



*Opportunity in
North Central Massachusetts*

564 Main Street
Fitchburg, MA 01420

Achieve with us.

RECREATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT NEWSLETTER

November 2016 and December 2016

Family Support Calendar

November & December

Greetings one and all,

Self-Advocacy Support group WILL meet on November 9th and December 14th.

They will continue on the 2nd Wednesday of each month thereafter. This is a support group for people 16 and older who receive supports and are interested in understanding their Rights and Responsibilities. This group meets from 5-6:30PM. Park in rear and **use the Reception entrance – on far left when facing The Arc from the back parking lot (closest to Espresso Pizza).**

The group typically orders take-out for dinner (optional).

Non-Disability specific group: WILL next meet Thursday, November 3rd and December 1st. They will continue on the first Thursday of the month thereafter. Typically this group meets at the Lawrence Library in Pepperell from 10AM-12PM. For information contact Nancy Hanley @ 978-582-6203.

Caregivers for people OVER 22: WILL meet Thursday November 3rd and December 1st from 10 to 11:30 AM. They will continue on the first Thursday of the month thereafter. Typically this is a support group for family members & caregivers of an adult with an intellectual or developmental disability. This group has lots of history and experience. Adult siblings are also encouraged to attend and share stories, triumphs, and roadblocks. This group is family driven; at times we have guest speakers come in and assist with concerns.

Monthly Dances is November 4th, at The Knights of Columbus on 165 Electric Ave., Fitchburg. The building is accessible. Dances are from 7PM- 9:30PM and admission is \$7.00. Paid admission includes a drink and snack. Admission for families/staff/providers/respite workers etc. is complimentary but we do ask those with free admission to pay \$1.00 for a drink and/or snack at break time. **Please do not arrive before 6:45PM and please be sure all pick-up rides arrive by 9:30PM.** We would remind people that no one under the age of 16 **attend or “visit” the dance (including family members).** Anyone who needs assistance or who does not have sufficient “community unsupervised time”, needs to be accompanied by family/staff/provider for the duration of the evening. Those who are ‘independent’ and unaccompanied should carry identification with emergency contact information. Thank you.

PLEASE note that you can access each bi-monthly Newsletter on-line at www.arcofopportunity.org through the Recreation section. This way you get the FULL COLOR, ‘original’ version as soon as it’s posted on the web site. If you need assistance navigating the web site, give Madeline a call. If you click on ‘Services’, then ‘Recreation’, then ‘Newsletter’ you can see all the details herein. For an overview, click on ‘Events Calendar’ to the left.



Save The Date for The Arc's Holiday Dance!

Friday, December 16

6-10p

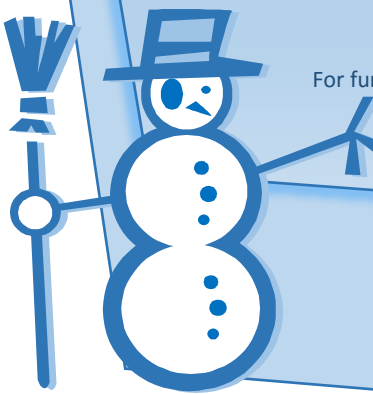
Great Wolf Lodge New England
150 Great Wolf Drive
Fitchburg, MA 01420

Please join us for a magical night filled with friends and family.
There will be dinner, drinks, and plenty of dancing!

Cost per person: \$30

For further information please contact Madeline Merchant at

m.merchant@arcofopportunity.org or 978-343-6662 x1011



Please RSVP by Wednesday, November 30th, 2016

Name: _____

Number of Tickets: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

I will dance if you play _____





The Arc of Opportunity-
Family Support & Recreation
Madeline Merchant
978-343-6662 ext 1011

WEEKEND REMINDERS: PLEASE CALL BY 3PM FRIDAYS TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION-

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED - limit is 18 participants per activity

Dues \$10.00 per day Please pay on the day you are attending. **ACTIVITY FEE IS IN ADDITION TO THE DAILY DUES.**

Meals are included in activity fees.

HOURS - SATURDAYS: 1:00PM - 7:00PM unless otherwise noted

LOCATION: The Arc of Opportunity, 564 Main St., Fitchburg. Enter through reception area in rear.

Family Support/Recreation Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thursday	Fri	Saturday
		1	2	3 Non Disability-Specific Support Group Pepperell 10AM-12PM <hr/> Caregivers for People over 22 10-11:30AM @The Arc, Fitchburg Bowling @ Masons	4 90s Dance! 7-9:30pm  @ Knights of Columbus Fitchburg, MA	5 Weekend Recreation Dues \$10 Fitchburg State University Men's Ice Hockey Game vs. Framingham State Go Falcons! Activity Fee : \$15
6	7	8	9 Self Advocacy Group 5-6:30p @ The Arc, Fitchburg	10 Bowling @ Masons 	11 Veteran's Day	12 Weekend Recreation Dues \$10 Dinner and a Movie!  Activity Fee : \$20
13	14	15	16	17 Bowling @ Masons 	18	19 REC TIME CHANGE 11am – 5pm Thanksgiving Harvest Festival @ Red Apple Farm Arc Annual Auction @ Great Wolf Lodge
20	21	22	23	24 No Bowling Thanksgiving Eve	25 	26 NO REC CLUB ACTIVITY Thanksgiving Weekend
27	28	29	30			

