



# All Aboard The Arc

Arc of Greater Brockton Newsletter

Director of Employment Services Adam Belmore (far left) and Assistant Director of Employment Services Marc Auger (far right) with AGB Participants at our new Brockton location at 1215 West Chestnut St.



## WINTER 2025



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AGB Expands in Brockton!  
Volunteerism Continues to Thrive in our Community!

Day Hab and CBDS Enhance Participant Support!  
Recap of 2024 Holiday Season!

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## The Arc of Greater Brockton's 2025 Annual Golf Tournament

### Thorny Lea Golf Club

159 Torrey St,  
Brockton MA

Monday, June 2nd  
at 12:30PM

#### INCLUDING:

Course cookout with dinner, appetizers & refreshments. Putting contest, skills competitions, raffle prizes & awards presentations!

#### REGISTRATION:

\$250 per person

**VARIOUS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:**  
Ranging from \$500-\$5,000  
Including \$150 Hole Sponsor

**For more information:**  
Contact Director of Development  
Russell Moore at:  
rmoore@arcogreaterbrockton.org  
or 508-583-8030 ext. 212

Please join us for a day that will be filled with great golf, fun activities, delicious food, refreshment and camaraderie.

Your participation and generosity will support the growth and sustainability of the many programs, resources and services provided to the individuals and families each and every day at The Arc Greater Brockton.



**Reserve Your Spot Today!**  
Scan this QR Code for online registration.  
Pay with Venmo: @arcogreaterbrockton  
(Please remember to fill out the form online when paying with Venmo)

[www.arcogreaterbrockton.org](http://www.arcogreaterbrockton.org)

# The Arc of Greater Brockton is Expanding in Brockton!

The Arc of Greater Brockton is proud to announce a new location that will be home to a comprehensive employment and training facility for individuals with disabilities. The new facility will be located at 1215 West Chestnut Street, across the street from our flagship location in Brockton. Set to take place this Spring, the location will be a new home for our Employment Services Department, as well as the Bottle and Can Recycling Redemption Center, Lawn Care Company, and IdentoGo Fingerprinting operation.



**“Our program has grown so much in the last few years, and we plan to continue on that path. We will be offering opportunities to our participants to gain experience in food service work in a new commercial kitchen, as well as retail work in our new store front selling AGB merchandise and crafts made by our clients.”**

*Adam Belmore,  
Director of Employment Services*

## **Expanding Employment Services**

The new facility will allow us to broaden our reach and enhance job training programs, equipping more individuals with the skills and support they need to thrive in the workforce. With increased space, we can now offer group training sessions, fostering a collaborative and engaging learning environment. This expansion reflects our ongoing dedication to finding innovative ways to serve more individuals seeking employment opportunities.

## **Expanding Service Offerings at our Existing Brockton Facility**

Relocating Employment Services and our Redemption Center provides an opportunity to expand services and resources within our flagship 1250 West Chestnut Street facility. Plans

are underway to expand our Community Based Day Supports Program so that we can reduce the number of individuals on waiting lists in the region. In addition to the new program space, we are planning to create a new performance venue within the facility, to expand initiatives associated with the arts, music, theatre, and exercise.

Our latest expansion builds upon a series of strategic investments aimed at improving and expanding services. As we prepare for this transition, we are filled with excitement and optimism. The additional space and resources will empower us to serve even more individuals, strengthening our ability to provide meaningful opportunities for personal and professional growth.



*Self Directed Employment participants help clear furniture and debris from 1215 W. Chestnut*



## Enhancing Care & Support at AGB

At The Arc of Greater Brockton, our commitment to the well-being of our participants is unwavering. Over the past year, we have taken significant steps to enhance our medical care offerings and positive behavioral support strategies, ensuring that our participants receive the highest quality of care and support.

### New Facility in Easton

One of our most notable achievements has been the opening of a new building in Easton. This facility is designed to serve individuals with more complex medical conditions through our Day Habilitation Program, as well as those who are more sensory sensitive through our Community Based Day Supports Program. This new space allows us to provide specialized care and support tailored to the unique needs of our participants.

