





WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED







MISSION

Lexington's mission is to provide the best possible supports to children and adults with disabilities and their families, to be the best possible employer for its employees, and to contribute to the community.



127 E. State Street Gloversville, NY 12078 (518) 773-7931 thearclexington.org

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FROM OUR **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



2018 marked Lexington's 65th year of operation. Our remarkable organization was started by a small group of parents with a simple goal: to create a better future for their children with developmental disabilities. Today, we have nearly 1,700 employees entrusted to supporting nearly 1,000 children and adults who have physical, mental, intellectual and developmental differences of all kinds.

Our work has expanded and evolved over the years, but our core mission remains the same: to provide the best possible supports and care to individuals and

their families, to be a great employer and to support our community. Each day, our dedicated staff is committed to helping the people we support lead the best, healthiest, happiest and most independent lives they can. We do this through individualized care, specialized programs, advocacy efforts, career and vocational support, creative enrichment, educational opportunities, community integration, volunteering, new experiences and just being there for the people we support in every way possible.

2018 was a milestone year in many ways for Lexington. Not only was it our 65th anniversary, it was also the 15th anniversary of our band, Flame, who continue to use their music to spread a message of hope and celebrating abilities wherever they play. Several people we support and employees were honored with awards of distinction for all they do for the community and the people in their care, including Flame and Brenda Dwyer, one of The Arc New York's Direct Support Professionals of the Year. Our annual gala truly became "The Greatest" Night Out when we welcomed our biggest crowds yet to celebrate and fundraise for Lexington in a circus-themed, The Greatest Showman-inspired evening of fun. As you will read further on in the report, in the past year we have also offered many new opportunities to the people we support in the realms of adaptive sports, advocacy, creative arts, independent living and more.

We have never been busier, which means we need your help more than ever to keep the momentum going and continue to offer even more going forward.

There are many ways to get involved with Lexington if you find yourself inspired by the amazing stories about the people we support included in this annual report. Throughout the year, we will have many fundraising and friend-raising events you can attend, volunteer at or support through donations, sponsorship and patronage, such as our fashion show, golf tournament and annual Night Out gala. You can also become a member of Lexington or sponsor the membership of a person we support for as little as \$5 a year. Membership forms are included in this report for your convenience. Not only does your membership support us financially, but it also gives us a bigger voice on The Arc New York's board, where representation is proportional to membership numbers. Helping advance the advocacy of the people we support is one of the greatest ways you can make a difference in their lives. If you are able, you are also welcome to make a tax-deductible donation through The Lexington Foundation, the fundraising and grant-making entity that supports our operations.

To stay informed of all the goings-on at Lexington, including special events and accomplishments of the people we support, please "Like" and follow us on Facebook. To learn more about what you can do to support the amazing people who receive our services, please call us at (518) 773-7931 or visit www.thearclexington.org.

We are so grateful for the support we have received in the past year, and so proud of everything the people we support have accomplished and experienced. Every year – every day – is a new opportunity to make their dreams come true. We hope to have you at our sides as we move into the next year and continue to grow, change and adapt for the people we support.

With gratitude and hope for the future,



CELEBRATING ABILITIES

In the spring, Lexington held our annual Celebrating Abilities event, highlighting the growth and successes of the people we support. We recognized more than 100 people for accomplishing goals and achieving success in their personal, professional and academic lives. Congratulations to everyone who was recognized!



From top left: Dylan Goomansingh – Attaining college and career success | Lucia Phelps – Taking care of my home and self | Fred Davis – Staying busy at day hab | Miguel Achacoso – Going to my favorite places independently | Ralph Armour – Being active in my community | Courtney Ryan – Helping people however I can | Joshua Corbett – Working hard at my job | Ihesha Manette – Shopping on my own | Grace Rhodes – Taking ownership of my life | Ron Rice – Making friends everywhere I go | Jeanette Abare – Keeping my home clean | Doman Crawford and Kristopher Bickmeyer – Budgeting our money wisely | Gerald Kasper – Taking control of my finances | Joshua Foronda – Regaining my best possible health | Peggie Gifford – Working hard to keep my mind sharp | Evelyn Morales – Excelling in my career and independent living | Jay Gonzales – Exercising and eating well

2018 SELF-ADVOCACY CONFERENCE AND ELECTIONS

On November 1, Lexington's Self-Advocacy group, "Our Voice," held their annual Self-Advocacy Conference at the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts. 2018's conference focused on four key areas: supported decision-making, voting, wellness, and job opportunities and supports available for people with disabilities.



Lexington Self-Advocacy Committee Officers Gabby Jacobs, Secretary; Courtney Ryan, Treasurer; Mary LaQuay, Public Relations; Doug Lathrop, President; and Zack Durkee, Vice President

The conference began with a keynote speech from Cynthia Gilchrist, the Capital/Upper Hudson Valley Regional Coordinator at the Self-Advocacy Association of New York (SANYS), and two SANYS self-advocates, Tamilia Fritz and Shawn Fulktz. The three led a presentation and open forum discussion on supported decision-making. They have created a training opportunity on decision-making, and Lexington self-advocates had one of the first opportunities to engage in it and provide valuable feedback to SANYS.



Victor Colon

Gilchrist, Fritz and Fulktz also recognized Victor Colon for his service on the SANYS board. Victor was elected to the SANYS board in 2015 and has since served out his 3-year term attending quarterly board meetings, assisting

with the operations of SANYS and participating in advocacy opportunities whenever possible. Gilchrist, Fritz and Fulktz presented Victor with a plaque honoring the end of his term on the board and thanked him for his service to SANYS, his peers at Lexington and people with disabilities everywhere.



