

## Reporting ZOOM Meeting of 1 March 2021

### Calendar of Events

**Last Week:** 2/22 Paddy Rooney, *A Vision with a Passion*  
**This Week:** 3/1 Mark Sheehan, Schenectady ARC  
**Next Week:** 3/8 Rob Raylman & Guillermo Trujillo, Gift of Life  
**Coming Up:** 3/15 Best Buddies

Note: Regular ZOOM Meetings are held Mondays at 6:00 pm.  
Check your e-mail inbox the day of the meeting for the computer ZOOM ID# and Password, as well as the phone number you can use to phone in if using your cell phone to participate.

*Please give suggestions for future programs to Darlene Bower  
and Dan Stec.*

*Find us at [bhblrotary.org](http://bhblrotary.org) and on Facebook*

*Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create  
lasting change – across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves*

### Mark C. Sheehan – Schenectady ARC

Mark has been honored as Rotarian of the Year (2000), a Paul Harris Fellow (2013) and is past president and a current member of the Schenectady Rotary Club. For over 30 years, Mark has provided vocational rehabilitation services to individuals diagnosed with intellectual and other development disabilities. He currently serves as the Director of New Initiatives for the Schenectady ARC and joined us to share information about what the Schenectady ARC offers. Two staff members joined him: Terra Joy, Director of Employment Services and Nathan Mandsager, the Chief Operating Officer.

Mark briefly reviewed the history of education and services for people with disabilities in Schenectady County and the challenges faced in the 1950's. The Schenectady ARC was started in an effort to improve services and education for children with disabilities. Today the Schenectady ARC has transformed into a much larger organization serving over 1,000 individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. The Schenectady ARC is one of 48 chapters of ARC New York, which provides services to 60,000 individuals. There are over 600 employees employed by the Schenectady ARC.

The Schenectady ARC Horticulture Center at Maple Ridge is a training program for clients to learn about work skills needed in a green house or nursery. Mark shared pictures of the beautiful products created at Maple Ridge.

Nathan shared information about another workforce training program held at Pine Ridge Industries in Scotia. This is a production and manufacturing center that partners with businesses to accelerate their goals while employing people with disabilities in meaningful work. One of their products is a pipette used in medical testing. This year they have been busier than ever since these pipettes are used in Covid testing. Terra shared information about employment services for clients including: finding employment for clients; providing job coaching support services; and vocational education services that strive to teach transferable employment skills. A vocational evaluator completes career and work-based assessments for students transitioning from secondary education systems. The ARC works with multiple companies in the area to create partnerships and placements for clients. The Schenectady ARC works with Schenectady County Schools to provide student work experience programs that provide hands-on community based work experiences for students. Students learn new work skills, work behaviors and social skills through a career readiness curriculum.

Other services offered through the ARC include Day Habilitation Services – basic fundamental skills; Life Prep – a transitional program for students who completed high school; Citi Club – teaches individuals about local communities for those thinking of retirement; Discovery Academy – at Union College; The College Success Program – supports students with autism to attend college; Sense-able Science – a partnership with miSci providing students with autism a science-based program; there are also 21 ARC group homes throughout Schenectady.

### Announcements

- Gini and Rey Whetten will deliver the food donations this week.
- Gini reported that she will make a delivery of Care Cards to Gateway on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Cards with a focus on St. Patrick's Day or bright and positive cards would be appreciated.
- Baskets and items have been donated for a fundraiser for Keith Clement. More info to come.
- Money is also being donated for the postage for Books for Troops.
- Darlene announced that a Rotary Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 11 at 4:30 pm
- April 21<sup>st</sup> Drive Through Dinner at BH-BL—Chicken Parm, Eggplant Parm, Shepherd's Pie, Crab Baked Shrimp. Sponsor a meal for a hungry neighbor of family meal.



*Reported by Maryellen Symer*

*Serve with us – the world is waiting*