### Expanding Our Team

To further enhance our services, we have expanded our team with skilled professionals to meet the physical, medical, and behavioral needs of our participants. Last autumn, we welcomed Thomas Sullivan, a Rehabilitation Support Specialist, who provides Occupational Therapy assistance (pictured above) at both our Easton and Brockton locations. Tom's expertise is invaluable, particularly for those who require specialized support.

We have also strengthened our nursing staff at the Easton location. Initially, our team included RN nurse Lisa Giusti, who has been a corner-

stone of our medical care in Easton since the location opened. Recently, we added LPN nurse Kerry Flynn to our team, further bolstering our nursing capabilities. Meanwhile, we recently invested \$500,000 in expanding and renovating our Brockton Day Hab location, significantly expanding our nursing resources. Joining long time RN Eileen Solana is LPN Sandra Grace in Brockton. We also doubled the size of our service area, adding a room for our participants to recuperate or wait in a quiet room for someone to pick them up to.

### Investing in Staff Development

Our commitment to excellence extends beyond hiring new staff; we also invest in the development of our existing team members. Jennifer Gerofsky, our PBS (Positive Behavioral Support) coordinator, has recently become a registered behavioral technician. This certification enables Jennifer to work directly with clients to implement behavior intervention plans, collect data, and teach new skills, particularly for individuals with developmental disabilities. It also allows her to help mentor staff to be more effective in using positive behavioral supports to help create a more effective method of serving our participants.

Moreover, two other employees, Doris Adeclat and Gertha Louis, who each currently serve dual roles as Case Managers and Direct Support Professionals, are also currently undergoing training to become registered behavioral technicians.

We currently work with Kara Patchin, a BCBA (board certified behavioral analyst) from the Pilgrim Area Collaborative. Kara helps to develop proactive strategies and has been a valuable asset to AGB. Later this Spring, we'll be adding a full-time BCBA to the AGB Team as well.



Our Easton participants get moving!

### A Message from Our Executive Director

Dean Rizzo, our Executive Director, emphasizes the importance of these advancements: "At The Arc of Greater Brockton, we are deeply committed to the well-being of our participants on all levels. This includes addressing their medical needs and fully embracing positive behavioral supports. Our recent efforts to enhance our medical care offerings and expand our team with skilled professionals are a testament to this commitment."



## Celebrating AGB's Culture of Volunteerism

At The Arc of Greater Brockton, volunteerism is a core value that shapes our community. That's why so many of the participants in our Community Based Day Supports Program give back. They demonstrate our commitment to making a positive impact. Through partnerships with other deserving nonprofits, our volunteers continue to make a positive difference.

*CBDS participants volunteer their time at Digger Foods, sorting fresh produce before it's sold. The food is discounted and made available to local residents.*

For instance, at Meals on Wheels, the AGB Team delivers food to senior citizens. Several of our participants take turns loading meals into one of our vans. Then they're off to make the deliveries with smiling faces. This not only ensures that seniors receive nutritious meals, it also fosters a sense of connection and community. Along those same lines, our participants also team up with our friends at BAMSI.

At Digger Foods, our volunteers help pack healthy, organic foods for those in need. Digger Foods' vision is to make healthy, organic ingredients available to people who struggle to afford them. The AGB community is pleased to help Digger Foods move towards its noble goal.

Meanwhile, our collaboration with School on Wheels is another key partnership. School on Wheels provides school supplies and counseling to children in poverty. By supporting this organization, our volunteers help these children get the resources and guidance they need to succeed academically and personally.

Make no mistake: We are fortunate to have individuals who volunteer here. Their time and energy to support our programs is inspiring. Yet, as our volunteer efforts demonstrate, we give back. That's why our participants approach their volunteer work with enthusiasm and dedication. They embody the spirit of service that defines The Arc of Greater Brockton.

Dean Rizzo, our Executive Director, shares this sentiment. He emphasized the importance of our volunteer efforts. Dean is also proud of the impact they have on our participants and the community.

