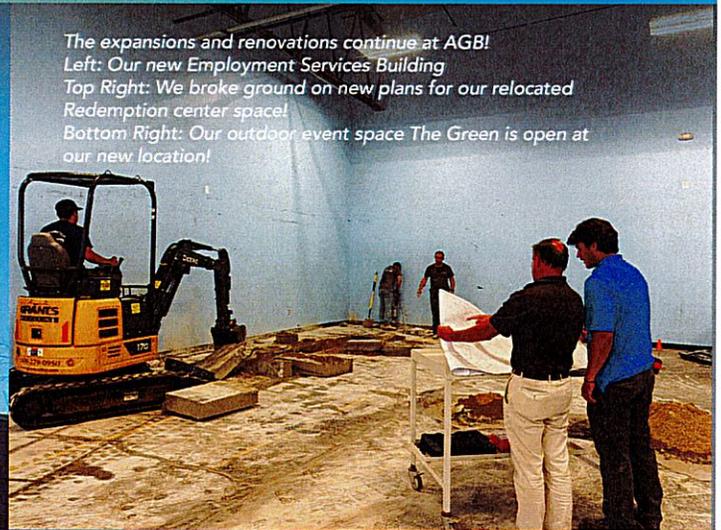


All Aboard The Arc

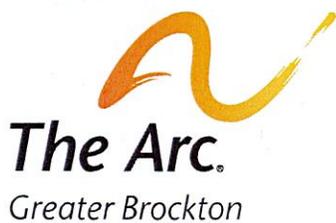
Arc of Greater Brockton Newsletter



The expansions and renovations continue at AGB!
Left: Our new Employment Services Building
Top Right: We broke ground on new plans for our relocated Redemption center space!
Bottom Right: Our outdoor event space The Green is open at our new location!



FALL 2025



In This Issue:

AGB is Still Expanding!

New Services and Programs
on The Horizon!

A Summer Recap in Photos!

Fundraising and Volunteering
Shine Over the Summer!

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- 14. How You Can Make a Difference at AGB
- 15. Staff Updates and Milestones

All Aboard The Arc

The Annual All Aboard The Arc event is returning this year with the \$10,000 Drawing and reception to be held on **November 21st at Wedgewood, at 838 N Bedford St, East Bridgewater.** In addition to the drawing, the reception will include appetizers, dinner, cash bar, raffles, silent auction, and performances by the AGB Young Men's Crew and Drums Alive.



The Arc of Greater Brockton has sponsorship opportunities for individuals, organizations, and companies that would like to help make the All Aboard The Arc event a success. We offer varying levels of support, ranging from \$1,000–\$5,000 and each provides assorted benefits. Those benefits include the sponsor's name on promotional materials associated with the event, banners at the event, tickets to the event, and acknowledgments on social media.

Tickets: \$100 per

One entry for the \$10,000 Drawing and two entries for the Reception (a maximum of 500 tickets sold).

Purchasing one raffle ticket allows you to purchase an additional event entry ticket for \$50 (does not provide additional raffle entry)

There are limited reception tickets, and advanced reservation with your ticket purchase is required.



Scan here to reserve tickets on our website or support us through our sponsorship opportunities. (You do not need to be present at the event to win the raffle!)

OTHER EVENTS: SAVE THE DATE!

1215 West Chestnut GRAND OPENING!

September 25th, 4:00PM–6:00PM

Come celebrate our newest expansion with us, joined by local and state officials!

Comedy Night at The Arc!

October 4th at 6:00PM at 1215 West Chestnut St.

Have a laugh with several Boston-area comedians! Tickets are \$40 and a food truck and refreshments will be available!

Celebrating New Staff, Recent Advancements and 2025 Milestones

Welcome New Staff!



