

2022 Annual Report



coarc

Expanding abilities one person at a time

A chapter of  **The Arc**
New York

Our mission

To expand abilities, one person at a time, so people experiencing disabilities can achieve their personal goals.



Our vision

To be an ethical organization that is a part of a society that recognizes people with different degrees of abilities as full contributing members of their community.



Message from the Board President

Success. How do we define this word when it's such a personal concept?

Graduation cards often say, "I wish you continued success!" Retirement cards say, "What a successful career!"

But if you were to ask 20 people for a definition of success, you would get 20 different answers. The majority of us have been taught that success is something you strive for, the pinnacle to which you climb.

At Coarc, we're fortunate to witness on a daily basis successes both big and small.

Success at Coarc means a child is now ready for kindergarten, or someone has made a lifelong friendship, or started a first job in the community. It means having a beautiful piece of art that you painted framed and hung in a gallery. It means being responsible for taking care of your own room and completing everyday tasks. It means being elected by your peers to represent them in decision making that matters to you.

Success is achieved by our staff as they work through trainings to the next level of competency in their career. It means even after a ransomware attack that could have crippled our agency, Coarc staff did not miss a paycheck and the people who depend on our support continued receiving services without a glitch.

At Coarc, success means we work as a team and as a family, and continue to be a vital part of our community. The success of our agency as a whole is a direct reflection of the daily successes of our staff and the people we support.

Thank you to every single person who contributes to Coarc's success and congratulations to every single person we serve on your achievements throughout this year!

Dodie Wheeler
President of the
Board of Directors
Coarc



Message from the CEO

People living with disabilities, like everyone else, want connection, inclusion, and a sense of belonging. Here at Coarc, we strive to help people with intellectual and developmental differences to be part of their communities and make meaningful connections. An important measure of success for our agency is how effective we are in our person-centered pursuit of full community integration and acceptance for the people we support.

There's a big difference between living in a community and participating fully in one's community.

We cannot achieve true community integration for the people we support unless we work to overcome hurdles to their participation in their neighborhoods, whether that includes attending community events, volunteering, joining together to celebrate special occasions, or just having a friendly chat. People living in our 28 Individual Residential Alternatives (IRAs) and supported apartments throughout Columbia County deserve the same opportunities as their neighbors.

This year's Annual Report is filled with examples of how people with differing abilities are supported by our agency to be fully included members of their communities. The Coarc Café at Columbia-Greene Community College opened in 2022. It gives people in our supported employment program both work opportunities and the chance to establish relationships with students and faculty on campus.

Our Dayhab Without Walls participants volunteered throughout 2022 with Meals on Wheels and delivered hundreds of meals to Columbia County's senior citizens. Our young people in Ability Link learned life skills and were supported in gaining work experience with our many business partners. Preschoolers at The Starting Place graduated with the skills they need to thrive alongside their peers in public school.

Please join me in celebrating our agency's achievements in helping people, regardless of their level of ability, feel that they belong.

Ken Stall
Chief Executive Officer
Coarc



Ability Link

The opportunity for Terry to develop work skills, make art, and follow his dreams

Terry Shedrick has big plans for his future. He began his journey with Coarc as a preschooler at The Starting Place and now, as a young adult, he is excited to enter the workforce while continuing to flourish as an artist.

“Work is meaningful to me because it helps me to build my skills,” Terry said. “My goals for the future are to work on my art skills, travel, and be independent.”

Beginning in 2016, Terry participated in Coarc’s School to Work program. After graduating from the Taconic Hills Central School District in 2019, Terry enrolled in Coarc’s Ability Link and Community Habilitation programs. Ability Link serves as a bridge for young people as they transition from high school to adulthood. Through both programs, Terry has learned vocational and independent living skills while having the opportunity to socialize with his peers and be a part of his community.

Terry has a close relationship with his mother, Sue Ann Shedrick, who expressed gratitude for how much Coarc has helped Terry develop his independence.



Terry —

I like doing art work the best

Work is meaningful to me because it help as I did in school, it help me build my skills

My goals for the future are to work on my art skills, travel, and be independent

"Coarc has been meaningful to our family by giving us the support and help we need to help Terry meet his full potential," she explains. "When your child is autistic, a big worry is how to help your child learn to take care of themselves, especially when they reach adulthood."

Sue Ann, a homemaker and mother of three, now has peace of mind thanks to both Terry's hard work and Coarc's dedicated support staff.

"Terry has really progressed over the years," Sue Ann has observed. "He has taken on more responsibilities at home, taking care of himself and helping with chores like laundry and gardening. Terry enjoys preparing food and Ability Link has taught him cooking skills, as well as giving Terry opportunities to develop his artistic talents."