"It's hard to understate the sense of affirmation it gives me to see our participants out there doing their part to make our community better," said Dean. "Like all volunteers, our participants care deeply about the community and will do whatever they can to improve it."

Similarly, Rosene Belizaire our Director of Community Based Day Supports, highlighted the benefits of our volunteer activities. She noted that they enrich the lives of our participants while addressing critical needs in the community.

"Our volunteers' efforts represent a true win/win scenario," said Rose. "Other deserving nonprofits get the help they need and we get the satisfaction of knowing that we're here for the community."



*CBDS participants help load our vans with food as part of Meals on Wheels, a program that delivers nutritious food to seniors.*

## SUPPORT GROUPS

The Family Support Center provides numerous support groups for families and participants in the region.

### Caregivers of School Age Kids:

Third Saturday of the month,  
9:00–10:00 AM

Contact: Ashley Santos at [asantos@arcofgreaterbrockton.org](mailto:asantos@arcofgreaterbrockton.org) or Tracey Glynn at [tglynn@arcofgreaterbrockton.org](mailto:tglynn@arcofgreaterbrockton.org)

### Caregivers of 22+:

First Thursday of the month,  
10:00–11:30 AM

### Grandparents Support Group:

Second Tuesday of the month,  
10:30–11:30 AM

### Transition Meet Up:

Third Thursday of the month,  
6:00–7:00 AM

### Haitian Support:

Third Sunday of the month,  
5:00 PM

For more information, contact Eleonor Jean-Pierre at 508-583-8030, ext. 311

### Cape Verdean Support Group:

Second Friday of the month,  
6:30–8:30 PM

For more information, contact Maria DaSilva at 508-583-8030, ext. 223

### Spanish-Speaking

#### Caregivers Group:

Dates As Needed

For inquiries, contact Aisha Boykin at [aboykin@arcofgreaterbrockton.org](mailto:aboykin@arcofgreaterbrockton.org)

### Father's Support Group:

Second Tuesday of the month,  
6:00–7:00 PM

If interested, contact Ricardo DaCruz at [rdacruz@arcofgreaterbrockton.org](mailto:rdacruz@arcofgreaterbrockton.org)

*Meetings are typically held at the AGB facility. For specific details, contact Cathy Hickey at 508 583-8030 ext. 227 or email [chickey@arcofgreaterbrockton.org](mailto:chickey@arcofgreaterbrockton.org)*



# The Arc

Greater Brockton

## Family Support Center

Feeling overwhelmed, confused, lost, and in need of support? Our Family Support team is a group of compassionate professionals waiting and willing to assist you navigate a wealth of information and resources available to you.

- SSI benefit counseling
- DDS service navigation
- Help with DDS eligibility applications
- Help with MassHealth Application
- Recreational & Social Activities
- Family Events
- Support Groups (bi-lingual groups offered)
- Sibshops
- Spanish/Haitian/Cape Verdean/Portuguese outreach
- Utility Resources
- Educational Family Training

### Do you want to learn more about our programs, events, and advocacy efforts?

We have accounts on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Youtube, where we post regular new, updates, and resources. Following us on social media is the best way to stay informed and engaged with The Arc of Greater Brockton. Don't miss this opportunity to join our online community and support our mission.



*The Caregivers of 18+ support group meets at The Boundless Bean in Bridgewater.*

# Employee Spotlight: Patrick McDonald



Employment Specialist Patrick McDonald and his two sons reviewing some of the donated comics in our Redemption Center.

In this edition, we are delighted to shine the spotlight on Patrick McDonald, a devoted Group Employment Specialist in our Employment Services Department at The Arc of Greater Brockton.

Last year, Patrick stepped up to tackle an extraordinary project when The Arc received a generous donation of several thousand comic books from the uncle of a participant in our Day Habilitation Department. Together with his two young sons, Patrick took on the monumental task of sorting this extensive collection. "I know enough about comics, and obviously, I know which ones I like," Patrick shared. "I knew enough to get them sorted and had a good idea of where I could take the books to sell them."