Liliana De Andrade
Direct Support Specialist
Brockton Day Hab



Melissa Clement
Direct Support Specialist
Easton Day Hab



Jonathan Denis
Direct Support Specialist
Brockton CBDS



Ludnie St. Fluer
Direct Support Specialist
Easton CBDS



Marie Ketty Moise
Direct Support Specialist
Easton Day Hab



Gaelle Nelson
Direct Support Specialist
Easton Day Hab



Kara Patchin
Board Certified
Behavior Analyst

Staff Updates:

Promoted:



Stacy Bolduc
Assistant Director
Easton Day Hab & CBDS

Promoted from Part-Time to Full Time:



Samuel DeCoste
Marketing Coordinator
Graphic Design



Faith Lemieux
Direct Support Specialist
Brockton CBDS



C.J. Morales
Direct Support Specialist
Easton CBDS

Milestones to Celebrate!



Jamaicia Lessegue
10 Years of Service
Direct Support Specialist
Brockton CBDS



Adam Belmore
10 Years of Service
Director
Employment Services

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.

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/, 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.arcofgreaterbrockton.org/advocacy, and join our email list by emailing rmoore@arcofgreaterbrockton.org

The new home for our can and bottle Redemption Center!



The Arc of Greater Brockton: Growing to Meet the Needs of Our Community

The Arc of Greater Brockton has always been driven by one guiding principle: to meet people where they are and to provide the supports and opportunities they deserve. Over the past several years, we have taken bold steps to expand our facilities and programs so that more individuals of all abilities thrive.

Our latest step forward is the opening of a new building at 1215 West Chestnut Street, directly across from our flagship facility at 1250 West Chestnut Street. This new space will become the permanent home for our Employment Services Department, creating a dedicated building for this vital program to grow.

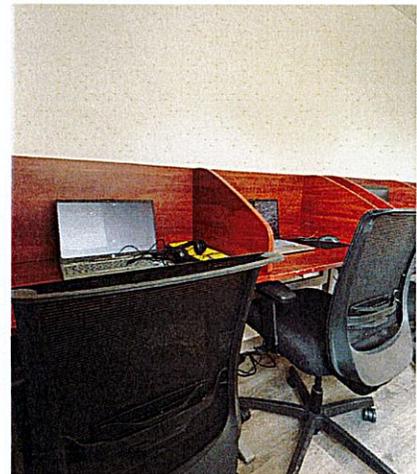
"We're growing, but our Employment Services Department's mission remains to help our participants develop the skills they need to get the jobs they want in the community."

—Adam Belmore, AGB's Director of Employment Services.

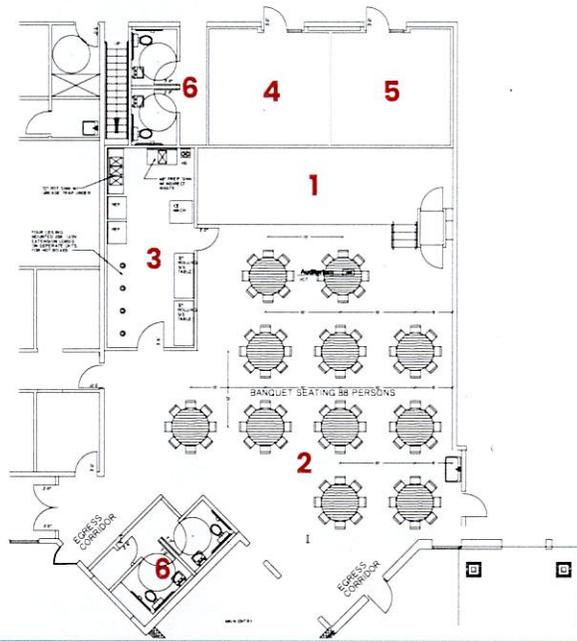
With that in mind, we are excited to share several new initiatives at our 1215 West Chestnut Street location. A state-of-the-art, commercial-style kitchen is creating opportunities for participants to gain hands-on culinary training and experience. In tandem with this project, we are also creating The Nook at AGB: A storefront where participants can sell handmade items, artwork, and goods produced in the kitchen. Together, these spaces will provide both a creative outlet and a pathway to economic inclusion. Join us there on **September 25th at our GRAND OPENING CEREMONY at 4:00PM** to see the spaces and hear even more about our plans!

