



The Arc of Chemung
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Achieve with us.®

For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

TO: News Editors
DATE: May 17, 2016
CONTACT: Missy Goetschius, Public Relations Director, The Arc of Chemung
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RE: *The Arc of Chemung Earns OSHA Recognition for 20 Consecutive Years*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Elmira, NY – The Arc of Chemung is pleased announce that for the 20th year in a row, it has earned renewal of its recognition in the United States Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP). The SHARP program recognizes companies for their efforts to create a safe workplace, who have accident rates that are below the national standard, and who go above and beyond the OSHA requirements to create a safe workplace.

When receiving its first SHARP award in 1996, The Arc of Chemung was the first Arc in New York State to receive the award. From the beginning, the Agency has implemented cutting edge programs and opportunities for individuals with disabilities and our staff to participate in safety initiatives. Some milestones achieved during the period include:

- Creation of a safety committee that has met continuously for the past 21 years;
- Creation of an accident reporting and investigation process;
- Involvement of individuals with disabilities in reviewing and training others in safety topics;
- Receipt of the Donald G. Schell Safety Award for outstanding safety programs; and
- Development and Implementation of a train the trainer program to help individuals to recognize safe/unsafe conditions in their workplace.

Today, the Agency Safety Initiatives have expanded. The original Safety Committee has become the Risk Management Team. This team oversees smaller safety groups including: Workplace Violence; Slips, Trips and Falls; Lifting and Transferring; Vehicle Safety; Fire Safety and the Betty Butz Center Safety Team. Participation in safety initiatives have expanded and as an Agency we have remained engaged in creating a safe workplace.

“Achieving this continuous recognition over the past 20 years has been a credit to management commitment and involvement,” said Kevin Wolfe, The Arc of Chemung’s Facility and Safety Services Director. “Often organizations receive the SHARP award and the next year, because of accidents or declining quality in safety programs the company, will fall out of the program. This commitment has lead to consistently high performance from annual evaluations from NYSDOL auditors. The excellence we have achieved is a reflection on the commitment of staff and individuals at every level,” Wolfe added.





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ABOUT THE ARC OF CHEMUNG

Founded in 1953, The Arc of Chemung is a person-centered, not for profit organization committed to meeting the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in the Chemung County area. The agency provides quality supports and opportunities for individual growth for every person supported by means of education, increased community acceptance and participation.

The Arc of Chemung supports nearly 800 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families annually. Learn more at www.arcofchemung.org. *The Arc of Chemung is a chapter of the state agency, NYSARC, Inc. and is nationally accredited by The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL).*