



# All Aboard The Arc

Arc of Greater Brockton Newsletter

Joined by State and local organization leaders, Executive Director Dean Rizzo and Employment Services Director Adam Belmore cut the ribbon to officially open our relocated Can and Bottle Redemption Center at 1215 West Chestnut St!



## WINTER 2026



### *In This Issue:*

New Employment Services building Grand Opening!  
New Event Space at AGB!

Our Holiday Season in photos!  
An interview with the Board: Meet our Board of Directors!

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Mark your calendars for The Arc of Greater Brockton's

## Annual Golf Tournament

Thorny Lea Golf Club  
159 Torrey St, Brockton MA

**WHEN:**  
**Monday, June 1st**  
**at 12:30 PM**

### INCLUDING:

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

### Reserve Your Spot Today!

Scan the QR Code below for online registration. Pay with Venmo: @arcofgreaterbrockton (Fill out the form online when paying with Venmo)

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

**REGISTRATION: \$250 per person** For more information, contact Russell Moore at 508-583-8030 ext. 212 or rmoore@arcofgreaterbrockton.org

Please join us for a day that will be filled with great golf, fun activities, delicious food, refreshments and camaraderie! Your generosity will support the growth and sustainability of the many services and resources provided to the individuals and families at The Arc of Greater Brockton.



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

## THE GRAND OPENING: Our Employment Services Building



The celebration was filled with pride and a strong sense of forward momentum. We were honored to be joined by leaders who share our commitment to inclusion, including Former Mayor Robert Sullivan, Maura Sullivan (CEO of The Arc of Massachusetts,) and members of state legislature and state organizations. We were also grateful to welcome members of the Brockton City Council, local businesses, nonprofit partners, and long-time supporters, including South Shore Bank.

The turnout was more than symbolic. It was proof that our community believes in the work being done here.

### Expanding Opportunity

Since opening, participation has grown significantly, from approximately 70 individuals to more than 110, over the last two years. That growth speaks to both need and confidence in our programs.

#### The building now houses:

- An expanded Redemption Center, our largest employment program
- A professional-grade commercial kitchen
- Computer labs and classroom space
- A retail store featuring participant-created items, called The Nook
- An outdoor event space known as The Green at AGB

The Commonwealth Corporation provided critical funding for the commercial kitchen: A game-changing

resource that allows participants to complete 40 hours of culinary training and receive a stipend as they build real-world skills.

"This building represents opportunity," said Employment Services Director Adam Belmore during the celebration. "Participants can try different roles, discover what fits, and use those experiences as stepping stones toward long-term employment."



Director of Employment Services Adam Belmore gives a tour of our new culinary training kitchen

### A Place to Grow

The move across the street from our former Employment Services space at 1250 West Chestnut Street was strategic. Relocating Employment Services to 1215 West Chestnut, created room for expansion in both employment and recreation programming.

Staff have noted that the new space allows participants to focus more clearly and grow into their roles with fewer distractions. Families see the difference; participants feel it.

As one Employment Specialist shared during the ceremony, individuals who walk through our doors know we will

## MILESTONE MOMENT:

Last September marked a defining moment in the history of The Arc of Greater Brockton. We officially celebrated the Grand Opening of our new Employment Services Building at 1215 West Chestnut Street. It's a space designed to expand opportunity, strengthen job training, and help more individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities build meaningful careers.



Members of the state delegation were present to congratulate us on our expansion!

help them achieve their goals. We do not send anyone out into the workforce unless we believe they are ready and feel supported.

### Building for the Future

While some providers across the state have struggled to expand, AGB chose to invest, thoughtfully and strategically, in infrastructure that allows us to serve more people and deepen our impact.

With the support of our community partners, state leaders, and generous funders, we are strengthening the employment pathway for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Brockton and beyond.

# Our New Event Space and Stage Helps Recreation Expand at AGB!

Exciting things are happening at The Arc of Greater Brockton, and 2026 is shaping up to be a true turning point. With a full calendar of inclusive, joyful recreation programs and the transformation of our former Redemption Center into a brand-new theater and event space, AGB is entering a new era defined by energy, creativity, and expanded opportunity.