We've also recently unveiled The Green at AGB, a tented outdoor venue that seats approximately 75 people. This space expands our ability to host events, bring participants together for recreational programming, and offer after-hours activities in a lively, welcoming environment. In fact, we are already putting The Green to good use, with a comedy show scheduled for October 4th.

Furthermore, by relocating Employment Services across the street, along with our Redemption Center, we are opening the door to yet another trans



(Above) The front lawn of our new Employment building. (Below) One of our brand new computer training rooms



Renovation Plans for Former Redemption Center Space at 1250 West Chestnut St.

Layout Key:

- 1. Performance stage area
- 2. Open seating area
- 3. Catering kitchen
- 4. New CBDS program space
- 5. New CBDS Program space
- 6. New bathrooms

The floor plans for our renovations at our flagship Brockton facility!



formation at our flagship 1250 West Chestnut Street location. That facility will soon feature a significant expansion of our Community Based Day Supports (CBDS) program, allowing us to welcome more individuals who are currently in our region and waiting for services like ours.

But that's not all. Plans are underway to create a new performance venue inside the 1250 West Chestnut Street facility, a space that will bring together arts, music, theatre, and exercise programming. This theater will enrich the lives of our participants and deepen connections with the broader

community. With new facilities, expanded programming, and innovative initiatives in development, The Arc of Greater Brockton continues to grow. It's not for growth's sake, but because the inclusion movement demands action.

Dean Rizzo, AGB's Executive Director, said, "We are building spaces that open doors, reduce waiting lists, and create new possibilities. And while our mission is timeless, our approach must always be forward-looking. These investments are not just about today. They're about shaping a stronger, more inclusive tomorrow."

Above: New employment training space
Below: The Green is already providing space for all sorts of outdoor activities!

AGB Stands Strong at the ADA's 35th Anniversary Rally

On July 26, The Arc of Greater Brockton joined hundreds of advocates, allies, and organizations from across Massachusetts at Boston City Hall to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This landmark civil rights legislation, passed in 1990, forever changed the landscape of access and inclusion for people with disabilities, but as our group demonstrated, the work is far from over.



Left: Staff and participants visit city hall
Right: The crowd to celebrate the ADA!

The Arc sent a strong contingent of participants and staff to represent our organization. Together, we marched from City Hall to the Boston Common. We filled the streets with chants of "We're Here to Stay!" Make no mistake: we sent a message loud and clear. The inclusion movement is as alive and determined as ever. If anyone thought that any recent attacks against our movement would have dampened our resolve, they couldn't be more wrong.

For many participants, it was their first time at a statewide rally, and the pride they carried as self-advocates was inspiring. This was more than an event or a rally. It was a chance to make their voices heard loud and clear. Our participants cheered, chanted, and marched with confidence, showing the Commonwealth what inclusion in action looks like.

In the spring, The Arc of Greater Brockton also took part in the Arc of Massachusetts' 47th Annual Legislative Reception. There, staff and participants joined advocates from across

the state to rally at the State House and call on legislators to ensure that Massachusetts continues to lead the way in disability rights. It was another powerful reminder that advocacy happens not just in moments of celebration, but in the day-to-day work of speaking up and standing together.

And we're all aware that despite how far we've come, there remains plenty of work to be done. Surely, the ADA was a milestone, yet so many promises remain incomplete. Barriers to full participation still exist, and essential programs like Medicaid and SNAP, lifelines for many individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, continue to face existential threats. Far from discouraging us, these challenges only deepen our resolve. As one participant shared during the march, "The ADA opened the door. Now we need to push it wider."

