



The Arc Of Blair County

DelGrosso's... Ahead of their Time

Altoona Railroader Fred DelGrosso Sr. bought Bland's Park more than 60 years ago and took a chance. It turned out, that chance was a wise investment. Mr. DelGrosso took



another chance more than 40 years ago in hiring Bill Ambrose, a young man from Tipton who happens to be developmentally delayed.

"Bill started working here when he was in his early '20's and has been a dedicated worker ever since," said Peter Gardella, DelGrosso Amusement Park President. "This September, he will be



64! And he's still going strong."

But Bill is not the only developmentally

delayed worker on the payroll. Additionally, the park employs Ryan Wolfe from Bellwood and Curt Fleming of Tyrone.

After losing his job at an area market, *through no fault of his own*, Curt Fleming of Tyrone became depressed. When his family got a call from the amusement park with a job possibility, Curt's world became bright again.

Developmentally delayed workers are welcomed into the DelGrosso family of employees. Ryan Wolfe, 15 yrs. old, likes to see people happy and keep the park clean.



Management at DelGrosso's Park treats mentally challenged workers just as they treat other employees. "Everybody deserves the chance to work and people with mental retardation are no different," Gardella said. "Money isn't their motivation. They enjoy the park's atmosphere and the camaraderie with coworkers, which is no different than our other workers."

The amusement park continues to be ground-breaking in the treatment of individuals with developmental disabilities. Yes, considerations are made of a person's abilities – but that is true for all workers at the park. **Attitude** is an important key to being hired and keeping a job.

Many employers have not discovered the wealth of developmentally delayed workers. Call The Arc of Blair County at 946-1011 for information on how to hire a great worker with a "can-do" attitude.

Inclusion works in school and on the job!

Do you know that people with disabilities represent 20% of our population—our nation's largest

minority. That means about 29% of American households have one or more persons with a disability as a member.

Do you realize the buying power that 20% of the American population has? Think about it – nationwide that equals roughly \$200 million dollars in flexible spending money!

It is the smart businessman who works to include the disabled on his staff. Families and people with disabilities are exceptionally



loyal to those businesses that practice inclusion. That same loyalty can add to your

company's bottom line, too.

There are countless ways of promoting an inclusive workplace environment:

- Work with vocational rehabilitation agencies to identify qualified job seekers when looking to hire someone.
- Install a Telephone Device for the deaf (TDD) and advertise that you offer this service. You will be surprised at the results!
- Encourage your employees to participate in disability related organizations (like The Arc). Inclusive businesses **accept, accommodate and appreciate** the abilities of all their employees and customers!



2006 Rotary Golf Tournament Successful

Congratulation on a job well done!

Fore! Well, more like one hundred and forty-four. That is the number of golfers who participated in The Rotary Club of Altoona-Sunrise annual Becky Sheetz Memorial Golf Tournament to benefit Special Olympics, The Arc of Blair County and new this year, The Miracle League of Blair County.

Thanks to the generosity of the sponsors and the golfers, the tournament raised an unprecedented **\$000,000.00**. The Arc of Blair County will use the proceeds from the golf tournament to offer more social activities at The Arc and to begin an elementary-age social program.

The tournament is in its 11th year and hosts celebrity golfers each year. On August 22, four former Pirates Bob Friend, Jim Rooker, Rick Reuschel and Frank Thomas visited Iron Masters Country Club to test their swings. A delicious bar-b-queue was served to all participants and many fabulous prizes were given away.

Corporate sponsors included Sheetz, Pepsi, Reliance Bank, Highmark, M&T Bank, Highland Tank, Newborn Enterprises, Inc., NPC, The Preferred Healthcare Systems, Inc., S&T Bank, Bickel's Surplus and Dr. David and Colleen Montrella.

Our hats are off to the entire planning committee from The Rotary Club

of Altoona-Sunrise, co-chairs Joe Raia and Dale Garmley, sponsors and the golfers who continue to build this golf tournament into a one-of-a-kind event.

“Donation” doesn’t always = money...

Has your business thought of donating to a charity but worried about the bottom line? Giving does not necessarily mean through monetary donations.

More than 80% of charitable organizations rely on volunteers to achieve their goals, according to the Urban Institute. The gift of your time is priceless and The Arc has some ideas.

The Arc is looking for “donations” with many different faces:

- **Donate** the time of your employees to volunteering at an Arc class. The Arc is beseeching companies to volunteer at The Arc. More activities cannot be planned without additional help. No experience in interacting with individuals who have a disability is necessary. A huge time commitment is not necessary. There are many age groups and many classes to volunteer with.
- **Donate your talent.** Offer to teach guitar, ballroom dancing, knitting, poker, sports, woodworking; the list is endless. If you have a hobby or an interest – share it! You may find that the hobby you have been trying to promote or build upon will mushroom through individuals attending The Arc class and their families.
- **Donate in-kind goods or services.** The Arc is always in need of plastic cups, plates and utensils as well as snack foods for the many classes held at the building.