The family carefully organized the comics by superhero and then by issue number. After completing the sorting process, they brought the collection to New England Comics in Brockton, where they successfully sold

the books for approximately \$1,200. Every dollar went back to support The Arc of Greater Brockton. "It was a big undertaking. We spent about two hours at a time sorting, probably 10 sessions here and another 10 at home," Patrick explained. The collection included a wide range of titles, from iconic series like The Amazing Spider-Man to The Spectacular Spider-Man and many more. "Almost every superhero had multiple series, which made sorting such a large number of books quite an effort."

Although the collection didn't yield any high-value financial treasures, the true reward was far more meaningful. Patrick cherished the opportunity to spend quality time with his sons and share his love of comics with them. "My sons loved it. As we sorted, they'd find books they were interested in and start reading them. Now, when we go to the comic bookstore together every Wednesday, they know exactly what they're looking for."

Patrick kept roughly 400 books that will remain at The Arc of Greater Brockton for the enjoyment of our participants.

Patrick's passion for connecting with others extends beyond his personal life into his work at The Arc. Whether he's helping people through his role or supporting a community project, Patrick approaches everything with dedication and heart. His efforts on this comic book project are just one example of how he makes a positive impact both at work and in the community.

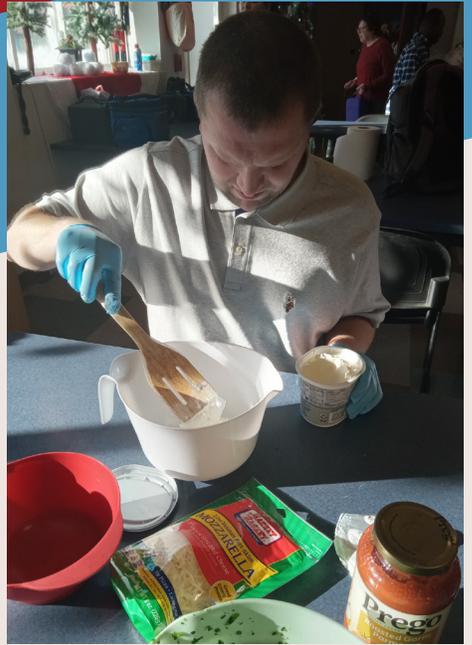
Thank you, Patrick, for your hard work and generosity, and for embodying the mission of The Arc of Greater Brockton!

# HOLIDAYS AT AGB



Thank you to Mag's Towing from Brockton for the use of their flatbed truck in the Brockton and Stoughton Holiday Parades!





# How You Can Make a Difference With The Arc of Greater Brockton

## Disability rights are human rights.

Everyone deserves to live a fulfilling and meaningful life, regardless of their challenges. Our goal is to help create a society where everyone is valued. That's why we offer a variety of services and resources to help people with disabilities achieve their goals and dreams.

## We Offer:

- Advocacy and education on disability rights and issues
- Information and referral to local and state resources
- Family support
- Recreation and social activities
- Employment and vocational training

But we can't do it alone. We need everyone's help. Fortunately, there are so many ways you can **#AchieveWithUs**.

## 1. Become a Member

By becoming a member of The Arc of Greater Brockton, you support our organization and gain access to a network of services and resources through The National Arc and The Arc of Massachusetts. Membership is \$25 per year, and comes with many benefits, such as:

- Receiving our quarterly newsletter and other updates
- Getting discounts on AGB recreational events and merchandise
- Access to benefits from the National and State Arc

And more!

To join The Arc of Greater Brockton, please email [rmoore@arcofgreaterbrockton.org](mailto:rmoore@arcofgreaterbrockton.org).

## 2. Volunteer

If you want to make a difference in someone's life, why not volunteer at The Arc of Greater Brockton? We are always looking for additional volunteers to help us with various tasks and events, such as:

- Assisting with weekend and after-hours activities, such as bowling, movies, dances, etc.
- Helping with fundraising and outreach efforts, such as mailings, phone calls, social media, etc.
- Sharing your skills and talents, such as art, anime, music, sports, etc.