In the event of inclement weather or other unanticipated circumstances, Weekend Recreation Club Staff reserve the right to adjust scheduled activities



The Arc of Opportunity-
Family Support & Recreation
Madeline Merchant
978-343-6662 ext 1011

Family Support/Recreation Calendar

**WEEKEND REMINDERS: PLEASE CALL BY 3PM FRIDAYS TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION-
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED - limit is 18 participants per activity**

Dues \$10.00 per day Please pay on the day you are attending. **ACTIVITY FEE IS IN ADDITION TO THE DAILY DUES.**
Meals are included in activity fees.

HOURS - SATURDAYS: 1:00PM - 7:00PM unless otherwise noted

LOCATION: The Arc of Opportunity, 564 Main St., Fitchburg. Enter through reception area in rear.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thursday	Fri	Saturday
Return From Bright Nights Overnight Trip				1 Bowling @ Masons  Non Disability- Specific Support Group Pepperell <u>10AM-12PM</u> Caregivers for People over 22 <u>10-11:30AM</u> @The Arc, Fitchburg	2  Don't Forget to schedule Dial-A- Ride For your bowler for December	3 Weekend Recreation Dues \$10 NO REC CLUB ACTIVITY Bright Nights Overnight Trip
4	5	6	7	8 Bowling @ Masons 	9	10 Weekend Recreation Dues \$10 Holiday Dinner and Caroling Activity Fee : \$25
11	12	13	14 Self Advocacy Group <u>5-6:30p</u> @ The Arc, Fitchburg	15 Bowling @ Masons 	16 Holiday Dinner Dance! 	17 NO WEEKEND REC Children's Holiday Party 2-4pm 
18	19	20	21	22 NO BOWLING TODAY	23	24 NO REC CLUB ACTIVITY CHRISTMAS EVE
25 	26	27	28	29 Bowling @ Masons 	30	31 NO REC CLUB ACTIVITY NEW YEARS EVE

In the event of inclement weather or other unanticipated circumstances, Weekend Recreation Club Staff reserve the right to adjust scheduled activities

Sensory Friendly Performance: Mary Poppins is coming to Theatre at the Mount!



Theatre at the Mount is hosting another Sensory Friendly Performance, Mary Poppins, in their newly renovated auditorium on Saturday, December 3, 2016 at 2:00pm.

Tickets are only \$10 per person!

The Arc has a small scholarship fund to help those families in need with the cost of the show. Please contact Madeline Merchant at 978-343-6662 X1011 to inquire.

Tickets are on sale now at <http://mwcc.edu/tam/shows/>. Wheelchair space is limited.



The 2016 Arc of Opportunity Food Drive

- We are sponsoring a Holiday Food Drive to create baskets of holiday foods for children with disabilities and their families and/or those experiencing financial difficulties/unusual needs during this holiday season.
- We encourage foods such as - canned ham, canned or boxed potatoes, canned sweet potatoes, canned vegetables, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, pie crusts and fillings, juice, etc to be donated. Gift certificates to local grocery stores for turkeys or other needed items are also much appreciated.
- Drop off your donations at The Arc of Opportunity, 161 Boulder Drive Fitchburg, between 9am and 3pm by December 13th.
- Family support and day program staff along with individuals in our community-based day programs will create the baskets and ensure that families receive them in time for the holidays.

Please consider donating an item or two to help another family be able to enjoy a happy, satisfying holiday!

THANK YOU!!



The Arc of Opportunity Annual Giving Tree

Our Family Support & Recreation Program is coordinating a toy campaign!

- We are sponsoring a **HOLIDAY GIVING TREE** to collect gifts for children with disabilities and their siblings and/or those experiencing financial difficulties or unusual needs during this holiday season.
- Trees will be set up at:
 - Fuzzy's Place**, 100 Main St Fitchburg
 - Workers Credit Union**, 815 Main St. Fitchburg
 - Rollstone Bank & Trust**, 780 Main St., Fitchburg
 - The Arc of Opportunity**, 564 Main St, Fitchburg.
- To participate, all you have to do is select an ornament tag from the tree. Ornaments can be selected by individuals, families, work groups, programs, etc. Each tag will have the sex and age of a child needing gifts along with some suggestions for gifts that child might enjoy.
- Once you have shopped for the child whose tag you selected, please attach the tag to your **UNWRAPPED** gift(s) and place them in the toy box near the Giving Tree.
- Our Family Support staff will match the gifts and children and distribute them in time for Christmas. We ask that all gifts be returned no later than Tuesday, December 13, 2016.

Please consider stopping by at one of the above locations, selecting an ornament, and making a child's Christmas brighter!

