



The Arc of Blackstone Valley LIVE · LEARN · WORK · PLAY Resource

SPRING | 2023 A PUBLICATION FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE ARC OF BLACKSTONE VALLEY

A life-long interest sparks a job opportunity

For anyone who has had a chance to spend time with Joseph “Joe” Golia, they have quickly realized that he has a great affinity for almost anything to do with cars – especially muscle cars. Joe states that he watched his uncle restore a classic car at a young age. This experience helped to spark a love for automobiles that has stayed with him ever since.

Joe began receiving services from the Arc of Blackstone Valley in 2013. In 2015 Joe notified his team that he wanted help to fulfill his dream of obtaining a driver's license. With the help of the Arc staff, Joe worked for over a year studying for and then finally passed both the written exam and road test to earn his driving license in 2017.

After obtaining his license, Joe set his sights on finding a job so that he could save up to buy his dream car, a Chevy Camaro.



However, his journey to finding a job that he truly enjoyed was not always an easy one. Amongst other things, Joe tried training for several jobs in food service, however, none of the placements felt ‘right’ and then the pandemic hit putting Joe’s aspirations on hold. Following the easing of the Covid pandemic, Joe began his search for a job again with the help of the Arc’s Director of Employment Services, Scott Brousseau.

Scott recognized that to make Joe successful, he needed to match Joe’s interests with the job search.

In July of 2022, Scott and the employment team helped Joe obtain a job at Action Auto Parts located on Carpenter St. in Providence. Joe’s job at Action Auto Parts is a perfect fit for his interests and skills.



In his role, Joe is responsible to help maintain both the inside and the outside of the building and he has now begun helping to stock the shelves with auto parts such as brake pads and rotors – something that he hopes to do more of in the future. Joe’s supervisors report that “he does everything asked of him –very well”.

Recently, Joe asked Operations Manager, Alyssa, if he could work more hours, demonstrating that he is motivated to work and wants to continue to grow in his job. With the support of the Arc and his colleagues at Action Auto Parts, there is no doubt that Joe will continue to succeed in his career.

Joe’s story is a testament to the importance of matching a person’s interests and skills with their job search. When individuals are allowed to work in fields they are passionate about, they are more likely to be successful and fulfilled in their careers.

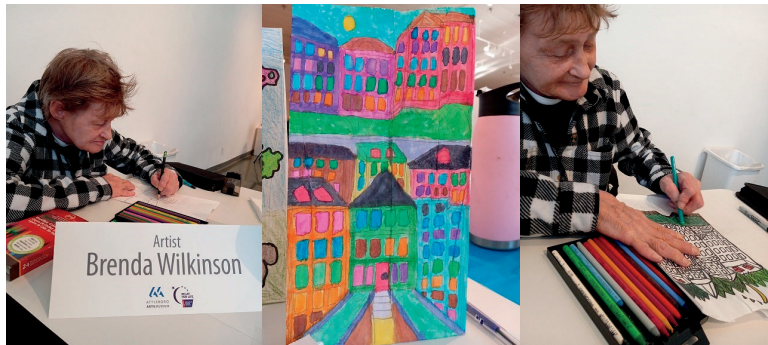
Joe’s love of cars has led him to a job that he enjoys and is motivated to stay at, and he is an inspiration to others who are searching for employment opportunities that align with their interests and skills.



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Flying Shuttles Artists Exhibit Works

In late December, two of our Flying Shuttles artists participated in the Members' Exhibition at The Attleboro Arts Museum. Brenda Wilkinson and Roy Wood provided two pieces of art each.

The artworks were for show and available for sale during the Members' Exhibition.

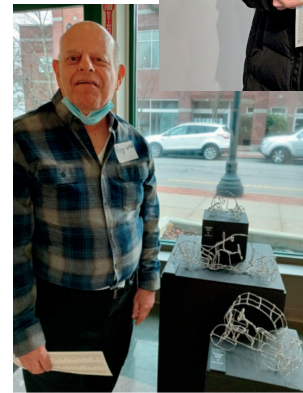


Attleboro Winter Festival

Flying Shuttles artist, Brenda Wilkinson participated in the city of Attleboro's Winter Festival in January. This event benefited Relay for Life. Brenda is shown above creating a luminaria to be used at the event. Many other area artists participated in the event. The luminaria pieces will be on display at the Attleboro Public Library until the Relay on June 16-17.

Brenda's artworks are displayed behind her on her left shoulder and right elbow.

Roy's works, shown to his left, "Wire Mini Buggy" and "Car Made of Wire", sold in late December.



12 Weeks of Giving

Thanks to the generosity of our donors the 12 Weeks of Giving campaign was once again a huge success! Individuals enjoyed numerous meaningful activities throughout the holiday season making spirits bright!

