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## Office of the Ulster County Comptroller

### Ulster County Not-for-Profits Snapshot Series: *The Arc of Ulster-Greene*

September 26, 2016

#### **Introduction and Mission**

The Arc of Ulster-Greene (“The Arc”), formerly known as Ulster-Greene ARC, was established in 1956 by a group of local families in the surrounding communities, whose purpose was “to offer people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities opportunities to live and experience full lives.” In 1967, they became the 49<sup>th</sup> chapter of NYSARC – an organization devoted to helping individuals with special needs or other mental handicaps. The Arc currently assists approximately 1,300 people across the region throughout every stage of life.

The Arc’s vision is to see that the dreams, desires, and needs of the people for which they serve are realized through contemporary service offerings, work programs, educational components, and tenacious advocacy. Both The Arc and their clients succeed through “individualized services to every person, featuring a broad range of innovative and effective programs designed to foster independence, productivity and participation in community life.”

#### **The Arc’s Impact on the Community**

According to data collected from 2010 by the United States Census Bureau, almost 57 million Americans – or roughly 20% of the country – have some form of disability.<sup>1</sup> Although the term “disability” covers a wide range of physical, social, emotional, and other impediments – from hearing loss to the inability to live independently – it is readily apparent that a significant portion of the population is in need of some form of third-party assistance. As of last year, disabled citizens between the ages of 18-64 experienced an unemployment rate of 65.6% and a poverty rate of 28.2%.<sup>2</sup> Given that these percentages are substantially higher than that of the general population, it is evident that programs like The Arc fill a necessary void in the regions they service.

The Arc teaches and trains disabled persons, providing them with essential tools and resources in order to be successful in the workplace and able to live healthy, fulfilling lives. The Arc not only provides a service to the disabled residents of Ulster County, but often works with local businesses to fill vacant positions at shops that are in need of dedicated staffing. It is a win-win for the whole community: businesses gain eager, quality employees while members of this special needs population gain self-worth by actively contributing to their communities.

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<sup>1</sup> See *gen* “Nearly 1 in 5 People Have a Disability in the U.S., Census Bureau Reports,” by the United States Census Bureau (July 25, 2012) (stating statistics from the Survey of Income and Program Participation that “[a]bout 56.7 million people – 19 percent of the population – had a disability in 2010, according to a broad definition of disability, with more than half of them reporting the disability was severe”). Available at <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/miscellaneous/cb12-134.html>

<sup>2</sup> See “2015 Annual Disability Statistics Compendium,” by the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics (January 2016). Available at [http://www.disabilitycompendium.org/docs/default-source/2015-compendium/compendium\\_2015\\_final.pdf](http://www.disabilitycompendium.org/docs/default-source/2015-compendium/compendium_2015_final.pdf)



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## **Finances and Composition**

The Arc is required to file Form 990 as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit for tax purposes with the Internal Revenue Service. The chart below illustrates The Arc's yearly budget, the amount of annual funding they receive from Ulster County, and the corresponding percentage attributed to Ulster County's contribution toward their overall budget.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Revenues Received from UC*</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
2012	\$ 48,733,446	\$ 3,228,445	7%
2013	\$ 50,885,791	\$ 2,546,064	5%
2014	\$ 53,157,414	\$ 2,332,735	4%
2015	\$ 56,135,831	\$ 3,575,153	6%
YTD 2016	\$ 58,676,217	\$ 1,518,313	3%

\*According to the County's financial management systems

The Arc is governed by a Board of Directors, consisting of volunteers who “share their insights, passion and expertise in assuring that [the] agency remains a sound choice for high quality assistance for people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.” The Board is charged with approving the compensation package for the Executive Director while employees’ salaries are determined through trend, cost of living adjustments, and insurance coverage. Employees that are part of a union have their salaries determined via the contract negotiation process. The top paid employees account for \$594,493, comprised of the following personnel: the Executive Director (\$214,718), the Chief Operating Officer (\$140,005), the Chief Information Officer (\$122,458), and the Chief Financial Officer (\$117,312).

## **Programs**

In addition to its other offerings, The Arc of Ulster-Greene receives funding from Ulster County for services provided through two separate programs:

***Sheltered Workshop*** – This program provides vocational training to adults with developmental disabilities in Ulster County through Pilot Industries in Kingston and in Ellenville. The service includes an assessment of an individual’s skill levels and vocational interests. Individuals have customized plans and a team of trained staff to assist them in achieving their vocational goals. The service provides individuals with the opportunity to perform paid, contracted jobs while learning general work skills that could be transferred to other jobs within their community.

**Funding for 2015: \$283,826 (County’s share \$117,105)<sup>3</sup>**

**Clients Served: 235 (Contractual goal was 380/year)**

***Preschool Special Education & Related Services (Brookside School)*** – This program provides services in an integrated classroom setting to children between the ages of 3 and 5 who are entitled to attend public school but can only receive appropriate educational opportunities from a special education program because of mental, physical, or emotional reasons. If necessary, they are provided with an individualized curriculum and can have access to a 1:1 teacher to student arrangement. Events such as field days, trips to parks, reunions, and meet and greets with local volunteer members not only allow students to learn but gain a true sense of involvement in their communities.

**Funding for 2015: \$2,476,438**

**Number of Students Enrolled in 2015: 138**

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<sup>3</sup> Overall program funding includes aid from the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, totaling \$166,721, which is passed through Ulster County along with the County’s contribution.



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### **Conclusion**

The Arc of Ulster-Greene provides an opportunity for Ulster (and Greene) County residents with intellectual and other developmental disabilities to be able to live a full and relatively independent lifestyle. From educating preschoolers on a one on one level to training people for jobs to actually placing them in a career path, The Arc has an abundance to offer for those who need help from an early age to our twilight years. For further information regarding The Arc of Ulster-Greene, you can refer to their website (<https://www.thearcug.org/>), or you may contact the Ulster County Comptroller's Office.