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Community

SUNRISE

Arc Broward marks sixty years of service

BY JUNETTE REYES
Staff writer

Arc Broward is celebrating 60 years of serving individuals with developmental challenges and disabilities.

The milestone anniversary comes with a rebranding campaign that is meant to reflect on the years of service, while looking towards the future with a fresh look.

"With our 60th coming, we thought about who we are and how different we are and how much we've evolved over the 60 years," said Arc Broward board member Carolyn Davis. "It was a great time to make sure that the community at large and everybody that Arc touches understands bet-

ter who we are."

CEO and president Dennis Haas said that they focus a lot on the mission of helping enrich the lives of families and individuals with disabilities. However, an important part of advocating is changing the perspectives of people in the community.

The new logo expresses this in many ways, straightforwardly with the new tagline: "Changing Perspectives. Changing Lives." The logo also takes an actual arc and turns it upside down. It initially looks like a smile but holds a deeper meaning.

"Instead of a typical arc where that might be on top of the 'Arc,' like a sun or a rainbow position, we put it underneath it to sort of tie in with the whole idea of changing

how people look at folks with developmental disabilities," Haas said.

Haas said many years ago, doctors would have suggested that a child with developmental disabilities would not have much of a future. Families were even encouraged to have their children raised in state-run institutions, some notoriously known for their horrific and inhumane conditions, such as the Willowbrook State School in New York.

This is no longer the case, something Arc Broward has worked hard to achieve over the years.

"These guys have incredible potential, which is the exact opposite way of thinking from 60 years ago," Haas said. "Given opportunities and the right support and services,

huge numbers of these folks could have real meaningful and fruitful lives."

It started with just an old retail space on old Las Olas Boulevard, rented by a group of parents that hired a teacher for a handful of their children. They later incorporated and ended up operating a preschool for the kids. As the children grew older, the need for adult programs led to other services for employment opportunities, as well as residential.

Now, Arc Broward operates 21 different services for individuals as young as 2 years old, 80 being their current oldest.

The organization additionally rebranded its enterprises, which include the culinary school and catering business, the electronic

recovery service, the employment services, and the learning institution.

■ Culinary – Great Food. Great Cause.

■ Arc Works – Success Works Here.

■ Arc Tech – Asset Recovery Solutions.

■ Arc Educates – Where Learning Continues.

Going forward, Haas said he hopes to continue gaining support from the community.

"In the future, if we can continue to grow that and continue to transform how people think of the individuals that we're serving, then the sky is the limit for us and for them," he said.

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DAVIE

Scholar honored

Nova High student receives award

BY JUNETTE REYES
Staff writer

Four Broward County high school seniors were recognized for their scholastic achievements by the Broward League of Cities with a \$1,000 scholarship.

The Scholarship for Government Studies program rewards students with plans to pursue a major in public administration, political science or other government-related fields.

"The League is honored to shine the spotlight on these highly deserving scholars for their dedication to their education, their achievements in the community and their passion for political science and government," Greg Ross, president of the Broward League of Cities, said in a press release.

Among the four students is Rina Lakhlani, a Davie resident and senior at Nova High School.

With a 5.46 GPA, Lakhlani is ranked No. 1 in her class of 439 students. She is also an AP Scholar with Honor, which recognizes students who receive an average score of 3.25 out of 5 on all AP exams taken, with scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Lakhlani hopes to study ethics, politics, economics, and political science while attending Yale University. Her government experience so far has been an internship with U.S. Rep. Ted Deutch through his Congressional Youth Cabinet.

She eventually plans on going to law school and becoming a member of congress.

"Receiving the Broward League of Cities government scholarship is such a great honor to me," said Lakhlani.

"For me, it is a testament of how public service rewards and reaches everyone in the community regardless of wealth, race, social status, or any other factor beyond our control."

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DAVIE

Game theory



JUNETTE REYES/STAFF

Students play board games from around the world all year long through NSU University School's Mind Lab.

Mind Lab program teaches life skills through play

BY JUNETTE REYES
Staff writer

At Nova Southeastern University's University School, board games are considered educational tools — not just a source of entertainment.

Students from first through fifth grade in the Lower School have been exposed to carefully selected board games from around the world all year long through the Mind Lab program. The curriculum uses strategy games to help kids develop various skills involving critical thinking and teamwork.

Debra Kahn, a teacher and coordinator of the program, said each grade level has different games assigned to them as the year progresses.

Before learning how to play up to three board games each month, the students are first given examples of realistic events related to the main goal, such as instances where working together as a team is necessary.

"Some kids always want to be the leader, so they learn this isn't their turn to be the leader and that they need to take a step back

and think in a different way," Kahn said.

Different strategies are discussed and eventually applied to daily life situations the kids can relate to once the class starts playing. Kahn emphasized the steps taken to successfully complete a game are more important than actually winning. They also talk about good sportsmanship, as each game starts and ends with a handshake.

"Many of these bright kids are so used to being taught something and getting it right away," said Kahn. "They learn that it's okay to fail, and just the concept of knowing it's going to take you five times to try this to be able to actually solve the puzzle and not give up and not get frustrated."

The students tend to come up with their own strategies along the way, taking the role of teacher as they share them with the entire class. This in turn helps the students develop their presentation skills, as they practice expressing their ideas during the lesson.

Mind Lab culminates every year in a school tournament among the third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students. The kids have the choice to compete in one of four games and typically choose the one that they do best.

This year's games were Abalone, checkers, Quoridor and Octi.

Dylan Liberty, a fifth-grade student, said Abalone is his favorite game. While he did not feel ready enough to compete, he said he gets better at the game every year.

"From first grade to now, each game I've played and learned had a message to it, like trial and error or being patient," said Liberty. "In total, I think life lessons were the most important thing I got out of this amazing experience."

Fifth-grader Avery Redlich won first place in her favorite game of Quoridor during the tournament. Redlich said she learned a lot about patience, as well as thinking about her actions before making a decision.

"You should never rush while you're taking a test or doing school work, just like you shouldn't rush while making a move in the tournament game," said Redlich. "If you take your time and try your hardest, you can win it all."

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