At the heart of this momentum is a shared belief: inclusion should be visible, accessible, and woven into the everyday life of our community. That belief has now taken physical shape at our flagship location, 1250 West Chestnut Street, where a former Redemption Center has been transformed into a new theater and event space designed for people of all abilities.

"This is such an exciting moment for Recreation at AGB," said Tracey Glynn, Recreation and Activities Director. "Our programs have always been about connection, joy, and inclusion. But now, with new spaces and growing interest, we can dream bigger."



The new space set up for AGB's staff holiday party!

Our Dance Crew, Young Men's Crew and Young Ladies' Crew, Wicked Local Social, After School Adventures, and Weekend Warriors, will benefit directly from the newly created event space.



The inaugural performance on our new stage! Our Holiday Open House closed with some holiday carols by some of our AGB Participants!

The foundation of the space is now complete, including an accessible stage with new restrooms. We'll be adding additional lighting, sound, video, and security equipment in the upcoming year. While the space will primarily serve AGB participants and families, it will also be available to the broader community in the future as a shared asset. Anyone can take center stage!

Thanks to the generosity of many supporters, we are well on our way to completing the final phase of the project. We have been approved for a Challenge Grant that will award \$38,000 once we raise \$100,000, and we're making strong progress toward that goal.

"This event space reflects our commitment to the future of The Arc of Greater Brockton," said Marc Zade, Chairman of the Board. "It represents the belief that investing in inclusive spaces strengthens our entire community."

With passionate leadership and a calendar full of reasons to smile, this truly is a new era at AGB. Everyone is invited to be part of it!

## OPENINGS AVAILABLE! in our Brockton CBDS Program

We're excited to share that The Arc of Greater Brockton currently has openings in our Community Based Day Supports (CBDS) program!

In CBDS, participants make friends, have fun, and learn practical skills that improve their daily lives. Our program focuses on helping each person grow and thrive in a supportive and inclusive environment.

If you or someone you know might be interested in joining our CBDS program, contact:

**Rosenee Belizaire**  
rbelizaire@arcofgreaterbrockton.org  
or call 508-583-8030 (ext. 237)

# What MA Governor's Budget means for The Arc of Greater Brockton

On Wednesday, January 28, Governor Maura Healey released her proposed state budget for fiscal year 2027 (FY27). This proposal, often called "House 2", is the starting point for several months of discussion and debate at the State House before a final budget is approved.

This year's budget comes at a difficult time. MA is facing slower than expected revenue growth, along with the possibility of major federal cuts that could impact state programs in the years ahead. We recognize how difficult it is to balance competing needs while protecting essential services.

Maura Sullivan, the CEO of the Arc of Massachusetts, emphasized that tough budget seasons don't negate the importance of inclusion.

"We know that these are the most difficult times, and we are working collaboratively and creatively to fortify our service system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism. Now is the time to double-down on a system that leaves no one behind," Sullivan said.

For organizations like AGB, state budget decisions matter deeply. Many of the services we provide, such as day programs, employment supports, and family support, are funded by the Commonwealth. The choices made in this budget directly affect the people we serve, our staff, and the broader inclusion movement in Massachusetts.

### How the Budget Impacts Services We Provide

The Governor's proposal includes an overall increase in funding for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), with a \$91.4 million increase compared to last year. Some DDS programs received increases, while others were level-funded.

Funding for Community Day and Work

programs—which support Community-Based Day Supports (CBDS), employment services, and day programs—was increased by 9%. Family Support and respite services also received a modest increase. Funding for autism-related services saw a significant boost, which reflects the growing number of individuals and families seeking support.

At the same time, some areas of concern remain. Programs like Turning 22, which support young adults transitioning from special education into adult services, were level-funded. With nearly 1,500 individuals expected to enter DDS services next year, level funding does not fully reflect the growing need for support.

### Chapter 257 Rates and the Workforce

One of the most important parts of the budget for The Arc of Greater Brockton is how it treats Chapter 257 rates. These rates determine how much providers can pay the direct support professionals and staff who work closely with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as autism spectrum disorder.