Terry Button and Serina Stanton man the voting table

The conference also featured Helen Charland, an advocate representative from Disability Rights New York, who educated attendees on voting rights and supports in New York. She also provided a voting registration question and answer opportunity. The afternoon concluded with Esther Carpenter, Lexington's director of Employment Resources, presenting on employment opportunities and Michelle Peryea, Lexington's safety and wellness coordinator, presenting on safety and wellness.

2018 VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Every year, Lexington holds a ceremony to acknowledge the tens of thousands of hours the people we support put into volunteering in the community. We and the community appreciate the contributions of every person who lends their time and talents to make the world a better place! The ceremony on April 18 recognized more than 40 people who went above and beyond to make a difference in their program and in the community. Here are just a few of these amazing stories!



Ron Zimmerman, Church of the Holy Spirit; Michael Walters; and Patrick Dowd, Lexington

MICHAEL WALTERS – STAR VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Mike is an active member of the Church of the Holy Spirit in Gloversville. He takes such pride in giving back to his community. Every time he goes to church and gets involved in an activity there, he wears a contagious smile on his face the whole time! One of the many ways he volunteers at church is by collecting items needed for members of the congregation who are going through a difficult time. He is an active member of the men's group and always volunteers to be a server for their spaghetti dinners and

bake sales. He helps with BINGO on Saturday nights, the church's booth at the annual Strawberry Festival and their barbecue chicken dinners. On a weekly basis, he carries out the role of an altar server, where he helps bring items to the front of the church so that services can begin. Anyone who knows Mike can see how important his faith and these roles are to him. He lights up whenever he speaks of the work he does through church. He is proud of his contributions, and so are we!

Crystal White Stars in OPWDD's #GetTogether Campaign

Our own Crystal White was featured on the cover of the New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities' summer newsletter, helping them promote their summer of love and inclusion! She, along with the band Flame, were also featured in their video promoting the #GetTogether campaign, which focused on community inclusion and encouraging people to come together to create a more unified world. Lexington is proud to join OPWDD in encouraging people everywhere to get together, get to know one another and grow together so we can build a future where the focus is on similarities rather than differences!





PAUL FABELLA

Paul loves to volunteer at the local food pantry. He regularly brings food to people who live at Trackside Homes and Forest Hill Towers apartments. He gets a cart, loads it with food and delivers

it straight to the tables of those in need. The residents are very grateful for Paul's work. They greet him when he comes and thank him for everything he does. Paul loves helping out in this way and being involved in his community!



TIM GIBLIN

Tim does an outstanding job delivering Meals on Wheels to seniors. He delivers meals with a smile on his face and always speaks to the people he delivers to with respect. This year, he decided

to take special care of one of the women he delivers to by making her cards and taking extra time to visit with her when he brings her meals. They have formed a nice bond through the work Tim does. When he volunteers, Tim always makes people smile and brightens their days!



MICHAEL MADNICK

Michael, along with his friend Elizabeth Schelle, volunteers regularly at the James Brennan Humane Society. He gives back by collecting and returning bottles and cans, then using the money to shop

for items the animal shelter needs. Elizabeth collects the items Michael gets and drops them

off at the shelter, where she also visits with the animals. She gets an updated shopping list before she leaves and brings it to Michael so the process can begin anew. The efforts Michael and Elizabeth put into making sure the animals at the shelter are taken care of do not go unnoticed!



KELSEY MCCOY

Kelsey helped put together packages of rosary beads, prayer cards and information cards that explain what rosaries are. The rosary packages were then shipped to churches, schools

and members of the military all over the world. Kelsey's commitment to helping people receive such a wonderful gift made a difference in many lives. Thank you, Kelsey!



MICHAEL TYBOR

At the invitation of representatives from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Michael Tybor and Andrew Dennis spent several hours touring the Willie Wildlife Marsh trail to ensure

it was accessible to people using wheelchairs. They were happy to spend the day on the trails and provide feedback on areas they struggled with. The DEC made the changes Michael and Andrew suggested and invited them back later for a ribbon cutting event! Michael and Andrew plan on going back to use the trail in the warmer months with their friends. This contribution of time and expertise will have a lasting impact on the ability of nature-lovers who use wheelchairs to enjoy this beautiful trail for years to come!

ADAPTIVE SPORTS — L CUBED CLUB FORMED

Lexington was inspired to form an Adaptive Sports Club after David Barton gave a presentation at a Nurturing Environment Program Meeting about adaptive skiing and how it has changed his life. While Lexington has offered adaptive skiing for more than 14 years and sailing for more than ten, this club is dedicated to finding even more ways to offer people new experiences and adventures in the vast realm of sports.

The club, now called L Cubed (which stands for Living Life without Limits), took shape in the summer of 2018, and the first official event was adaptive water skiing on August 23. The club teamed up with a nonprofit called Leap of Faith to offer a day of water skiing on the Great Sacandaga Lake to 13 people we support!

Leap of Faith, based in Connecticut, offers adaptive water skiing opportunities to people of all ages who have disabilities. More than 15 Lexington staff from the physical therapy and day habilitation departments, led by Lexington physical therapist Bonnie Reuss, also participated

to make the experience possible. Throughout the day, they were busy transporting people to the beach, helping them get safely secured into special ski seats, bringing them into the water, helping on the boats that towed them around the lake and assisting them from the water when the ride was over. These staff worked tirelessly in the hot sun to make sure everyone was safe, comfortable and having fun throughout the experience.

"Because of your efforts, this group was able to experience something that was simply unforgettable," Pat Dowd, Lexington's Division Director for Day Habilitation, said to the staff volunteers. "I can't thank you enough for the contributions each of you made toward making this happen."