Great job, Brenda and Roy!



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Our programs have been active in the community, learning new skills, and having fun

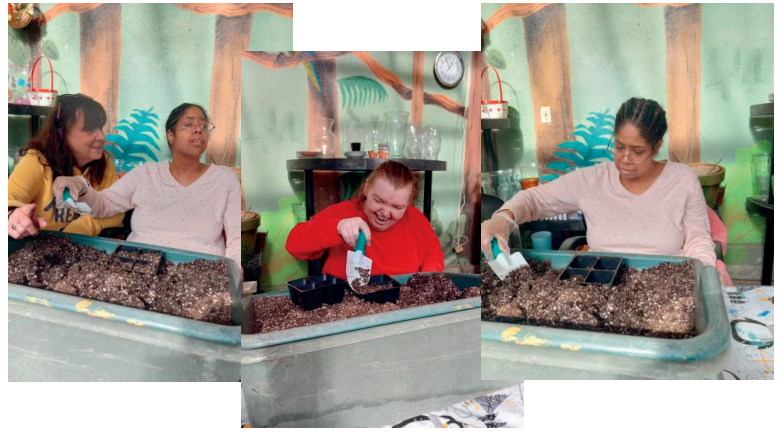
Learning CPR

Program director, Lisa Brien, far left, works with Scott Aruda, left, on finding the heartbeat in CPR training. Ron Pate successfully deploys the AED machine on the manikin during CPR training.



Spring Planting

Pictured below are (left to right), Program Director, Lisa Brien, Dot, Paula, and Dot again working on spring planting in the greenhouse at Daggett Farms.



Aqua Aerobics

Scott and Tom have been going to aqua aerobics at PODS Swimming in East Providence. They enjoy the workout, and being a part of the community.

COMING SOON!

"As a people, we Americans are committed morally and ethically to the proposition that each man and woman is entitled to the opportunity to realize his best capabilities."
- John E. Fogarty



Thanks to the generosity of the John E. Fogarty Foundation, the **Flying Shuttles Art and Weaving Studio** will soon have an online marketplace to showcase their works!



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Letter from the CEO



As we move into the warmer months, I hope you are enjoying the good weather and looking forward to a great spring and summer. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and are committed to continuing our work to support the people in our community.

I am pleased to share with you the incredible success of our 12 Weeks of Giving campaign. Thanks to your generous contributions, we were able to provide countless individuals with the opportunity to enjoy a range of activities in their communities throughout the holiday season, from hayrides to holiday parties at the Riviera, complete with great food and dancing. We are truly grateful to everyone who helped make this campaign such a success.

While we celebrate the wonderful results of our holiday campaign, we must also look to the future and consider how we can continue to improve the lives of those we serve. That is why we are proud to support upcoming legislation in the Rhode Island General Assembly: Senate Bill S0782 and House Bill H5987. These bills will help to invest in the Health and Human Services sector, providing critical resources and support for individuals and families who need it most. By supporting these bills, we can help ensure everyone in our community has access to the care and support they need to thrive. Please be sure to reach out to your legislators and let them know that you support these bills.

On another note, I am thrilled to share some exciting news with you. As of June 1st, the Flying Shuttles Art and Weaving studio will be moving to its new location at 390 Pine Street in Pawtucket. This move will allow us to serve our community better and expand our programs and services. Please be sure to stop by the new location this summer and support all of our talented artists. In addition, we are grateful for the support of the Fogarty Foundation, which has provided us with a grant that will enable us to launch an online marketplace for our artists in the near future. This exciting development will create new opportunities for our artists to showcase and sell their work, and we are thrilled to be able to offer this platform to our community.

I also want to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to all of our staff for the outstanding work that they do every day. Their hard work, dedication, and compassion make it possible for us to deliver the best possible care and support to the people we serve. We are fortunate to have such an incredible team, and on behalf of the leadership team, I thank them for their unwavering commitment to our mission.

Sincerely,

John J. Padden III
Chief Executive Officer



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Thank you to our Generous Donors

Donations of \$100 or more from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022

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In memory of

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- **Raymond Duffy**, given by Mr. and Mrs. Dewolfe, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Duffy, Carol Roach, Kevin Duffy, and Mr. and Mrs. Wotherspoon
- **Joanne Griffin**, given by William and Carolyn Fasano
- **David O'Malley**, given by Gabrielle Gura Gold, Alex and Maurin Stone, and Karen Muchunas
- **Linda Provost**, given by Barbara Hanley
- **Cheryl Stanley** given by Donna and Paul Bahry



Thanks to Pepsico Foundation and the John E. Fogarty Foundation for sponsoring our employment videos!



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