The Governor's proposal maintains Chapter 257 rates at the current benchmark. In a difficult budget year, our primary advocacy goal was to prevent cuts to these rates, and we are grateful that the proposal reflects that goal. Protecting the workforce is essential to keeping programs running and supporting people consistently.

However, it's important to understand that current funding levels still fall short of what is needed. Additional funding will be required to fully support competitive wages and staff retention. We will continue working with our advocacy partners and legislators

to push for full funding of Chapter 257 rates as the budget process moves forward.

### MassHealth and Day Habilitation Services

The MassHealth budget is another critical area for our community. The proposed budget includes a temporary freeze on rate increases and program expansions that are not required by federal law. For services like Day Habilitation, this means no movement on waitlists for individuals who are waiting to access supports.

Over the past few years, progress has been made by increasing rates. This year's rate freeze, combined with rising costs, creates challenges for providers and families alike. Programs like Day Hab serve some of the most vulnerable individuals in our community, and access to these services is essential for health, safety, and quality of life.

### Why Advocacy Still Matters

While some of the most severe potential cuts were avoided, there are still real concerns about the long-term sustainability of services. As economic pressures continue and federal funding remains uncertain, advocacy will be more important than ever.

Together, through thoughtful advocacy and community action, we can help shape a budget that reflects our shared values and protects the services that so many rely on.

Visit the Advocacy page on our website to keep up to date:



# An Introduction To The Board:

## Interviews with The Arc of Greater Brockton's Board of Directors

We asked our Board of Directors to tell us what inspires them, their experience with people with disabilities, and how those things inform their approach to The Arc of Greater Brockton!



**Marc Zade**  
President

Marc has been a member of the Board of Directors for three years, and president since 2024. Outside of The Arc, Marc is a state plumbing inspector for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Marc has been involved with AGB for eight years as his son Jack, 16, has been a participant at The Arc since he was eight years old. "We've made some amazing friends over the years – amazing friends that we never would've had the opportunity to meet if it weren't through different groups like The Arc," Marc says. He is most motivated by his family and helping make a difference in the lives of others in any way that he can. "The Arc means hope, happiness for the people that we serve," he says. "The enrichment, the camaraderie, the exposure to things, and the opportunity to be part of things... It's rewarding to see what goes on here and the energy that goes with it."



**Jason Winchell**  
Vice President

Jason is the vice president of the Board of Directors and has been on the board for about six years. A father of three, Jason's daughter also attends activities and events at The Arc. "It's a place of equity, a place of justice. It's a place where 'normal' is just a setting on the dryer," he says. Jason, a math teacher at Blue Hills Regional Technical School, would like to see AGB become more involved in local school districts to assist individuals of all abilities and their loved ones in their transition out of high school. "I think The Arc of Greater Brockton is in a great place to continue to provide the support that we do in the community," Jason says.



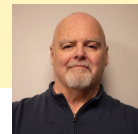
**Smith Vil**  
Treasurer

Smith is passionate about equity, inclusion, and ensuring that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have access to the resources, support, and respect they deserve. He cares deeply about making sure that people are genuinely seen, heard and empowered. Smith not only serves the Board, but he is a parent of a participant and has been involved with The Arc since 2013. Outside of his role as a Board Member, he works in accounting and finance, as well as in assisting his fellow Haitians with translating and vital applications. Smith's vision for AGB in the future is for the organization to continue expanding its advocacy efforts, strengthening family engagement, and innovating programs that empower individuals to live fulfilling, independent lives.



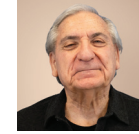
**Pam Booth**  
Secretary

For ten years, Pam has been on the Board of Directors; but her commitment to serving individuals of all abilities has existed long before beginning her journey at The Arc of Greater Brockton. After retiring from her role in marketing and product management, Pam began working with parents of children with Down Syndrome to give them tools to navigate the school system, as well as educating them on alternative ways to better teach their children reading and mathematics. The motivation behind Pam's work in the field is her son, Christopher, who is a regular participant in AGB events. She is passionate about advocacy and would like to see The Arc of Greater Brockton become more involved at the local and state legislature levels. "I have a son with Down Syndrome, and that changed my whole life," Pam says. "Since then, I've always been focused on learning more about the disability world and advocating for people with disabilities."



