc’s QIDPs, shares the following. *“I like to spend time with my son, maybe seeing trucks or animals. We like splashing in the kiddie pool and saying hi to kitties at Petsmart. I also like to read Psycho Thriller books and color.”*



**Sarah Fetes** joined The Arc recently in a newly created position as Office Manager at QC Flex. Sarah tells us that *“my hobbies include riding my horse Gomer, collecting all sorts of rocks, crystals and gems, and going on paranormal investigations.”*

# WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY

September 10th, 2024

The date September 10th is used every year to spread awareness on suicide prevention.

From the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP), “ World Suicide Prevention Day is observed every year on the 10th of September to draw attention to this important public health issue globally and to disseminate the message that suicides are preventable. Established in 2003 by the International Association for Suicide Prevention in conjunction with The World Health Organization's (WHO), the day aims to focus attention on the issue, reduce stigma and raise awareness amongst organizations, government, and the public, giving the singular message that suicides are preventable” (2024).

“Suicide remains a critical global issue, affecting individuals and communities worldwide. In an effort to address this issue and encourage positive change, IASP is pleased to announce the new theme for World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) 2024-2026 as “Changing the Narrative on Suicide”” (IASP, 2024).

The Zero Suicide Initiative is asking for you to show your devotion to Changing the Narrative on Suicide on Tuesday September 10th. On this day, wear something that aligns with Suicide Prevention.

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