The pre-school program instructs on a different theme each session and is always in need of arts and craft supplies. Do you

have gently used game or recreation equipment that is collecting dust? Do you like to spin records on the side? There are many ways in which to donate goods or your service to The Arc. Call The Arc today at 946-1011 and discover how you can make a difference in your community!

Hold your next party at The Arc!

Are you looking for a place to hold your company picnic? Do you need a safe and secure building to “surprise” the expectant mother? The Arc of Blair County is located in the Becky Sheetz Building. Becky Sheetz was instrumental in securing a place where individuals with intellectual and cognitive disabilities can meet, have fun and forge friendships.

One of the methods used to supplement income at The Arc is to rent the Becky Sheetz Center. The building serves as a wonderful environment to host birthday, bridal or other special functions.

The facility boasts a beautiful backyard with a basketball hoop, an outdoor covered pavilion with seating to accommodate 50 people, a state of the art commercial kitchen, a maintenance person to set-up, clean and tear down, a paved and lined parking lot, and the ability to seat 150 inside. Contact The Arc at 946-1011 for more details and booking availability.



Thank you very much!!!

No one can say thanks as well as Elvis – but The Arc will try! The following businesses responded to our inaugural newsletter by making in-kind donations. Our sincere gratitude for remembering The Arc and helping us to better serve the community. Thank you to:

- Holiday Inn Express for donation of mugs and pens to be used as prizes at Arc parties and a typewriter to be used when completing forms and applications.
- Days Inn for donating prizes to be used at parties
- Imler's Poultry for the donation of chicken for Arc programs.

A special thank you to the following organizations and individuals for supporting The Arc of Blair County through the years:

- The Sheetz family for their unquestionable loyalty and generosity.
- The Rotary Club of Altoona-Sunrise for its annual Becky Sheetz Memorial Golf Tournament and donating part of the proceeds to The Arc. Without your support, The Arc would not be able to offer its many programs and services.
- Dr. David and Colleen Montrella for hard work and commitment to the Becky Sheetz Memorial Golf Tournament and their donations.
- The Knights of Columbus for orchestrating their annual “Mea-



sure Up” Campaign each year. We appreciate the time spent collecting cans outside church services in the spring and creating awareness of individuals with developmental disabilities.

- DelGrosso Foods for donating food for Arc parties throughout the year.
- Forever Broadcasting for hosting the children's Halloween party each year including providing entertainment and food.
- Senator Robert Jubelirer for advocating for the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities.
- A.C. Moore employees for teaching craft class each month
- The Blair Garden Club for its annual maintenance of the flower beds at The Arc. Thanks to you, we are proud to showcase our facility.
- Catered Affairs by Paul Binus for preparing and planning The Arc's annual award dinner.
- Corey Geishauer for volunteering to teach dance and art lessons.
- Mrs. Paul Pheasant for many years of directing The Arc Angels Choir
- Mr. Tom Cooney, Jr., for his computer advice and expertise at keeping The Arc in the technology age!
- Ms. Cindy White for volunteering her talent and time as chef at The Arc gatherings.
- Mr. Dan Casey for ignoring the escalating gas prices and continuing to deliver newsletters throughout the county each month
- Denny and Kate Smith for volunteering to produce The Arc membership newsletter and serving as the official Arc photographer.
- The many volunteers who instruct, educate and plan activities, picnics and dances at The Arc – we THANK YOU!

Thank you to the organizations and individuals who offered financial support to The Arc this year thereby allowing The Arc to dedicate its time



to advocating and serving the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

- Members of The Arc for continued membership donations and supporting fundraising efforts
- Altoona Pipe and Steel
- Mrs. Peggy Bailey
- Mr. and Mrs. Dan Casey
- The Central Pennsylvania Community Foundation
- City of Altoona, Martin Goodman Trust
- Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Crum
- Mr. and Mrs. Bruno DeGol
- DiAndrea Media, Inc.
- Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dobson
- The EADS Group
- Hollidaysburg AMBUCS
- Hollidaysburg Area Women's Club
- Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Kovach
- The Dorothea Nelson Charitable Lead Annuity Trust
- Pennsylvania Rural Arts Alliance
- The Rhinehard and Replogle Families
- Mrs. Pat Rhoa and Devin Rhoa
- The Rotary Club of Altoona
- The Harrison C. and Margaret A. Snyder Charity Trust
- Susquehanna Bank
- United Way of Blair County
- Wal-Mart Foundation
- Williamsburg Area Women's Civic Club
- Wolf-Kuhn Foundation



Saturday Sprouts and The Arc of Blair County's annual membership picnic are just two of the diverse activities offered at the Becky Sheetz Recreational Center.

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