For staff and participants alike, this event was a reminder of the power of collective action. Standing shoulder to shoulder with advocates from across

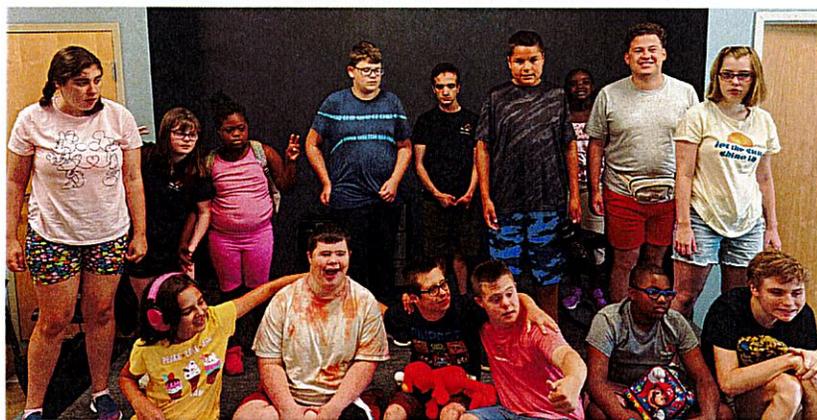
the Commonwealth, our voices were united in one message: inclusion is not optional, equality cannot wait, and it's inevitable.

The Arc of Greater Brockton is committed to keeping the spirit of the ADA alive, not just in the amazing moments of public demonstration like these, but also in the daily work we do: supporting independence, fostering dignity, and lifting the voices of people with disabilities. We are proud to be part of a movement that will never stop until every person is seen, valued, and fully included in the life of our communities.

"I'm so proud of how our participants represented The Arc of Greater Brockton at such an important moment. Their presence at the ADA rally reminds us that some of the most effective leadership comes from self-advocates," said AGB Executive Director Dean Rizzo. "I have no doubt they will continue to answer the call every time there's an opportunity to advocate."

After School Adventures

A New Chapter for Young People of All Abilities



The growth of our Recreation program (above) has shown the need for after school activities!

The Arc of Greater Brockton is excited to proudly launch After School Adventures, our first-ever after-school program designed for kiddos of all abilities. The pilot will begin in mid-September with programming one afternoon per week, offering participants the chance to grow, connect, and thrive in an inclusive environment.

For Tracey Glynn, The Arc's Recreation Director, this launch fulfills a vision years in the making. "There is such a need for programs for our school age friends. We want to fill that gap for our community," she says.

A Place to Learn, Play, and Belong

What makes After School Adventures so exciting is the many opportunities it will offer participants. Each afternoon is carefully structured to balance creativity, wellness, and practical life skills. It will provide an outlet for them to express and communicate, while feeling like they belong.

Here's what our participants can expect:

Creative Expression.

Children will have the chance to immerse themselves in art, music, and theater, with opportunities to explore

their interests further. For example, music sessions will allow kids to learn rhythm and melody by work with percussion instruments, and collaborate in group songs. We want them to feel comfortable expanding on their interests while making friends along the way!

Life Skills for Independence

A vital part of After School Adventures that sets us apart from similar programs will be helping kids build practical skills with interactive lessons that will introduce cooking basics, simple budgeting, and personal care routines.

Friendship and Inclusion

Group projects, peer mentoring, and team activities will give children the opportunity to connect, share, and support one another in an environment that celebrates their individuality. For many families, this social connection is just as valuable as the programming itself.

Meeting a Critical Community Need

Families of children with special needs often report that there are too few affordable and appropriate after-school options available. This program as an important step in closing that gap.

Looking Ahead

As the pilot launches this fall, The Arc of Greater Brockton will closely track participation and feedback from families. Our goal is to demonstrate that with the balance of creativity, wellness, and inclusion, children will thrive. Families will gain peace of mind knowing their children are safe, engaged, and supported.

We Have Our Donors to Thank!

The launch has been made possible through generous funding from the Roessner Family Foundation, the Goddard Foundation, and the Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation for Autism. Their support ensures that the program begins on strong footing. And that support sets the stage for expansion into additional days as demand grows.