**Don Bellanger**  
Board of Director

Once a barber, Don's career took a turn following his son's autism spectrum disorder diagnosis, inspiring him to get into the field of working with people with disabilities. Prior to his retirement, Don worked with individuals with disabilities for 10 years at Cardinal Cushing Centers. "It's like I can't imagine doing anything else," he says. His connection to The Arc of Greater Brockton goes beyond his role on the Board, as his son is a participant at the Easton location. "I can't think of being involved with a better group of people," Don says. "It's like a heartbeat to me." In the future, Don would like to see AGB explore the possibility of expanding into residential home services.



**Mike Palladino**  
Board of Director

Mike, a past president of The Arc, has been serving the Board of Directors for over 20 years. In his professional experience, Mike has spent over 40 years in special education leadership as a teacher, program planner, and search consultant. For 30 years, Mike served as the executive director of the ACCEPT Education Collaborative, providing leadership in special education program development and planning, school bus transportation, IT, and professional development for teachers and school administrators. Through his professional experience, he learned that the needs of children and their families do not end when they enter adulthood; rather, they can be challenging to navigate. "The Arc has given me the opportunity to assist with their life-long needs," Mike says. "The Arc of Greater Brockton continues to expand upon my vision, which is to be the go-to agency in the Brockton area for serving people with disabilities."



**Della Gaskins**  
Board of Director

Inspired by helping others, Della has been a member of the Board of Directors for about 13 years. Her daughter, now 35 yrs old, was a participant at AGB throughout her middle and high school years. In that time, Della grew a deep appreciation for what was provided to her and her daughter by The Arc, from helping find her daughter after-school care, to assisting in the process of transitioning her daughter into adulthood, to getting her into workshops to provide education and support. "You know [The Arc] has a passion for what they do in serving the community," she says. Because of that, Della wanted to get involved and return the favor by becoming a member of the board.

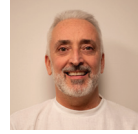
To Della, The Arc of Greater Brockton is a place of opportunity, possibility, and hope. In the future, she would like to see AGB expand into caring for individuals that may require more individual and personalized care. "The effort is always to serve the population and make people feel included and worthy," she says.



**Tim O'Connell**  
Board of Director

Tim is the newest member of The Arc of Greater Brockton's Board of Directors and currently works as a manager in the loan operations department at South Shore Bank, where he has been for the past four years. His connection to The Arc and to the inclusion movement is deeply personal. His uncle was a longtime participant at The Arc chapter in Waltham, and his grandparents were among the families who helped lay the foundation of the Arc movement in the 1950s.

History, advocacy and inclusion have always been part of Tim's life. He is proud to carry his family's legacy forward by serving on the Board and contributing his financial expertise to support the mission. Tim believes strongly in the future of inclusion and in the vital role organizations like The Arc of Greater Brockton play in helping people build full, meaningful lives in their communities.



**Mark Pettine**  
Board of Director

Mark, a familiar face around AGB, has been a member of the Board of Directors for three years. Involved with The Arc for about 16 years, Mark is always lending a helping hand whenever he can. He helps AGB with maintenance and painting, as well as a music group and a men's group. His 22-year-old son, Jacob, has been participating at The Arc since he was a child. "I'm happy that he's coming here. I know everyone, I know he's safe, and I know this place helps everyone," Mark says. A retired Brockton firefighter of 21 years, Mark is excited to see The Arc growing and getting even more involved in the community in the future, he says. "I would like The Arc to keep growing. I like being a part of all of it."



**Shaun Fitzgerald**  
Board of Director

Shaun has been a member of the Board of Directors for over 15 years. An active member in the community, Shaun has been a real estate appraiser serving the Greater Brockton area for more than 32 years. "The Arc of Greater Brockton is an organization that understands the environment of the people it serves," says Shaun. With an older brother that participated at AGB, Shaun is familiar with the importance of the services The Arc provides the community. In the future, Shaun hopes to see AGB continue to follow its mission and educate others on what we do, why we do it, and its impact on the community as a whole.