For the past two years, Terry has participated in Coarc's Pathway to Employment program, where he continued to learn work and social skills through community activities and work assessments. In the coming years, Terry will have the opportunity to move forward to Coarc's Supported Employment program, through which he plans to begin a paid six-month internship working in packaging and shipping at Bio Force USA in Ghent. Following the internship, Terry will be eligible to become fully employed at Bio Force.

"Coarc's employment programs have helped Terry by letting him try different types of jobs to see where his strengths are and what jobs he enjoys most," said Sue Ann. "The job coaches have benefitted Terry by giving him job support while also encouraging Terry to be as independent as he is comfortable with."

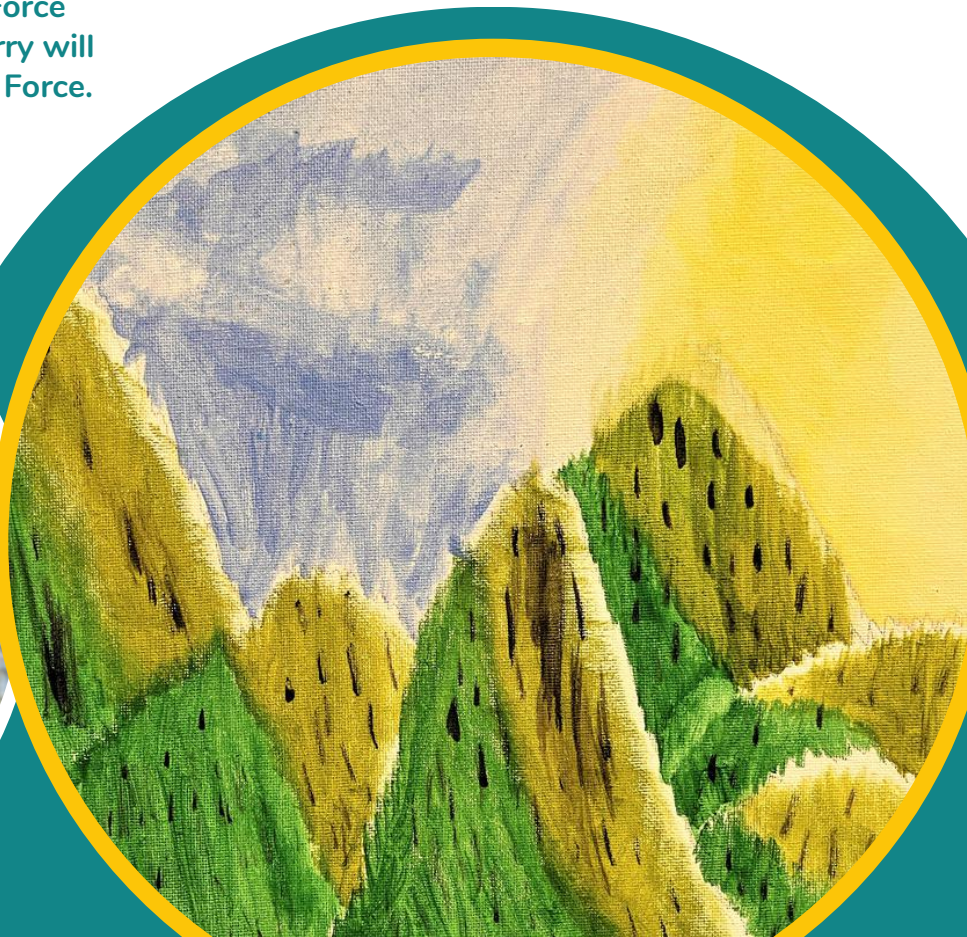
While Terry is determined to work toward his goals each day, he also makes time to enjoy life by pursuing his passion for drawing and painting.

One sunny spring day, Sue Ann sat beside Terry at a local park. He focused on drawing intricately detailed anime characters in a notebook filled with sketches. He says he keeps his cell phone nearby to look at Pinterest photos for reference.

As Sue Ann watched Terry carefully focus on his artwork, she beamed with pride. Wrapping her arm gently around Terry, she leaned her head on his shoulder.

"I am so proud of you, Terry," she said. "I always tell you how proud I am of you."

Terry looked at her and smiled. "I know, Mom."



The Starting Place

The opportunity for Gabriel to enjoy a lifetime of learning and friendship



When Gabriel first arrived at The Starting Place, he was experiencing developmental delays. But with the help of teachers, specialists and support staff, Gabriel has thrived at The Starting Place.

“Gabriel started as a very shy little boy, but has emerged into a social, friendly, kind person who is able to make many friends,” said Director of Children’s Services Christine Bower-Kirch.

At first, Gabriel would only engage in solitary play. He was hesitant to play with peers or participate in group activities. With practice, Gabriel learned how to initiate play with his classmates.

During the school day, Gabriel enjoys learning. He loves drawing, has learned how to spell his name, can read the names of colors, and confidently expresses his wants and needs.