For more information please contact Tracey Glynn at tglynn@arcogreaterbrockton.org, or call 339-837-1923



(Above) Kids in our weekend warriors group learn to surf with Gnome Surf. (Below) AGB staff hand out free school supplies at our Back to School Bash!

Participant Spotlight:



Meet Angie—an inspiring and dedicated participant in our Day Hab program. She’s been part of The Arc of Greater Brockton community since 2015 and is known for her strong work ethic and positive spirit across both the Redemption Center and the Lawn Crew.

Assistant Director of Employment Services Mark Auger has worked with Angie for the past three years and is

consistently impressed by her drive and growth. “She’s one of the hardest working people I’ve ever met,” he says. “Her will and determination are just stunning.”

Angie takes pride in being prepared each day and places special emphasis on staying focused and being kind. “I want to stay focused, stay on task, be on time, and stick to my schedule,” she explains.

One of her favorite aspects of working on the Lawn Crew is the teamwork. “My coworker’s name is Jonathan. He helped me go straight with the mower. Mark helped me with that, too... I appreciate his help—he’s very kind to everybody.” As a key team member on our Lawn Crew, Angie has learned how to safely operate equipment, stay on schedule, and communicate effectively with her coworkers.

Assistant Director of Day Hab Tina Patricelli describes her beautifully: “She’ll motivate you. She’ll elevate you. That’s Angie in a nutshell.” She

recalls a moment when Angie helped encourage a friend who was anxious about getting on the bus. “You’re my friend, and there’s nothing to be afraid of,” Angie told him. “I want you to finish our game. You can do it!”

When asked who her role model is, Angie answered without hesitation: “My mom,” she said with a smile. “She hugs me, makes sure I get ready on time. Everything she does is appreciated. I help her, and she helps me. I appreciate her help a lot.”

Angie’s kindness, resilience, and willingness to try new things make her a valued member of our community. And her journey reflects The Arc’s commitment to helping every individual live a life filled with purpose, connection, and dignity. Her growth is a testament to what’s possible when people are supported, included, and given the chance to shine.

A Garden of Remembrance

This summer, The Arc of Greater Brockton created a Garden of Remembrance to honor members of our AGB family we have lost. Located at our 1250 West Chestnut Street location, the garden’s first tree was planted together, with participants each taking a turn spreading soil. It was a simple but powerful act of love, memory, and community.



The idea was inspired by the passing of our beloved Natasha Moten, who died unexpectedly this past May at the age of 26. Natasha’s beautiful smile, warmth, and vibrant spirit touched everyone who knew her. Her impact on our community will echo in our hearts forever.

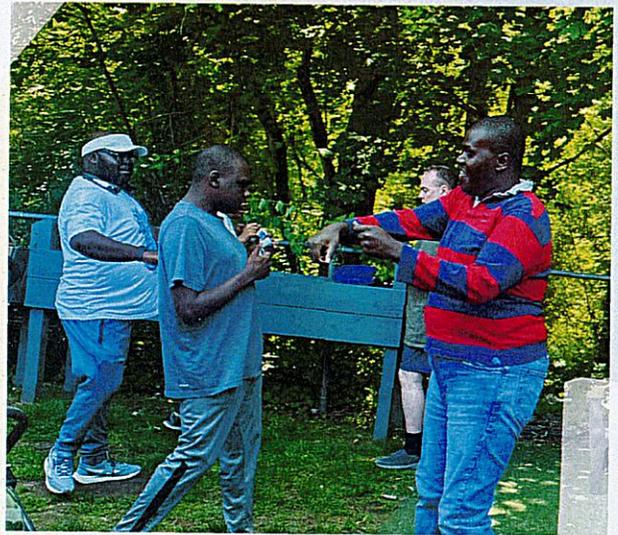
The garden is place of reflection, remembrance, and renewal. It’s a reminder that while we may grieve those who are no longer with us, we’ll also carry their light forward in everything we do.