**Derrick Tate**  
Board of Director

Derrick has been involved with the Board of Directors at The Arc for 2 years. For over 25 years, he has been a letter carrier in Brockton for the United States Postal Service. What is Derrick most passionate about? A happy life. He is inspired by his two sons, both participants at AGB, as they grow. Derrick appreciates that The Arc serves as a support system for individuals with disabilities and their families. "It gives them a place to go and continue to learn life skills to the best of their abilities. AGB is an important outlet and helpful for families and guardians." In the future, Derrick hopes to see AGB expand into other communities to help as many families as possible.



**Bonnie Rivers**  
Board of Director

As one of our newer members, Bonnie has been on the AGB Board of Directors for about a year and a half. She is Director of Employer Relations at Work Without Limits where she leads corporate learning and development, marketing operations, and more. Her passion is seeing people driven and inspired to make positive change. "Every human is unique, and, ironically, that's the common ground we can all find," she says. To Bonnie, The Arc of Greater Brockton stands as a pillar of opportunities, growth, connection, and employment. "This team is incredibly impressive; every staff member and participant. Everyone is passionate and wants the best for the entirety of the organization."



**Sean Noonan**  
Board of Director

Sean has been a member of The Arc of Greater Brockton's Board of Directors for 18 months. As the father of a son with autism, Sean is deeply passionate about helping individuals with special needs increase their independence. Sean also serves on The Arc's Human Rights Committee. Professionally, Sean has been a trial attorney for 30 years and has worked with clients with disabilities throughout his career.

Sean hopes to see continued growth in programming, support, and resources for participants. He is especially enthusiastic about seeking ways to further harness technology to benefit the people we serve. Sean is proud of the organization's exceptional growth and is eager to see that momentum continue.



## All Aboard The Arc: Bringing Our Community Together!

**The room was full, the music was loud, and the joy was unmistakable. On November 21st, All Aboard The Arc brought together supporters, families, and friends for an evening that blended celebration, community, and purpose at Miraval Gardens in East Bridgewater!**



*Members of our Young Men's crew put on a lively performance for our guests!*

Nearly 200 people attended the event, and more than 340 raffle tickets were sold, including many purchased by supporters who were unable to attend in person but still wanted to support our mission. The strong participation reflected the community's continued belief in the work of The Arc of Greater Brockton.

While the food, auctions, and raffles made for a memorable evening, what attendees talked about most was the performance by our participants. Members of our Young Men's Group and Drums Alive took the stage for an upbeat singing and dancing performance that quickly energized the room. Their joy and confidence were contagious, and before long, audience members were on their feet clapping, swaying, and dancing along.

"This event really captures what The Arc is all about," said Dean Rizzo, Executive Director of The Arc of Greater Brockton. "Seeing our participants take the stage with such confidence and joy, and watching the community respond so enthusiastically, is a powerful reminder of why this work matters. All Aboard The Arc brings people together in a way that celebrates ability, creativity, and inclusion."

We also honored Dan Marble with our annual "AGB Community Inclusion Award." Marble was celebrated for his tireless efforts to support The Arc of Greater Brockton's fundraisers. Every year, he sells scores of tickets for the All Aboard The Arc event as well as numerous entries into our Annual AGB Golf Tournament. Marble, a manager at Snow & Jones, was surprised to win the award, but indicated that he always considered supporting our organization's mission as a massive reward in and of itself.

All proceeds from All Aboard The Arc will support the final phase of our capital improvement project at 1250 West Chestnut Street, our newly renovated theater and event space. These funds will allow us to purchase state-of-the-art lighting, sound, and video

equipment, completing a transformation that will expand opportunities for performances, events, and community gatherings for years to come.

All Aboard The Arc was more than a fundraiser. It was a celebration of community, creativity, and our shared purpose. We are grateful to everyone who attended, purchased raffle tickets, donated, volunteered, and helped make the evening such a success!



*AGB Executive Director Dean Rizzo, Dan Marble, and AGB Board President Marc Zade*



*Erica MacDonald, the winner of the \$10,000 raffle, accepts her prize with her family!*

# Winter & the Holiday Season at AGB



## Digital Literacy: Expanding Through Strategic Partnership



The Arc of Greater Brockton is proud to announce an expanded collaboration with AT&T and The Arc of the United States to strengthen and expand digital literacy opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in our community!