L Cubed has many more adaptive sports opportunities planned for the future! Since the massively successful kickoff water skiing event, they have already offered orienteering, paintball, martial arts, alpine skiing, indoor rock climbing and off-road hiking using all-terrain wheelchair











equipment. They have also expanded into the realm of the arts with Jamboxx units, which are hands-free electronic, breath-powered instruments that give people with limited use of their arms or hands the chance to play music and create artwork on a computer.

L Cubed Club's officers are self-advocates who hold quarterly meetings in which they discuss different ideas and activities to seek out based on their interests and skills. They have set a goal of offering at least one adaptive sports opportunity each month. Planned upcoming activities include ice skating, archery, water skiing, Adirondack Trail excursions, therapeutic horseback riding, zip lining, martial arts and more!

Thank you to everyone who works hard to help the people we support experience these unforgettable days! This program was also made possible in part by a grant from the Trustee Management board of The Arc New York Trust Services. The grant has supported all the adaptive sports and Jamboxx opportunities listed above, as well as classes at the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts, a 10-week summer recreational program for teens and young adults who attend Family Services programs, Creative Expressions projects and productions, and various recreational and social events.

A GENEROUS DONATION FROM TOWNSEND LEATHER



Sue Groesbeck; Larissa Groesbeck; Nancy DeSando, Lexington; Lucas Groesbeck; Greg Gargiulo, Lexington; Larry Groesbeck; and Terry Kucel, Townsend Leather

At the end of 2018, Townsend Leather demonstrated the true spirit of the holidays with an incredibly generous donation of \$5,000 to Lexington Family Services. The inspiration for this amazing act was Lucas Groesbeck, a young man Family Services has supported through respite programs for about 20 years, since he was a small child.

Lucas' sister Larissa works at Townsend Leather. At her recent work anniversary, the president of the company, Jared Eckler, asked her how she developed her great attitude, motivation, drive for success and other qualities that make her a

great employee. She told him that it was all due to her brother Lucas, her hero. His ability to always be happy and kind to others throughout life inspires Larissa to focus on what she can control, be patient, be happy and work her hardest. Eckler was in turn inspired by this story and decided to honor Lucas by donating to the organization that has helped him for so many years.

Lucas attended Townsend Leather's holiday luncheon on December 14 with his family to receive the donation. Also in attendance were Nancy DeSando, Lexington's Director of Innovations and Community

Supports, and Greg Garguilo, a Family Services employee who works with Lucas.

Thank you so much to Townsend Leather for this incredible gift! Their support will help us continue to provide essential services and enriching experiences to children and families affected by disability in Fulton County. We would not be able to do what we do without our partners in local businesses at our side. Because of them, the people we support are able to be active, productive and valued members of their communities!

Transitions Gives Back – Puzzle Piece Picnic

Transitions gives back! On April 25, in honor of National Autism Awareness Month, the students and staff at Transitions hosted a Puzzle Piece Picnic to celebrate and raise awareness for their peers on the autism spectrum. They sold barbecue-style food, puzzle piece cookies and Autism Awareness merchandise, with a portion of the proceeds going to benefit the Autism Society. The rest of the proceeds went to the Elmore Transitions Scholarship Fund, which helps young people with autism and other learning differences experience Transitions' life-changing programs.



BRIAN PAGE RECEIVES 2018 NYSID JOSLIN AWARD



Brian Page, an employee of Universal Warehouse who receives services from Lexington Employment Resources, was a 2018 recipient of the New York State Industries for the Disabled (NYSID)'s Joslin Award! The Joslin Awards Program annually celebrates outstanding performance, personal success and independence



through Preferred Source employment. Over the program's 15-year existence, more than 770 people have been nominated by NYSID member agencies and private sector partners for recognition as "Outstanding Performers." This year, 57 people received Joslin Awards, including Brian.

Brian Page works hard and consistently, and therefore achieves success. He began working at the Universal Warehouse in Mayfield on NYSID Preferred Source contracts when the former work center closed. The new opportunities to work in the community gave Brian the chance to grow and excel in his new work environment.

Brian exemplifies NYSID's Joslin Awards Program.

Local Self-Advocates Featured in International Autism Awareness Campaign

Michelle King and Andrew Carpenter, both members of the band Flame and self-advocates supported by Lexington, were featured in an international autism awareness campaign hosted by A Global Voice for Autism. The social media campaign, held in April and May in honor of World Autism Awareness Month, was dubbed #HumansofAutism. It featured first-person testimonies from people on the autism spectrum around the world as well as their parents, family members, teachers and other people who support them.

A Global Voice for Autism is an international organization that helps equip teachers and families in conflict-affected countries with the skills to support the development and success of children with autism and trauma-related behavior challenges in their classrooms, homes and communities. Their goals are to train key community stakeholders in the skills to support children with autism and to disseminate techniques, networks and information that benefit children with autism, their families and their communities for years to come.





2018 EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Every year, Lexington honors employees who go the extra mile to help the people they support live the best lives they can in a special ceremony in September. For 2018, 290 employees were nominated for recognition by their supervisors, peers, people they support and families. Of these 290 employees, a few were singled out to win special awards acknowledging particularly outstanding accomplishments or demonstration of excellence, dedication and commitment to the people they support and their coworkers. Congratulations to everyone who was recognized for their amazing work this year!