A Sunny Snapshot

The Arc of Greater Brockton has been as busy as ever in the last four months! Our summer has been packed with fun and friendship. We kicked off the summer all-hands-on-deck with our annual golf tournament, and have been in full gear ever since! We've celebrated holidays and loved ones, enjoyed outings to the beach, cooled off with water balloon fights, kicked back at baseball games, and worked hard to move our employment services to our new expansion building!

We thank you all for taking part in the fun, and allowing us to keep our thriving community going through the sun and heat!



Support That Speaks Your Language: Meeting Families Where They Are

When a parent first hears the words “developmental disability” or “Autism Spectrum Disorder”, the world can suddenly feel overwhelming. But they don’t have to face it alone. That’s because at The Arc of Greater Brockton, our Family Support team walks beside families every step of the way. And we offer not just answers but understanding.



Maria DeSilva, Eleanor Jean-Pierre, and Aisha Boykin with Family Support Director Nelson Cordeiro!

To bridge the gap between families and the tools they need to thrive, the Family Support department offers guidance and assistance with housing, legal issues, support groups, food insecurity, management of funds, finding recreational activities, advocacy, informational sessions, and more.

To cater to the diverse community we serve, we offer support groups and resources for various needs across different languages.

We offer help in these languages:

- English
- Spanish
- Portuguese
- French
- Cape Verdean Creole
- Haitian Creole

Support groups extend to fathers, parents of transition-aged children (age 14-21), parents of school-age children, grandparents, and siblings.

“We help by giving a family personalized tools to build on a broader ability and empower them to navigate future challenges independently. That way, they won’t always have to rely on assistance,” says Director of Family Support Nelson Cordeiro. “We give them ways to connect with people going through the same things as them.”

Our Family Support Center has a professional team of Coordinators who provide a variety of specialized services. Three members of this team provide vital interpretation and language assistance services to support our diverse community:

Maria DaSilva focuses on outreach to Cape Verdean and Portuguese speaking communities, and runs our Cape Verdean Support Group. With more than 40 years of community activism in the Brockton area, Maria leads educational workshops on topics such as IEP transitions and health

care, helping families build confidence as advocates.

Eleanor Jean-Pierre is coordinator for the Haitian community, providing culturally responsive support and helping families access everything from benefits navigation to educational advocacy. Her Haitian Outreach Support Group ensures that Haitian families in our region have a trusted guide to help them overcome barriers and connect with essential services.

Aisha Boykin leads our outreach to Spanish-speaking families. With cultural sensitivity, she offers guidance and links them to resources in their own language. She equips families to understand the services provided by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), assists in the application process and connects them to their coordinators. By supporting parents and caregivers, Aisha helps ensure they feel empowered to make the best possible choices for their loved ones.

Together, Maria, Eleanor, and Aisha help make sure everyone can receive assistance from our organization or other groups, regardless of what language they speak.

For more information or to connect with a Family Support Coordinator, please contact Nelson Cordeiro at ncordeiro@arcofgreaterbrockton.org or Cathy Hickey at chickey@arcofgreaterbrockton.org.

Cooking Up Opportunity: A Culinary Training Initiative for AGB!



Participants practicing food preparation

The scent of transformation is in the air! And soon, it'll be joined by the aroma of sizzling vegetables, freshly baked breads, and a large dose of culinary confidence.

Thanks to a \$67,500 grant from Commonwealth Corporation, The Arc of Greater Brockton is expanding its Culinary Workforce Development Program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This is much more than just a new kitchen. It's a launching pad for purposeful careers, personal pride, and belonging in the workforce.

From Vision to Reality: The New Commercial Training Kitchen

At our new facility at 1215 West Chestnut Street, a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen is being built from the ground up. It features professional-grade refrigeration, prep stations, ovens, dishwashing equipment, stainless steel counters, and safety-first

designs. But what's cooking here isn't just food, it's confidence. It's independence. It's a future where no young person is sidelined for being different.