Through this partnership, The Arc of Greater Brockton has been awarded a \$20,000 digital literacy grant, making us one of just 14 Arc chapters nationwide selected this year to receive this funding. This funding will allow us not only to host a series of structured digital literacy seminars, but also to purchase equipment that will significantly enhance our new event space. These upgrades will allow us to deliver high-quality, accessible seminars that create engaging learning environments for participants.

As part of this initiative, The Arc of Greater Brockton will train at least 250 individuals with I/DD, helping participants build the skills they need to navigate technology with confidence, independence, and safety in an increasingly digital world.

Recognizing that people come to technology with different levels of experience, we are designing three seminar tracks based on participants' existing skills.

Introductory-level seminars will focus on helping participants become comfortable with basic electronic devices and commonly used applications. Participants will learn how to navigate devices like tablets and smartphones, explore accessible apps like YouTube, Calm, Finch, and others, and gain an understanding of basic device care. These sessions aim to reduce anxiety around technology while building confidence.

Our intermediate-level seminars will focus on practical, everyday digital skills that support independence and employment readiness. Participants will learn how to use email and messaging tools, navigate the internet effectively, manage passwords, recognize common online scams, and complete basic online forms. These sessions emphasize technology as a tool for communication, organization, and daily life.

Advanced-level seminars will address topics that are essential for safe and responsible digital participation. These sessions will focus on online safety and privacy, cyberbullying awareness and prevention, identifying misinformation, understanding digital footprints, and navigating social media with appropriate boundaries. These conversations are especially important as online spaces increasingly shape how people connect, learn, and advocate for themselves.

Many sessions will take place in our new event space at 1250 West Chestnut Street, formerly our Redemption Center, which has been transformed into an accessible space for community engagement. Additional seminars will be held at our Employment Services building, reinforcing the connection between digital literacy and workforce development. In some instances, we plan to travel to nearby social service agencies who serve individuals of all abilities to provide free digital literacy seminars.

We are incredibly grateful to AT&T for their continued partnership and commitment to digital inclusion!



*A small group of participants in our Employment programs go over some online safety tips!*

## Participant Spotlight: Josh Houston



**Meet Josh:** One of our hardworking participants in the Easton Day Hab program. Josh is a long-time AGB participant, having started out at our Brockton facility and now participating at our Easton facility. Eager to partic-

ipate in many activities, Josh enjoys Coffee Club, pickleball, YMCA outing, helping with Meals on Wheels, and more. Additionally, Josh is a math and science wiz, according to Tre McKenzie, an AGB Direct Support specialist who works closely with him.

Stacey Bolduc, Easton's Assistant Director, began working with Josh when he was still participating at our Brockton facility. Making the transition to the Easton location, a facility more fit for Josh's needs, allowed him to excel, Stacey says. As he was once a shy and quiet participant, Josh has grown to be a strong communicator. "He's tried a bunch of new things. He's good at advocating for himself," says Ashley Santos, Easton's Director of Day Hab and CBDS. "Even when he gets stuck, he's able to work through it."

Josh is someone you can rely on. "Josh is a man of his word. He does everything he says he's going to do," says Tre. When anyone needs a hand, Josh is quick to help. When he isn't at The Arc, Josh enjoys spending time outside and watching both baseball and the Celtics.

The Arc of Greater Brockton is grateful to have helpful, reliable, and kind participants like Josh. Thank you, Josh, for your positive spirit and for being a commendable member of our AGB community!

## Staff Spotlight: Jackie Bourdeau



**Meet Jackie:** One of AGB's Day Hab Specialists at our Easton facility. Jackie has been a part of the AGB family since 2023 and is coming up on three years at The Arc in the fall, though she has worked in the field for almost 14 years. Jackie embodies what it means to be a leader. She is hardworking,

dedicated, and ready to jump in and help at any moment. Jackie is someone that staff and participants alike look to for guidance and support. "When new staff comes on, she takes them under her wing to show them the right way to do things... I just don't know what we would do without her, to be honest," says Stacey Bolduc, Assistant Director at AGB's Easton facility.