AWARDS OF DISTINCTION – DIRECT SUPPORT STAFF

Brittany Boyer – 69 Chestnut Katlyn Boyer – Johnstown Day Hab Dea Duncovich – 154 First Avenue Arturo McLeod – Adirondack Day Hab Divya Mohan – Family Services Terri Salvione – Quest II

AWARDS OF DISTINCTION – SUPPORT STAFF

Deb Armlin – Quality Assurance Deb Halek – Dietary Adam Sweet – Maintenance

AWARDS OF DISTINCTION – LEADERS

Edie Boehme – Gloversville Day Hab Chelsea Law – Krumkill Jennifer Monroe – Residential



Thierno Diallo and Shaloni Winston



Kelly Stoutner and Shaloni Winston



Bonnie Reuss and Shaloni Winston



Karlene Rulison and Shaloni Winston

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

Thierno Diallo – Rapp Road Kelly Stoutner – 62 Chestnut

SUPPORT STAFF EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

Bonnie Reuss – Clinical Karlene Rulison – Human Resources

Special Recognition: Lisa Palumbo

Lisa Palumbo is a past winner of Lexington's Employee of the Year Award. This year, though she was not eligible to receive this award again, she received special recognition in honor of a heartfelt letter submitted to us by the mother of someone Lexington supports detailing the impact she has had on the whole family. This letter exemplifies everything Lexington strives to be for the families and loved ones of people we support. Thank you, Lisa, for all you do for Donnie and the people who love him.

Quote from letter:

To watch Lisa with the people she works with is so refreshing. She does more than her job – she shows the individuals that she cares and is there for them. She is such a dedicated staff with many years of experience in the agency. Lexington is so lucky to have her as part of the team.



LEXINGTON EMPLOYEE WINS STATEWIDE DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Brenda Dwyer of Broadalbin was one of four direct support professionals in the state to receive The Arc New York's Thomas A. Maul Direct Support Professional Excellence Award.



Brenda Dwyer receiving her Thomas A. Maul Direct Support Professional Excellence Award at a special luncheon in Albany. Pictured, left to right, are Judy Schelle, president of Lexington's board; Thelma Senecal, a successful artist affiliated with Lexington's Creative Expressions program; Dwyer; Shaloni Winston, executive director of Lexington; and David Miller, a member of Lexington's board.



Brenda Dwyer and Adrienne Phillips

Brenda Dwyer was a 2018 recipient of The Arc New York's Thomas A. Maul Direct Support Professional Excellence Award, which recognizes excellence, creativity, commitment and high quality in care and service provided to the people she supports.

Dwyer has worked at Lexington for nearly 10 years. She began her career as a support staff in Lexington's day program. As a co-owner of Adirondack Stained Glass Works in Gloversville and self-taught artist in her own right, Dwyer came to Lexington with strong creative skills and many connections in the local arts community, which she used to create new opportunities

for the people she supports. Her innovations in using the arts as a platform for cultivating talent, building self-confidence and introducing new experiences led her to her current role as Lexington's Environmental and Creative Arts Specialist.

Through Creative Expressions, Dwyer teaches art classes, fosters art appreciation, takes people to museums and galleries, and helps artists exhibit and sell their work in galleries around the state. Dwyer teaches a wide range of classes for people of all ages at the Nigra Arts Center and serves as its gallery curator.

LEXINGTON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT



Shaloni Winston and Dan Richardson receiving an award at The Arc of the United States' National Convention

Lexington's CEO and Executive Director, Shaloni Winston, was honored with an Outstanding Professional Achievement award from the National Council of Executives (NCE) of The Arc of the United States at the annual National Convention on November 8, 2018, in Nashville, TN. The NCE Distinguished Professional Achievement awards honor the professional excellence and achievement of those leaders across The Arc nationwide who strive for excellence, make significant contributions on behalf of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and deliver great results.

Winston, who joined the Lexington family in 1993 and has served as its CEO and Executive Director since 2010, received this award for her vision, dedication, leadership and success at Lexington. Under Winston's leadership, Lexington has become stronger and remains committed to fostering an environment in which the employees are nurtured and supported to provide the best possible supports.

This work was recognized in 2017 when Lexington received accreditation with distinction from the Council on Quality and Leadership after a thorough review of their programs and services. Lexington was the first agency to receive this accreditation of distinction in New York State.

Winston was specifically honored for her work in founding two new programs at Lexington: the Transitions program and the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts.

Transitions supports young adults with autism and other learning differences to attend college, prepare for their careers, live independently and learn skills to be successful adults. With the guidance of Transitions programs and staff, its students are achieving goals they never thought possible. The Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts is a community arts center offering classes, workshops, events, exhibits and event space for rental. The arts center's offerings are open to all and a variety of instruction is available to people of all abilities. These innovative programs advance the mission of Lexington and expand its reach to serve people of all abilities.

"I am deeply honored to receive this award on behalf of Lexington. It is due to the team I work with every day that we can achieve successes, large and small," said Winston. "We draw upon each other to foster dialogues that allow us to dream, to do and to change the world for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I am very proud of what we have accomplished, especially with the development of the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts and Transitions. These two programs have helped us take major steps forward in the natural expectations for the lives of all people. The real honor is working with such a devoted group of people."

BONNIE ALESSI – 45 YEARS AT LEXINGTON

"Bonnie has always been there when I need her." – Sue
"Bonnie is a wonderful lady. She gives me good advice." – Evelyn
"Bonnie is a good worker and makes us laugh." – Melody
"Bonnie likes to have fun. She's a good person to talk to." – Shannon
"Bonnie is so funny! I enjoy meals and music with her." – Zach



Bonnie Alessi and Shaloni Winston at our Employee Recognition event in October

On April 1, 2018, Bonnie Alessi celebrated her 45th work anniversary at Lexington. This makes her the most senior employee Lexington has ever had! Bonnie began her journey at Lexington in 1973 as an aide in our sheltered workshop and was promoted to Workshop Supervisor after only four months. She was the youngest person to ever achieve that role. Many of the people who worked in the workshop attributed their success to her steady guidance. After the sheltered workshop was dissolved, Bonnie moved on to supporting people with traumatic brain injuries. She was instrumental in helping many regain some of what their injuries took from them. Today, Bonnie supports people at Good Neighbor Day Hab. She is a true advocate for them, always ready to listen and help them work through their problems. Her support of the Ladies' Group has encouraged many women to make progress on their personal and professional goals. Lexington has been incredibly lucky to have Bonnie on our team for the past 45 years. She is deeply loved by the people she supports and has made a huge difference in so many of their lives.