Volunteering with The Arc of Greater Brockton is rewarding and fun. You will meet new people and make a positive impact. Our volunteers say they get more out of volunteering than they give because it is such an uplifting experience. To become a volunteer, please call us at 508-583-8030 ext. 212

## 3. Make a Donation

Another way you can support The Arc of Greater Brockton is to donate money. No amount is too small or too large because every dollar counts. Your donation will help us provide essential services and programs to our members and the people we serve, such as:

- Transportation and accessibility
- Personal care and medical equipment
- Educational and recreational materials
- Emergency and crisis assistance

You can donate online at [www.arcofgreaterbrockton.org/donate/](http://www.arcofgreaterbrockton.org/donate/), or send a check or money order to 1250 West Chestnut Street, Brockton, MA, 02301.

We also have various levels of individual and corporate sponsorship opportunities, which come with recognition and benefits. Please contact us at 508-583-8030 ext. 212 for more information.

## 4. Lobby Your Representatives and Public Officials

Lastly, you can help improve the lives of people with disabilities by contacting your local, state, and federal officials and asking them to support legislation that will improve their lives and make our society more inclusive.

To find out more about relevant bills and initiatives, please follow us on social media—Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, LinkedIn—visit our advocacy page at [www.arcofgreaternbrockton.org/advocacy](http://www.arcofgreaternbrockton.org/advocacy), and join our email list by emailing [rmoore@arcofgreaterbrockton.org](mailto:rmoore@arcofgreaterbrockton.org)

# Celebrating New Staff, Recent Advancements and 2024 Milestones

## Welcome New Staff!



**Daphnee Jean-Baptiste**  
Direct Support Specialist  
Brockton CBDS



**CJ Morales**  
Direct Support Specialist  
Easton CBDS



**Joel Lopes**  
Direct Support Specialist  
Easton CBDS



**Manuela Rocha**  
Coordinator  
Family Support Center

## Congratulations to these Team Members!

### Easton AGB



**Ashley Santos**  
AGB Easton Director



**Stacey Bolduc**  
Case Manager  
Easton CBDS & Day Hab

A handful of staff made positional changes to supplement an expansion of services to our new Brockton building. Congratulations to Ashley Santos, our new program director in Easton! She'll be overseeing Day Hab and CBDS operations there. Stacey Bolduc joins her as case manager for Day Hab and CBDS participants in Easton.

### Brockton AGB



**David Rego**  
**35 Years of Service**  
Employment Specialist



**Ricardo DaCruz**  
Coordinator  
Family Support Center



**Staycee Landenberger**  
Direct Support Specialist  
Brockton Day Hab



**Kim Harrison**  
Direct Support Specialist  
Case Manager  
Brockton Day Hab

Ricardo DaCruz is moving from Easton to Brockton as a Family Support Coordinator. Kim Harrison moves into Day Hab Support Specialist and Case Manager. Staycee Landenberger received her CNA certification to continue serving our Day Hab participants. And congratulations to David Rego, who's been with The Arc for a total of 35 years as of this past December!



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**The Arc of Greater Brockton**  
1250 West Chestnut Street  
Brockton, MA 02301  
406 Turnpike Street  
Easton, MA 02375  
Phone: 508-583-8030  
Web: [arcofgreaterbrockton.org](http://arcofgreaterbrockton.org)



**PROUDLY SERVING THE  
FOLLOWING COMMUNITIES:**

**Abington • Avon • Bridgewater  
Brockton • East Bridgewater • Easton  
Holbrook • Rockland • Stoughton  
West Bridgewater • Whitman**

## **AGB at the MA State Arc Legislative Event!**



On March 6th, a number of staff and participants gathered at the MA State House along with over 600 other advocates to celebrate the Annual Legislative Reception, hosted by The Arc of Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council. This event is the largest in the state for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities! It was an honor for The Arc of Greater Brockton to be there in support.

*It is more important than ever to advocate for and safeguard disability rights to healthcare, employment, education, and programming as they continue to be under federal attack.*