The Arc of Opportunity's Annual Giving Tree

Our Family Support & Recreation Program is coordinating a toy campaign!



We are again sponsoring a HOLIDAY GIVING TREE to collect gifts for children with disabilities and their siblings and/or those experiencing financial difficulties or unusual needs during this holiday season.

It's as easy as...

1. **Take an ornament of an individual.**
 - a. Ornaments can be selected by individuals, families, work groups, programs, etc.
 - b. Each tag will have the sex and age of a child needing gifts along with some suggestions for gifts that child might enjoy
2. Once you have shopped for the child whose tag you selected, please attach the tag to your UNWRAPPED gift(s) and place them in the toy box near the Giving Tree or to The Arc of Opportunity located at 564 Main Street (Use Boulder Drive Entrance).
3. PUT A SMILE ON THEIR FACE and nice feeling in your heart! 😊

We ask that all gifts be returned no later than Tuesday, December 13, 2016.

It is that time of the year again for our ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIVING TREE! Our Annual Giving Tree supports families who are experiencing financial difficulty during the holiday.

If you and your family are in need this holiday season, fill out the form below. The more details, the better we can try to meet your requests. Families are also welcome to make a donation of a canned good or toy if you wish to do so. Any questions call Madeline 978-343-6662 ext. 1011. Please return back no later than **November 19** to:



The Arc's Family Support Department 564 Main St.

Fitchburg, MA

Giving Tree Form for Families
(use back of form if more space needed)



Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____ # of Children: _____

1.) Child's Name: _____ Gender: M F Race: _____ Age: _____

Gift Suggestions: _____

Special Needs? (Circle One): Yes No Age Range of Gifts (if different from actual age): _____

Clothing Size: (ex. 14 boys, 3T): Pants: _____ Shirts: _____ Coat: _____ Shoe Size: _____

2.) Child's Name: _____ Gender: M F Race: _____ Age: _____

Gift Suggestions: _____

Special Needs? (Circle One): Yes No Age Range of Gifts (if different from actual age): _____

Clothing Size: (ex. 14 boys, 3T): Pants: _____ Shirts: _____ Coat: _____ Shoe Size: _____

3.) Child's Name: _____ Gender: M F Race: _____ Age: _____

Gift Suggestions: _____

Special Needs? (Circle One): Yes No Age Range of Gifts (if different from actual age): _____

Clothing Size: (ex. 14 boys, 3T): Pants: _____ Shirts: _____ Coat: _____ Shoe Size: _____



The Arc of Opportunity invites you to our annual
CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY

(Children up through age 12)

Saturday, December 17, 2016

2:00-4:00 PM

The Arc of Opportunity, 564 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA

(Please enter through Reception rear door off of Boulder Drive)

This party is open to all *children under 12 with a diagnosed disability* and their family members; siblings are welcome and encouraged to attend. **Pre-registration is required. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Santa will be making an appearance.** Gifts will be provided for all pre-registered children through age 12. In order for children to receive a gift, reservations must be made by **November 25th.**

Light snacks will be served.

Please RSVP by November 28th on our website www.arcofopportunity.org or return the form below by mail to: Family Support Department,
The Arc, 564 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420.



Call 978-343-6662



Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

e-mail _____

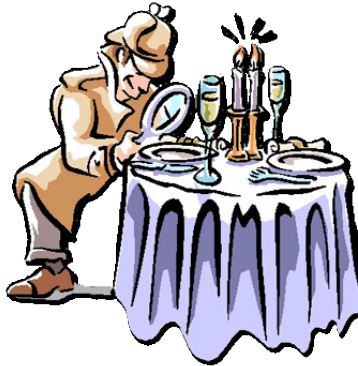
Number of people attending: _____

List name and age of each child (12 and under) attending (use reverse if needed)

Please make suggestions for gifts for each child next to their name

The Arc of Opportunity is excited to announce
our upcoming revamped annual auction.

"Trial & Error" **Mystery Dinner Theater & Auction**



Disorder in the court! Due to unusual circumstances, court is now being held at the Great Wolf Lodge! Welcome to the most ridiculous, most hilarious miscarriage of the justice system ever! Hilarity triumphs over due process every time in this semi-legal thriller. Get ready because you may need to testify. Who knows you might even be the murderer yourself! Welcome to "Trial and Terror," a new courtroom trauma from Steve Houston and BrickRoad Productions.

Saturday, November 19, 2016
Great Wolf Lodge, Fitchburg MA
Doors open at 6:00pm

The evening will include a three course meal, live mystery dinner theater by Brickroad Productions, a live auction, and theme basket raffles.



Online event registration opens on September 1, 2016.

Tickets must be purchased no later than
November 1, 2016 with meal selection.
Ticket are not available at the door.

For sponsorship opportunities, to make a donation for the live auction or theme basket raffle, contact Jennifer Peck at 978-343-6662 X1050 or j.peck@arcofoportunity.org.

Please note: We are asking that if you wish to donate an item for the live auction to contact Jennifer Peck before forwarding to The Arc as we have a limited number of items being auctioned off.