Employee Appreciation – Chicken Dinner

In 2018, Lexington gave employees a small token of our thanks with a drive-through chicken barbecue day, where each employee can collect two free chicken barbecue dinners! This is just a token of our appreciation for the amazing service they give the people we support every day. This year, the line stretched from the parking lot of Universal Warehouse to the road as employees waited to pick up their delicious meals! Nothing we do for the people we support would be possible without our employees. These dinners are the least we can do to show our appreciation for their tireless, compassionate and generous work!



A YEAR OF CELEBRATION FOR FLAME









Clockwise from top left: Flame lead singer Michele King receiving an award from The Sage Colleges. Pictured with her are Sandy Brower, Sage; Scott Crowder, Educational Vistas; Maria Nestle, Lexington; and Wally Hart, Lexington. Flame performing at Colonie Center. Guests enjoying the concert. Concert attendees dance during Flame's Autism Awareness Concert.

In spring, Flame won a Leadership Through Music Award from the Academy for Character Education at The Sage Colleges' Esteves School of Education. This award honored Flame's commitment to making a difference in the community through fundraising and donation drives for local charities as well as using music to spread a message of acceptance for all. Flame lead singer Michelle King and vocalist Andrew Carpenter performed and accepted the award at a banquet in April. Flame always strives to do their best for others and inspire audiences everywhere to do the same, so they were honored to receive this award from an organization dedicated to doing the same!

Flame hosted several special concerts in 2018 to celebrate causes close to our hearts. In April, they played a show at Colonie Center to honor Autism Awareness Month. Then, in July, they hosted a dance party to celebrate the 70th

anniversary of the creation of The Arc New York, Lexington's parent organization. They were happy to honor the organization that has changed the lives of so many people, including our band members and their families. Finally, their most memorable event of the year was the one celebrating their 15th anniversary in September. Friends, family and fans had a blast at this awesome party featuring music, dancing, games and a chance for fans to sing with the band! Thanks to everyone who came to these shows or any of Flame's 2018 gigs. None of what they do would be possible without you.

In the summer, Flame lead singer and guitarist Michelle King was invited to attend the Flame of Hope torch lighting ceremony for the 50th Special Olympics Games in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts. Afterward, she sang at a reception honoring this landmark anniversary of the games and commemorating the birthday of



Michele King (center) surrounded by the Honor Guard as she performs at the Kennedy Family Compound in Hyannis, MA.

its founder, Eunice Kennedy Shriver. The Special Olympics and the Shriver family have made so much possible for people with disabilities, and Michelle was grateful for this chance to show her appreciation for them. This is her third encounter with this organization and family;

she also performed at Shriver's wake in 2009, and the full band performed at the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho.

Thank you for helping Flame use the power of music to change the world for the better!

"Fuel the Flame" Fund

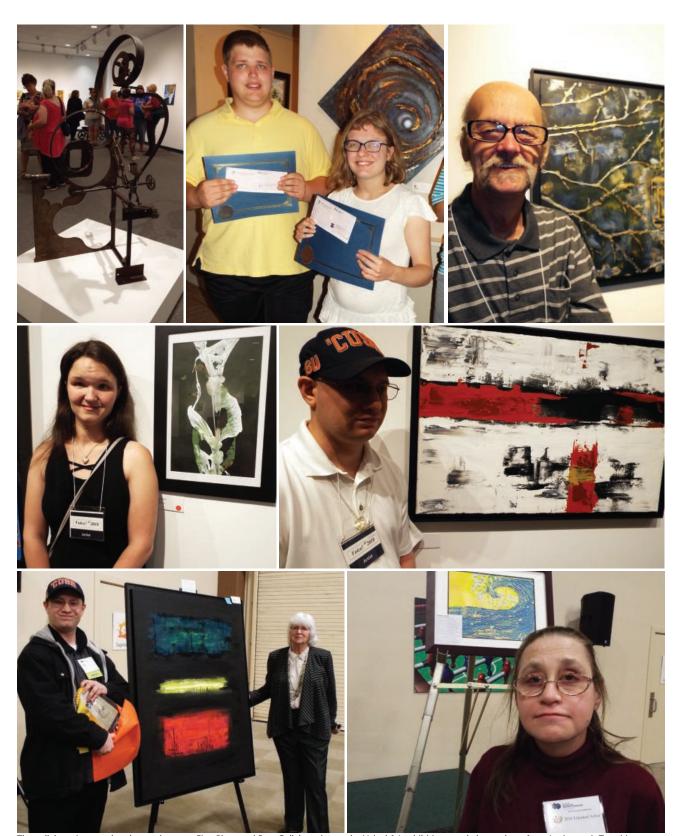
We have many exciting things behind us, and many more ahead. To keep moving forward, we need your help. For the past 12 years, Flame has toured on a custom bus that was specially designed to meet the band's unique needs. Our bus has carried us over 150,000 miles and helped



us spread our message farther than we ever imagined. Now, the bus is showing its age and we must replace it to continue touring as we have for the past decade. Our old bus was bought with donated funds, so we hope the community will rally again to help us buy a new one. Your support will keep our fire burning and help us continue to inspire people with disabilities, their families and audiences at large around the country.