What the Program Offers:

- Hands-on culinary training in a real commercial environment
- Workplace readiness coaching
- 40 hours of paid job experience with local restaurants and food service employers
- Certifications in ServSafe and Allergen Awareness
- A \$410 stipend for each participant to help with job search and startup costs
- Meeting a growing need on both sides

"There is a powerful alignment here between the needs of our participants and the needs of the food service industry," says Adam Belmore, Director of Employment Services.

"This Culinary Program allows us to meet both needs with purpose, dignity, and practical support for individuals eager to succeed."

Massachusetts restaurants are hungry for dependable, trained workers who want nothing more than to get out there and contribute to our state's economy. And our young adults are ready to deliver! With proper support, they won't just fill roles. They'll thrive in them.

Make no mistake: This program ensures they step into the workforce not as an afterthought, but as well-trained, confident professionals with skills and credentials that matter.



AGB participants prepare food at Old Colony

A Thank You to Our Partners!

We are deeply grateful to the Massachusetts Commonwealth Corporation for investing in inclusion, workforce development, and the power of food to change lives. We're just getting started!

To learn more or get involved, reach out to Adam Belmore at abelmore@arcofgreaterbrockton.org and 508-583-8030 ext. 240, or Russell Moore at rmoore@arcofgreaterbrockton.org and 774-265-7272.

Swinging For Inclusion!

AGB's Annual Golf Tournament

On Monday, June 2nd, The Arc of Greater Brockton hosted its Annual Golf Tournament at the beautiful Thorny Lea Golf Club, and the day was nothing short of extraordinary. It was a powerful reminder of what community, inclusion, and shared purpose can achieve.

Before the first tee shot, participants were treated to a moving performance of the National Anthem by AGB participant Sergio Brice, whose voice reminded us why we gather for events like this!

As everyone who has ever attended or taken part in the AGB Golf Tournament knows, we consider everyone who takes part in the event a true winner. Every single dollar raised goes towards building a community where everyone is seen, heard, and valued.

To everyone who joined us (golfers, volunteers) or supported us (sponsors), we extend our heartfelt thanks. Your generosity and enthusiasm made this day possible! Because of you, our mission continues to grow stronger, and the future for our participants shines brighter.

We can't wait to see you again on June 1st, 2026!



The winning foursome: Paul Leahy, Robert Leahy, John Buccheri and Brian Roshier with Executive Director Dean Rizzo and Board President Marc Zade



It was perfect weather at beautiful Thorny Lea near the start of the tournament!

Tournament Partner Sponsors



**Ryan McCarthy
& Family**

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The Arc of Greater Brockton needs you for our

Redemption Center Volunteer Day!

COME HELP OUT!

**Wednesday, October 22nd, 3pm-6pm
& Saturday, November 8th, 9am - 1pm
at 1215 West Chestnut St, Brockton**



**Thank you to everyone who has helped on our past
volunteer days! We once again ask for help in sorting
our excess cans from our Redemption Center!**

*Friends, family and civic-minded members of the community
are all welcome, and we'll provide refreshments, food, and
music! Stay as long as you'd like!*





SUMMER

AT THE ARC OF GREATER BROCKTON

IN PHOTOS



The Arc[®]

Greater Brockton

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Brockton, MA 02301
406 Turnpike Street
Easton, MA 02375
Phone: 508-583-8030
Web: arcofgreaterbrockton.org



PROUDLY SERVING THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITIES:

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

Congratulations Angelo!



On July 30th, Angelo Francisco officially passed the exam to become a citizen of the United States! Originally from Manila, Philippines, Angelo moved to the U.S. when he was 13 years old. In 2019, he graduated from Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School, and a few years after graduating high school, Angelo became a participant at AGB. At The Arc, Angelo loves going on day trips and seeing new places. Angelo's favorite activity is to ride the ferry and visit Boston, especially the New England Aquarium.

Congratulations on achieving citizenship, Angelo!