“The Starting Place has helped Gabriel so much,” says his mother, Heather Rook. “He was pretty much nonverbal when he started. Then he blossomed and improved so much because of the program.”

Gabriel’s next adventure is kindergarten, where he will surely continue to build on his accomplishments!



Coarc Café

The opportunity for Peter to experience meaningful work and build lasting connections

Coarc Café opened at Columbia-Greene Community College in November 2022. The café, located next door to CGCC's cafeteria and open during the spring and fall semesters, serves as an opportunity to promote employment skills through Coarc's Supported Employment Services.

Peter Dunton worked at the café once a week alongside support staff. This was a new experience for Peter, who typically works at Coarc Manufacturing through Prevocational Services.

"I do inventory stuff, like drinks, cereal bars, cereals, oatmeal, chips, and the cash register," Peter explained.

The café is also an opportunity for people in the Supported Employment program to participate in the larger community. When CGCC students and faculty visit the café, the people Coarc supports can develop new friendships.

"Our family has been so appreciative of the services that Peter has received at Coarc. His work and social skills continue to improve with staff support," said Peter's mother, Sallee Dunton. "On behalf of our entire family, thank you all for your dedication to improving the life of our loved one."



Community
partner
spotlight

Art Omi: Education



In partnership with Coarc, Art Omi: Education offers opportunities for creativity, collaboration and connection to people in our day habilitation programs.

Twice a month, Art Omi instructors visit our Fusion and Evergreen Hall day programs and teach art techniques using a variety of mediums.

“We’ve had this partnership since 2010 and because of this, we’ve developed relationships here,” said Director of Art Omi: Education Sasha Sicurella.

By creating mobile project kits and visiting Coarc’s day programs, Sasha helps make art more accessible by removing the challenges that can come with transportation logistics.

“Coarc is one way we bring art off-site and into the community,” said Sasha. “By coming here, we can double the number of participants.”

Sasha and her staff have also facilitated other opportunities for creative expression at Coarc. Over the years, people supported have been invited to attend art openings featuring their own original projects at Art Omi in Ghent.

“The art is more powerful because of our relationships,” Sasha explains.

According to the organization: “Through creative exploration, hands-on learning and making experiences, collaboration, and critical thinking, Art Omi: Education instills understanding, appreciation, and lifelong curiosity in the arts.”



2022



Self-Direction participant Stephen Hutchings won silver and bronze medals at a jiu jitsu tournament.

Ability Link participants Kristyn Johnson, Jacob Harty and Kaitlyn Kastner earned CPR and First Aid certifications.



NYS OPWDD Commissioner Kerri Neifeld toured Coarc's facilities and learned more about our day habilitation programs, community employment services and Coarc Manufacturing.

Coarc's Direct Support Professionals advanced their careers through the National Alliance of Direct Support Professionals' (NADSP) E-Badge Academy credentialing program.



Training Specialist Alexxis Hoernes, DSP Daniel Branton and DSP Brittany Hedin earned Strategies for Crisis Intervention Prevention (SCIP) instructor certifications.



Darren Elmendorf made dinner on the grill for his housemates on a sunny spring evening.



Kentavis Newkirk made milkshakes to share with his friends in our community habilitation program.

The year in photos



Columbia County students were awarded The Kathelyn Caswell Memorial Scholarship, The Mary Markowitz Memorial Scholarship, and the ACES Determination Scholarship.



Our Junior DSP program provided local high school students the opportunity to gain work experience in the human services field.



Staff at The Starting Place, Columbia County's only full-service special education preschool, helped students have a year filled with play, curiosity, fun, and learning.



Fusion day hab participants met actors from The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, who performed the Wizard of Oz at Coarc.



Richie Morcie enjoyed playing songs on his guitar during the snowy days of winter.



96 golfers played in the 15th annual Coarc Opportunees Gerald J. Dieffenbach Memorial Golf Tournament.