Flame has already triumphed over the public's perception of what people with disabilities are capable of. Now they need your help to triumph over this new bump in the road. You can donate online at www.flametheband.com or by mail to Flame, 2736 State Highway 30, Gloversville 12078. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. For more information or questions, please contact Maria Nestle, Flame's manager, at nestlem@thearclexington.org or (518) 844-5264.

LEXINGTON ARTISTS WIN BIG AT ART SHOWS!



The collaborative metal sculpture that won First Place and Best Collaboration at the Voice! 14 exhibition, made by students from Lexington's Transitions program at the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts under the guidance of artist-in-residence Barney Bellinger; Joshua Corbett and Emily Byrnes, two of the Transitions students who worked on the sculpture, accepting the award on behalf of their peers; Richard Freeman of Lexington's Creative Expressions art program with his mixed media piece "Light Up the Night," which won an honorable mention at the Voice! 14 exhibition; Faith LaFountain of Creative Expressions with her acrylic painting "Calla Lily," which won the Curator's Choice award; and Joshua Brooks Creative Expressions posing with his palette knife oil painting "Cross Roads," which won second place at the Voice! 14 exhibition. Josh Brooks with his art and a judge from the NYAII 2018 Annual Conference and Art Show in Bolton Landing. Doreen Calhoun at the NYAII 2018 Annual Conference and Art Show.

2018 AT TRANSITIONS

2018 was a year of growth and milestones for Transitions and our amazing students. Between January and December, we held eight Mini Camps, five specialty camps, two sessions of the Summer Immersion Experience and two sessions of Adirondack Expressions Art Camp, in addition to our full-year curriculum. Twenty-six students attended the 2017-2018 full-year program, and ten more joined us in the fall of 2018. The year was full of enriching experiences, new opportunities, accomplishments and personal growth for each as they started or continued down their path to independence.



Jordon, Bethany, James, Dylan, Kristen, Jason, Emily, Coty, Joe, Joey and Transitions Residential Coordinator Lauren pose with Christina Arangio of News 10 at an Autism Awareness event.

In 2018, many of our students celebrated accomplishments. Most notably, two students who have been with Transitions since the beginning graduated from the program in the summer. Sam has moved on to focus on his career as a painting contractor while Garett, having finished his associate's degree at Fulton-Montgomery Community College (FMCC), transferred to SUNY Delhi to work toward a Bachelor of Technology in Construction Management.

In other academic news, Eric was honored by FMCC's TRiO program for academic excellence and is touring schools to transfer to for his four-year degree and several students started attending college full-time in 2018, including Dylan, who also works part-time as a human resources assistant. Others have earned professional certifications, such as Jordan's Certificate in Mechanic Studies and Maria's license for cosmetology.

Many of our students work at paid jobs, including Bethany, Coty and Lacy, who has worn many hats in the past year as a teacher,

children's program coordinator, administrative assistant and fingerprinting specialist. Olivia, a singer and actress, recorded her first demo album early in the year. Coty has continued to act as Transitions' ambassador through public speaking engagements, and has explored new talents in the arts.

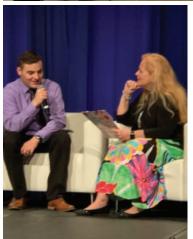


Some students received special awards acknowledging their hard work this year. Several of them, under the guidance of esteemed artist Barney Bellinger, contributed to a collaborative sculpture that won first place in The Arc Otsego's Voice! 14 statewide juried exhibition.

TRANSITIONS STUDENT ACCEPTS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Andrew Carpenter is one of 12 students from the U.S. and Canada who were recognized by a leading educational association.







The Carpenter Family – Esther, Michael, Andrew, Tim and John – at the CEC EXPO. Andrew being interviewed at the awards ceremony. Andrew in front of his award poster on display at the expo.

Andrew Carpenter, a student at Transitions, accepted a "Yes I Can" award from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Andrew was one of only 12 students to receive the prestigious international award. The awards presentation took place at CEC's annual Special Education Convention & Expo in Tampa.

Andrew, who is affected by autism, attends Fulton-Montgomery Community College. He enrolled in Transitions after graduating from Gloversville High School in 2015. Andrew says Transitions is helping him learn a variety of skills to prepare for independent living, including organizational skills, managing money, cooking and social skills. His success in the program earned him the "Yes I Can" award.

CEC is a professional association of educators dedicated to advancing the educational success of children and youth with exceptionalities. The "Yes I Can" program recognizes the accomplishments of students with exceptionalities in six categories: academics, arts, school and community activities, selfadvocacy, technology, and transition. Andrew's award is in the transition category.

Transitions Instructor Presented Research at International Congress in Brazil

Priya Winston, an instructor at Transitions, presented a research study at the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Studies (IAUES) World Congress in Florianópolis, Brazil. Winston's research aimed to disseminate employment outcomes for women with developmental disabilities and examine factors that lead to their career success.

Winston has been teaching at Transitions since 2015. "I'm happy to have had the opportunity to present my research in front of so many people," she said. "It's important that women with developmental disabilities are well prepared to enter the workforce."



Visit www.thearclexington.org/pwinston to read her study, "Preparing Women with Developmental Disabilities for Employment."

TRANSITIONS IN THE MEDIA

Transitions got a lot of media coverage in the last year!



Shaloni Winston being interviewed by Dan Levy of WNYT 13, Albany.

