

ARC Summer Program Offers Participants a Sense of Worth

The Broome-Tioga ARC Summer Program has been serving youth with developmental and other disabilities for 53 years. Having operated out of a number of Broome County schools over the years, the program runs for six weeks during the summer and offers children and adolescents a wide variety of activities that promote socialization, recreation, and education. The ultimate goal of the program is to broaden the life experiences of youth with disabilities and to provide them with basic learning concepts that will enhance their skill levels between school years.

For the Finch Family, the Summer Program has done exactly that. Having had several of her children participate in the program, Mrs. Wendy Finch believes there has been great value in having each of them participate. She notes that all of her children have “achieved a lot over the years” and recognizes the Summer Program as a contributor to their successes. Mrs. Finch most appreciates the fact that the Summer Program has been instrumental in helping her children maintain their academic and social skills between school years. Mathematics and life skills training are part of a regular skills laboratory that is offered at the Summer Program and assists youth in maintaining the knowledge that they acquired during the school year.

Rory is participating in his 13th ARC Summer Program

Mrs. Finch’s youngest son, Rory, is a current participant in the Broome-Tioga ARC Summer Program, as he has been since age 6. Now 19 years old, Rory has received much benefit from his participation in the Summer Program over the years, including academic and social skill development as well as his first employment experience.

When he was 16, Rory was hired through the Summer/Work Program to assist with food ser-

vice and maintenance functions for 12 hours per week. This opportunity provided him with the vocational training he would need for his current employment at a local grocery store, while still allowing him to participate in and benefit from the various social, recreational, and educational components of the program. With the assistance of a job coach that is provided by the Summer/Work Program, Rory has been a dependable and hard working employee who the staff can count on to do his job with excellence.

Summer Program includes both recreation and education

Enjoying the blend of social, recreational, educational, and vocational opportunities the 2006 Summer Program offers, Rory indicates that the activities he’s most looking forward to this summer include swimming at East Middle School and arts and crafts. Rory is also looking forward to



Rory and his mother, Wendy Finch

keeping in touch with his friends and classmates from BOCES, where he receives his education during the school year. Outings to places such as the zoo, roller skating, and bowling give Rory and his peers an opportunity to socialize and have a little fun together during the summer months.

Reflecting on the experiences her family has had with the Broome-Tioga ARC Summer Program, Mrs. Finch is appreciative of and grateful for her family’s involvement. Noting that her two eldest children had participated in the program when they were adolescents, Mrs. Finch is proud to report that one of them is currently enrolled in college and the other is working as a security guard.

According to Mrs. Finch, “The Summer Program gives Rory and others a sense of worth.”

To learn more about the Summer Program and other activities of the Broome-Tioga ARC, call (607) 723-8361, e-mail info@btarc.org, or visit the website www.btarc.org.

United Way provides funding for ARC Summer Program as part of “Strengthening Families”, one of its six areas of community service.

To learn more about United Way and the programs it supports in Broome County, visit www.unitedwaybroome.org

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what matters is published monthly by United Way of Broome County to highlight the positive results of your contributions to United Way on the people in our community.

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