As a Direct Support professional, Jackie is a representation of the many different hats that the role requires staff to wear. While she is very thorough in the caretaking aspect of her role, including assisting participants with their activities of daily living (ADLs), she also is always willing to jump in and get involved in the recreational aspect of her role. "If we have a group of participants doing the main activity and we have some others that

just enjoy doing quieter things, she takes it upon herself to do something else with them," says Ashley Santos, Director of Day Hab and CBDS at AGB's Easton facility. "I would say that my only complaint about Jackie is that she works too hard."

Jackie's optimism and readiness to accept a challenge barely scratch the surface of the characteristics that make her such a special member of our AGB community. We are grateful to have a professional like Jackie that honors AGB's participants, the inclusion movement, and the commitment to promoting independence and a life of fulfillment for people of all abilities.

# 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.

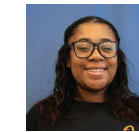
To find out more about relevant bills and initiatives, please follow us on social media—Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, LinkedIn—visit our advocacy page at [www.arcofgreaternbrockton.org/advocacy](http://www.arcofgreaternbrockton.org/advocacy), and join our email list by emailing [rmoore@arcofgreaterbrockton.org](mailto:rmoore@arcofgreaterbrockton.org)

# Celebrating New Staff, Recent Advancements and 2025 Milestones

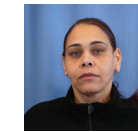
## Welcome New Staff!



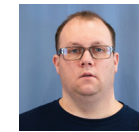
**Faith Constantine**  
Billing Specialist  
Finance



**Alexis Corbett-Green**  
Direct Support Specialist  
Brockton CBDS



**Bettina Dasilva**  
Direct Support Specialist  
Brockton CBDS



**Thomas Marble III**  
Recreation Coordinator  
Recreation



**Yuchabee Millien**  
Direct Support Specialist  
Brockton Day Hab

## Staff Recognition Awards

During the Holiday Season, we at AGB like to recognize the value of our wonderful and dedicated staff across all of our departments. This year each department's leaders chose one of their staff to highlight during our Thanksgiving celebration. Among all equally deserving staff, these awards were given to those who had a special impact over the course of the year!



**Rolanda Henry**  
Assistant to Finance Director  
Finance



**Patrick McDonald**  
Employment Specialist  
Employment Services



**Reilynn Trinidad**  
Direct Support Specialist  
Brockton Day Hab



**Lisa Giusti, RN**  
Healthcare Supervisor  
Easton CBDS & Day Hab

Recipients not pictured: **Tyler McCourt** (Recreation Program Coordinator, Recreation,) **Maria DaSilva** (Family Support Coordinator, Family Support,) **Reuben Gordon** (Direct Support Specialist, Brockton CBDS)

## The Arc of Greater Brockton's G.O.A.T. Award!



Throughout the summer, each AGB Department was challenged to host a themed staff party in our new outdoor event space, The Green at AGB. Each event, open to all staff, was judged by a set of criteria. The competition was close, but Employment Services came out on top! They'll hold the title of Greatest of All Time until a new department is crowned! Stay tuned for the winner later this year...



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Web: [arcofgreaterbrockton.org](http://arcofgreaterbrockton.org)



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## AGB Receives a \$7,500 Grant From Flutie Foundation



*Recreation staff thanks Flutie Foundation for their generosity with some of our After School Adventures participants!*

For the second consecutive year, The Arc of Greater Brockton has received a \$7,500 grant from the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism to support our After School Adventures program! This generous investment allows us to continue providing inclusive, engaging, and meaningful after-school experiences for young people of all abilities. Through After School Adventures, participants build confidence, form lasting friendships, and explore new interests in a safe, supportive, and fun environment.

We are incredibly grateful to the Flutie Foundation for their ongoing commitment to the autism community and to organizations like ours. Their belief in our mission helps make programs like this possible and makes a real difference for the children and families we serve every day.

Please join us in thanking the Flutie Foundation for standing with us and helping our After School Adventures continue to grow!