In April 2018, the program was profiled by The Amsterdam Recorder and the Fulton County Express in recognition of Autism Awareness Month. Also in April, Transitions founder Shaloni Winston was featured in a video segment on WNYT NewsChannel 13, discussing the program, Autism Awareness Month and what Transitions can do for families affected by autism.



Andrew Carpenter being interviewed by Spectrum News.

Transitions student Andrew was interviewed by Spectrum News for a video segment during a free concert hosted by Flame to honor Autism Awareness Month on April 27, 2018. Andrew has been a vocalist in the band since the summer of 2016. This concert was just one of many opportunities the band gives him to spread a message of awareness and inclusion for all through music.



Coty Rulison being interviewed by Spectrum News.

In May, Capital Region Spectrum News published a story and video segment about Transitions, profiling student Coty Rulison as a prime example of the difference the program can make in a young person's life. He described how before the program, he was very shy and didn't know how to achieve his dreams. Now, he is a student ambassador pursuing his bachelor's degree and working toward a career with the Department of Environmental Conservation.



Coty Rulison and Wally Hart on air at WTEN 10, Albany.

In September, Coty Rulison, Transitions student, and Wally Hart, executive director of The Lexington Foundation and Lexington's Division Director for Business and Community Development, appeared on a WTEN News segment promoting Lexington's 2018 Night Out gala, which included fundraising opportunities for the Elmore Transitions Scholarship Fund. Rulison shared part of his success story and detailed how the scholarship fund can help young people like him find success through the program.

THE GREATEST NIGHT OUT – 2018 NIGHT OUT GALA



Performers and guests enjoy the Night Out Gala. Middle row right: Transitions students Olivia Esposito and Eric Noonan perform their rendition of the song "A Million Dreams" from The Greatest Showman for the guests.

On September 20, 2018, nearly 300 guests from the community and Lexington's extended family flooded the grounds and halls of the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts to attend our annual Night Out gala. The theme of this year's festivities was The Greatest Night Out, inspired by the hit movie musical The Greatest Showman. The night was full of roaming circus performers, live music, caricature art, fortune telling, raffles, silent auctions, food and cocktails from Union Hall Inn Restaurant, and many more circus-themed surprises!

The evening's celebratory program included special recognitions of several businesses and individuals who have helped make Lexington what it is today. Assemblyman Marc Butler of the 118th Assembly District received recognition on the eve of his retirement for the more than 20 years of support he has given Lexington as an advocate in the lawmaking sector. Then,

Jack and Shirley Scott, former owners of WENT Radio, were recognized for being champions of Lexington in the media. From the day they bought the station in 1986, they have used their platform to advocate for Lexington and people with disabilities. Most notably, their radio station was the first to ever play a Flame song on the air.

Century Linen & Uniform, a Gloversville business and one of Lexington's employment partners, was named one of The Arc New York's four top employers for 2018. In honor of this, Lexington recognized them and owner Matthew Smith during the celebratory program. Century Linens has a strong record of hiring people with disabilities and currently employs 12 people Lexington supports.

Finally, Lexington honored the life and contributions of the late Brian Hanaburgh. He served on the board of The Lexington



Flame performing for guests. Middle row left: Assemblyman Marc Butler accepting his award. Guests enjoying the event and entertainment.

Foundation for more than 20 years and was also chair of the Transitions and Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts Advisory Boards since the programs were founded in 2015. His guidance and support helped shape Lexington through many years of change and challenges, and his loss is felt by the entire Lexington family.

After the recognitions, Transitions student Eric Noonan took the stage to talk about how the program has changed his life since he first enrolled as a shy, unmotivated teenager. He is now an academically accomplished college student who is actively planning his transfer to a four-year university for a degree in history. After sharing his story, he and fellow Transitions

student Olivia Esposito, an experienced and accomplished actress and vocalist in her own right, performed the song "A Million Dreams" from The Greatest Showman to kick off the Elmore Transitions Scholarship Fund pledge drive.

In total, thanks to our many generous sponsors, donors, volunteers and staff, the gala raised over \$50,000 to provide more and more exciting creative opportunities to the people we support. In addition, \$27,520 was pledged to the Elmore Transitions Scholarship Fund, which helps young people attend the life-changing programs at Transitions.

THE NIGHT DUT IS COMING

Make ready for Lexington's annual NIGHT $\mathbb{O}UT!$

September 19, 2019 | 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Join us for all manner of merriment!

- Jousting
- Duels
- Wandering knights
- Medieval fare
- Specialty drinks
- Fantasy décor
- Antiquated fun
- AND MORE!

We are thrilled to be honoring **Barney** and **Susan Bellinger** for their remarkable generosity and unwavering support of our programs. As artists in residence at the Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts, they have shared their time and talent with Transitions students and other artists, inspiring all. They have also created several permanent installations that have turned our entire campus into an incredible work of art in and of itself. Please join us as we show them our appreciation.

Dress in business attire or medieval garb!

Tickets:

\$100/each | \$75/young professionals | Table sponsoring available

Visit thearclexingtonfoundation.org/2019-night-out for more details and ticket information!

2018 AT THE PAUL NIGRA CENTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS

The Paul Nigra Center for Creative Arts celebrated the third anniversary of its opening in 2018, and things have never been busier! Every month, there have been dozens of classes, concerts, special events and art shows to keep the people we support busy and involved in arts of all kinds.



Transitions student Coty Rulison's felted wool wall hanging, titled "Fuzzy Flowers," was the first piece to sell at the Nigra Arts Center's first-ever Fiber, Textile Art and Quilt Show. It was also featured on the postcard marketing materials for the show.



The Nigra Arts Center hosts regular concerts in its Grand Gallery, some of which include a delicious brunch. Pictured is an audience enjoying the Caroga Lake Music Festival.