Nanook
By Bianca Kosnick



Stormy Sky
By Skyler Wanek



Ocean Jellyfish
By Nuzat Yesmin



The Mushroom & the Frog
By Willie VanNess



The Horoscope
By Jacob Harty



Mayall's Tale
By Terry Shedrick



The Rainbow Connection
By Austin Merritt



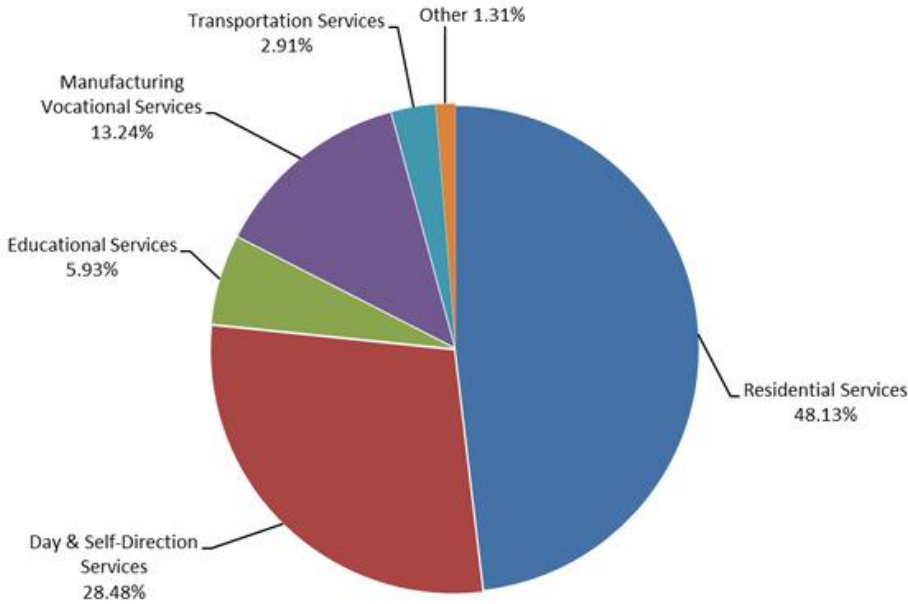
Moonshine
By Thomas Wright



Coral Reef
By Elena Campion

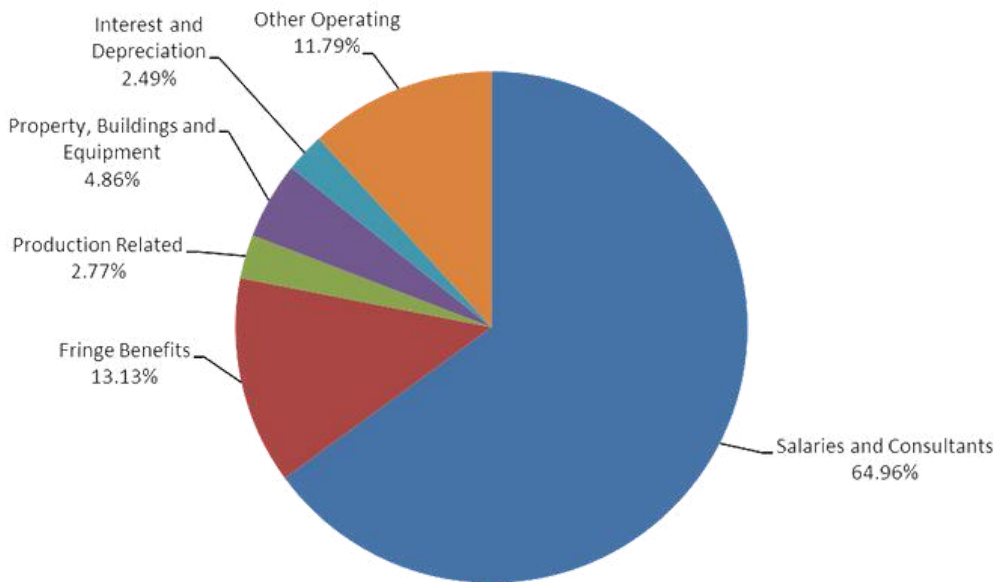
2022 Coarc Financials

Income by Program Services



Income by Program Service	Amount	%
Residential Services	\$12,750,873	48.13%
Day and Self-Direction Services	\$7,546,998	28.48%
Educational Services	\$1,570,893	5.93%
Manufacturing and Vocational Services	\$3,508,835	13.24%
Transportation Services	\$772,100	2.91%
Other Services	\$346,569	1.31%
Total:	\$26,496,268	100%

Expenses by Category



Expenses by category	Amount	%
Salaries and Consultants	\$17,395,855	64.96%
Fringe Benefits	\$3,516,678	13.13%
Production Related	\$743,093	2.77%
Property, Buildings and Equipment	\$1,301,928	4.86%
Interest and Depreciation	\$667,211	2.49%
Other Operating	\$3,158,317	11.79%
Total:	\$26,783,082	100%

Coarc is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the Columbia County chapter of The Arc New York. We are supported through state and federal funding, and by our members, donors and foundations.



About us

Coarc, founded in 1965, is the Columbia County chapter of The Arc New York & a member of The Arc United States.

Coarc is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization & supports approx. 400 people with intellectual & developmental differences to achieve their individual goals, one person at a time.

Scan the QR code to learn more:



coarc

Expanding abilities one person at a time

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Our services

- Ability Link
- Advocacy Services
- Clinical Services
- Community Habilitation Services
- Day Habilitation Services
- Employment Services
- Guardianship Services
- Prevocational Services
- Recreation Services
- Residential Services
- Respite Services
- Self-Direction Services
- The Starting Place
- Preschool & Daycare

Our businesses