This year, the arts center began hosting a variety of special social events to get the people we support spending time together in a different space, enjoying new and fun activities. These included a strawberry festival in the summer, a carnival in the fall, seasonal events featuring crafts and activities related to the holidays, and more! There were also regular opportunities for people to attend events such as Bingo, ladies' spa nights, men's wing nights and more. The arts center even lent out its sprawling campus for fun outdoor activities such as orienteering, paintball and nature walks.

People we support also enjoyed many events at the arts center that were open to the full community. The center's Easter Bunny Family Fun Day in March featured fun crafts, an egg hunt and a Sensory Easter Bunny that gave children with special needs, including those supported by Lexington, the opportunity to meet and take pictures with the Easter Bunny in a quiet, one-on-one environment. Many members of the Lexington family, including employees, Transitions students and Kingsboro Catering staff,

attended the annual Spring Into Fashion show in May and offered their services as waiters, models and food service workers.

The Nigra Arts Center hosted its third annual Senior Soiree at the beginning of summer, and nine people from Senior Day Hab attended for a day of art classes and lunch! They chose from yoga, essential oils, necklace making, dance fitness, cooking, sign making and photography classes. Then, in July, nearly 200 people joined us for our Color Splash Fun Run & Walk. Everyone had a blast making their way through the course and getting splashed with rainbows of color dust!

The annual Zombie Fun Run and Walk in October transformed into an indoor zombie party due to the rain. People we support had an amazing time with pumpkin and face painting, live entertainment, food and other Halloween fun! The last of the year's big events was the Polar Express Celebration, which included an opportunity for children with special needs to meet with a special Sensory Santa away from the crowds.



The Nigra Arts Center holds many special events throughout the year. New in 2018 were dinner theaters in collaboration with Foothills Family Productions, which were an immediate success. Pictured is the recent Murder at Crabby Abbey dinner theater, which brought more than 200 people through our doors!



The Nigra Arts Center is always available to local businesses and individuals for rentals. We have hosted conferences, business retreats, meetings, parties, showers, class reunions, fundraisers, dinners and more. Pictured here is our Grand Gallery decorated for the Mountain Valley Hospice's annual Ladies Luncheon Soiree.

Of course, it wouldn't be an arts center without art exhibitions. The arts center hosted five shows in 2018, including our annual Winter, Fulton-Montgomery and New York State Summer Art Shows. We also hosted our first-ever Fiber, Textile Art and Quilt Show as well as our first solo show featuring the work of Johnstown sculptor and painter Tyler Schrader. Altogether, these shows featured more than a dozen pieces created by people we support, including Joshua Brooks, Lacy Brower, Ross Carangelo, Doug Countryman, Francis Dempsey, Richard Freeman, Faith LaFountain, Coty Rulison, Thelma Senecal, Kashyra Tomlinson and Mikyle Woodward. We also featured several pieces created by people supported by other agencies throughout New York, such as Saratoga Bridges Creative Endeavors Art Center and Opportunities Unlimited of Niagara. All of these pieces hung on the walls alongside the work of esteemed artists from across the state, country and beyond.



Caleb Trigg paints a pumpkin during this year's Zombie Run.



The Nigra Arts Center hosts a number of Lexington's fundraising events, including the annual Spring Into Fashion show. Pictured is Olivia Esposito, a Transitions student, modeling some new spring looks.



Some men and women who attend Lexington's Senior Day Hab, including James Hallett, make bird's nest necklaces at the 2018 Summer Senior Soiree.



It wouldn't be an arts center without art classes! In 2018, the Nigra Arts Center offered dozens of classes every month to people we support and members of the community in every imaginable type of art, from painting and ceramics to cooking and dance. The Nigra Arts Center also offers private classes to groups looking to celebrate or bond as a team. Pictured are the staff from Employment Resources showing off the results of their teambuilding painting class.



The Nigra Arts Center offers day camps for children during breaks from school. The themes of 2018's camps included music, theater, cooking and adventure in the Adirondack outdoors! Pictured are the campers and instructors at the summer's Caroga Lake Music Festival Camp. This all-ages experience gave music lovers the chance to learn about music and performance from highly accomplished chamber musicians. In addition to young musicians from the community, this camp was attended by Heather Purtell, a creative and music-loving young woman who receives services from our sister chapter, The Arc Liberty. Heather had a blast learning about percussion, piano and voice from the professional musicians of the Caroga Lake Music Festival.

Social Events at the Nigra Arts Center

The Nigra Arts Center hosts regular social events for the people we support. These events encourage people to make and socialize with friends while trying new, creative things at the center! Pictured are Chris Phelps and Joe Colby at one of the monthly Men's Nights and Aggie Richards making homemade bath bombs at one of the monthly Ladies' Spa Nights.





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Jeff and Nancy Brown Scott and Andrea Bruce Margaret Butler Mike Butler Kevin Cope Alfred and Veronica D'Alauro Beth DeRosa lason Fllis Rinaldo and Roberta Esposito Rick and Sara Henze Brad and Kristi Hill Stanley and Kathleen Jablonski Kent and Karen Kirch Paul and Kim Kitchen George and Audrey Kline Nancy Kosinski Kathy Manning Kathleen Marshall Keith McCowley Jeff and Anne Niles Robert and Michelle Peryea **Bob and Theresa Poitras** Eugene Reppenhagen and Virginia Mackey Angie Richards Joe and Lori Salamack Judy Schelle Jack and Shirley Scott David and Wendy Swits

Up to \$99

Mina Denton
Rick Gonzales and Laurie Groff
Cecilia Hazzard
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